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WMU Board of Trustees Annual Formal Session
February 17, 2013

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL FORMAL SESSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013

The Board of Trustees annual formal session was called to order by Chair Johnston at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 in Rooms 157-159, Bernhard Center

Board members present: Chair Johnston, Vice Chair Carlson (via telephone), Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, Trustee Crumm, Trustee Debel, Trustee Hall, Trustee Hettinger, Trustee Miller, and President Dunn (ex officio).

Prior to the sessions, newly appointed Trustee Michelle Crumm and Trustee Ronald Hall, Sr. were officially sworn in by Kalamazoo Circuit Court Judge (ret.) William Schma.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented on a motion by Trustee Debel, supported by Trustee Miller.

Remarks by the Chair. Chair Johnston reported that as his year as chair of the board comes to an end, he regards this experience as an opportunity to become even more involved in the life and future of his alma mater. He said that his earlier service on the Board and his life in the community gave him a good sense of the quality and enormous potential of WMU and that this last year made even more aware of its strengths. Chair Johnston noted that the quality of life in Kalamazoo and West Michigan is enhanced enormously by the presence of a major research university, including educational and cultural opportunities, healthcare and social services, economic development resources, and an influx of committed and highly educated. He reported that WMU athletes are true student-athletes, and in addition to community service, they recorded the highest combined point average on record for the University during the fall semester. Chair Johnston noted that the student athletes, current and former, joined President Dunn, new football coach P.J. Fleck and others taking a dip during 15 degree weather into Goldworth Valley Pond and raised $25,000 for the Special Olympics. He reported on the successful Seita Scholars Program and the Returning Veterans program. Chair Johnston thanked his fellow trustees for their support during the past year, leadership and counsel.

Remarks by the President. President Dunn welcomed Trustees Crumm and Hall and thanked Chair Johnston for his leadership and counsel. President Dunn reported on the annual Medallion Scholarship competition, with some of the top high school seniors in the nation hoping to win one of the $50,000 Medallion Scholarship. He noted that the event is also a valuable recruiting tool, with half of the more than
700 competitors enrolling at Western. He spoke of the Gold Pride receptions held throughout the state and in Chicago for admitted students and their families. President Dunn cited the Evaluation Center in evaluating work done by the Swiss National Science Foundation. He also reported there are 27 Fulbright program participants on campus, more than double the number from last year with the student Fulbright winners representing 18 nations. He spoke of his recent trip to the Dominican Republic to meet with partners in that notion, with the contingent of students from that nation numbering nearly 200. President Dunn reported visitors from U.S. Green Building Council on campus to celebrate that we have six additional building certified by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). He then spoke of faculty and student accomplishments. President Dunn introduced the new WMU football coach P.J. Fleck for his remarks.

Election of Officers. As provided for in its bylaws, officers of the Board of Trustees are elected at the annual formal session. Chair Johnston presented the following slate of officers, elected by the Board following a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Debel—

Chair – Trustee Jeanne Carlson
Vice Chair – Trustee James Hettinger
Secretary – Betty Kocher
Treasurer and Assistant Secretary – Jan VanDerKley
Assistant Treasurer – Sandra Steinbach

Remarks by Chair Carlson. Chair Carlson said she was excited about the start of a new year of Board activity and on behalf of her colleagues on the Board she also wanted to thank Trustee Johnston for his service as chair for the past year. She noted that the office represents an enormous investment of time, energy and enthusiasm as well as a deep commitment to our students, faculty and staff. Chair Johnston said the University is a better place for Trustee Johnston’s willingness to take on the challenge.

As Trustee Johnston, Chair Carlson said she too is an alumnus with longtime ties to the University. She too is determined that the University will continue to move forward and prosper. Her focus for the coming year will be on enhancing the University’s strengths and raising its profile locally and nationally. Chair Carlson said that she cherishes her student experience at WMU and wants as many students as possible to enjoy the same opportunity.

Remarks by the Western Student Association President Sean Nicholl and Graduate Student Advisory Committee Chair Britne Amos. WSA President Nicholl and GSAC Chair reported on the activities of the groups.
Remarks by the Faculty Senate President. Dr. William Rantz reported on the work of the Senate.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 5 Formal Session. As moved by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Johnston, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Approval of Emeritus Resolutions, Trustee Archer and Trustee Tolbert. As presented by Chair Carlson, on a motion by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, the Board of Trustees approved the resolutions granting emeritus status to Trustee Dennis Archer and Trustee Larry Tolbert (their eight-year appointments ended December 31, 2012) “with great appreciation for their service to Western Michigan University.”

Consent Items. Presented by Vice Chair Hettinger, following a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Johnston, the Board of Trustees approved the following consent items – Personnel Report, Gift Report, Grant Report, Program Recommendations, Authorization to Confer Degrees (2013), Liquor Licenses, Sale of Parcel of Land, Easements – Consumers Energy, Lease Addendum – State of Michigan, Department of Community Health, and Lease Agreement – Follett Higher Education Group, Inc.

MUSIC (Michigan Universities Self-Insurance Corporation Update) Provided by Tim Kellogg.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Betty A. Kocher
Secretary
Board of trustees