

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
June 8, 2015**

**RENEWAL OF CHARTER FOR UNIVERSAL ACADEMY**

**A Recommendation**

- 1. Division and Department:** Academic Affairs - Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships, School of Education and Human Services.
- 2. Introduction:** In 2005, the Oakland University Board of Trustees ("Board") authorized the charter of Universal Academy as a public school academy under the Michigan Revised School Code, for a 10 year term expiring on August 14, 2015 ("Agreement").

Universal Academy has submitted an application to the University to renew its charter, and the University's Office of Public School Academies ("PSA Office") supports that renewal. The PSA Office reviewed the application, and found it to be consistent with the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE") requirements and the University's educational mission. During the 10 year term of the Agreement, Universal Academy has demonstrated academic and management proficiency and has experienced growth in student enrollment.

The PSA Office recommends and seeks the Board's approval to renew Universal Academy's charter for up to 10 years, coterminous with its academic school year through June 30, 2025. The Board's Ad-Hoc Academic Affairs Committee met to review and consider the PSA Office's recommendation and supports renewing Universal Academy's charter.

If approved by the Board a new charter agreement will be prepared for Universal Academy that that incorporate standardized MDE requirements. That agreement will be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and will be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel. The University will be able to terminate that agreement upon any breach, Universal Academy's failure to fulfill any of the statutory requirements applicable to public school academies, or without cause at the discretion of the University at the end of Universal Academy's then current academic school year.

- 3. Previous Board Action:** On October 5, 1995, the Board approved Oakland University's Policy on Public School Academies and Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. On August 3, 2005, the Board passed a resolution approving the application of Universal Academy. On May 2, 2007, the Board approved the

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amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications. On August 6, 2012, the Board approved a second amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications.

4. **Budget Implications:** Oakland University receives three percent (3%) of the state school funding received by Universal Academy as an administrative fee for performing oversight.
5. **Educational Implications:** The philosophy of Universal Academy is aligned with that of Oakland University's School of Education and Human Services ("School") and will be able to strengthen the mission of the School. Furthermore, Universal Academy will educate a well rounded and high achieving student body which in turn may become future Oakland University students.
6. **Personnel Implications:** There are no personnel implications associated with this resolution.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Academy's request for renewal of its charter was reviewed and recommended by the PSA Office. The recommendation was approved by the Dean of the School of Education and Human Services and the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. The recommendation was also reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees Ad-Hoc Academic Affairs Subcommittee at its May 4, 2015 meeting.
8. **Recommendation:**

WHEREAS, the Michigan Revised School Code of 1976, as amended permits the Board to authorize public school academies meeting the requirements of the Board and the requirements of applicable law; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 1995, the Board approved the Oakland University Policy on Public School Academies and Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2005, the Board authorized the charter of Universal Academy as a public school academy; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2007, the Board approved an amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2012, the Board approved a second amendment of the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications; and

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WHEREAS, the University has received Universal Academy's application requesting that the Board renew its charter and continue to authorize Universal Academy as a public school academy; and

WHEREAS, the University has determined it is in the best interest of the University and the State of Michigan to continue to authorize Universal Academy as a public school academy; now, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by Universal Academy meets the requirements of the Board and of applicable law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board approves the application of Universal Academy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the University administration shall negotiate and finalize an agreement with Universal Academy in a form that incorporates the standardized requirements of the Michigan Department of Education and with such provisions as shall be required or authorized by the Revised School Code of 1976 as amended; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of the agreement with Universal Academy shall expire no later than June 30, 2025; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel prior to execution, and shall be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments and documents that are necessary, expedient and proper in connection with Universal Academy and the ongoing administration of Oakland University's oversight function.

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9. Attachments: None

Submitted to the President  
on 6/11, 2015 by

  
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James P. Lentini  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 6/11, 2015  
to the Board for Approval by

  
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George Hynd  
President