Trustees revise misconduct policy

WMU trustees approved a revised research misconduct policy Dec. 19 that is in line with recent changes made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Research Integrity. The policy, which had addressed research that was funded or sponsored externally or that was intended for scholarly presentation, was amended to address all WMU researchers and research activities. It also now provides more detail on the responsibilities of the institution in responding to allegations of research misconduct and the oversight of the Office of Research Integrity in an investigation of misconduct.

WMU to sell surplus furniture

A surplus furniture sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, on the third floor of Ellsworth Hall. Items for sale will include file and storage cabinets, desks, tables, chairs and other miscellaneous office furnishings.

Cash and checks will be accepted, and all sales will be final. Buyers must arrange for the same-day removal of all purchased items. For more information, call 387-8487.

Haenicke schedules office hours

Interim President Diether H. Haenicke has set spring semester open office hours for 9 to 11 a.m. on both Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Thursday, March 15. Anyone wishing to make a 10-minute appointment to speak with the president should contact Jon Andrews, the president's assistant, at jon.andrews@wmich.edu. Appointments may also be made by calling 387-2351.

Totals for gifts, grants reported

WMU received $4,078,998 in gifts from the July 1 start of the current fiscal year through Nov. 30. The total represents an increase of $1,439,855 or about 5 percent compared to the same five-month period of the preceding year.

As of Oct. 31, grants to the University totaled a little more than $17 million. Notable awards reported to WMU trustees included $672,887 from the Michigan Department of Education to Ruth Ann Meyer and Sandra Madden, mathematics.

Board of Trustees to meet Jan. 26

The WMU Board of Trustees has approved five Friday meeting dates for 2007. The next meeting will take place Jan. 26. Meetings also are scheduled for April 27, July 13, Oct. 12 and Dec. 14. Meetings generally are held at the Bernhard Center. Agenda highlights and additional information is published in WMU News in advance of each meeting.

MLK events lined up for 11 days this month

High-profile guest speakers, a day of service, a slew of special presentations and a poetry slam are just some of the upcoming events honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. that will be held this month on the campus of WMU and in the local community.

Eleven days of events have been planned to mark King's birthday, beginning with the MLK Multicultural Celebration at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, in Miller Auditorium featuring guest speaker Zenobia Lawrence Hikes, vice president for student affairs at Virginia Tech. Another campus event highlight will be a 7:30 p.m. presentation Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Fetzer Center's Purney Auditorium by Scott E. Page, professor of complex systems, political science and economics at the University of Michigan.

In his new book, "The Difference: How the Power of Diversity Creates Better Groups, Firms, Schools and Societies," Page considers how people think in groups and how this collective wisdom exceeds the sum of its parts.

In his WMU presentation, titled "How Diversity Makes the Difference," Page will relate his findings to the changing justifications for affirmative action in the political arena.

Among the events taking place off the WMU campus will be a Communitywide Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 15—national MLK Day. Numerous volunteer opportunities will be featured, and there will be a march in King's memory from the Radisson Hotel to MLK Memorial Park on North Rose Street.

In addition, an MLK Celebration will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, in Kalamazoo's Galilee Baptist Church in Kalamazoo. The event will feature guest speaker Bishop C. Blake, senior pastor at the Malton Church of God in Mississippi, Canada, and the first black man in the history of Canada's Church of God to hold the positions of superintendent of the church and administrative bishop of the Eastern Canada Region.

But all one of the other currently scheduled communitywide MLK events are taking place at WMU. For details about these events, visit www.wmich.edu/mlk.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

• Curriculum program, "Teaching about MLK Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement," 4 to 5:30 p.m., 2304 Sangren.

Haenicke reopens ombudsman's office through December 2007

The University will have an experienced ombudsman to serve student, faculty and staff needs through December 2007, WMU Interim President Diether H. Haenicke announced Jan. 5.

Thomas Bailey, University ombudsman from 1994 to 1999, has been named to serve in the ombudsman position on a half-time basis for the year. The office had been closed since June, when the last ombudsman retired and University officials opted not to appoint a replacement.

"Students have told me, repeatedly, how important they think it is to have an impartial office available to help them resolve the issues they sometimes face," Haenicke says. "I decided to revive the position on a half-time basis for a one-year term and put an experienced person in the role. This will ensure assistance is available for our students and employees, and it will give the next president time to assess the need for the position and make a final determination about how it should be staffed and funded."

University slates grand opening for new chemistry building

A grand opening celebration will be held Friday, Jan. 26, to show off the newly constructed chemistry building. The event, which is being hosted by the WMU Board of Trustees and Interim President Diether H. Haenicke, will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and include tours of the facility.

(Photograph by John Lacko)
Detroit Tigers caravan scheduled to stop at Miller Auditorium

Area sports fans will see some of the biggest names in Detroit Tigers baseball during a presentation from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Jan. 18, in Miller Auditorium.

Doors will open at 10 a.m. for this free public rally, which is part of the 2007 Detroit Tiger Winter Caravan. The event will feature a variety of Tigers players and coaches who will take the stage to discuss the team’s 2006 American League Championship season as well as its prospects for this year.

The Winter Caravan's Kalamazoo stop is being organized by the WMU Alumni Association. No tickets or reservations are required to attend the event, as most seating is based on a first-come, first-served basis. The American League Championship Trophy will be on display during the event, and the first 200 people through the door will receive a commemorative item from the Tigers.

Among the day’s main speakers will be Jim Leyland, the 2006 AL Manager of Year. Leyland signed with the Tigers as a catcher in 1969 and returned as its 36th manager in October 2005.

Although subject to change, the other Tigers personnel scheduled to make the trek to Kalamazoo are: coaches Lloyd McClendon, Gene Lamont and Rafael Belliard; pitchers Mike Moran and Justin Verlander; catcher Victor Martinez; outfielders Craig Monroe and Marcus Thames; and broadcaster Dan Dickerson.

AFSCME contract approved

After union members voted their approval Nov. 27 by a 3-to-1 margin, WMU trustees OK’d a three-year labor contract Dec. 15 with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The agreement calls for: no increases to base pay in the first year but a $500 one-time bonus to be paid in January 2007; a 20-cent per-hour increase to base for those in skilled trades positions and a 1.5 percent lump-sum payment to non-skilled trades employees in 2008; and a 1.5 percent increase to base for all AFSCME employees in 2009.

The new contract also brought AFSCME under the same health care and tuition reimbursement plans as other WMU employees.

Book gives glimpse into ‘real’ Japan

Jeffrey Angles, who heads WMU’s Japanese language program, has co-edited a collection of Japanese short stories and essays that guides readers through the diverse landscape and culture of modern-day Japan. His book, “Japan: A Traveler’s Literary Companion,” was a collaboration with J. Thomas Rimer, a retired University of Pittsburgh professor.

The travel guide was published in May and featured on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” in September. It is the first book for Angles and part of a series of 13 literary guides published by Whereabouts Press. The work is available for $14.95 and can be purchased online by visiting amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

Fullbright funds remittances study

Susan Pozo, economics, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study the impact of emigrant remittances in South America.

Pozo plans to return in June from the University of Montevideo in Uruguay, where she currently is studying the household and economies that are left behind when individuals migrate to work, study or resettle, sending their earnings back home in an attempt to create more comfortable living conditions for those they have left behind.

Pozo, who lived in Venezuela for much of her childhood, joined the Department of Economics as an assistant professor in 1982. She quickly rose to the rank of associate professor and was promoted again to professor in 1994. An expert in the areas of international finance, immigration and macroeconomics, she earned her doctoral degree in international trade and finance from Michigan State University.

Regional council elects WMU rep

W. Wilson Woods, interim dean of the Dorothy H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education, was recently elected to a two-year term as board member for the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan. The council hosts programming that furthers understanding of global and American foreign policy issues.

Woods, an affiliate assistant professor in the Department of History, was named interim HIGE director in July 2006. He previously had directed operations for WMU’s initiatives in the international higher education arena since 1986. During his tenure, he has served as director or co-director of international programs and exchange agreements with more than a dozen nations and directed contract negotiations establishing winning arrangements and study abroad initiatives around the globe.
WMU Foundation declines Pfizer offer to acquire research facility

The WMU Foundation informed Pfizer Inc. in December that it will withdraw from a purchase agreement to acquire the downtown Kalamazoo facility known as Building 126.

The University was to lease the building from the foundation, use part of it for faculty and student Administrative and Student Affairs, and use another portion for a downsized counseling and testing center.

In addition, the University would lease the remaining floors to private-sector science firms. The annual cost of operating the research facility was estimated at $5 million to $5.5 million a year.

The University plans to offer a new entrepreneurship program for 150 students and plans to lease the remaining floors to private-sector firms. The annual cost of operating the research facility was estimated at $5 million to $5.5 million a year.

The University is looking for a new tenant to take over the building and is considering options such as a private-sector firm or a non-profit organization. The University is also considering options for the remaining floors to lease to private-sector firms.

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Lee Smith lights up a room, and not just because of his personality. As the skilled trades helper in charge of maintenance for the West Hills Athletic Club, Smith keeps all the lights in his facility’s 300 fixtures burning brightly. He also touches up paint, does carpentry work, watches over the heating and cooling, maintains two whirlpools and handles various purchasing-related duties.

“There’s never a dull moment,” he says. “I’m on the go all the time.”

Smith had been working at West Hills for 10 years when WMU took over the athletic club in 1999. Under the University’s ownership, the facility has increased its membership to 4,400 as well as paid for a renovation that has allowed it to more than double in size.

The tri-level building sports numerous amenities, including nine tennis courts, a track, fitness rooms, locker rooms, a pro shop, a day-care area, and a large lounge featuring a fireplace and big screen TV.

Smith roams every corner of the sprawling facility during his work day, which runs from 4 a.m. to noon.

“When my kids were little, I used to put them to bed,” he jokes. “Now they put me to bed.”

An AFSCME employee, Smith works with four custodial staff members and serves as this quintet’s liaison with management.

“The best part of my job is the people,” he says. “We have a good team working here, and management and the employees have a good relationship. I’ve also gotten to know a lot of the members during my 17 years here. And most of them know me by name.”

Smith, a Wayland resident, has one son who graduated from WMU and three grown daughters, one of whom recently completed a tour of duty with the Army in Iraq. Although he works out occasionally, he prefers to spend his off hours hunting, fishing and going camping with his children.