Trustees endorse medical school proposal

Adopting a formal statement on the topic at its Nov. 2 public meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees voiced support for the administration to actively pursue the next steps in the process of developing a school of medicine. WMU President John M. Dunn also announced an anonymous gift made for this purpose.

In a unanimous roll call vote, the board authorized:

- Securing the services of a “dean pro tem” for the school.
- Filing a notice of intent with the national Liaison Committee on Medical Education to begin the accreditation process.
- Formalizing LCME-recommended planning committees.
- Finalizing agreements with partner hospitals.

Board Chair Kenneth V. Miller said the authorizations affirm the board’s support for the medical school feasibility study that has been under way for nearly two years.

Dunn has been working with the medical communities in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, Mich., to determine the feasibility and type of medical education model most likely to benefit the region. He has pledged that such a school could only become a reality as a privately funded entity that would not require public money or existing University resources.

A restricted $1.8 million gift has been pledged now to hire a dean pro tem and support the next levels of intense planning needed.

There is still much work to do to make a school of medicine a reality, but we’ve already made great progress as a community,” Dunn told the board. “Our next steps will include extending the planning process in a way that will take advantage of even more of the expertise available locally. There is work to do, but this is simply the right time and place to do that work.”

Several trustees spoke in favor of moving forward with the medical school project.

Trustee Dennis W. Archer of Detroit said the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek communities’ ability to create and sustain “a great medical school and provide the kind of patient care that each of us would want for our selves, seems to have great promise. It also creates...”

continued on page 4

Billboard campaign gets update

Several of WMU’s newest freshmen are being featured on more than 40 billboards in four regions of Michigan as part of the University’s updated billboard advertising campaign.

The students were selected primarily from members of the Lee Honors College and the 2009-10 class of Medallion Scholars, emphasizing the academic caliber of the Lee Honors College and the 2009-10 class of Medallion Scholars. The freshmen pictured are serving as WMU ambassadors in their hometowns around Detroit, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Lansing—major recruiting areas for the University.

Each billboard includes the students’ names, faces and brief descriptions of their credentials, which helps tell the story about the educational opportunities available at WMU. As an added campaign feature, poster versions of the billboards (see accompanying photo) were offered to the participating students’ high schools.

Online registration available for H1N1 vaccinations

WMU has launched an online registration for H1N1 vaccinations as supplies of the vaccine become available to the University.

The same members of the WMU community who are eligible to receive seasonal flu shots may receive free H1N1 vaccinations through the Sindecuse Health Center: students, employees and retirees, as well as their eligible dependents age 12 and older.

A valid Bronco NetID and password are required to access the secure registration system. The system was created to reduce waiting times and long lines, and to allow Sindecuse to pre-screen those registering so that vaccinations can be offered first to people at highest risk, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control.

Those who register will be notified by e-mail when their vaccination session has been scheduled. It may be several weeks before some people in lower-risk groups are notified.

Visit www.wmich.edu/vaccine to register to be vaccinated against H1N1. Those with questions may call 387-3287. Visit www.wmich.edu/flu for more information and advice about ways to prevent infection and what to do if you have flu-like symptoms.

Board Chair Kenneth V. Miller said the authorizations affirm the board’s support for the medical school feasibility study that has been under way for nearly two years.
Annual PSSO Poinsettia sale now in full swing

An order form is available online at wmich.edu/psso. Cash or check payment must accompany all orders. Checks should be made payable to PSSO.

Poinsettias will be available for pick up between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in 159 Bernhard Center.

Alpha Phi Omega’s Poinsettias will be on display from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Fremont Center.

For more information, call Kalamazoo Poinsettia Growers Association at 387-4262 or 387-6582 or send an e-mail to sally.laws@wmich.edu or sally.laws@wmich.edu.

Float decorating dates set

Students, alumni, employees and friends are invited to participate in WMU’s entry in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade by walking the one-mile route Saturday, Nov. 14, and by volunteering to decorate the University’s float before Wednesday, Nov. 11, and Friday, Nov. 13, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Campus Services Building. Visit www.wmich.edu/float for details.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.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.

Gold Company to present concert

Gold Company will hold its 33rd annual “Smoked Preview” concert at 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Kent Center Auditorium. It will feature new music from the ensemble’s upcoming “Love: Gold Company Style” show, which is scheduled to open Saturday, Feb. 13, in Miller Auditorium. Tickets are $10 and $5 for students.

Heart disease topic of presentation

A. Myers, Deanne Puca, Cheryl P. Roland and Mark E. Schwerin.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western News, Office of University Relations, Walwood Hall, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5433, every other

The Professional Exhibit and Staff). Organization is accepting Poinsettia orders through Tuesday, Nov. 24.

An order form is available online at wmich.edu/psso. Cash or check payment must accompany all orders. Checks should be made payable to PSSO.

Poinsettias will be available for pick up between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in 159 Bernhard Center.

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Trustees approve various personnel items

Two administrative appointments and the retirements of one faculty and one staff member were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees during its Nov. 2 meeting. Trustees also accepted the resignations of one faculty and one staff member.

Trustee OK'd the previously announced appointment of David Kuzara as head women's gymnastics coach, effective Oct. 5, and named Diana Vreeland director of the Career English Language Center for International Students, effective Sept. 8.

The faculty retirement, with emeritus status, was acted on posthumously for Susan V. Ponchilla, and is effective Nov. 2. Ponchilla, professor of blindness and low vision studies, died Oct. 12 after 28 years of service to the University. The staff member retiring is Richard T. Boyd, Facilities Management-power plant; Christine E. Howard Unangst, public safety.

A reception will follow. "Projects: History and Progress," the talk will be at 7:30 p.m. in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium. A reception will follow. "Community Sustainability Projects: History and Progress," the talk will be at 7:30 p.m. in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium. A reception will follow.

Sustainability expert to discuss local goals

The President's Universitywide Sustainability Committee is bringing an international expert to campus this month to speak about measuring the progress of sustainability projects in the local community.

Maureen Hart, owner of Sustainable Measures in West Hartford, Conn., will discuss the Kalamazoo area's vision for the future and the role of projects to track progress to reach these goals during a public lecture Thursday, Nov. 12. Titled "Community Sustainability Projects: History and Progress," the talk will be at 7:30 p.m. in Schneider Hall's Brown Auditorium.

On Friday, Nov. 13, Hart also will conduct a free and open workshop on "Developing a Citywide Community Sustainability Indicators Project." This event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon in 1040 Fetter Center and will include a complimentary breakfast.

Health, wellness expo open to WMU community

Students, faculty and staff members, and retirees are invited to attend the 2009 Health and Wellness Expo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Student Recreation Center's indoor tennis courts area.

This free event increases awareness and utilization of local programs, organizations and resources available to the WMU community.

Those attending the expo will be able to learn about ways of improving and maintaining their financial as well as their physical health. More than 40 exhibitors from the University and greater Kalamazoo area will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about healthy and wellness services along with employee and retiree benefits.

Attendees also will be able to sample healthy foods and purchase items from several local produce growers. Services to be offered include hearing screening, chiropractic, acupuncture, chair and hand massage, and at variable costs depending on individual insurance coverage, meningitis vaccinations. Plans had called for seasonal flu vaccinations to also be administered, but WMU has used up its allotment of this vaccine for 2009 and most likely will not receive additional doses.

In addition, Holyn & Associates will be conducting health assessments and providing information about its One-to-One wellness program. WMU recently decided to offer the program for free to all full-time, benefits-eligible employees.

Free parking will be available in Lot 13 and Parking Structure 1. Visit www.sustainablemeasures.com for more information.

Board signs off on leasing office in Royal Oak as base for Detroit-area operations

The WMU Board of Trustees approved a three-year lease Nov. 2 for a Woodward Avenue location in Royal Oak, Mich., that will become the University's base for recruiting and future program offerings.

The lease is for more than 1,800 square feet in a building at 32820 Woodward Ave. and will be effective Jan. 1, 2010. It gives the University a physical presence at the heart of the region that is home to 37.4 percent of WMU's student body.

Work also is under way to bring new academic programming to the Detroit area through Extended University Programs.

Keith Hearit, vice provost for enrollment management, told trustees the initiative and the selection of the Royal Oak site was guided by three basic considerations:

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• Southeast Michigan’s traditional importance as a recruiting base for WMU.

• An analysis of sites in the region with the potential to recruit and support new academic programming.

• The desire for a location that is easily accessible to students from both the city of Detroit and its suburbs.

Hearit also notes that WMU is talking with Oakland Community College about partnering to offer academic programming in the future that would allow metro-area students to start work toward a WMU bachelor’s degree near their homes.

Profs take part in poetry event

Six foreign languages faculty members will be part of an unusual local poetry reading at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Portage District Library.

For the free event, called “Poetry in 15 Languages,” readings will be done in various languages. Audience members will have a list of languages and readers, but no translations will be provided.

Participating from WMU will be department Chair Cynthia Running-Johnson, presenter, and readers Peter Blickle, German; Hend Ezat Hegab, Arabic; Viviane Rueflet, French; Rika Saito, Japanese; and Liliya Vansovich, Russian.

ICES pilot program set to start

The pilot project for the Web-based Instructor and Course Evaluation System, also known as ICES Online, will begin in spring 2010. The Web-based ICES system will replace the current paper-based system by next fall.

Participating in the pilot program will be the Haworth College of Business and the colleges of Aviation, Education and Human Development, and Health and Human Services. During the Summer I Session, they will be joined by the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Fine Arts.

Full implementation of the new system is scheduled for fall 2010.

For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/poapa/ICES or contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

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Putting greener ink on recycled paper

(© Photo by Deanne Tuca)

Everyone Counts learning-community initiative open to all employees

The offices of Diversity and Inclusion and of Faculty Development are bringing together faculty and staff members for a year-long exploration of multicultural ideas and tools through a new initiative called Everyone Counts.

The initiative is a professional-development opportunity that will help participants better respond to the University’s increasingly diverse campus. Based on the “learning community” model, it promotes both personal and institutional transformation.

Applications are being accepted until Friday, Nov. 20, for employees to participate in one of the initiative’s learning-community groups during 2010. The materials being requested of applicants will help ensure that each learning community is diverse and composed of members who are in a position to meet on a regular basis.

Andrea Beach, faculty development, and Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, diversity and inclusion, are co-directing the project. The 2010 theme for Everyone Counts centers on race and, as an anchor, will use the upcoming Kalamazoo Race Exhibit, which is described online at www.wmich.edu/cas/race.

Details about the new initiative are provided in a brochure that was distributed starting last week via campus mail to each WMU employee. Visit www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion for more information, or contact Beach or Naeem.

Trustees endorse medical school proposal

an enormous opportunity for economic development."

Trustee William Johnston of Portage, Mich., urged everyone involved to remember the importance of vision in difficult times. “The whole notion of a medical school is sometimes thought of in terms of today rather than tomorrow,” Johnston said.

There is a need to “connect the dots,” he noted, by combining the local community’s legacies in life sciences, discovery research and biomedical research with the possibilities inherent in a world-class health center.“ “We’re talking about the potential of unlocking research ideas that really have significance not just in terms of our local community, our state and our nation, but the entire globe,” Johnston said. “As an institution of higher learning, that’s really one of the things that should be at the highest part of our mission and dream.”

Trustees noted the positive results of studies commissioned by WMU, Bronson Hospital and Borgess Health. In their formal reports, two consulting firms endorsed the medical school idea and pointed to the strong infrastructure already in place that would allow the community to develop a school well positioned to address the nation’s growing and unmet need for physicians.

A Web site at www.kzoomedschool.org that contains complete information about the medical school initiative has been available since early this year. It includes the reports of both consultant groups, a timeline of the initiative, information about the future of medicine and answers to frequently asked questions.