Board of Trustees to meet next week

Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 18, in 157 Bernhard Center. They are expected to consider new student fees for media and transportation that were approved by the student body in elections run by the Western Student Association.

Trustees also will consider a new contract with Power Plant employees as well as a University policy on campus programs and activities involving minors.

Commencement ceremonies slated

WMU will stage three commencement ceremonies Saturday, April 27, in University Arena. This is a venue change for the ceremonies, which cannot be held in Miller Auditorium due to the long run of the Broadway musical “Wicked.”

The ceremonies are set as follows: 9 a.m., graduates of the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Health and Human Services; 1 p.m., graduates of the Haworth College of Business and the colleges of Engineering and Applied Sciences and of Fine Arts; and 5 p.m., graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and Extended University Programs.

Computer repair service changed

Due to the transition in bookstore operations, the TotalTECH repair service is unavailable through Sunday, April 14. The repair service will resume in a limited capacity under the Follett-run store Monday, April 15. Direct questions to Michael Strong at michael.strong@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5014.

Program applications due April 18

Applications for the 2013-14 Visiting Scholars and Artists Program are due Thursday, April 18. Visit wmich.edu/provost/VSAP for forms and instructions.

WMU catering selling gift baskets

In observance of Administrative Professionals Week, April 22-26, catering is offering a gift basket for $15 that includes a WMU coffee mug and sweet treats. Orders can be placed through Friday, April 19. To order or obtain more information, send an email to kayleigh@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-4868.

Community garden plots available

The Office for Sustainability is taking applications to participate in the community garden behind the Stadium Drive Apartments. The campus community and general public may use the plots. On-site workshops will be offered May through October.

Stadium Drive Community Garden participants are encouraged to plant extra and donate to local food banks. Visit wmich.edu/sustainability and click Projects and Initiatives for more information on how to reserve a plot, volunteer or attend workshops.

WMU, Cooley consider formal alliance

WMU and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School are discussing the possibility of a stronger alliance that would create a formal affiliation between the University and the private law school.

Doing so would build on more than a decade of cooperation that has led to a number of joint degree programs and shared facility initiatives in the Michigan cities of Grand Rapids and Lansing.

Cooley is the nation’s largest law school, with an enrollment of more than 3,300 students and an alumni base of some 17,000 graduates. It offers advanced Master of Laws and Juris Doctor degrees and has four campuses in Michigan—Lansing, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and Auburn Hills—and another in Tampa Bay, Fla. (See related story on page 4.)

In informal talks between WMU and Cooley, they have been under way for about three years. More recently, the boards and leadership of both schools have become involved in the informal talks.

Then, late in December, both sides agreed to take exploratory steps, with each school reviewing the impact an alliance would have on its stakeholders, accreditation, financial responsibilities and growth potential.

Under the model being examined, both schools would retain their independence, governance structure and separate fiduciary responsibilities. Cooley would become the WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, continuing as an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity.

When the two administrations complete the exploratory process, the next step would be to submit a proposal for board approval. That could happen as early as this summer.

“The result of such an affiliation with Cooley would make our University one of fewer than 30 universities in the nation to have both a law school and school of medicine,” notes WMU President John M. Dunn.

“The benefits that accrue from that distinction would pay dividends to our students, faculty and staff for years to come. The opportunity is made even more intriguing by the common mission and values of our two institutions.”

Both schools promote academic theory and its practical applications as well as foster an academic culture that is inclusive and accessible. And both schools have long traditions of collaboration and community engagement.

University is first American Eagle hiring-program partner

The College of Aviation is the first collegiate program in the nation to be part of an American Eagle Airlines pilot-hiring program that will make new WMU graduates American Eagle employees on loan back to their alma mater as flight instructors.

The Pilot Pipeline Program agreement, announced April 5 during the college’s annual Aviation Outlook Day, means that American Airlines affiliate American Eagle will identify potential employees as early as their sophomore year in college and work with them through graduation.

Once the new pilots have earned their bachelor’s degrees, they will become American Eagle employees with medical and travel benefits while they are on loan to WMU as flight instructors. That will allow them to continue to accrue additional flight hours.

When the new American Eagle employee has reached the flight hours needed to qualify for an Airline Transport Pilot rating, the young pilot will step into a new hiring class at American Eagle, begin receiving a $10,000 scholarship paid monthly over a two-year period and be guaranteed an interview with American Airlines.

“We’ve had a wonderful relationship with WMU over the years and have been extraordinarily pleased with the caliber of the graduates we’ve hired from its flight program,” says Nicholas Alford, American Eagle’s pilot recruitment manager. “This is an important initiative for our company, and we’re pleased that WMU will have the opportunity to become the first higher education partner to help fill our pilot pipeline with the best young flight professionals.”
Around campus and beyond

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/events for details and more events news.

Entrepreneur to give breakfast talk
The owner of the largest off-price apparel wholesaler in the Midwest will be the next speaker in the Entrepreneurship Forum. Ed Remard, founder of Bermo Enterprises, will speak at 8 a.m. Friday, April 12, in 2150 Schneider Hall. The free event begins at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast. Reservations are required at kayla.j.hunt@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6059.

Event to showcase senior engineers
Engineering students will demonstrate their imaginative and often technical projects during the 52nd Conference on Senior Engineering Design from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the engineering college’s Parkview Campus building.

Teacher Education Career Fair slated
Job opportunities for teachers will be highlighted during the 25th annual Teacher Education Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom. The event allows organizations to recruit K-12 teachers and WMU to provide information about its graduate-school opportunities.

Honors college sets thesis celebration
The Lee Honors College will hold a three-day Spring 2013 Thesis Celebration for graduating seniors Wednesday through Friday, April 17-19. More than three dozen honors college students will present and defend their theses during one-hour sessions, and an additional nine students will present their music theses.

Presentations begin at 9 a.m. each day in locations throughout the LHC building and run through 5 p.m. on all three days. The musical thesis presentations are set for 4:30 p.m. Friday in the honors college lounge. All student defense presentations are open to the public. For a complete schedule of topics and presenters, contact the honors college at (269) 387-3230.

Chinese proficiency tests offered
Registration is required by Wednesday, April 18, for those interested in taking levels 3 through 6 of China’s Hanyu Shuiqiang Kaoshi language proficiency test. The testing will take place Saturday, April 20, in 2110 Sangren Hall.

Testing will begin at 9 a.m. for levels 3, 4 and 6 at 1:30 p.m. for level 5. The speaking test will not be available. Visit wmuconfucius.org for an application, and cost and other details.

Sustainability open house scheduled
WMU’s second annual Sustainability BASH will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the Gibbs House, 4503 Parkview Ave. in Kalamazoo. This free public event is part of WMU’s observance of 2013 Earth Week, April 14-22. It will include educational activities, guided nature and house tours, food, entertainment, games and prize giveaways.

Next faculty, staff mixer is April 30
The final spring Fridays With Friends faculty and staff mixer is set for 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, April 30 in the Fetzer Center ballroom. This mixer will feature light refreshments and a cash bar.

Association plans public event at Asylum Lake Preserve
The Asylum Lake Preserve’s birds, plants and history will be showcased during A Day of Celebration that will also honor Renay and Monte Piercy, founders of the Asylum Lake Preservation Association.

The event will run from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 18, and be held at the preserve’s Parkview Avenue entrance.

The public is invited to attend a brief dedication of the memorial plaque for the piercys, participate in special tours of the preserve led by local naturalists and visit the gathering tent, where attendees will be able to view exhibits and speak with representatives from local groups working to preserve the Earth and its natural resources.

Organizations that would like to set up a display that features their work or promotional materials should contact Lauri Holmes at lauriholmes@gmail.com or Steve Kato at steve.keto@wmich.edu.

Exchange
For sale—Ready to spread alpaca manure for your garden. Keep our email address handy and order now, this fall or next year. Per-bag cost is $2 if picked up at our farm in Paw Paw, $4 if delivered to campus. Price break available for larger quantities. Contact: Carla at candiacosme@gmail.com.

Jobs
Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources website at wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.

New book being well received
Jeffer Angles, world languages and literatures, has been receiving important accolades for his translation of the memoirs of Mototsu Takahashi, one of Japan’s most important contemporary poets and writers. The first-time translation of “Twelve Views from the Distance,” published in November by the University of Minnesota Press, is Angles’ seventh book. The same week it was published, World Literature Today journal named it one of the year’s 75 notable translations.

More recently, the book was named a finalist for a 2013 Lambda Literary Award in the gay memoir/biography category, and just this week, it was featured in a review in the Japan Times, Japan’s oldest English language newspaper.

Emeritus’ tome culminates life work
Clifford Davidson, emeritus in English and medieval studies, has written a book that culminates four decades of his work on a fully extant religious cycle from England in the late Middle Ages.

“Corpus Christi Plays at York: A Contest for Religious Drama” is due to be released this month by AMS Press. The volume focuses on the local urban context for the pageants in the cycle, which dramatized the history of the world from the creation to judgment day in 47 pageants. These were produced by the city guilds in the streets of York for nearly 200 years.

Separate chapters explore various aspects of the guilds, pageants and plays. A final chapter in collaboration with the University of London’s Sheila White treats the theme of bullying embodied in the pageants, particularly in the violent Passion and Crucifixion scenes.

Prof elected to international group
Nancy Schullery, business information systems, is serving as president of the Association for Business Communication for 2012-13. She was elected to the post at the organization’s international convention in Honolulu. ABC is committed to advancing business communication research, education and practice.

It publishes the Journal of Business Communication, which is the premier journal in its field, and Business Communication Quarterly, which is known for its pedagogical expertise. Schullery is a regular reviewer and editorial-board member for the Quarterly and has served as an associate editor of the Journal.

She came to WMU in 1997 and is a former director of undergraduate programs for the Haworth College of Business. Her research interests include collaboration in groups, personality traits and preferences, conflict resolution, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Prior to coming to WMU, Schullery worked for nine years at Unisys Corp.
A firm that markets some of the nation’s best-known consumer brands will bring its design, prototyping and manufacturing capabilities to the Business Technology and Research Park, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced March 27.

Atlanta-based Newell Rubbermaid will open a state-of-the-art 40,000-square-foot facility at the park by early 2014, and expects to have a local employee base of up to 100. Newell is the corporate umbrella for such well-known brands as Rubbermaid, Calphal on, Paper Mate and Irwin. Its move is being assisted with a $2 million award from the Michigan Strategic Fund.

The firm plans to develop strong recruiting ties with the University and will build on property adjacent to WMU’s historic Gibbs House.

“Newell Rubbermaid has customers around the world and has told us they want this facility to be a showcase,” says Bob Miller, WMU associate vice president for community outreach.

The new facility will be devoted to product design and innovation and will serve as a hub for design and marketing teams to evaluate product prototypes and create plans for future products for the more than 40 brands that are part of the company’s global portfolio.

No manufacturing will take place at the site.

WMU trustees approved the sale of what is known as Parcel #26 as their Feb. 27 meeting. Since that time, changes to the original proposal will mean a slightly larger tract will be used.

Expanding the parcel will necessitate a small land swap that will result in a net increase in the overall size and enhance the Parkview Avenue frontage of the Gibbs site, which is used by WMU for sustainability initiatives.

“This development, along with the upcoming construction of a new corporate headquarters for the design firm mophie, means our Business Technology and Research Park is now full,” Miller says.

The park was launched in 1999 and is now home to more than 40 companies as well as WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Southwest Michigan Innovation Center, which is a life sciences incubator.

Numerous students, employees receive awards

WMU bestowed its University-wide awards April 3 during its third Excellence in Diversity Award Program. The awards are given to employees who exemplify leadership in contributing to diversity and inclusion on and off campus.

The event also included presentation of this year’s College of Aviation Excellence in Diversity Award to the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.

Rising Star Award recipients

• Brine Amos, chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee
• Robyn Bowers, director, Alpha Program
• Facilities Management, landscape services and engineering geographic information systems
• Carla Koretsky, associate dean, Lee Honors College
• OUTspoken, registered student organization
• Lynnae Stankus, associate director, Residence Life

Trailblazer Award recipients

• Nicholas Andreadis, dean, Lee Honors College
• Suzie Nagel-Bennett, associate vice president, student affairs
• Tim Ready, director, Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations

Excellence in Diversity Award Recipients

• Dennis Corbin, director of graduate student recruitment and retention, Graduate College
• Lonnie Duncan, associate professor and co-director of training, counselor education and counseling psychology
• Joan Herrington, chair and professor, theatre
• Mariam Konaté, assistant professor, gender and women’s studies
• Lynn Nations Johnson, professor, teaching, learning and educational studies

Summer youth programs slated

Regeneration is under way for many of the summer camps taking place at WMU, and space is limited for most. Visit wmich.edu/news/2013/03/5961 to learn more about offerings such as the:

• Bronco athletics sports camps
• programs for students who have qualified for the Academically Talented Youth Program in the Lee Honors College
• MI GEAR UP Program with engineering, aviation, health and business academies
• Third Coast Writing Project camps
• Upward Bound Program
• high school music camps; and
• Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Summer Camp.
Event set to celebrate Arbor Day, Tree Campus status

The University will celebrate national Arbor Day as well as its fifth consecutive Tree Campus USA certification during a public tree planting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 18, at the east end of Goldsworth Valley Pond.

Landscape services staff will be planting a Baldcypress, and those attending the ceremony are welcome to add a shovel of soil to the planting.

The event will include a short program and also note that the Arbor Day Foundation has named WMU a Tree Campus for 2012, in recognition of its commitment to effective community forestry management.

Only 191 campuses nationwide have earned the designation to date. WMU and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor are two of the nation’s 30 inaugural Tree Campuses and were the only Michigan schools with the designation until Calvin College in Grand Rapids was named to the 2012 list.

Tree Campus USA honors colleges and universities whose leaders for promoting healthy trees as well as engaging their students, employees and alumni in the spirit of conservation. Schools must be recertified every year to maintain the designation.

Law school named for Michigan Supreme Court justice

The Thomas M. Cooley Law School is named for Michigan Supreme Court Justice Thomas M. Cooley, who was born in 1824 and died in 1899.

The school describes Cooley as having “compiled the most distinguished legal record of any man whose name has been associated with the jurisprudence of Michigan.”

He was a successful city clerk, newspaper editor and circuit court commissioner before opening a small legal practice in the mid-1840s. In the ensuing years, he was appointed to compile Michigan’s statutes, then served as reporter to the state Supreme Court and in 1859, became one of the first professors of law at the University of Michigan.

Cooley was elected in 1864 to the Michigan Supreme Court, where he served as the leading justice for 20 years, and in 1887, President Grover Cleveland nominated him to a seat on the new federal Interstate Commerce Commission, where he emerged as the dominant commissioner.

“Cooley Law School and WMU share common educational and public service philosophies and have a long history of cooperation. An affiliation with this great University is especially good match,” says Cooley President and Dean Don LeDuc.

“Students, faculty, staff and alumni of both institutions will benefit from the tremendous opportunities that would arise from this alliance.”

Formal ties between Cooley and WMU have been strong for more than a decade and include numerous highlights.

• The two schools launched a joint Master of Public Administration/Juris Doctor in Lansing in 2002.
• WMU completed a $1.6 million buildout of one floor of its downtown Grand Rapids regional location in 2003 to meet Cooley’s needs for offering law classes locally and for bringing a law school to the city of Grand Rapids for the first time.
• Cooley moved into its own building in 2005 and a skateboard was constructed to connect it to the nearby WMU-Grand Rapids, Downtown facility.
• WMU and Cooley launched a joint Master of Business Administration/J.D. in 2008.
• The two schools launched their third dual-degree partnership in 2011, providing West Michigan with its first-ever Master of Social Work/J.D.

On Campus with Bryan Sutton

Bryan Sutton’s primary job is to provide a comfortable working atmosphere for faculty, staff and students. But that’s not always easy or simple, given that he’s responsible for helping to maintain a consistent temperature in buildings and rooms across campus.

An environmental control person in maintenance services, Sutton is called out when spaces are too hot or too cold or there’s an equipment malfunction.

“We’re trying to maintain an average of 73 degrees throughout buildings. But the University standard is not to supply heat to buildings until the temperature falls below 71 degrees and not to supply cooling until it rises above 75 degrees,” he says. “That’s just one of the factors that go into it. Other factors include the age of a building and its equipment, where thermostats are located, and even which direction windows face.”

Sutton adds that sometimes there isn’t much he can do. For instance, classrooms are designed to cool and heat with their doors closed, so they won’t maintain the proper temperature if the doors are left open. Other issues surface when units repurpose a space that doesn’t have the mechanics for heating, cooling or ventilation, he notes.

So before making a storage room into an office, Sutton advises people to contact Facilities Management first to see what upgrades might be needed.

“What’s most important is the interpersonal communication and education,” he says. “You need to let building coordinators know if there’s a problem or if a repair will be delayed. For the most part, people are receptive when you explain what’s going on.”

Sutton began working in WMU Dining Services in 1989, then moved to building custodial and support services. After talking to people who held the job he has now, he decided to enter the environmental controls apprenticeship program.

“I graduated from the program in 2003, and they’ve been stuck with me ever since,” he says, adding that the best part of working here is the relationships he’s built.

Sutton has served three years as president of WMU’s AFSCME Local 1668 and now is its representative for all of maintenance services as well as its liaison with the University’s Seita Scholars program. The recipient of a semiannual Make a Difference award from WMU this year, he also is a Seita volunteer in his off hours.

Sutton lives in Portage, Mich., and just celebrated his 18th wedding anniversary. He is active in his church, helps coach his son’s Little League team, and enjoys golfing “just for fun, to see people outside of work in a different atmosphere and to meet new people.”