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Briefing Memorandum

Antioch University Board of Trustees
June 2, 2001

For more than a year, the Board of Trustees has been carefully examining Antioch University, its historic responsibilities, and its potential in higher education. The Trustees are aware of the complex challenges facing smaller liberal arts colleges and universities across the United States. Antioch is experiencing these same challenges.

At its May 30-June 2, 2001, meeting, the Trustees considered the work of two Board committees concerned with the future of the institution. The Board's Development Committee researched the feasibility of conducting a capital campaign while a group of Trustees known internally as the "Ad Hoc Committee" investigated the Board's concerns in regard to finance, strategy, and leadership. Taking into account as well, the Board's Finance Committee's report on the current financial status of the University and its campuses, the Trustees have prepared this **Briefing Memorandum** to share the results of its discussion on these key topics of vital concern to the Antioch University community.

Campaign for Antioch College – this is an opportunity to strengthen Antioch for the 21st century; it is an investment in our future.

With a very encouraging report from Ketchum, its external fund-raising consultant, the Trustees voted to proceed with the preliminary work of a major campaign for the College. Near term, this involves developing a campaign plan, building the infrastructure of the College's Development office, and soliciting lead gifts. A primary goal of the campaign will be to build an endowment for Antioch College.

Ad Hoc Committee – to take advantage of the opportunities for Antioch

The Board adopted the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations that the Board, the ULC (University Leadership Council) and the University as a whole recommit to quality education with fiscal responsibility and to meet the University's financial, strategic, and leadership challenges. Specifically:

A "Future of Antioch Task Force" has been approved to give shape and direction to a strategic plan for the University, including the College and the campuses. Led by Trustees in collaboration with the ULC, this small group will seek input and engage a broad spectrum of "citizens" throughout the Antioch community. The Task Force is charged with bringing recommendations before the Board by early 2003.

The ULC will give renewed attention to Boards of Visitor Committees for the College and the adult campuses to strengthen the resources and support available locally for each site.

Financial Situation – a short-term situation that will soon be resolved

The Finance Committee, working with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer, and with the involvement of the presidents and others, has been charged with developing a plan to achieve financial stabilization across the University. The Board will act on this committee's recommendations at its Fall 2001 meeting.

Leadership – commitments to the campaign and the future of Antioch

Chancellor Jim Hall announced to the Board that he will not seek renewal of his contract when it concludes in December 2002. Saying that he plans to retire from academic administration at that time, Chancellor Hall recommended that a search for his replacement begin immediately so that the new Chancellor will be in place to provide leadership and support to both the Campaign for Antioch and the Future of Antioch Task Force. The Chancellor spoke to the unique value of an Antioch education at this moment in history and to the urgency of the challenges facing Antioch and other institutions of its size. The Board affirmed Jim's contributions to the University and expressed its appreciation for his distinguished leadership of Antioch. Chancellor Hall will focus on academic development and accreditation.

Because of the importance and significant potential of the impending campaign, a number of Antioch's leaders will redirect their efforts towards the Campaign.

College President Bob Devine announced that he will move to spend 100% of his time on the campaign as soon as an interim president of the College can be named.

Vice Chancellor Lois Mann will also spend 100% of her time on this important campaign, lending her extensive development expertise to the College at this critical juncture. She will continue to assist campus presidents on development projects as needed.

Trustee Lillian Lovelace will chair the Campaign for Antioch Steering Committee and Board Chair Bob Krinsky will focus his time on the campaign, serving as the Campaign Committee's vice chair.

Trustee Jack Merselis has been elected Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Executive Committee. He will focus on the leadership of the Board so that Bob Krinsky, Trustee Chair, can devote his attention to the Campaign.

Trustee Bruce Bedford has been elected as Executive Vice Chair of the Board to serve as direct liaison with the University's administration and to assist the University in strengthening itself as an institution.

Further communication

The Trustees and members of the ULC are enthusiastic about the many developments occurring throughout the University and the actions they have taken at this meeting are targeted at building a strong Antioch across all of its campuses. Our proud 150-year history positions us as a major force in American higher education. These new initiatives will further strengthen our overall academic focus and excellence. The Trustees and the ULC will continue to communicate regularly as this exciting future unfolds.