

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2--Akron-AAUP called today for an immediate freeze on all administrative hiring as well as a halt to the use of external search firms—including the impending decision on whether to hire such a firm to search for a new football coach.

At a time when the University of Akron confronts a financial crisis, has raised student tuition and fees, and claims that it cannot maintain competitive staff and faculty salaries, wasteful spending on corporate search firms should come to an immediate halt. In addition, evidence shows that while UA has compressed compensation for faculty and staff administrative salaries have proliferated (see accompanying release).

Akron-AAUP will attempt to obtain a full accounting but it is safe to say that the University has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on search firms when simple advertisements and networking would suffice. In several cases these firms have not produced successful candidates for positions in upper administration.

According to the Beacon-Journal (November 30), UA Athletic Director Tom Wistrucill is currently considering hiring of a search firm to find a replacement for J.D. Brookhart, who was fired with \$250,000 remaining on his contract for next year. According to the Beacon-Journal article, "A search firm, such as Eastman and Beaudine, which was involved in the Wistrucill hiring, generally charges a fee equal to 25 percent to the first year's salary and bonus."

UA thus might easily pay such a firm \$100,000, which would be a foolish waste of money in the current economic climate. ESPN and all major sports media have announced the Brookhart firing—prospective coaches know of the opening and Wistrucill should have the competence to find and recommend a capable coach to President Luis Proenza without resort to the same corporate search firm that recommended him.

The time for profligate spending on upper administration and excesses such as external search firms is over, especially as the University claims it must raise student tuition and fees and that it cannot afford to offer faculty salaries that are competitive with comparable institutions.

Meanwhile, the ranks and salaries of upper administration have proliferated in the past few years. See the accompanying release, "Landscape for Earning? UA's Profligate Spending on Administrative Salaries."

Akron-AAUP calls on all UA students and the Faculty Senate to support this call for a freeze on administrative hiring as well as hiring of corporate search firms. Please express your views to President Proenza—proenza@uakron.edu.