Changes made to Student Code

A resolution agreement reached last year between WMU and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights has led to modifications of the WMU Student Code. It is important that all students and faculty and staff members are aware of these changes.

The changes grew out of the OCR’s review of University policies triggered by a complaint that was resolved. The changes to the Code involve policies governing disruptive behavior, voluntary and involuntary conduct/code, and the new policy language can be found in these parts of the document: Article IV, Section B, Item No. 5 and Article V, Sections C and D.

TV spot refreshes ‘Go West’ theme

Television viewers across the state are watching the new “Go West” commercial released earlier this month. The 30-second promotional TV spot expands on the “Go West” advertising campaign. The ad is airing through December, and a similar ad will air in all major Michigan markets from October 29 through November 29.

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Dunn sets direction for this academic year

WMU must continue to be bold and brave to meet the challenges and opportunities of the new academic year, President John M. Dunn said in his 2014 “State of the University” address Oct. 10.

Dunn began his speech (visit wmich.edu/president/convocation 2014 for the full text) by highlighting five successes from last year: WMU’s medical and law school affiliations, move to a tobacco-free campus, award-winning sustainability efforts, and East Campus renewal project.

“...we have achieved the changes I just described because so many on this campus and in this community—you—have come together to push our goals forward. This year of change has set a pattern of momentum that we need to leverage. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels,” he said.

“We were bold and brave enough to change and sure of the vision before us. We knew where our learner-centered, discovery-driven and globally engaged University needed to go next. When we gather here next year—and the year after—I expect to stand at this podium and celebrate with you the successful completion of even more initiatives that will keep us moving toward a future that is rich with promise.”

Dunn added that the future holds both challenges and opportunities, but noted that the ingredients for success were in place for moving WMU to one of only 90 universities in the nation with both a medical school

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Annual homecoming week starts Oct. 20

A host of exciting activities are taking place on and off campus during homecoming week Monday through Sunday, Oct. 20–26, and Family Weekend, Friday through Sunday, Oct. 24–26.

Shops and restaurants in downtown Kalamazoo are getting into the spirit by putting up window displays for homecoming week, and some 70 businesses are providing discounts to students and holders of WMU’s free Concierge Card.

Students will be celebrating homecoming week by joining with the Kalamazoo community to try and break a world record, in addition to their traditional activities. Those interested should gather from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Kanley Track and break the record for the most people wearing sunglasses in the dark. The existing record of 1,675 people was set in Grand Rapids. WMU’s event symbolically demonstrates that people can achieve more when they work together and will include live entertainment as well as food. The first 2,000 participants

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Trustees approve name for new residence halls

The University’s new state-of-the-art residence halls will be known as Western Heights, after the student-suggested name won unanimous approval from University trustees Sept. 30.

The two-building complex is under construction and slated for completion in time to house fall 2015’s incoming students. It is located in the Center Residential Neighborhood overlooking Goldsworth Valley.

Western Heights will be home to about 750 students and is targeted at new students. The design for its residence halls, the first of their type in Michigan, is intended to build multiple levels of community engagement and facilitate academic success. Each living area is arranged into houses of 30-35 students on each floor with a kitchen and study area, plus centrally private bathrooms maintained by staff members.

The complex has air conditioning, third-floor laundry areas, furnished bedrooms, built-in closets, and campus safety and convenience features. Central community spaces on four levels feature laundry and study areas, an open-air terrace, plus entertainment and game rooms. For a closer video look at Western Heights, visit wmich.edu/housing/westernheights.

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New ranking is another Sustainability Day triumph

WMU has plenty to celebrate as it observes National Campus Sustainability Day today and tomorrow, Oct. 16-17. In addition to the numerous national accolades and high rankings earned earlier this year, bestchoiceschools.com last week named WMU one of the nation’s top 50 most affordable, eco-friendly colleges.

The University is the top-placing college in Michigan, coming in at No. 13 on the higher education website’s list of affordable schools that are “recognized leaders in energy conservation and sustainability.” The new Best Choice Schools list is based on broad recognition for sustainability efforts and annual tuition and fees or cost of attendance of less than $25,000.

Other ranked schools range from Berea College at No. 1 to Oregon State University at No. 50. Two other Michigan schools are also listed, Central Michigan University at No. 22 and Grand Valley State University at No. 37.

Helping WMU celebrate this year’s Sustainability Day is Judy Wicks, whose focus is on building a compassionate, sustainable and locally based economy. Wicks will deliver a keynote address for the celebration at 7:30 p.m. today in 1910 Sangren Hall. Her talk, “Building a New Economy: What’s Love Got To Do With It?” is one of a series of campus appearances.

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WMU's selection for the 2014-15 University Common Read. His free talk will be followed by a book signing and kicks off the University Center for the Humanities 2014-15 Healing Arts Speaker Series. During the presentation, Martel will detail some of the events in his life that led him to write “Life of Pi.” He also will explore the healing art of storytelling and its importance in overcoming or coping with trauma, among other topics. Visit wmich.edu/humanities to learn about the other presentations. Visit http://libguides.wmich.edu and click University Common Read to learn more about “Life of Pi” and reading kits being made available.

WMU drawing high-ranking health professionals for talks

It will be deja vu all over again when nine high-ranking alumni of the College of Health and Human Services visit campus for a public forum from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, in 1010 HHS Building. Their visit comes on the heels of an “all-star” panel of medical innovators who were at the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine Oct. 7 discussing federal assistance to quicken the pace at which cure and medical therapies reach patients.

The upcoming forum, “Transforming Public Policy and Public Health: The Power of Inter-professionalism,” will include alumni who represent agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and be moderated by Amy Curtis, interdisciplinary health sciences.

The Oct. 7 event was convened by U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Panel members included the director of the National Institutes of Health, a top Food and Drug Administration official, the chief of the National Cancer Institute; Buffy M. Nespodzany, Career and Development Services; Lawrence T. Flynn, cash operations; and Kevin West, music.

The retirements of four faculty members and 11 staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Sept. 30 meeting. They also granted one sabbatical leave.

All of the faculty members who are retiring are doing so with emeritus status. Their names, positions of continuous service and effective dates of retirement are: Betty J. Parker, marketing, 19, effective July 31, 2015; Christopher J. Schmich, geosciences, 37, years, effective April 30, 2015; Fred Strikins, engineering design, manufacturing and management systems, 36, years, effective Aug. 31, 2015; and Brian L. Wilson, music, 40, years, effective April 30, 2015.

The staff members retiring are: Janice P. Anderson, Faculty Senate, 16, years, effective Sept. 30; Roger T. Arndt, Extended University Programs, 27, years, effective Sept. 30; Joseph A. Fee, Unified Clinics, 10, years, effective Aug. 31; Dena S. Frier, West Hills Athletic Club, 14, years, effective Oct. 1; Raymond L. Newes, projects and construction services, 12, years, effective June 30; Tracey S. Overkamp, maintenance services, 18, years, effective Oct. 24; Barbara J. Peacock, psychology, 27, years, effective Aug. 31; Ieva M. Sverns, Sindicuse Health Center, 25, years, effective Oct. 29; Alison K. Thor, University Libraries, 25, years, effective Sept. 30; James G. Wiseman, Dining Services, 33, years, effective Sept. 12; and Linda J. Young, building custodial and support services, 15, years, effective Sept. 14.

The faculty member resigning is: Holly J. Nibbert, Spanish, effective Aug. 17. A sabbatical leave also was granted to David Colson, music, effective spring 2015.

Service

The following faculty and staff members are recognized for 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and five years of service during October.

45 Years—Dean K. Honsberger, university libraries.
40 Years—Annmarie C. Cox, business and finance.
35 Years—Maria A. Perez-Stable, University Libraries, and Gladys M. Sims, Extended University Programs-Grand Rapids.
30 Years—Gary Somerville, Human Resources, and Ronald A. Wester, information technology.
25 Years—Gary M. Custen, Lawson Ice Arena; Carol Mountjoy, student financial aid and scholarships; and Carolyn J. Wiley, Valley #1 Dining Service.
20 Years—Kristine K. Dias, landscape services; Darlean Grant, building custodial and support services; Ruth Hurd, building custodial and support services; Lori McKnight, biological sciences; Cathy M. Pietras, management; Dion VanAtter, maintenance services; and Kevin West, music.
15 Years—Doreen A. Brinson, Facilities Management; Barb A. Haines, maintenance services; James W. Kison, Graduate College; Nancy B. Mansberger, provost’s office; David P. Marlatt, art; Elizabeth M. Roe, College of Arts and Sciences; Gary L. Stortebek, maintenance services; and Jacob A. Zoch, College of Aviation.
10 Years—Julie A. Koppers, Sindicuse Health Center; Anita J. Ludwig, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Gloria A. Moon, student financial aid and scholarships; and Annie Quardokus, College of Aviation.
5 Years—Cassandra M. Duchesneau, College of Education and Human Development; Lawrence T. Flynn, cash operations; Dawn M. Gammer, Extended University Programs; Mandy Knerrbocker, Haenicke Institute; Buffy M. Nespodzany, Career and Student Employment Services; Keith M. Snyder, public safety; Kelsey L. Spaulding, Extended University Programs; and Thomas P. Thennes, College of Aviation.
WMU entry into countywide dispatch system approved

University trustees voted Sept. 30 to have WMU join four other Kalamazoo County governmental units in the creation of a Consolidated Central Dispatch System.

“It’s been a long time coming, but this is a necessary upgrade for the safety and security of the people of Kalamazoo County,” board Chair James Hettinger said after the vote.

The initiative also has been approved by the Kalamazoo City Commission, Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, Kalamazoo Township and the city of Portage.

Numerous benefits are expected once the new system is effective July 1, 2015. They include achieving more efficient dispatching of police, fire and emergency medical personnel; more cost-effective, pooling of resources; and more interagency information sharing.

The systems cost will be covered by an access fee assessed on each of the five members. The initiative also has been approved by the Kalamazoo City Commission, Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, Kalamazoo Township and the city of Portage.

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