Governor's budget proposals could lead to $12.5 million cut in funding for WMU

Budget cuts proposed March 6 by Gov. Jennifer Granholm could mean WMU will see more than $12.5 million cut from its state appropriation for fiscal year 2003-04.

The governor's proposal, laid out in a presentation to the House and Senate appropriations committees, includes a proposed 6.5 percent budget reduction to Michigan's public universities as part of an address to several different affected revenue sources to the state. If approved by the Legislature, the governor's proposed cuts would result in an additional reduction of nearly $8.2 million to the WMU budget, bringing the total loss as a result of cuts enacted since December to over $12.5 million, or 10 percent of the University's annual state appropriation.

"Today's release of Gov. Granholm's budget proposal has provided some insight into her priorities and the financial difficulties we face in Michigan," said WMU interim President Daniel M. Lyonski in response to the news. "The magnitude of the reductions is significant and the impact will be felt by our students, their families and the communities we serve."

In addition to the total 10 percent cut in university appropriations, Granholm also proposed cutting the amount of Michigan's merit scholarships from $2,500 to $1,500, beginning with the class entering in fall 2004. The award goes to students who rank within their high school final Michigan Educational Assessment Program—MEAP—top 10 percent of entering class to be over $8,2 million to WMU students, based on the current number of incoming students eligible for the award. WMU-bound students annually net the third largest number of Merit Scholarships awarded, and this year, such scholarship assistance totaled some $8 million.

According to Board of Trustees Flaherty, executive director of student services, other program cuts outlined by the governor also could have an impact on WMU students.

Among programs that could be cut are several in which WMU students participate—State Competitive Scholarships, Michigan Work Study, Part-Time Independent Student Grants and the Michigan Educational Opportunity Programs. "If the governor's proposals pass, funds from these programs would be used to create a new grant program, the Michigan Opportunity Scholarship. The exact impact of those changes and the details of the new program are not yet known, she says."

In February, Gov. Granholm issued, and the Legislature confirmed, an executive order that fulfilled the constitutional obligation to balance the budget to address a $158 million deficit in the House and Senate budgets. The cut included a 1.5 percent reduction in WMU's current-state year state appropriation. When combined with the continued on page 4

Impact of Granholm budget on WMU

| Appropriation | FY 2003-04 | FY 2003-04 \\
|---------------|------------|------------
| Lost:         | $125,677,200 | $113,109,300 |
| Merit Scholarships | FY 2002-03 | FY 2003-04 \\
| Estimated loss to WMU students: | $505 | $505 |
| (Based on number of 2002-03 Merit Scholarships going to WMU students) |

Budget measures implemented at WMU

Below are some of the measures now in force at the University to deal with budget cuts.

Hiring freeze
Since Feb. 25, 2003, the University has ceased all employment and position activity. Included in that move are:
- suspension of new and replacement position authorizations as well as searches for previously authorized positions, including those for both new and replacement positions;
- suspension of all position reevaluations, changes to positions and appointment reorganizations, including those already authorized; and
- suspension of all temporary pay increases and temporary hiring.

Budget reviews
Budgets in every area of the University are under review, and all vice presidential areas as well as areas reporting directly to the president have been asked to review their budgets to identify ways to reduce spending.

Aviation college blends international, U.S. units in new program

The College of Aviation has integrated its international training capabilities with its growing domestic enrollment and has launched a new Certified Accelerated Training Program—known as CapT—designed to attract prospective pilots for both domestic and international air carriers.

The new initiative, being launched at the college's Battle Creek, Mich., facilities, was triggered by dwindling international enrollment in the college and the desire to integrate the college's contract training and degree programs. Over the past several months, officials in the college have acted to ease economic troubles in the international aviation industry by adjusting the college's training programs and staffing levels to accommodate both the growing domestic student population and the loss, due to an industry slump, of training contracts with such air carriers as British Airways.

"WMU's program has reached new levels of excellence and continues to be a good partner with the Battle Creek community," says WMU interim President Daniel M. Lyonski. "We have been fully evaluating several options that will allow us to maintain our leadership position, restructure in light of changed economic realities and remain prepared to take advantage of future international opportunities. The results should be clear in the next few months."

The new integrated structure was designed to keep the college's international training capabilities intact and ready to respond when the international market comes back. While the international pilot training market has faced severe cutbacks, WMU's U.S. enrollment has continued to climb, causing the college's overall enrollment to increase by 5 percent in fall 2002.

"Like any organization adjusting to the changing business climate, we've looked at our staffing levels and, with our domestic enrollment growing rapidly, we integrated our domestic and international faculty and staff," says interim Dean Robert Aardema, aviation. "The new structure allows us to focus on our nearly 1,000 U.S. students, but still keep our international options open."

The CAPT program follows the model perfected by the college in previous training contracts with international and domestic carriers. Instead of being a separate entity within the College of Aviation as the earlier international training program was, the new CAPT program has been integrated into overall college programing. It follows the same 13-month intensive training model used in earlier international training at the college. The program has certification from the Federal Aviation Administration and is expected to be certified by the FAA's European equivalent.
Alumni staff seeks help in designing single WMU ring

To commemorate the centennial, the WMU Alumni Association has launched an initiative to establish a new tradition as the University begins its second century.—end of single WMU ring. Students, faculty and alumni are invited to submit their ideas for strong school symbols that can continue to represent the student body.

The goal of a single-ring program is to create a uniform symbol, second only to the diploma, that will immediately identify individuals as graduates of Western Michigan University, says Erin Spaulding, alumni association. "A committee will use the submitted ideas to determine the ring's design."

Designs are not new. Spaulding notes that many colleges and universities have had successful single-ring programs for decades. Other schools, including WMU, have never had such a program or abandoned it in the 1970s.

Multiple ring designs offered by multiple vendors take the tradition out of class rings and make them simple pieces of customized jewelry, Spaulding says. With this program, graduates will be investing in lasting lifestyle symbols with their classmates as well as those who came before them. The ring will reflect more than a graduate's individuality—it will symbolize WMU.

"Symbol ideas may be submitted online at www.wmich.edu/alumni/rings," Spaulding adds. "Alumni, students and alumni wear a ring with the same design, are not new. Spaulding notes that many colleges and universities have had successful single-ring programs for decades. Other schools, including WMU, have never had such a program or abandoned it in the 1970s."

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Symbol ideas may be submitted online at www.wmich.edu/alumni/rings. For more information about these or any other alumni events, call the WMU Alumni Web site at www.wmich.edu/alumni/events. "Symbol ideas may be submitted online at www.wmich.edu/alumni/rings."
TIAA-CREF offers 'Retirement Distribution Flexibilities' talk

Whether retirement seems a lifetime away or it's closer than ever, it's time to start planning.

All faculty and staff are invited to attend a free, one-hour presentation on "Retirement Distribution Flexibilities" by Todd Kehart, registered representative and senior individual consultant with TIAA-CREF. The session will be offered on-campus Tuesday, March 25, at 2 p.m. in 206 Bernhard Center. The presentation will be offered on-campus Tuesday, March 25, at 2 p.m. in 206 Bernhard Center. There are many things employees need to consider: the amount of income needed, where it's coming from, and what steps to take to save more are needed to reach retirement goals. It is also good time to begin learning about the range of Individual Counseling sessions and TIAA-CREF and pinpoint those that best fit individual situations.

Kehart's "Retirement Distribution Flexibilities" will focus on:

- evaluating retirement needs;
- opportunities to save more;
- saving strategies;
- TIAA-CREF income options;
- how those options affect an employee's retirement income; and
- helpful Web tools and individual counseling options.

Individual counseling sessions being offered to employees

TIAA-CREF representatives Todd Kehart will also be available for individual counseling sessions on Wednesdays, March 26, and Thursday, March 27, in 206 Bernhard Center. To make an appointment, call Linda Baker at 1-800-842-2044 or register online at www.tiaa-cref.org/moc.

Exchange

FOR SALE—Near downtown and the campus, completely refinished turn-of-the-century home. New bathroom and kitchen with tile floors and maple cabinets. Refinished hardwood floors throughout. 3 1/2 bath, 2 bedroom, will consider land contract. Call 345-4236.

SUMMER VACATION RENTAL—South Haven area, two-bedroom duplex, deep-sleep, short walk to beach, short drive to town, quiet family setting. $700 per week. Call 639-2016.

FOR SALE—Two-bedroom, two-bath ranch-style house on Westnedge Hill. 2,200 finished sq. ft. Newly remodeled large kitchen includes new appliances, 100% Cavalier appliance modeled. Tile floor features a new, extra deep tub, new floor, new tile wall and glass-block window. Expansive family room with a large fireplace adjoins the kitchen. Screened-in porch faces low-maintenance, naturally landscaped grounds. Furnace and central air conditioning. Detached garage. Call 7-2594 or 381-8012.

FOR SALE—Condo in Moonbridge neighborhood. Portage. Two bedrooms, two baths, study/lift, 1,500 sq. ft. plus full basement. Stone fireplace, huge living room with cathedral ceiling, carport, newer mechanics and appliances. Walking distance to downtown Portage. 1.5 miles to downtown, 7-5474.

FOR SALE—Two-bedroom, one-half-bath condo with walkout lower level. Off O Ave, across from KVCC. 2,100 sq. ft. finished, first floor. Living/dining room with deck, eat-in kitchen, master-bedroom suite, powder room, pantry and laundry room on first floor. Family room with patio, office, bedroom and bath plus ample storage on lower level. $174,500. Call 735-8681 or 7-5157.

Obituary

William A. Ritchie, emeritus in po-
litical science, died March 16.

Ritchie retired from his post as professor in 2001, having served the University for 37 years. Well published in professional journals, he was a contributing author of the book "The New World and the New Europe," published by W.M.U.'s New Issues Press. Ritchie spoke frequently on campus and elsewhere on all manner of European history and politics.

Before joining the WUMU faculty, he served as an instructor and professor at the University of Delaware. Ritchie earned his doctorate degree from the University of Michigan.

A memorial service is being scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Friday, April 11, in Kentley Chapel. Following the service, members of the Ritchie family will receive friends at the Oaklands. Contributions may be made through the W.M.U. Foundation to the William A. Ritchie Memorial Fund to support a student at pit in political theory.

Syracuse

Educational activities set to push Poison Prevention Week message

A U.S. child is accidentally poisoned every 10 seconds, but the Syracuse Health Center hopes to reduce this number by providing helpful information to the WUMU community during national Poison Prevention Week, March 16 to 22.

The Syracuse Health Center has put together an educational packet that includes poison facts, safety tips, a prevention checklist, activity sheets and "Off-\r-\nizer Up!" stickers. Students, faculty and staff may pick up the free packet at the pharmacy.

In addition, pharmacy staff will present a poison prevention program to preschoolers who have their kids enrolled on campus in the Children's Place Learning Center at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at the day care center. A program will be presented the following Wednesday, March 26, for the enrolled children.

For more information or to obtain a poison prevention packet, call 7-3301. In case of a poisoning or suspected poisoning, call the local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.

Spring Staff Service Excellence winners named

Six outstanding University staff mem-
bers have been selected to receive annu-
ual Staff Service Excellence Awards.

Each winner will receive a $100 prize and a commemorative certificate. Staff Service Excellence Award recipients are nominated by their peers and selected by a committee made up of their peers to recognize excellence in service beyond job requirements.

Two winners are from the AFSCME rank: Chad Avery, physical plant-landscap-
es service; and Fenny Villadsen, Banham Dining Service.

Lunch & Learn session to extol health benefits of 'Massage-Relaxation and More'

Did you know you can use the services of a certified massage therapist right here on campus? Massage is often thought of as nothing more than a way to relax, but massage can also result in improved circulation, tension relief, decreased pain and swelling in joints, and improved mobility. Lunch & Learn presents Jana Stastny, nationally certified massage therapist and owner of Results Massage. The WMU Zest for Life massage therapist, for this brown-bag session from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, in 159 Bernhard Center. Come and learn about Stastny's focus on deep tissue massage work with an aim toward healing and relaxation.

Genetic engineering of food set as topic

A WUMU faculty member will go beyond the news headlines and present an objec-
tive, research-based assessment of geneti-
cally engineered foods when he lectures Tuesday, March 25, as part of the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society Lecture Series.

Hector Quemada, biological sciences, will present "Water, There is a Gene in my Soup! Genetic Engineering of Food Crops," at 7:3 p.m. in the Patney Lecture Hall of the Center for Ethics. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"So much of what is heard and read about the genetic engineering of crops is misin-
formation, and as a result, the general public remains poorly informed of the issues," says Quemada.

His presentation will explore the tech-
ology being used during engineering, the safety precautions taken by researchers, and the political and ethical issues sur-
rounding genetically modified foods.
Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in Western News is available through WMU's home page on the World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at <www.wmich.edu/wnews/events/>.

MARCH 2003

3.13 Thursday乙烯 (Ethics of Apology From the Perspective of a Lawyer), Shair Levine, Levine & Levine, Pottery Lecture Hall, Center, 7 p.m.

3.14 Friday Workshop, "Using Theatre Techniques in the Classroom," sponsored by Sindsece Health Center, 326 Sindsece, 1 p.m.; to register, 7-3366

3.15 Saturday Men's tennis vs. Westmont, Sorensen Courts, 10 a.m.

3.16 Sunday *Francophone Film Festival (through March 16), Little Theatre, "One Who Knew," 11:30 a.m. *Myanmar Night, dinner and theatrical performance of "Journey to the West," Wool Hall, 7-3263.

3.17 Monday Women's tennis vs. Tiffin, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

3.18 Tuesday Women's tennis vs. Wheaton, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

3.19 Wednesday Annual Art Exhibition (through April 2), Dalton Center Multimedia Room, Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

3.20 Thursday (continued) Exhibit and reception, Dalton Center Multimedia Room, 5:30-7 p.m.

3.21 Friday Women’s tennis vs. Marian, Sorensen Courts, 1 p.m.

3.22 Saturday *Francophone Film Preview for prospective WMU students, registration desk, Bardham Center, 8:30 a.m.

Tuiskgea airmen to describe WWII era

Three veterans of the famed World War II unit, The Tuskegee Airmen, will visit the campus Friday, March 14, to explore the history of the group that made history by breaking the way for integration of the military.

Maj.-Gen. Louis Thors, Lt. Col. Lee Archambeau and Col. Albert Booker will offer a "Historical Overview and Personal Reflections on Being Tuskegee Airmen" in a talk set for 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Putney Lecture Hall of the Center for Education. Spokesmen are the College of Aviation and the Africana Studies Program.

The three airmen will offer their presentation at 2 p.m. appearance in the Aviation Education Center of the aviation college facilities at W.K. Kellogg Airport in Battle Creek, Mich. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Tuskegee program was expected to "prove" racial deficiencies in intelligence and concentration, yet the Tuskegee Institute graduates include a number of pilots who went on to achieve great aviation and military success. Those, including Thors, went on to serve as generals.

Budget cuts

Continued from page 1

2 percent cut made by Gov. Engler in December, these two cuts totaled nearly $4 million in base funding reductions in WMU's 2002-03 budget. As a result, the remaining state appropriation payments to WMU for the current fiscal year that ends June 30 have been reduced by well over $500,000 each month.

"Over the past several years, the University has implemented a series of internal cost-reduction measures in order to maintain high quality while keeping operating costs as low as possible," Litynski notes. "Further reductions would be unacceptable given that we are already a lean organization. In anticipation of these state opposition payments, U.S. Congress funding is currently under review and a hearing is in place. Our goal is to maintain the quality of our programs and try to minimize the impact on our students and families. The magnitude of these reductions makes that extremely challenging."

Jeff Jones, vice president for legisla
tive affairs and chief of staff, says the pro
duced funding cut wipes out the gains of recent years and sets the University back both in terms of total appropriation and the per-student funding WMU receives.

"We are prepared to shoulder our fair share of state budget reductions," Berenson says, "but because of our record growth, these cuts would set WMU back to 1994-95 levels of state support for the University should call legislative subcommittee on Higher Education to hold hearings in which university presi
tions outline their institutions' needs. Five university presidents will participate as members of a panel in legislative budget hear
ings. President Litynski is scheduled to appear Wednesday, April 2. The noncon
currence hearing is scheduled to take action on the budget April 9, and the House should complete action on the budget before Eas
ter. The process will then move to the Senate in May and June.

Members of the University community who want to find out how to be advocates for the University should call legislative affairs at 7-2074 or visit their Web site <www.wmich.edu/legislative/get-involved.html>.