



7-30-2003

# WMU Board of Trustees Special Formal Session July 30, 2003

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL FORMAL SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2003  
CONNABLE BOARD ROOM  
8:45 A.M.

Teleconference Meeting – Board members present: Trustee Aseritis, Trustee DeNooyer, Trustee Holden, Trustee Klohs, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, Trustee Pero and President Bailey (ex officio).

The meeting was called to order by Chair Klohs at 8:45 a.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as distributed on a motion by Trustee Holden, supported by Trustee DeNooyer.

Establishment of Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center. As moved by Trustee DeNooyer, supported by Trustee Pero, the Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of a biosciences research and commercialization center and granted the President the authority to take all actions deemed appropriate on behalf of the University in relation to the new center, including but not limited to entering into agreements and partnerships; applying for funding; determining appropriate parameters, organizational and legal structure, and name for the center; and sub-delegating authority to other University personnel to effectuate the organization and business for and of this center. As indicated, the sequence of events catalyzed by the loss of scientific jobs in Kalamazoo (Pharmacia/Pfizer) has provided an opportunity to contribute to the economic development of Michigan and to enhance the research experience for our students and faculty. As a result of substantial efforts by community and University leadership, as well as by representatives of state and local government, legislation has been passed which will allocate \$10 million for the center in Kalamazoo County. With the establishment of the center, the University will be in a position to partner swiftly with other entities/individuals and provide a center for scientists as they work to establish businesses and obtain funding for the center's research and commercialization programs and initiatives.

Research Foundation. The Board of Trustees, as moved by Trustee Holden, supported by Trustee Miller, passed a motion indicating its support for exploring options regarding the establishment of a research foundation that would support the research activities of the University, including its research centers and activities of faculty and staff; sponsor research, entrepreneurial and other commercialization activities, and perform other functions which would benefit the University and further its mission. As indicated, the Board of Trustees bylaws reserve the Board's authority to adopt the bylaws of all University foundations and all other associated and related entities.

Therefore, any recommendations relative to establishing a separate research foundation would come before the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for its approval.

Adjournment.      The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Kocher".

Betty Kocher  
Secretary  
Board of Trustees