



Office of the Dean


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ATTACHMENT B

MEMORANDUM

June 8, 2005

TO: Virinder Moudgil
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FROM: Mary L. Otto
Dean 

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Universal Academy

There were 5 applications for the open Public School Academy (PSA) slot. Both the fiscal and curriculum ad hoc committees (Boyd Farnam, Assistant General Counsel, Kate Lark, Purchasing and Risk Management, Thomas LeMarbe, Budget & Financial Planning, Larry Wilkerson, PSA Office Financial Consultant, Dr. Robert Wiggins, SEHS Associate Dean, Dr. Toni Walters, Professor, SEHS, and Dr. James Javorsky, Assistant Professor, SEHS), convened by the PSA Office, carefully reviewed all applications and recommended Universal Academy.

- 1) Universal Academy is an existing school operating successfully under a charter from Detroit Public Schools since 1998. This Academy has several noteworthy characteristics, including:
 - Integrated, theme and project-based curriculum that encourages parent and community involvement. An integrated curriculum brings together various aspects of the curriculum into meaningful associations to focus on broad areas of study.
 - Various support services including integrated tutorials, after-school and summer programs focusing on core curriculum, and counseling
 - Achieved 96.9% on State Indicators of Performance and met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2003-04
 - ESL training for students and parents
 - Quality services for special needs students

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- Spacious, well-lit, clean physical environment that meets all governmental requirements
 - Continuous improvement initiatives include:
 - Training for teachers and staff to improve understanding and use of test results
 - Technology integration for instruction, communication, and student support
 - Sustained professional development for teachers and administrators
 - Parent involvement in group and individual activities
 - The management company, Hamadeh Educational Services, also successfully manages Star Interational Academy, which is authorized by Oakland University
- 2) Fiscal viability including:
- Retirement plans
 - Lease agreement
 - Contract with Hamadeh Educational Services (management company)

The committee members believe that the Academy has established a track record and has the potential to continue toward its goal of excellence under Oakland's authorization. I am therefore asking that you approve this recommendation for presentation to the Oakland University Board of Trustees.

Please contact me if you have further questions.