



November 19, 2007

Gordon Sayre
President
University Senate

Dear President Sayre:

I was present at the University Senate during consideration of Resolution US07/08-6 regarding the reporting relationship of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. I observed passage of the resolution and wish simply to give you and your senate colleagues my respectful acknowledgment of their views and recommendation.

I should add that for many of the now long number of years I have been associated with the university, the Museum reported to the central administration through avenues other than the Provost -- specifically, through both the vice president of administration and the vice president for university relations. Hence you will appreciate that asking the museum to report ultimately to me through the vice president for advancement did not strike me as contrary to our past practices or to good administration.

Let me add that I have heard consistent high praise for the performance of interim executive director Robert Melnick, and I know that an ad hoc faculty advisory committee, the first of its kind, has been formed by Vice President Price to canvass and transmit the views of academic faculty directly. During this period, the Executive Committee of the Museum's Board was expanded specifically to include a member of the academic faculty. I believe that the channels for expression of faculty views have been active and effective under the current reporting relationship.

I am mindful that three excellent candidates for museum executive director have visited campus, and my hope, which I know you share, is that the director be selected as rapidly as possible. Indeed, a significant part of my reasoning for the changed reporting relationship was to accelerate the search process so that candidates could be brought to campus as early as possible this term after the necessary preliminary work. Everyone I have talked to about the search process has expressed positive reactions concerning it and the candidates.

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I wish to take at least modest issue with the assertion in the debate that the Pappas Report was being ignored or that its recommendations have been inappropriately delayed. There are several aspects of the Pappas report which have already been addressed such as restructuring JSMA staff appointments including hiring of a new communications director, ensuring seamless communication with board, staff and administration; crafting of a new position description for the new Executive Director; and assessing JSMA business practices to ensure compliance with UO procedures. Finally, the museum's budget has been substantially enhanced (by \$500,000). These actions represent direct implementation of Pappas Report recommendations. I take strong exception to a view that any process as important as clarifying mission and values should take place before a new executive director is selected. Indeed it is essential that the person selected have a significant voice in the development of foundational documents such as these. I believe that Dr. Pappas, with whom I have worked for many years, would agree with this view.

After the executive director is selected, I will continue to assess the appropriateness of this reporting relationship and will keep the views of the University Senate firmly in mind. Please feel free to share this message with your senate colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Frohnmayer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dave Frohnmayer
President