Franklin University and Urbana University Partnership
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What brought about this partnership?**

This year the top priority for the leadership of Urbana University has been to establish current and long-term financial stability. Every option has been investigated, including the development of partnerships with other accredited universities. Franklin, a university with whom some of our senior administration has enjoyed warm professional relationships, responded very positively when the partnership concept was explored.

2. **What are the advantages of this partnership?**

Franklin and Urbana share common values which is one of the reasons this partnership agreement complements each institution. Urbana will continue to operate as an institution which values its connection with the community and respects its students and alumni. Most importantly, Urbana will have the assurance that the University will remain in operation for years to come

Additionally, as the partnership progresses, efficiencies may be gained through the integration of operations, perhaps in the area of infrastructure, such as technology, whether instructional in focus or for administrative support, for example. Given the many potential synergies that exist, many more advantages will become evident as the integration of the two universities occurs in the next year or so.

3. **Will Urbana University continue as Urbana University?**

According to guidelines prescribed by our accreditors, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the partnership involves transferring control of the Urbana University to Franklin University over the next year. Urbana will continue to offer degrees under the Urbana University and related accreditation and will operate as a non-profit subsidiary of Franklin. The exact legal details of the structure are still under review by legal advisors and accreditors.

4. **What will the reporting structure look like?**

Current plans call for Urbana to function as a division of Franklin University, led by a president who reports to the Franklin University administration.

5. **Will Urbana faculty and staff lose their jobs?**

Franklin University is an at-will employer and will continue to operate in that way. As such, faculty and staff at Urbana will be employed under these same principles. Franklin's leadership will collaborate with Urbana's leadership to set forth a strategy for Urbana as this process rolls out.

6. **How will this partnership affect the human resources policies and benefits for Urbana faculty and staff?**

Wages and benefits will remain intact. As part of its longer term strategy to revitalize Urbana, salary and benefits will be reviewed and a longer term strategy will be developed with a view toward employee retention.

7. **Will the same Urbana University programs be offered?**

Yes, programs will continue to be offered at both institutions. Academic program reviews will be conducted collaboratively between Franklin and Urbana faculty and staff. These reviews will keep a keen eye to supporting students enrolled in existing academic programs, while critically evaluating the quality, relevance, and viability of academic programs for the future.

8. **Will this cause my tuition to increase?**

Any changes in the tuition of *either* university will be decided upon in line with existing policy and with the approval of the board.

9. **Will Urbana University remain accredited?**

Urbana University is authorized by the state of Ohio to award degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Urbana is accredited as an institution in good standing with The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association regional accreditor. These are the two critical accreditation and authorization agencies for higher education institutions in the state of Ohio.

As the formal partnership agreements are finalized and implemented over the next several months, Urbana will remain as a subsidiary/division of Franklin University. In accreditation terms, this means that Urbana will remain as an accredited entity under the oversight of Franklin University and be able to share many of the Franklin resources to support and enhance Urbana University.

10. **Will Urbana University continue to have Blue Knight intercollegiate athletics and remain in the same athletic conference?**

NCAA II athletics and our conference affiliations will be maintained.

11. **What will happen to the partnerships that Urbana University has with community organizations?**

As a university with a strong local focus and residential presence, Urbana University supports many programs, both academic and co-curricular, that touch local and regional communities. These programs contribute to the education of the students while building important bridges to the region, resulting in tremendous goodwill and support for the University. Because of the central role that these relationships play in both the health of the University and the respective community organizations, we expect that in the future these partnerships will continue and expand as Urbana flourishes.