

Board of Regents Update | October 19, 2017

Good Afternoon Colleagues,

Today, the Board of Regents held its October 2017 meeting here on the University of Michigan-Flint campus. We host the Regents for a meeting each year, and it provides an excellent opportunity for our campus to showcase the fine work that our faculty, staff, and students are doing on behalf of the university and our Flint community.

At the meeting, the Regents received several updates from our campus, including an opening presentation from our School of Education and Human Services dean, Dr. Bob Barnett.

Dean Barnett spoke to the Regents about our work in early childhood education, specifically the Great Expectations Early Childhood Program at Cummings Community School. The Regents were impressed not only with the teaching and research that happens at Cummings, but our dedication to the Flint community as well.

I want to thank Dean Barnett for his presentation, as well as the faculty, staff, and students that put so much effort into making this effort a success. In particular, I want to thank Marquette Hall, Vice President of Student Government, for representing the voice of our students so well.

In addition, I provided the Regents an update on our enrollment efforts and our work to make UM-Flint more accessible to eligible students.

This included a look at the [Textbook Affordability Initiative](#), led by our Frances Willson Thompson Library, an effort that works to take some of the financial burden off our students by making textbooks less costly, or even free. This fall, five math courses will use free OpenStax digital textbooks. It is anticipated that about 900 students will enroll in these courses and use free digital textbooks, saving an average of \$200 per student.

I also spoke with the Regents about the important role our university plays as a marketplace of ideas. In this day and age, when almost every story we see on the news is politicized and polarizing, safe and open dialogue is paramount.

Our [Critical Issues Forum](#) and the [Liberal Learning and Entrepreneurialism](#) series in the College of Arts and Sciences were two examples that I presented to the Regents as evidence of the pivotal role our campus plays for our community in this area.

These are just a few highlights from yesterday's meeting. I invite you to view the full board agenda [here](#).

I want to thank everyone involved in making the Regents visit to the UM-Flint campus such a success. From our Department of Public Safety to our Event and Building Services, our faculty and staff to our students, thank you for your efforts on behalf of our university and our community.

Thank you all, and Go Blue!

Sue

Susan E. Borrego, Ph.D.

Chancellor