CSU outlines a five-year plan to boost enrollment, academics
Barb Galbincea

Cleveland State University looked five years into the future to conjure up what the city’s only public university could become with the right resources.

The result is Vision 2009, approved Friday by university trustees. The goals outlined include playing a lead role in rebuilding the regional economy, capitalizing on signature academic programs, ramping up research, becoming a more residential campus, expanding enrollment from about 16,300 to at least 19,000 and even putting Viking sports on a championship track.

Among other goals:

Doubling the rate of alumni contributing to the university.

Creating 12 endowed faculty chairs or professorships.

Tripling privately funded scholarship money.

Launching a $50 million capital campaign.


Trustees on Friday also approved renaming the building housing the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in memory of Bert Wolstein, a law school graduate and developer who died in May. Wolstein’s widow, Iris, last month pledged $6.25 million to the law school for renovations and scholarships.

In addition, trustees got an update on the search for three deans at CSU. The College of Science search commit-
te has narrowed the list of candidates to four finalists, including Mary Jane Saunders, the interim dean. Other finalists are: Samuel Savin, a professor and former dean at Case Western Reserve University; Laura Jenski, a professor at Marshall University; and John Mateja, a professor at Murray State University.

Five finalists are in the hunt to become law dean: Eric Gouvin, associate dean of the Western New England College School of Law; Janice Toran, vice president for compliance at Fujisawa Healthcare Inc. in Evanston, Ill.; Candace Zierdt, professor at the North Dakota School of Law; Joel Friedman, professor at Tulane's law school; and LeRoy Pernell, dean at the Northern Illinois University College of Law.

The committee searching for a dean to lead the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences still is whittling a list of possible finalists.

CSU President Michael Schwartz expects to bring trustees his recommendations on filling the other two openings by the end of the year.

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--- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: FUJISAWA HEALTHCARE INC
REGION: (USA (1US73); Americas (1AM92); Ohio (1OH35); North America (1NO39))
Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (BERT WOLSTEIN; CLEVELAND MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW; CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY; COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS; COLLEGE OF SCIENCE; CSU; DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW; ENGLAND COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW; FUJISAWA HEALTHCARE INC; MARSHALL UNIVERSITY; MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY; WESTERN; WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY; WOLSTEIN) (Candace Zierdt; Creating; Eric Gouvin; Iris; Janice Toran; Joel Friedman; John Mateja; Laura Jenski; LeRoy Pernell; Mary Jane Saunders; Michael Schwartz; Samuel Savin; Social Sciences)

EDITION: Final

Word Count: 459