



4-8-2011

# WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session April 8, 2011

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES FORMAL SESSION  
APRIL 8, 2011

The Board of Trustees formal session was called to order by Chair Archer at 11:50 a.m. on April 8, 2011, in Rooms 157-159, Bernhard Center.

Board members present: Chair Archer (via telephone), Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, Trustee Debel, Trustee Hettinger, Trustee Miller, and Trustee Tolbert.

Remarks by the Chair. Chair Archer reported that much has happened since the February annual meeting. Most notably, the announcement of an anonymous \$100 million gift for the Western Michigan University School of Medicine has energized the campus and the entire community. On behalf of the Board, he expressed a sincere thank you to the donors for their confidence in the University with this gift. Chair Archer noted that this extraordinary gift have received coverage from media across the country.

Remarks by the President. President Dunn noted that he had attended several successful alumni events recently in Florida, and Chair Archer's presence at one made it a most memorable event.

He reported that he had testified before Lansing legislators and thanked them for recognizing the funding problem WMU was left with when the Sangren Hall construction project was not included in the capital outlay bill. The president noted that the omission was resolved with a joint resolution passing easily in both chambers. He also said he talked to the legislators about the negative impact the governor's budget would have on the University.

President Dunn highlighted the work of new Vice President for Development Jim Thomas and his team for their creativity and commitment in the announcement of the \$100 million gift with "Operation Historic Moment." Members of his team, the "Sensational Seven" spoke of the work leading up to the announcement.

Prior to the remarks by the new Western Student Association president, President Dunn asked that the audience acknowledge the year of tremendous leadership by the outgoing team of President Aaron Booth and Vice President Joey Blaszczyk

Remarks by the WSA President and GSAC Chair – Erin Kaplan and Joel Raveloharimisy. Erin Kaplan spoke on the goals of the new leadership of the Western Student Association. Joel Raveloharimisy reported on activities of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

Remarks by the Faculty Senate President. Dr. Peter Krawutschke stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Board and discuss the University's budgetary challenges and shared governance.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as modified, following a motion by Trustee Tolbert, supported by Trustee Hettinger, with the addition of a personnel matter, and moving up public comments to the next item on the agenda.

Public Comments. There were two requests to speak to the Board. Kevin Wortleboer voiced concern over tuition increases. Paul Wilson, past president of the AAUP, asked that the Board not ratify the University's recommendation to implement the layoff of Dr. Valery Bliznyuk and allow him to continue as a faculty member.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 24 Formal Session. The minutes were approved as distributed, following a motion by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, supported by Trustee Miller.

Conveyance of the Northwest Unit. Following a motion by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, the Board of Trustees authorized the Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer to execute the necessary documents and take all necessary steps to effect the conveyance. This action makes possible the transfer of the property at 1501 Blakeslee Street to the city of Kalamazoo. It was received by WMU from the state in 1998 as part of the arrangement when the University assumed ownership of the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. Transfer of the property title is necessary for the city to use funds received through a grant to demolish the building, vacant for twenty years and in no condition to be of any use to the University.

Resolution re Series 2011 General Revenue Bonds. The resolution was approved authorizing the issuance and delivery of 2011 general revenue bonds on a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Debel. The bond proceeds will be used to finance a portion of the construction costs for the Western View on-campus residential housing complex, the new Sangren Hall to house the College of Education and Human Development and the Lee Honors College addition.

Room and Board and Apartment Rental Rates. The administration was authorized to implement a 1.9% tuition increase in student room and board rates and apartment rental rates, effective fall semester 2011. Action was approved on a 7-0 roll call vote, following a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Debel.

Recommendation re Honorary Degree. The Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Tolbert, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, approved the awarding of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Madam Ligia Amada Melo de Cardona, Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic. The degree will be conferred at the April 30 Commencement.

Personnel Matter. As presented by President Dunn, and after a motion by Trustee Hettinger and supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, the Board of Trustees

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approved the retirement of Lowell Rinker, Vice President for Business and Finance, effective March 30, 2012, and the appointment of Janice (Jan) VanDerKley as Vice President for Business and Finance, effective July 1, 2011. Jan VanDerKley is currently the Associate Vice President for Business and Finance and University Controller. The Board expressed its appreciation to Vice President Rinker for his years of service to the University and congratulated Associate Vice President VanDerKley on her new appointment.

Consent Items. The personnel report (including ratification of layoff), gift report, grant report, and academic programs were approved on a motion by Trustee Debel, supported by Trustee Hettinger.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty A. Kocher  
Secretary  
Board of Trustees