WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session July 23, 2014

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FORMAL SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

The Board of Trustees formal session was called to order by Chair Hettinger at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 in Room 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Board members present: Chair Hettinger, Vice Chair Asmonga Knapp, Trustee Bolger, Trust Carlson, Trustee Debel, Trustee Johnston, and Trustee Miller.

(Prior to the session, newly appointed Trustee James Bolger was officially sworn in by Kalamazoo County Probate Judge Scott Pierangeli.)

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

Remarks by the Chair. Attachment A

Remarks by the President. Attachment B

Remarks by the WMU/AAUP President. Presented by President Minnick.

Remarks by the Faculty Senate Past President Bill Rants spoke on the activities of the Senate. In the absence of President Dennis Simpson who was out of the country.

Remarks by the Western Association President Abby Wallace and Graduate Student Association Vice President Amaury Pineda. WSA President Wallace and GSA Vice President Pineda reported on the activities of their groups.

Informational Items

1. Presentation re New Residence Halls – Representatives from Lord, Aeck and Sargent Architects
2. STARS Report (Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating Systems) - Presented by Jody Brylinsky, Associate Provost, Institutional Effectiveness
3. Center for Academic Success Programs – Presented by Provost Tim Greene, with remarks by representatives of the various areas.

Action items

1. Extension of Cole-Gilmore Related Agreements – As presented by Vice President VanDerKley, the Board of Trustees on a motion by Trustee Debel, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, with Trustee Miller abstaining, authorized the administration to negotiate and execute an extension to an existing set of development agreements covering a four-block parcel of land it owns in downtown Kalamazoo known as the Cole-Gilmore property. The action authorizes extension of agreements approved in 2008 that are set to expire September 30. The University’s agreements are with Downtown Tomorrow, Inc. which also owns land in the area and adjacent to the WMU property. The agreements prohibit either WMU or
or DTI from selling their parcels without the express consent of the other. The agreements further provide that if the University does not begin development of its property by the agreements’ dates, DTI has the option to purchase the property for the price of $1 and assumption of a $1,52 million mortgage. Both sides are interested in a one-year extension to the current set of agreements.

2. Student Room Rates, New Resident Hall, 2015-2016. As presented by Vice President Anderson, and a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Debel, on a unanimous roll call vote, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation that the administration be authorized to implement the new residence halls double room rate of $5,599 for 2015-2016, effective fall semester 2015. The new halls, now under construction replace Bigelow and Hoekje Halls that were taken down and are expected to accommodate approximately 750 students. The design of the new housing complex is intended to build multiple levels of community engagement and facilitate academic success.

Consent Items – The following were approved as presented by Trustees Hettinger on a motion by Trustee Debel, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp – Personnel Report, Gift Report, Grant Report, and Liquor Licenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Kocher
Secretary
Board of Trustees
James Hettinger  
Board Remarks  
July 23, 2014  

Good afternoon, and thank you all for being with us this today. On behalf of the entire board, it is my pleasure to welcome to the table our new colleague, Trustee James Bolger, who was sworn in this morning. As I mentioned this morning, for me it has been a privilege both a privilege and an intensely rewarding experience to be a WMU trustee and have the opportunity to advance the University. We all wish Jim that same level of experience and are glad to have him aboard to share in the important deliberations and decisions that are the role of this governing body. Again, welcome to the board, Jim.

A temporarily 'quiet' campus

Today, as the Summer II session is in its final weeks, the campus is perhaps at its lowest level of visible academic activity we will ever see it. It is not, however, what could be called quiet. With construction and
demolition, road work, parking lot paving and city utility work, there's plenty of noise and a certain level of muttered comments as people are navigate detours and find new parking locations. Let's just call these the sounds of summer, as the University does the work necessary to get the campus in peak condition for the return of our students this fall.

Meanwhile, those students who are the usual source of noise and activity on campus are out making waves and boosting the University's reputation in other locations. I'd like to mention two such groups.

**Sunseeker**

Today, as we're meeting here, the University's Sunseeker solar race team is taking part in the American Solar Challenge. Today, they are racing from the University of Oklahoma to this evening's stop in Wichita Kansas. This portion of the course is just part of a 1,751-mile race from Austin, Texas, to Minneapolis. This year's race marks 25 years of solar racing at WMU. In fact, only one of the 14 members of this year's team was even born when the first Sunseeker was built in 1989. The level of experience WMU brings to the initiative shows. While some two dozen teams tried to qualify for the race, only 10, including Sunseeker, made it through the
rigorous process. We wish them success and lots of sunshine as they showcase the applied engineering prowess this University is known for in communities all along the course.

Boosting Detroit's bottom line

Just a week ago, two volunteer teams of students, alumni and a faculty member, all associated with our Integrated Supply Management program, presented the results of their work to the City of Detroit. Using the supply management skills from their discipline, the teams developed operational changes for two major city transportation facilities that could improve service AND lead to as much as $2 million in annual savings. That's an extra $2 million for a city budget that can only be described as beleaguered. The two WMU teams worked for 10 weeks. Two team members were recent alums and one was on loan from her new employer--General Motors. That company considered the work that important.

Last week's presentation was made to staff members from the mayor's office, the city council and the city's major department heads. Their presentation was about better service, shorter downtimes for fleet vehicles and saving money. The underlying message, though, was that this
university produces top-notch graduates and is ready to step up and help in tough times. I think that final message reinforces our Integrated Supply Management Program's status as one of the top rated programs in the nation--No. 12, in fact.

Closing

And now, I'm going to turn the microphone over to President Dunn, who has some additional items to share with you.

...After President Dunn's remarks

Now it's time to hear from our student and faculty leadership. We have with us today Lisa Minnick, president of the WMU chapter of AAUP; Faculty Senate President Dennis Simpson, thee president of the Western Student Association, Abby Wallace; and Damon Chambers, chair of the organization that on July 1, became the Graduate Student Association.

(five minutes)
Good afternoon, and let me add my thanks to you all for being with us today. We are less than six weeks from the start of the fall semester and preparations are indeed underway in an intense way.

**Tobacco-free campus**

One set of preparations that is unique to this year is being triggered by the Sept. 1 launch of our Tobacco-Free Campus initiative. This board approved that measure in December 2013, and the planning and implementation efforts began shortly after that. The work of informing multiple audiences, changing building and campus signage, offering tobacco cessation services and planning a launch event is all well underway. A campuswide forum to answer questions and offer tips to faculty and staff concluded a few moments ago here in this building, and another one is planned for later today. We're on our way to moving to the next level of being a healthy campus.

**Using technology to detect concussion-causing injuries**

While we move to a healthier campus, we have a research team in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences focused on the well being of football players--specifically on head injuries that cause concussion. The WMU team is developing technology that will help coaches and trainers at all levels of play detect the force of blows to the head of a
player, allowing the coaches to take proactive measures to head off additional injury. The electronic sensors they're embedding in football helmets can detect the severity of impact and immediately relay the information to those on the sidelines--all through the use of a simple Smartphone or tablet application.

Dr. Massood Atashbar and four of his graduate students have been working through our Starting Gate student business incubator to get their fledgling company and product off the ground. Over the past two weeks, their work has attracted the attention of such news outlets as NBC and Sports Illustrated.

From my own attendance at an NCAA meeting last week, I can tell you that there is an enormous level of awareness about the issue of damage caused when student athletes' concussions are not detected and given time to heal. This work has enormous potential as well for use by the military and a number of other industries.

**Autism funding**

This University's commitment to using its expertise to improve the health and wellness of our communities was again recognized last month when we learned the University is slated to receive $4 million from the state to boost our autism research and professional training initiatives. Rep. Margaret O'Brien was on campus June 20 to announce the funding to our behavior analysis specialists in the Department of...
Psychology. They have developed an international reputation for their work in treating autism and training professionals who can provide necessary services and support networks for families. The new funding will help us work to alleviate a severe shortage in professionals with the skills needed to address the growing Michigan population of children with autism.

Sustainability
You'll hear a special report to the board in just a few minutes about the University's sustainability achievements—reflected through a new assessment tool that looks at sustainability in its very broadest sense. Our more traditional advancements in being a green campus registered two major steps forward in recent weeks with:

• The designation late last month by the U.S. Green Building Council of the Zhang Legacy Collections Center as a LEED Silver building.

• The even more recent designation by the council—one that we have just announced—of new Sangren Hall as a LEED Gold building.

We were jubilant over the Zhang Center certification and are now just delighted to know that Sangren has earned a LEED Gold rating. It's the news we've been patiently awaiting, knowing our facilities have met and exceeded the standards set out in this nationally recognized benchmark certification program. Together, those two amazing
facilities bring the number of LEED buildings on the WMU campus to nine--with a dozen still in the certification process.

Dominican Republic development
In April, I shared with you information about a trip to the Dominican Republic. My mission was simply to solidify and celebrate a new partnership with higher education institutions in that nation that was intended to lead to WMU offering a Ph.D. in education in that nation in collaboration with four DR universities. That goal has been met. Just two weeks ago we were able to announce the launch this fall of a unique collaboration that will allow educators in the DR--for the first time--an opportunity to earn a Ph.D. in their home nation. It is, in fact, the first doctoral program offered in the DR and something of a model that can be replicated. This accomplishment was possible because of the work of some committed faculty members and administrators in our College of Education and Human Development.

Faculty and student accomplishments
I always like to close with brief comments about some of the accomplishments and accolades received by our faculty, staff and students. There is always a wealth of achievement to highlight.

Faculty accolades
Two faculty members in biological sciences-- Dr. Maarten J. Vonhof and Dr. Robert Eversole--have recently been awarded more than
$200,000 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study a fatal fungal infection afflicting hibernating bats in eastern North America. The WMU researchers are heading a team that also includes colleagues at Ball State University and the University of California, Davis.

Student accolades
Our students continue to capture awards and honors around the nation. There are a number of them to note, so let me just do a quick note about our most recent award recipients.

Two Western Michigan University students--sophomore Ysaura Ramirez Pena (SAURah Ramirez PENya) of Paw Paw and senior Marilyn Bean of Kalamazoo--have just received prestigious scholarships from the U.S. Department of State to study foreign languages overseas during the 2014-15 academic year. The awards are through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

Ysaura Pena will use her $5,000 award to study Spanish and organizational communication in the Dominican Republic this fall. Marilyn Bean will use her $3,000 award to travel to the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland to study German and do a comparative look at feminist studies in those nations.

And now, I'll turn the mic back to Chair Hettinger so he may introduce our student and faculty leaders who will make remarks as well.