



2-29-2012

# WMU Board of Trustees Annual Formal Session February 29, 2012

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL FORMAL SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

The Board of Trustees annual formal session was called to order by Chair Archer at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, Rooms 157-159, Bernhard Center.

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

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented, with the addition of a parking proposal item, following a motion by Trustee Tolbert, supported by Trustee Miller.

Remarks by the Chair. Chair Archer stated that it hardly seems possible that he has come to the end of his year as chair and that although he has always felt a strong connection to his alma mater, this past year has allowed him to be a part of the University in a way that is deeper and more meaningful than he could have imagined. He said he knew a lot about the quality of Western but that during his time on the board he sees increased evidence in the media and general population that the University is being appropriately recognized. Chair Archer noted the football Broncos playing in the Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl in Detroit, recognition of the university's Seita Scholars program for youth who have aged out of foster care, NPR listeners able to tune into "From the Top" program originating from the top of the College of Fine Arts' Dalton Center, and the campus visit of presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Chair Archer said he received an incredible undergraduate education here at Western and is pleased to have the opportunity to serve on this board and play a role in making sure today's and tomorrow's students have an opportunity to enjoy the same level of quality. He stated he is particularly proud of two areas—the Seita Scholars program and the fact that Western Michigan has become the best university in the state, if not the nation, in reaching out to veterans who are coming home and making it easy for them to matriculate here at Western Michigan University. He said that we are on the right track, thanked the trustees for their support during his year as chair, and pledged his continued support and involvement.

Remarks by the President. President Dunn reported the 2012 budget process has begun with Governor Snyder unveiling his proposed budget, giving a 1.5 percent range for WMU while other public universities could see increases of more than 7 percent. The governor's proposal calls for universities to earn more state appropriations by adhering to a 4 percent cap on tuition increases and meeting certain benchmarks. He stated the University will be adding our suggestions about more effective metrics that could be used to better reflect the contributions and mission of all of our universities. President Dunn noted that The Daily, a national online news organization, reported in detail how efficiently run our University is—one of the most efficiently run research universities

in the nation and one that has kept administrative and professional personnel costs at an extraordinarily low level.

President Dunn spoke of continued activity on campus, with 15 new electric vehicle charging stations near Miller Auditorium, bringing the total to 20 on campus now open to the public; “Not Smart” a WMU recruitment video produced to play in movie theatres in the state, was awarded a gold medal by the American Advertising Federation of West Michigan; and participation of 172 employers from around the nation in our annual Campus Career Fair. He said that the School of Medicine continues to move forward, stating that the private medical school long discussed is coming to fruition and standing firm on the original commitment to ensure that no public funds designated for WMU would be diverted to the initiative.

He then introduced music students, Eric Bowman, Evan Clifton, Kirsten Schaffert, and Andrew Rose, and their mentor, Professor Wolfenbarger. Several have been named finalists in the International Trombone Association competition and will be competing in Paris later this year. Eric Bowman and Andrew Rose played for the group.

Election of Officers. As moved by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Tolbert, the Board of Trustees elected the proposed slate of officers for 2012—

Chair	Vice Chair Bill Johnston
Vice Chair	Trustee Jeanne Carlson
Secretary	Betty Kocher
Treasurer and Assistant Secretary	Jan VanDerKley
Assistant Treasurer	Sandra Steinbach

The trustees expressed their appreciation to outgoing Chair Archer for his service.

Remarks by the Chair. Chair Johnston stated he was pleased and excited about the start of a new year of board activity. He said that the University is a better place because of the commitment demonstrated by Trustee Archer and said that his focus in the coming year will also be to enhance the University’s strengths and raise its profile. Chair Johnston said he cherishes his student experience at WMU and wants as many students as possible to enjoy the same opportunity.

Remarks by the WSA President Erin Kaplan and GSAC Chair LaTasha Chaffin. (Chair Johnston introduced Erin’s parents who were in attendance and led the group in singing “Happy Birthday” to her. Her only birthday gift request was that her parents attend the meeting and listen to her remarks.) Both President Kaplan and Chair Chaffin spoke about the work and activities of their organizations..

Remarks by the Faculty Senate President. Dr. Peter Krawutschke spoke about his time

as president of the Senate as his term is coming to an end and said he has enjoyed attending the Board meetings, representing the Faculty Senate, and working with President Dunn and the Trustees.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 8 Formal Session. The minutes were approved as distributed following a motion by Trustee Asmong-Knapp, supported by Trustee Tolbert.

Power Plant Report. A review of the work and efficiency of power plant operations was presented by Peter Strazdas, Associate Vice President- Facilities Management Department, and power plant staff

Sangren Pedestrian Mall Update. Provided by David Dakin, Director, Campus Facility Planning.

Operating Cash Accounts and Annuity and Life Income Funds Report – Update provided by Sandra Steinbach, Associate Vice President for Business and Finance.

Recommendation re Parking Permits and Violations. As review by Vice President VanDerKley, the recommendation was approved on an unanimous roll call vote as moved by Trustee Archer, supported by Trustee Miller. The action approves the increase of parking violation fines from \$15 to \$25 and meter violations from \$10 to \$15.

International Partnership Recommendations. As presented by Provost Greene, the Board of Trustees, on an unanimous roll call vote as moved by Trustee Asmong-Knapp, supported by Trustee Tolbert, approved the following motion:

The Board of Trustees authorizes the President of the University to reach agreements that adjust tuition for international partners who commit cohort groups of graduate and undergraduate students to study at Western Michigan University, provided that the tuition agreement for such programs is not less than 125% of the resident rate. Further, the Board of Trustees agrees that previous agreements, including the agreement with the Dominican Republic, may be included under this arrangement.

Consent Items. As moved by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Tolbert, the following consent items were approved—Personnel Report, Gift Report, Grant Report, Program Recommendations, Authorization to Confer Degrees (2012), and Board Date-July 25, 2012.

Public Comments – Dennis Moore, representing AFSCME, Local 1668. spoke of the fiftieth anniversary of their group, and invited the Board to attend the anniversary party on April 14.

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Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty A. Kocher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial "B".

Betty A. Kocher  
Secretary