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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session December 11/12, 2003

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY/FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11/12, 2003

The Western Michigan University Board of Trustees met on Thursday, December 11, at 6 p.m. in the Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Klohs and the agenda was accepted following a motion by Trustee Aseritis, supported by Trustee Martin. The Board of Trustees then went into a closed informal session as provided for under Michigan law after a 7 – 0 roll call vote as moved by Trustee Pero, supported by Trustee Aseritis. On Friday, December 12, the Board of Trustees went into formal session at 8 a.m., in Rooms 157 – 159. (The formal session was held in a larger area to accommodate the number of people expected re the intercollegiate athletics recommendation.)

Board members present: Trustee Aseritis, Trustee DeNooyer, Trustee Holden (December 12), Trustee Klohs, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, Trustee Pero and President Bailey (ex officio). Absent: Trustee Anthony

Remarks by the Chair. Chair Klohs spoke re the challenges the University faces as the result of the state's budget problems, with WMU experiencing massive cuts this year and more expected for 2004-05. But she also spoke of the successes which will enable the University to move forward aggressively when financial times are better. She congratulated President Bailey, Vice President Luderer and all of the other members of the University community who helped make the Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center a reality. She noted continued growth in the Business Technology and Research Park. Chair Klohs spoke of the continued events of the centennial celebration, coming to a close the following day with centennial commencement ceremonies. Chair Klohs also reminded everyone of the University holiday reception being held that afternoon, hosted by the Board and the Baileys, saying that it was especially important to hold the event this year to thank everyone for their support during these difficult times.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, October 7 and 31 and December 1 Sessions. The minutes were approved as distributed following a motion by Trustee Pero, supported by Trustee Martin.

Budget Overview. President Bailey presented a report on the budget problems facing the University and the steps being taken to deal with the problems. She reviewed reduction principles, 2003 reductions by areas, cost containment and reduction initiatives and noted that planning is ongoing to deal with long-term budget issues and new cuts.

Recommendation re Intercollegiate Athletics. As a part of the process in handling the budget reductions, a recommendation was brought to the Board re intercollegiate athletics. As indicated, a sports sponsorship review committee was created by the

President in September and charged with a review of current athletics programming. The recommendation of the committee was presented to Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard for her input, then to President Bailey, and finally to the Board for its action. The recommendation called for the elimination of three men's track teams (men's outdoor track, men's indoor track and men's cross country) at the close of the teams' 2003-04 seasons and the current fiscal year, with Athletic Director Beauregard including women's synchronized skating in the recommendation. The recommended action involves 100 student athletes and three coaches. It was also noted that annual scholarship commitments to athletes in the affected sports will be honored for the duration of each athlete's academic career at the University, with the funding (this year amounting to \$165,000) coming from the president's unrestricted fund beginning 2004-05. It was also noted that the recommendation, in keeping with the committee's charge, maintains NCAA Division 1-A status, membership in the Mid-American Conference and Central Collegiate Hockey Association and complies with Title IX/gender equity requirements. It was also noted that the recommendation is being presented in mid-year to assist the affected student athletes who may wish to consider transferring to another institution. President Bailey, Ms. Beauregard, and members of the review committee met with the three coaches and their team members in early December to make them aware of the recommendation before it was made public. In presenting the recommendation, President Bailey stated that "this is an incredibly painful decision" but that hard choices need to be made and that the action is necessary to protect the University's "core academic mission." She said "ensuring academic success for over 29,000 student must continue to be the overriding goal." Representatives of the sports support groups spoke in opposition to the recommendation, asking that action not be taken or delayed until a later date. The trustees expressed their regret at having to take this action but noted that it had been studied thoroughly and thoughtfully and determined to be a necessary step in the budget process. On a 7 – 0 roll call vote, following a motion by Trustee Martin, supported by Trustee Pero, the recommendation was approved.

Public Comments. In addition to those speaking re of the sports programs, Phyllis Marsh, member of the West Main Association, spoke of the group's concern about the disruptive tailgating parties held on West Michigan Avenue and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Biosciences Research and Commercialization Center. Following a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Pero, the Board of Trustees formally confirmed the University's acceptance of the \$10,000,000 award from the State of Michigan for the BRCC. As reviewed by President Bailey and Vice President Luderer, before the University could officially receive the \$10,000,000 state appropriation, approval for the BRCC's business plan by the Technology Tri-Corridor Steering Committee was required-approval was granted in early December.

Research Foundation. As moved by Trustee Pero, supported by Trustee Holden, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution (on file in the Board Office) presented by President Bailey. The resolution notes the establishment of the foundation as a non-profit 501(c)3 support corporation. It includes articles of incorporation, proposed bylaws for the foundation, and authorizes the University administration to take all appropriate action to establish and operate the foundation. The foundation is designed to facilitate the development of the intellectually property and advance the research mission of the University, with its establishment recommended by the Tri-Technology Corridor Steering Committee and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Student Health Insurance Requirement. As presented by Vice President Anderson, the Board of Trustees approved a student health insurance requirement, following a motion by Trustee Aseritis, supported by Trustee Miller. As indicated, effective with the beginning of the 2005-06 academic year, all students will be required to carry at least minimal health insurance. Mandatory health insurance is now required for all international students but is optional for domestic students. (Vice President Anderson reported that up to 25 percent of the University's almost 30,000 students are uninsured or underinsured.) Under the new policy, students must either demonstrate that they have existing health insurance or purchase an insurance plan offered through the University Sindecuse Health Center. The Sindecuse plan will cost an estimated \$250 per semester. Vice President Anderson noted that approval of this policy will help the University continue to provide high-quality medical service at affordable rates to thousands of students.

Naming of Art Building. As presented by Vice President Bender, the Board of Trustees, following a motion by Trustee Martin, supported by Trustee DeNooyer, approved the naming of the new School of Art building in honor of James and Lois Richmond, with the exact name of the facility to be determined at a later date. The naming will acknowledge the generosity of the Richmonds, Kalamazoo residents and WMU graduates. The building, with construction slated to begin in 2005, will be located next to the Dalton Center.

Grant Report. The grant report for August, September and October 2003 was approved as presented by Vice President Luderer, following a motion by Trustee Martin, supported by Trustee Pero.

Personnel Reports. The academic and non-academic personnel reports, as reviewed by Dr. Anderson, Ms. Beauregard and Dr. Litynski, were approved by the Board of Trustees after a motion by Trustee Aseritis, supported by Trustee Martin.

ACADEMIC

Administrative Appointment

Nina Nelson, Professor and Chair, Department of Dance, effective December 22, 2003.

Lawrence Potter, Director, Africana Studies Program, effective September 15, 2003.

Retirement - Administrative

Richard Phippen, Resident Director, American Degree Transfer and Western Michigan University Program at Sunway College, and Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, effective December 31, 2003.

Administrator Return to Faculty

Jane Baas, Associate Professor, Department of Dance, effective December 22, 2003.

Retirement – Administrative

Chester Rogers, Associate Vice President and Director, Academic Collective Bargaining and Contract Administration, and Professor Emeritus of Political Science, effective January 2, 2004.

Appointment - Tenure Track

Muralidhar Ghantasala, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, effective October 27, 2003.

Helen Lee, Assistant Professor, Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, effective August 4, 2003

Reappointments - Term

Nicholas Andreadis, Assistant Professor, Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, effective June 22, 2003 through June 20, 2004.

Jacqueline Eckert, Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, effective August 4, 2003 through April 11, 2004.

Jerry McLaughlin, Assistant Professor, Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology, effective August 4, 2003 through August 1, 2004.

Appointments – Term

Carmen Cornieles, Faculty Specialist I, Department of Educational Studies, effective August 4, 2003 through August 1, 2004.

Steven Smith, Instructor, School of Social Work, effective August 4, 2003 through April 1, 2004.

Peter Szto, Instructor, School of Social Work, effective August 4, 2003 through August 1, 2004.

Gayl Walker, Assistant Professor, Department of Physician Assistant, effective August 4, 2003.

Reappointments - Adjunct

Susanne Armbruster, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Music, effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

Richard Baker, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004.

Barbara Hong, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Music, effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

Karl Schrock, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Music, effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

Sarah Wilkinson, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Music, effective January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2006.

Resignations

Cybele Clark-Mendes, Assistant Professor, School of Art, effective December 12, 2003.

Angela Counterman, Instructor, WMU Bronson School of Nursing, effective August 4, 2003.

William Pease, Faculty Specialist II, School of Music, effective December 31, 2003.

Professional Development Leaves

Neil Pinney, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, effective December 8, 2003 through December 5, 2004.

Susan Weinger, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, effective August 4, 2003 through August 1, 2004.

Sabbatical Leaves

Hideko Abe, Department of Foreign Languages

Sandra Borden, Department of Communication

Susan Caringella-MacDonald, Department of Sociology

Michael Chiarappa, Department of History

John Clark, Department of Political Science

Thomas Gorczyca, Department of Physics

Keith Hearit, Department of Communication

Rand Johnson, Department of Foreign Languages

Vyachesla Karpov, Department of Sociology

Kate Kline, Department of Mathematics

Michelle Kominz, Department of Geosciences

Ashlyn Kuersten, Department of Political Sciences

James Palmitessa, Department of History

Srdjan Petrovic, Department of Mathematics

Michael Pritchard, Department of Philosophy

John Tanis, Department of Physics

Gwen Tarbox, Department of English

Huizhong Zhou, Department of Economics

Sabbatical Leaves (continued)

Sime Curkovic, Department of Management

Christopher Korth, Department of Finance and Commercial Law

F. William McCarty, Department of Finance and Commercial Law

Nancy Schullery, Department of Business Information Systems

Roger Tang, Department of Accountancy

Lynn Nation Johnson, Department of Teaching Learning and Leadership

Elena Lisovskaya, Department of Educational Studies

Steven Butt, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

William Liou, Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering

Ed Harkness, School of Art

John Lychner, School of Music

Bruce Uchimura, School of Music

James Hillenbrand, Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Mary Lagerway, School of Nursing

Gary Mathews, School of Social Work

NON-ACADEMIC

Retirements

Gus Breyman, Director, Lansing Center, Extended University Programs, effective February 15, 2004.

Marvin Darling, Director, Laboratory, Sindecuse Health Center, effective December 31, 2003.

Fred Decker, Head Baseball Coach, Intercollegiate Athletics, effective June 30, 2004.

Retirements (Continued)

Michael Finn, Supervisor, Communication Lab, Department of Communication, effective December 31, 2003.

Sheila Johnson, Nurse, Sindecuse Health Center, effective December 31, 2003.

Pamela Ross, Administrative Assistant, Unified Clinics, effective December 31, 2003.

Irene Woldring, Pharmacist, Sindecuse Health Center, effective February 1, 2004.

Gift Report. Following a motion by Trustee Martin, supported by Trustee Pero, the Board of Trustees approved the gift report for August, September, October and November 2003 as presented by Vice President Bender.

Lease Agreement Renewal between WMU and AAUP. As reviewed by Associate Vice President Rinker, the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Aseritis, supported by Trustee Martin, authorized the administration to renew the lease agreement for an additional five-year period with the WMU Chapter of the American Association of University for the Montague House facility, 814 Oakland Drive.

Lease Addendum and Extension Agreement – Megee Printing, Inc. Following a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee DeNooyer, the Board of Trustees authorized the treasurer/assistant treasurer to enter into a lease addendum and extension, for a five-year period, with three one-year options, with Megee Printing, Inc. for space in the Bernhard Center.

Meeting Dates. The 2004 meeting dates were approved as follows:

February 27
April 16
June 25
September 17
October 29
December 10

Audit Report – Plante & Moran As an informational item, the results of the June 30, 2003 audit were reviewed by representatives of Plante & Moran.

M.U.S.I.C. (Michigan Universities Self-Insurance Corporation) Update. The report was presented by Associate Vice President Rinker, indicating significant savings and broadened coverage over the sixteen years of University participation as a charter member of the group.

Committee of the Whole. As moved by Trustee Pero, supported by Trustee Aseritis, the Board recommended approval of a change in meeting format. Tthe Academic and Student Affairs and Budget and Finance Committee meetings prior to the Board meeting will be eliminated and the Board meeting will now proceed as a "committee of the whole."

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Kocher
Secretary
Board of Trustees