Trustees approve AFSCME contract of Sept. meeting

At its Sept. 15 meeting, the WMU Board of Trustees approved a three-year labor agreement with Local 1668 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Michigan AFSCME Council 25. The vote made official a tentative agreement reached by WMU and union representatives on Aug. 26.

Details of the agreement include mutually beneficial changes to the grievance procedure, the disciplinary action process and the joint union-University apprenticeship, training and education program. The agreement also contains modest benefits enhancements. The economic package includes 3.25 percent across the board wage increases in the first and second years of the agreement and a 3 percent wage increase in the third year. Additionally, each employee is scheduled to receive a lump sum bonus of $150 in the third year of the agreement, and the pact also outlines additional pay increases for selected job classifications.

New soccer fields purchased

The University will acquire 52 acres of land in Osbtrec Township for soccer fields to replace its current soccer facility on the Lee Baker Farm, where the University's Business Technology and Research Park is being developed.

Acting at their Sept. 15 meeting, University trustees approved the purchase of the parcel located along Ninth Street between KL Avenue and Main Street. The purchase price for the parcel, which currently is being used for agriculture, is $500,250.

"As you are aware," the Business Technology and Research Park will ultimately encompass the existing soccer fields," said R.D. Beam, WMU vice president for business and finance, in presenting the proposal to the board. "For some time, we've been looking for flat areas on the west side of Kalamazoo and the opportunity to purchase this parcel recently popped up."

Beam said the current owners agreed to sell 43.5 acres of the land to WMU for $11,500 per acre—a total of $500,250—an additional 8.71 acres, which have been valued at $100,165.

‘NUPL8’ is great for University funding, promoting Bronco spirit

Faculty, staff, students and alumni will be able to put their Bronco spirit in overdrive through a new automobile license plate program launched Sept. 26 in Lansing by Michigan Secretary of State Candice S. Miller.

WMU is one of 15 Michigan universities to have its own license plate through a new state initiative that is designed to let Michigan residents show pride in the school of their choice and, at the same time, help that school raise additional revenue.

The plates were unveiled in the Capitol rotunda Tuesday at a noon news conference, which was attended by representatives of all 15 universities. Locally, Bronco fans can get their first look at the WMU plate Monday, Oct. 2, when the West Main Secretary of State branch office kicks off sales with a special promotion for the WMU plate.

University officials and area alumni will be on hand at 9 a.m. that day to help kick off sales. Five date-of-issue collector plates, dated and signed by WMU President S. Floyd, will be among the plates available for purchase at that time.

Two versions of the plate are available—a regular plate that may be renewed annually and a collector's version for display. Orders for the regular plate will be taken beginning Oct. 2. The WMU branch office will have 100 collector plates available for immediate purchase on Oct. 2 and will sell them until they are gone.

This is the only time Bronco plates will be available over the counter—with the exception of sales by Secretary of State mobile offices, one of which will be selling both WMU and Central Michigan University plates at the WMU/CMU football contest in Mount Pleasant on Nov. 15. Bronco motorists will pay an additional $35 over their annual registration fee for the regular plate, with $25 of that fee going directly to the University's unrestricted fund. The plate can be renewed annually.

HCDB laptops set campus computing pace

Freshmen in the Haworth College of Business are getting an early introduction to the ubiquitous nature of computing and the mantra of the modern business executive—"e-mail and online access, anytime and anywhere."

As part of its efforts to prepare students to enter the digital business world, the Haworth College of Business this fall launched its Ubiquitous ("Anytime, Anyplace") Computing Laptop Initiative, which incorporates computers into the learning experience. Organized in conjunction with the Office of Information Technology, the initiative is the first laptop program to be implemented at the University.

Entering freshmen learned in June of the initiative and were strongly encouraged by Haworth officials to purchase a university laptop computer through a special agreement with Dell Computer Corp. About 250 of more than 800 entering freshmen bought laptops configured especially for the college's programs, and officials estimate that hundreds more are using computers or laptops purchased through other sources.

These classrooms in Schneider Hall have been configured as wireless hubs, and two others serve as wired portals. Business students also can access wired or wireless connections in the computer lab, the student café, study areas and Waldo Library as well as the Bernhard Center and residence hall rooms, which have been wired for Internet access for several years.

Students are using the laptops in ubiquitous computing sections of three entry-level courses, including Business Enterprise, Informational Writing and Introduction to Information Processing.

"We've been thrilled with the response to this initiative from all of our stakeholders, including students, faculty and employers," says James W. Schmotter, dean of the college. "We are committed to preparing our students to excel in the business world, and employers have been supporting our feeling that computers are a crucial part of a business education."

"Will we ever require laptops from all of our students? I don't know. We are the first in this University to undertake an initiative like this, and it's very much a learning experience. But so far, all indications are that this program will grow as it's rolled out and as the ubiquitous computing mix. Schmotter teaches about 350 students in the course, some 40 percent of whom own laptops.

In preparation for the debut of the initiative, Schmotter took his coursework papers in 1999. Students retrieve information about assignments from a Web site, all quizzes and tests are taken online, Schmotter answers out-of-class questions via e-mail and student teams meet in cyberspace to hash out class projects. This semester, freshmen are logging on for other activities, too, such as researching projects or watching a video stream of a recent campus sports event. Most students online almost every day, primarily focusing on research. Student online almost every day, primarily focusing on research.

"Once they get used to it, the students love the paperless approach," Schmotter says. "There's less loss and more interaction, and, thanks to e-mail, I have the opportunity to get to know the students better. We are putting a greater responsibility on the students to become active, engaged learners."

Are students placed in the ubiquitous computing sections who don't have laptops at a serious disadvantage to those who do? Schmotter doesn't think so, and neither does Jo Cornell, an academic career specialist and Informational Writing instructor.

"The students in the ubiquitous computing sections who don't have laptops won't necessarily get the direct, hands-on experience in the classroom," says Cornell, "but they definitely are on the cutting edge because they are seeing what's possible."

In her ubiquitous computing section of Informational Writing, only three students of 23 don't have laptops. Cornell is taking her students online almost every day, primarily focusing on research.

"Rather than just setting them free to go up to their rooms and surf the Net, I'm right there to give them tips as they're searching," says Cornell, who also trains students from her traditional courses to the computer lab several times each semester. "In doing research on the Web, you have to be careful that the information is valid, so we talk a lot about how to choose the best sources. It's nice not to have to wait for your class turn at the computer lab in order to address these issues."

With the implementation of the initiative has come increased demand for technical support. Ralph Yingling, director of business computing services, is heading the ubiquitous computing project together with Kelly Penskar, project lead for information technology development.

"The up-front planning for this project was quite extensive, and that preparation has helped us to avoid any major snags so far," Yingling says. "Between June and the start of classes in August, I was fielding questions from students and parents nearly every day. Things are starting to slow down a bit now, and everyone has settled in amazingly well."

User education is the biggest technological challenge, according to Yingling, and the college implemented a number of programs to teach students and faculty members about their machines, including workshops on "The Care and Feeding of Your Laptop."

WHO'S COUNTING—

These WMU fans were focused on being "Number 1" in the Broncos' Sept. 16 season football opener against Indiana University. But for WMU officials, the big number that night was 36,361.

That is the number of fans who packed into Waldo Stadium for the CommUnity City night celebration. The crowd set a Mid-American Conference single-game attendance record while it watched the Broncos rack up a 56-0 win. (Photo by John Jacks)
Community’s non-athletes have special role in 2000 Homecoming Campus Classic plans

The 2000 Campus Classic is not just for runners.

In fact, there’s a slew of opportunities for the less athletic to serve as volunteers.

The 2000 Campus Classic, to be held Saturday, Oct. 21, during Homecoming, will feature 5K race, 5K walk, 1K kids’ fun run and a 1K fun walk. Volunteers are needed to help run the events, which last year attracted more than 800 participants.

“If you’re not ready to run or are looking for a great activity for your group or family, we invite you to volunteer,” says Marie Lee, university tidal group leader, who is the volunteer coordinator for the race.

For working the event, volunteers will receive a free long-sleeve T-shirt, continental breakfast before the race, a free ticket to the pre-game tailgate party at Hyeses Field and an opportunity to win door prizes, including two round-trip airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States.

Volunteers are needed to act as course marshals, finish-line reporters, tailgate set-up team members, and tailgate and race tear-down team members. Race team members should be available from 7 a.m. until the conclusion of the race at approximately 11 a.m. Tear-down teams for the race will be needed from 9 a.m. until approximately noon. Those tearing down the tailgate event will be needed until approximately 2 p.m.

Volunteers should be 15 or older, but families with younger children are welcome in adult in parent role. The pre-race orientation meeting will be held for the volunteers the week preceding the race to explain the tasks for each volunteer position.

Interested persons can register to volunteer for the 2000 Campus Classic by calling the Office of University Relations at 7-8400 to request a form. They also can register online at <www.wmich.edu/race>.

Weaver tapped by NCTE

Constance Weaver, English, has been named chairperson of Support for the Learning and Teaching of English, a standing committee of the National Council for the Teaching of English. Weaver began serving her one-year term in 2000.

As an arm of the NCTE, SLATE seeks to influence public policy decisions and policy makers regarding the teaching of English arts at local, state and national levels. The committee serves as a resource to the Council’s Freedom Network, providing help for censorship challenges, conducting workshops and sponsoring awards to recognize educators who advance intellectual freedom.

Hanley elected to exec board of national professional group

John (Mick) Hanley, chairperson of speech pathology and audiology, was recently elected to the executive board of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, a 13-year-old profession which represents, serves and advocates for communication sciences and disorders professionals worldwide.

Hanley is a WMU faculty member since 1980; he is serving a one-year term as president-elect of the organization. Subsequently, he will serve one year as president and one year as past president. The council is comprised of 301 program members—249 at the graduate level and 52 at the undergraduate level only. Its mission is to enhance the quality of all aspects of education in communication sciences and disorders.

PSSO awards fall scholarships

Three members of the Professional Student Staff Organization have received scholarships from the organization to attend WMU for the fall semester.

The PSSO recipients are: Kathy Mitchell, science studies; Janet G. Liebendorfer, accountancy; and A. Wright, mathematics and statistics. PSSO offers scholarships for undergraduate study at the University during the fall and winter semesters to amounts tailored to the employees’ needs.

Kreager to lead CEDRS

Kathy Kreager, long associated with the Employee Assistance Program, is moving on to a new opportunity for campus employees. Kreager will be managing the Campus Employee Dispute Resolution Services.

CEDRS is a new program that provides mediation services to help employees find agreeable solutions to disputes. As an arm of the CEDRS, the program provides mediation services to help employees find agreeable solutions to disputes.

Portage reappoints Strazdas to lead its planning efforts

Peter J. Strazdas, manager of maintenance management, will be reappointed to a second term as chairperson of the Portage Planning Commission.

Strazdas, who is serving his second term as chairperson of the Michigan Construction Safety Standards Commission. He was first appointed to that group by Gov. John Engler in 1994 and re-appointed in 1996 and 1999.
Opportunity Program by employment day from a Touch Tone phone. Weekly Job Opportunity Program information Service at 7-3669 to hear the resources. Interested benefits-eligible services in the Department of Human required to be posted. For persons interested in faculty positions, there are openings in selected fields. A letter of application should be submitted to the appropriate dean or chairperson.

Call the Applicant Information 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(N) Director of Information Technology Customer Satisfaction, 22, Office of Information Technology, 2001-2002, 9-10/2-10200
(N) Director of Systems and Operations, Office of Information Technology, 2001-2002, 9-10/2-10200
(P) Parking Enforcement Officer, 10, Public Safety, 2001-2002, 9-10/2-10200
(C) Custodian (third shift), M1M2, Physical Plant-Building Custodial and Service, 2001-2003, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2004, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2002, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2003, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2004, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2005, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2006, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2007, 9-10/2-10200
(R) Utility Food Worker (fte: 65, 37.50 hours per week), FO/F1, Dining Services, 2001-2008, 9-10/2-10200
N=New
R=Replacement
WMU is an EO/A employer.

Open enrollment period for health coverage under way Benefits-eligible employees with health plans can vote on whether their coverage for their personal health plans will be added or removed from their current coverage. Those honored during this cycle will be featured in "On Campus?" ideas sought. A small quartz desk clock with the U.S. flag is automatically adjusted to the time of day. In 1994, Alonzo Wilson was a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force stationed in Little Rock, Ark. Having just finished his bachelor's degree in computer applications, he accepted a full-time position in the University community: he says, "It's a place where you're always encouraged to learn and grow." After taking the Miller Auditorium post, Wilson grew into a number of positions as a systems coordinator at WMU's Miller Auditorium caught his eye. "The Air Force and I served each other well, but I was excited to be moving on to a university community," he says. "It's a place where you can grow and learn." For those interested in a new position as a systems administrator in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarship, there is a newly created current position as network manager for Physical Plant and for 449 employees, "If there's one thing I can say about this job, it's definitely a challenge," he asserts. "I love the opportunity I have to help students who are new to technology and to help them build their skills." There are options for a $10 fee. That $10 fee will go directly to the University. The collector's version of the plate also has "abled" designation, and they also can be projected. The new sessions are set for 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Oct. 3, in 157 Bernhard Center, and 1 and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the Brown and Gold Room of the Bernhard Center.

Employee savings bonds drive to continue through Oct. 6 You are still thinking about enrolling in the University's payroll deduction plan for U.S. Savings Bonds? It's not too late-the drive continues through Oct. 6.

Savings Bonds drive set to continue through Oct. 6

Performance management training sessions offered

Due to continuing requests for training, human resources is offering two more performance management training sessions.

The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Committee is seeking nominations for the 2001-2002 Distinguished Faculty Scholar awards.

The deadline for nomination is Jan. 12. Up to three awards may be made each year.

The awards are by the University community about those fine coworkers who perform in true service excellence, as much detail as possible to describe the nominee's work. Nomination forms are available in the Office. All semiannual nominations will be considered.

The winners of those semiannual awards are made in the fall and winter, and up to 12 winners may be selected to receive a $100 prize. The winners of the semiannual award will be the only employees eligible to win an annual award—with a $1,000 prize—in the spring. The winners also are being adjusted so that winners receive $100 for a semiannual award and $1,000 for an annual award, after taxes, instead of before taxes.

The new 2000 semiannual Staff Service Excellence Awards program is seeking nominations for non-faculty staff members for consideration. The SSEA program is designed to recognize University personnel who perform in true service excellence, for outstanding performance of work duties. Now, is it more important than ever to nominate outstanding University employees for awards. Tell the rest of the University community about those fine coworkers who often go unnoticed—and let them be publicly recognized for their excellence.
**Calendar**

The master calendar maintained by the Office of University Relations for use in WMU News is available through WMU’s home page on the World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also link directly to the calendar at [www.wmich.edu/wmu/news](http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news).

### September

**9.28 Thursday**
Welcome reception for Marie F. Gates, director, Pomerun School of Nursing, Fetzer Center, 4:06 p.m.

**"The Scarlet Pimpernel"**
Readings by poets Joseph Featherstone, Josee Kerrns, Phillips Sterling and Robert VanderMolen. 3:50 p.m. in 3508 Knauss Hall. A reception will follow.

**10.3 Thursday**
Edward Miller, economics, at 7-4935.

**10.4 Wednesday**
Werner Sichel Lecture—Seminar Series, “Thinking About Child Care Policy” at 7 p.m. in 3508 Knauss Hall. Her presentation is part of the ongoing Werner Sichel Lecture Series on "The Economics of Work and Family" and is free and open to the public.

**10.9 Monday**
Columbus Day

**10.12 Thursday**
Jennifer Scovell, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m. Meeting, Faculty Senate, Fetzer Center, 6 p.m.

**10.13 Friday**
“Organizational Communication in the 21st Century,” at 10:30 a.m. in 204 Bernhard Center.

**10.14 Saturday**
Opening of the 23rd Annual Midwest Environmental Chemistry Workshop (through Oct. 16) at 9 a.m. in 204 Bernhard Center. A special tribute will be paid to WMU’s Susan Burns, chemistry, at the opening of the workshop Saturday. Burns, who was coordinating the workshop with Bertman, died last year.

Registration fees for the workshop are $45. Registration information can be obtained by calling Brenda J. Allen, associate chairperson of the Department of Environmental Chemistry, at 7-4935.

**Estimated 2000-01 budget approved by WMU board**

The Board of Trustees on Sept. 15 approved an estimated 2000-01 general fund budget of $264,444,022 for the current fiscal year, a 7.1 percent increase over last year’s estimated budget.

The new budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 includes $123.8 million in state appropriations and $98.1 million in tuition revenue. State appropriations increased by 6.5 percent while tuition rates rose 3.8 percent. Budget figures show WMU will spend nearly $8.9 million more for faculty and staff compensation than it estimated last year. In addition, the cost of student financial aid by 6 percent and utilities by 6 percent, and $326,000 for additional part-time faculty and $500,000 for additional part-time student financial aid by 6 percent and utilities by 2 percent.

The University also will allocate an additional $1.5 million to fund distance education, $500,000 for additional part-time faculty and $326,000 for continuing education programming.

**Around the Campus**

**Keystone sponsors series**

The University and Keystone Community Bank have forges a new partnership to bring a series of business speakers to 2000-01.

**The Keystone Community Bank Breakfast Series at the Haworth College of Business features WMU faculty and alumni speaking about their research and teaching on a variety of timely business issues. All presentations take place from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. and are free and open to the public.

**The series will open tomorrow with a talk on "Microsoft and Antitrust Law in the 21st Century" by Norman Hawker, finance and commercial law. To reserve a seat call 7-2250.

**Speaker to focus on leaders**

Changing leadership development programs to reflect society’s demands that today’s corporate leaders pursue civic responsibility as well as profit will be the topic of a Tuesday, Oct. 3 campus talk.