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## WMU Board of Trustees Annual Meeting January 23, 1998

WMU Board of Trustees

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 1998

The annual meeting of the Western Michigan University Board of Trustees was called to order by Chair Haworth at 11:10 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 1998, in the Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center.

Board members present: Trustee Carmody, Trustee Chormann, Trustee Franklin, Trustee Haworth, Trustee Klohs, Trustee St. John, Trustee Waddles and President Haenicke (ex officio). Absent: Trustee Krause.

Remarks by the Chair. With the annual meeting bringing his term as chair to an end, Chair Haworth expressed appreciation for the support of President Haenicke and the entire University. He spoke of the "WMU Salutes the Haenickes" program to be held on March 16 at Miller Auditorium, the first of many events celebrating the contributions and service of President and Mrs. Haenicke to the University. Chair Haworth also reported continued progress in the work of the presidential search advisory committee.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented following a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Franklin.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 19, 1997 Regular Meeting. Following a motion by Trustee Carmody, supported by Trustee Waddles, the minutes of the December 19, 1997 regular meeting were approved as distributed.

Remarks by the President. President Haenicke indicated that he was looking forward to the March 16 program at Miller Auditorium. He spoke of the University's observance of Martin Luther King's birthday. He also reported progress with the CARE (Group Campus Area Restoration Effort) project and good usage on the on-campus bussing program initiated at the beginning of the winter semester. He expressed condolences at the deaths of Dr. George Kohrman, first dean of the School of Applied Arts and Sciences, and Tony Griffin, WMUK News director and former president of the Administrative Professional Association.

Election of Officers. (Under Board bylaws, officers are elected for one-year terms at the annual meeting.) Trustee Waddles was elected chair for 1998 as nominated by Trustee Haworth, supported by Trustee Carmody. In assuming the chair, Trustee Waddles thanked outgoing Chair Haworth, expressing appreciation on behalf of the Board for his leadership. Trustee Krause was elected vice chair, following the nomination by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Carmody. On a motion by

Trustee Franklin, supported by Trustee Klohs, the remaining officers were re-elected for one-year terms—Betty Kocher, secretary; Robert Beam, treasurer and assistant treasurer; and Lowell Rinker, assistant treasurer.

President Haenicke presented mementos of appreciation to Trustee Haworth and Trustee Waddles and thanked them for their service as chair and vice chair respectively.

#### Personnel Report

#### Academic and Student Affairs Committee Recommendations

Grant Report. The Board of Trustees approved the grant report for December 1997 as by Trustee Franklin, supported by Trustee Klohs.

Personnel Report. The personnel report, following a motion by Trustee Franklin, supported by Trustee Carmody, was approved by the Board of Trustees.

#### Administrative Appointment

Ajay Gupta, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science, effective July 1, 1998.

#### Administrative Leave

J. Donald Nelson, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Professional Development Leave, effective July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999.

#### Return to Faculty

J. Donald Nelson, Professor, Department of Computer Science, effective July 1, 1999.

#### Appointment - Term

Judy Hoelscher, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, effective December 15, 1997 through August 9, 1998.

#### Appointments - Adjunct

Dana Butt, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, effective February 1, 1998 through January 31, 2001.

Karl Schrock, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Music, effective February 1, 1998 through January 31, 2001.

#### Resignations

Charles Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, effective December 14, 1997.

Claudio Milman, Associate Professor, Department of Management, effective April 19, 1998.

Sabbatical Leave

Richard dePeaux, Professor, Department of Art, Fall 1998 and Fall 1999.

NON-ACADEMIC

Retirement

Judith Stuut, Secretary II, Department of Health Physical Education and Recreation, effective December 31, 1997.

Budget and Finance Committee Recommendations

Gift Report. The gift report for December 1997 was approved following a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Haworth.

Personnel Report. The personnel report was approved after a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Haworth.

Retirement

James Martin, Service Officer, Department of Public Safety, effective January 30, 1998.

Lease Agreement – Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults. Following a 7-0 roll call vote and a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Franklin, the Board of Trustees approved the renewal (three years) of a lease agreement (on file in Board office) for a facility at 751 Pleasant Avenue, Kalamazoo. The facility is used by the Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults and operated by the University under contract with Kalamazoo County.

Contract with University Accounting Services. The Board of Trustees, on a 7-0 roll call vote, following a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Klohs, authorized the administration to negotiate a contract with University Accounting Service, Inc., of Brookfield, Wisconsin. As indicated in committee, the firm will administer federal student loan programs (NDSL/Perkins) with the action resulting in a University savings of about \$75,000 per year. It was also noted that the persons in the positions (2.5) being eliminated will be reassigned.

Annuity and Life Income Funds Investment Policy. As moved by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Franklin, the Board of Trustees approved a revised annuity and life income funds investment policy (on file in the Board office). The revisions

deal with donor-restricted assets, stating that such restricted assets should not fall under the guidelines of the policy. A conclusion section is also being added to the policy.

Remarks by the Provost. (Attachment A).

Public Comments. Nick Ayoub reported on the work of the Western Student Association.

On a 7-0 roll call vote following a motion by Trustee Carmody, supported by Trustee Franklin, the agenda was amended to include an executive session to discuss contract negotiations as provided for under the Michigan Open Meeting Act. The Board went into executive session at 12:05 p.m., returning to general session at 1:50 p.m.

The agenda was then amended following a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Carmody, to include the following item.

CELCIS Contract. After a motion by Trustee St. John, supported by Trustee Klohs, and a 6-0 roll call vote (Trustee Chormann left meeting during executive session.) The Board of Trustees approved a three-year contract with the Association of Language Specialists (ALS), a labor group affiliated with the AAUP and representing CELCIS (Career English Language Center for International Students). The contract, retroactive to September 1, 1997, was ratified by the ALS union on January 22, 1998.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Kocher  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

**Provost's Remarks  
Dr. Timothy Light  
Western Michigan University Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 23, 1998**

Last month we told you the good news about our School of Aviation Sciences' first contract to provide pilot training for an international carrier, British Airways. This month, we have more good news on the aviation front.

**Second European airline signs with WMU for pilot training**

Irish air carrier Aer Lingus has become the second major international customer to contract with our University for new pilot training.

The Dublin-based airline has signed a one-year contract to bring 24 students to the School of Aviation Sciences' International Pilot Training Centre, which is located at Battle Creek's W.K. Kellogg Airport. The contract is expected to exceed \$1 million. The first group of Aer Lingus students arrived in Battle Creek last week.

You'll recall that London-based British Airways signed a two-year, \$6 million contract in December that will bring up to 48 students per year to the school for training. Although British Airways was the first to sign a contract, the first group of those students will not arrive until March.

We submitted a bid on the Aer Lingus contract in October. Since negotiations focused on a January start-up date for the Aer Lingus personnel, the documentation necessary to bring students to this country was handled while contract details were being ironed out.

The 16 initial students will be followed by a class of eight students in March. Aer Lingus also has an option to start additional class groups in September and November. Each group of students will stay for a year of intensive, European-style training.

In July, our School of Aviation Sciences became the only collegiate aviation program in the United States to be certified for flight training by the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority, which is the European equivalent of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Aer Lingus contract marks the first time that airline has contracted with an American university for pilot training, although Aer Lingus has previously used commercial aviation firms in the United States.

I'd also like to tell you about two initiatives involving our internationally known Department of Blind Rehabilitation.

### **Disability legislation spurs development of new profession**

Opportunities opened up by the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act have spurred WMU researchers to develop standards and training materials for a new category of professionals who will help people with disabilities learn to travel independently.

A \$149,969 grant from the Easter Seal Society of America in Washington, D.C., has been awarded to Dr. William R. Wiener, chairperson of WMU's Department of Blind Rehabilitation. The funds will support the first year of a two-year project to design curriculum and certification standards for a new classification of health care worker called travel specialists.

Those trained for the new profession would work with persons with such disabilities as mental retardation, deafness, cerebral palsy and brain and spinal cord injury.

The need for such professionals is just blossoming now because of the ADA. After seven years of compliance with that federal legislation, it has become easier for people with disabilities to use public transportation. Curb cuts, handicap accessible entrances, lifts and a host of other devices and services have become commonplace.

Working with Wiener to develop the courses and certification standards for the new profession is a steering committee comprised of representatives from agencies with a deep interest in the topic.

Our history of being among the first universities in the world to train professionals to teach people with vision disabilities to travel puts the University in a good position to help launch a new profession to serve the needs of people with other disabilities as well. Our Department of

Blind Rehabilitation, begun in 1961, is the second oldest and the largest such university program in the nation.

Many of the skills needed for independent travel are common to people with differing disabilities. Those skills include the ability to interact with the general public, good problem-solving skills, the ability to solicit aid when needed and the ability to cognitively map out a trip in advance. The major differences arise from the technical skills that help people adjust to travel with a particular disability. Those can range from using a cane to search out level ground to using a wheelchair lift on public transportation.

A lot of our existing courses in blind rehabilitation could be modified or broadened to form a core of courses to train travel specialists who can serve those with other disabilities.

The Easter Seal grant money is being used to develop a detailed analysis of the job a travel specialist would do and, from that analysis, design and test a set of formal competencies. Once a thoroughly validated set of competencies is set, Wiener and his colleagues will develop a curriculum to train specialists in those areas.

After the certification standards and curriculum are developed, the material will be made available to colleges and universities wishing to offer degrees in independent travel to serve people with disabilities other than blindness. The material will be of particular interest to the 18 U.S. universities that currently train orientation and mobility specialists to work with people who are blind. Those universities could offer dual preparation of specialists to serve people with all disabilities.

Wiener says the new professionals will have great potential to serve a variety of people. He foresees travel specialists finding employment with public school districts and with adult agencies and adult education programs that work with persons with disabilities.

Wiener says WMU would make an ideal location to launch the training of professionals in the new specialty. While the two-year development project is under way, he says, the University will be seeking start-up funds to add course work in the new specialty to its academic program.



## **WMU ready to go the distance to produce needed specialists**

A shortage of professionals trained to work in schools with children who are visually impaired will be remedied by a new dual degree program that will be available even in some of the most remote areas of the region.

With schools in Michigan and surrounding states struggling to provide services to visually impaired students, we are using a \$326,328 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to launch a program that will produce up to 48 specialists over the next three years. The program will train professionals to meet the educational as well as orientation and mobility needs of children with visual impairments to help prepare them for life as independent adults.

The grant to our Departments of Special Education and Blind Rehabilitation will fund the first year of a three-year project to develop and implement a graduate program in which students will earn two master's degrees and become certified in both fields. Similar grant amounts are expected for the second and third years of the project.

The program, which will begin accepting students in 1998, will be offered in a four-semester format for students taking classes on campus. It also will be available in a seven-semester distance education format that will allow students to complete much of the course work at home.

Co-directors of the effort are Dr. Elizabeth Whitten, interim chairperson of the Department of Special Education, and Dr. William R. Wiener, chairperson of the Department of Blind Rehabilitation.

While several other universities around the nation have begun such dual programs, the distance education format is unusual and will open up opportunities for professionals already working in the field to receive training even if they are not physically located near a university.

Those distance education students will need to spend two intense, 10-week summer sessions on campus for course work that cannot be delivered through a distance format. But their remaining studies will be accomplished through videotaped classes, self-instructional materials, teleconferencing and Internet interaction with professors and other students.

For distance education students, the summer sessions will be devoted to course work that requires hands-on training and one-on-one instruction, such as orientation and mobility training and independent living training. Distance education students also will have a professional mentor in their home area and will be able to complete a required practicum and an internship at facilities near their homes.

School districts in the region currently often cannot find or cannot afford to hire two separate specialists to provide services needed by children with visual impairments. As a result, such children often simply don't receive the services they need. The new program will prepare specialists who can provide the visual impairment services such as instruction in Braille and training on adaptive technology which children need to pursue educational goals. The same professionals also will be able to provide instruction in the orientation and mobility skills needed for independent living.

Since news of the new WMU program has spread, school districts have been contacting us to find out how they can get involved. We also have received queries from people working in some fairly remote areas in the country.

Because of the severe shortage of qualified personnel, part of the federal funding received for the project is intended to address the problems by providing financial support for those enrolled. A stipend of \$8,000 per year will cover tuition and some expenses for those enrolled in the on-campus group. Tuition will be covered for those enrolled in the distance education format.

The funding also covers the cost of course development and implementation and the cost of hiring one new faculty member who will hold a dual appointment. A total of five new courses — three in blind rehabilitation and two in special education — have been developed for the program. Existing graduate programs in both fields will be enhanced by the new offerings.

## **WMU research team charged with charter school evaluations**

The performance, operation and impact of charter schools in both Michigan and Connecticut will be the focus of two new statewide studies conducted by WMU researchers.

With \$149,493 in funding from the Michigan Department of Education, a team from our Evaluation Center will evaluate approximately half of Michigan's 105 public school academies, which are popularly known as charter schools. A private firm, Public Sector Consultants Inc. of Lansing, will evaluate the other half of Michigan charter schools, focusing its efforts in the southeastern corner of the state.

In a separate grant project, the WMU researchers also have received \$250,000 to study 12 charter schools that opened this year in Connecticut. In that project, the team will spend the next five years helping the schools and state officials build evaluation practices into the Connecticut charter initiative.

Both studies are designed to determine if charter school initiatives are meeting the needs of the families and communities they serve. They also will address specific issues of concern in each state.

In Michigan, the researchers will be evaluating schools, the authorizing agencies' roles in the schools, the role of private service providers in the schools, the role of the Department of Education and the schools' impact on their communities, according to Dr. Jerry G. Horn, principal research associate at the Evaluation Center and director of the WMU efforts in both Michigan and Connecticut. He will be assisted by Evaluation Center staffers Dr. Gary Miron on the Michigan project and Marina Gorton in Connecticut.

The center's work with the two projects provides an opportunity to evaluate a popular educational reform movement and to build capacity for conducting and using evaluation in local schools.

Evaluating the two states' charter school programs should provide information of great interest to state and education leaders across the country. About 28 states are involved in charter school development and several of those states have only a handful of charter schools in

operation. With more than 100 schools, Michigan's public school academy program boasts an estimated 12 to 14 percent of the nation's charter schools.

Horn directed a preliminary study of Michigan's charter schools earlier this year and developed a long-term plan for the state to use in evaluating such schools. The earlier project, which also was funded by the Department of Education, produced a self-study kit for schools to develop data for their own use as well as for the comprehensive state study.

Horn's team will use that self-study kit to begin the evaluation process of the schools in the new effort. They will be asking each school to develop a portfolio that will include files on such areas as curriculum, innovative teaching methods, technology use and physical plant records. They also will ask the schools to complete a number of surveys covering school climate and the perceptions and attitudes of teachers, students and parents. Site visits, interviews and focus groups also will be utilized.

Student performance will be measured by analyzing every type of data available to the researchers. That will include student performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program or MEAP tests, which charter school students must take, as well as any standardized assessment tests the schools voluntarily administer.

The WMU and Public Sector Consultants efforts are the first attempt at a statewide assessment of the schools, which first began accepting students in 1995. The evaluation is mandated by the Michigan Legislature as part of the legislation that allowed the development of charter schools.

The Michigan study also will feature an evaluation of such broad questions as whether the charter school legislation has worked as legislators intended, whether the Michigan Department of Education staff has provided appropriate support for charter schools, why more eligible authorizing agencies have not taken advantage of the charter school opportunities and how charter schools address the special education needs of students.

Public school academies in Michigan may be chartered by such authorizing agencies as public state universities, community colleges, intermediate school districts and local public K-12

school districts. The schools are operated with the same per pupil funding as traditional public schools, and services may be provided by for-profit organizations.

Nearly half of the state's public school academies are chartered by Central Michigan University and several schools are run by such private organizations as the Edison Project and the Educational Development Corp. Michigan charter schools range in size from about 30 students to nearly 700 students.

In Connecticut, 12 charter schools opened for the first time this fall and the state expects to add three or four more schools soon. The mission of Horn and his team in that state is to build evaluation practices into the schools and to address many of the same questions being addressed in Michigan.

### **Forum highlights conflict resolution among young people**

A group dedicated to helping youngsters navigate the complicated world of human relationships conducted a public forum at this past Tuesday at the Bernhard Center.

Called Project FREE (facilitating, resolving, educating and empowering), the group is comprised of WMU faculty and students as well as members of the community who are trained as mediators of conflict resolution. The group's mandate is to work with 11- to-14-year-olds on anger management, interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills in non-school settings.

The forum was designed to raise community awareness about this issue and demonstrate the kind of things the group is accomplishing with young people, according to Dr. Susan L. Caulfield, WMU associate professor of sociology and facilitator of Project FREE. Invited were youth group leaders, teachers and anyone concerned about young people.

The forum featured speakers from Project FREE and included demonstrations of role playing and other interactive exercises they're using to give young people the skills they need to deal with emotions and difficult situations in a positive way. The group doesn't focus on giving

students easy answers, but instead helps provide understanding and awareness so they can make positive communication choices when dealing with friends, parents or teachers.

While some schools have begun tackling conflict resolution issues through their curriculum, this group's aim is to work in non-school settings demonstrating the importance of healthy communication beyond the classroom. The group is currently working with a variety of church and community youth groups to provide training. They eventually hope to train some of the youngsters to work as leaders with children their own age.

Project FREE is a joint effort of WMU, the city of Kalamazoo's Coalition on Youth Violence Prevention and the Dispute Resolution Center of Kalamazoo and Barry Counties.

### **New books cover topics ranging from social change to food marketing**

Our faculty members have published several new books since we last met. They include:

- "Social Changes in Western Michigan, 1930 to 1990," published by our Department of History and edited by two faculty members, Dr. Henry V. Davis and Dr. Paul L. Maier. The book examines 60 years of social change through the words of prominent Kalamazoo citizens. It is the final volume of an oral history project begun by the area's first black surgeon, the late Dr. C. Allen Alexander.

He spent his retirement years recording his own memoirs as well as interviews with area residents who could provide insight into the social and medical changes that occurred in Kalamazoo in this century. Published with the support of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation of Kalamazoo, the two earlier volumes are "C. Allen Alexander, M.D. — An Autobiography" and "Progress in the Practice of Medicine, 1930 to 1990."

Among area residents whose memories are recounted in the latest volume are several current and retired members of our faculty and staff. Interviews cover business and civic activities, religious life and education in both the public schools and institutions of higher education.

- "Food Marketing," by Dr. Joseph J. Belonax, WMU professor of marketing. It is the first text of its kind to explore all aspects of how the nation provides its food. Beginning with an overview of the system, the book devotes six chapters to the various sectors that constitute food marketing, including producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Significant attention is paid to how the different structures and marketing decisions within each of these sectors can influence the entire system's operation. The impact of product, pricing, promotion and distribution decisions is also thoroughly explored. The final chapter presents an international perspective that recognizes that customer satisfaction extends beyond U.S. boundaries.

Published by Simon & Schuster Custom Publishing, the 550-page text includes more than 40 charts and 190 tables, each representing trend analyses of census data in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing.