President Floyd pledges support for faculty efforts

President Floyd pledged a presidency of vigor, vision and passion in his first remarks to the Faculty Senate Sept. 10, declaring that he will support the work of the faculty and the primacy of the University's academic mission.

"Yes, there are challenges before us," he told senators, who had warmly welcomed him to the podium in Kirsch Auditorium of the Fetzer Center with an extended round of applause. He assumed the presidency Aug. 1.

"But there also are immense opportunities," he stressed. "We need to celebrate WMU and we need to talk about its excellence and commitment. And so, as a president who will lead with vigor, thoughtfulness, decisiveness, passion and vision, it is clear to me that the primacy of this institution is its academic mission.

"I will do everything I can to support your teaching, your research, your service, and your scholarly and creative activities," Floyd told senators. "That is my role. That is my responsibility. I take it very seriously. And if I’m not anything else, I’m very passionate about it."

He also asked for the support of faculty members in understanding that the University community at large, "I’m very clear about the direction I want to take this University, and I can only do that with your support, your assistance and your best efforts."

At last, Floyd said, the next year will be one of assessment and planning, a process "made more timely by my arrival and the culmination of an extraordinary chapter in the history of the University, marked by Dr. Dieter Haenick’s retirement."

"Even more compelling is the growing realization that new social, political and economic forces in higher education require universities to reexamine and significantly, if not radically, change the way we conduct our business," he continued.

"Our University must be responsive to this cultural transformation and position itself to lead the pace of change," he said. "If we fail to do so, we will be in the unacceptable circumstance of being followers rather than leaders. And we must be leaders.

"That is the president declared. "This is a goal that is attainable with the dedication and commitment of our faculty, students and staff. We are fortunate that WMU’s situation is not one of exigency, but of aspiration.

"The University is fiscally sound, and with the continuing commitment of the Legislature, our situation will improve as we seek additional resources to support our emerging Research I status," Floyd said. "In doing so, we will not abandon our fundamental obligation to high quality undergraduate and graduate teaching."

Floyd issued what he described as a call to action to the University community. "I invite all members of the faculty and the greater University community to participate in an active process to assess our strengths, to understand better our weaknesses and to map a course for the future."

He announced that he would name three broad-based committees to develop what he called "A 21st Century Framework for Western Michigan University." Each is to include representatives of faculty, staff and students.

The committees, each headed by a vice president, are: planning, assessment and program review, headed by Provost Timothy Light; infrastructure master-plan development, headed by Robert M. Beam, vice president for business and finance; and capital campaign, headed by Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs.

"I am intensely committed to make sure that this is an open, collaborative process involving all of us," Floyd said. "I am relying on our best minds and thinking as we look at the challenges ahead.

The president said he already has begun a wide-ranging collaborative process in which he has had or will have dinner with leadership groups among faculty, staff and students, including a newly established student advisory board.

"It’s important for me to keep my finger on the pulse of this institution," he said. "I want to have open, frank and active dialogue about the critical issues facing the University."

Floyd then addressed a series of matters, including:

MLK Day
Floyd applauded past efforts of the University community to celebrate the birthday of the late Martin Luther King Jr., announced a $15,000 commitment for this year’s observance and declared the day would be a University holiday.

Enrollment tally shows largest fall count since 1992
At 26,575 students Western Michigan University’s fall semester enrollment is up 1.7 percent, making it the largest fall count since 1992.

Fueling the increase was a 12.5 percent jump in beginning freshmen, from 3,341 students in fall 1992 to a record 3,758 students this fall. This is the fourth consecutive year that the size of the beginning freshman class has increased.

"There are many reasons for this year’s increase in beginning freshmen," said John Fraire, admissions and orientation. "The most basic reasons are that students want to attend WMU because we provide a quality education at a fair price, our graduates are successful and employable, and we do all of this in a safe and welcoming environment."

The 1998 fall semester also saw increases in the numbers of master’s degree students and transfer students.

Did you know?

- WMU’s largest total enrollment was recorded during the fall semester of 1991, when 27,399 students enrolled at the University. This fall’s count is the highest since 1992, when 27,399 were enrolled.

- The 1998 beginning freshman class of 3,758 is the largest ever, beating the previous record class of 3,451, set in 1967, by 307 students.

- Other large beginning freshman classes and the years in which they were recorded were 1989 (3,375), 1974 (3,448) and 1970 (3,430).

- The largest numbers of doctoral students studying at WMU have been recorded in the past two years, with 508 enrolled in fall 1997 and 507 this fall.

A WMU welcome—Waldo Stadium style...
by day
Waldo Stadium was the site of Western Michigan University’s fall convocation, the start to finish of the week. At right, members of this year’s record class took the field Aug. 30 during “Gold Rush,” an event designed to help them get to know one another and learn the traditions of the University.

by night
By week’s end, Waldo was the sight of a Mid-American Conference attendance record as 35,107 fans filled the stands to watch football and fireworks during Commnival/City Night Sept. 3.

Board to meet Friday
The Board of Trustees will meet at 9:05 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18, in the Connable Board Room of the Bernhard Center. Agenda items will include gift, grant and personnel reports as well as consideration of an investment policy for annuity and life income funds.

Committee meetings will precede the full board meeting in 204 Bernhard Center. Times are: Budget and Finance Committee, 9:45 a.m.; and Academic and Student Affairs Committee, 10:15 a.m. All meetings are open to the public.
Federal funds for fellowships designed to boost number of math doctoral enrollments

Funds awarded to WMU will be used to offer annual doctoral fellowships to address the serious national shortage of American students earning advanced degrees in mathematics.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded $126,110 to the Department of Mathematics, to be used for the first year of a three-year effort. Over the course of the project, more than $375,000 in federal funds will be awarded. These funds will support five fellowships and the University will provide funds to support one additional fellowship; a total of six fellowships over the three years. The award was made through the Department of Education's Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Pro-

Awards to WMU's GAANN program, six fellowships will be awarded as early as this fall. Each fellowship includes a $15,000 annual stipend, which will be paid directly to the student and an institutional payment of $10,051. The institutional payment will be used to pay for each student's tuition and fees as well as educational expenses related to the academic program in which the fellow is enrolled.

"The grants are for students of superior ability who have financial need and might otherwise not be able to enroll in the doctoral programs," Meyer says.

One priority of the program, she says, is to attract students who are interested in obtaining doctoral degrees in mathematics. Doctoral programs in that area usually require that applicants have classroom teaching experience at the K-12 level. The GAANN grant would make graduate study more financially attractive to teachers who would like to come back to school to pursue a graduate degree.

Meyer says the GAANN grants are available to colleges and universities to enhance undergraduate and graduate research and teaching in academic areas determined by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Mathematics and mathematics education, subject areas for which WMU is nationally known, are among those areas of need.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has experienced first-hand the growing shortage of applicants, especially women and minorities, who now work on the faculty and the number of American students earning advanced degrees in the mathematical sciences last year by U.S. institutions, fewer than 100 were awarded to U.S. citizens. Only 1 of 100 of those degrees were given to women, only nine to African Americans and just 14 to Hispanics.

"It has been a problem ever since I've been at WMU," Meyer says. "The number of graduate students in the pipeline is decreasing and we were short to do at least the next few years. It is clear we need to increase both the numbers of women and minorities, and the number of U.S. citizens who receive doctoral degrees in mathematics."

To address this problem and apply for the GAANN funding, the University put together a team of mathematics specialists headed by Meyer and John W. Petro, chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. They worked with Dr. Shirley Scott, dean of the Graduate School, and her staff to put together a program for GAANN funding as well as University funding to add to the federal support.

Meyer says the goal of the GAANN fellowships at WMU will be to increase the number of women professionals with both outstanding teaching and research capabilities.

Annual ECE seminars start

The 1998-99 series of Electrical and Computing Engineering Seminars will get under way Wednesday, Sept. 30, with an address by a former WMU faculty member who now works for a major particle physics manufacturer.

"Quality and Process, Making our Lives Easier" will be the topic of the talk by Sami Ermis, an electrical engineer at the Lucent Technologies company in Elyria.

His free presentation is open to members of the University community.

Art camp works by visually-impaired students and their instructors on display at campus and downtown sites

Art works created by visually-impaired students and their instructors will be on display on campus and in downtown Kalamazoo.

The "Touch First Exhibit" is being held at two city locations. Art works by students aged 10 to 17 is on display at the World Tree Multi-Cultural Center for Peace, Justice and Mother Earth, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall. The instructors' exhibit can be seen daily at WMU's Unified Clinics, 1000 Oakland Drive. Both display areas feature soapstone and clay sculptures.

Visiting physicist to talk about star mass concept

The University of Michigan's Kameshwar C. Wali, a professor of physics, will be the featured speaker at the next session of Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lectures on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 4 p.m. in Saeman Auditorium.

Wali will discuss the concept of gravitational mass of stars. The Sun's mass is about 3 x 10^30 kg. Its gravitational mass is determined by its radius and average density. It is usually more than twice the Sun's mass. The Sun's gravitational mass is about 10^-20 kg.

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Faculty and staff members meditate together weekly

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Zimmer honored by fellow health professionals

Christine G. Zimmer, health promotion and education, received the Ruth E. Boyington Award from the American College Health Association at the organization’s annual meeting recently in San Antonio. Zimmer was honored for her contributions in the field of college health and her service to ACHA. She has served ACHA in a number of roles, most recently as co-chairperson of the organization’s Task Force on Health Promotion in Higher Education. She was also vice president in 1994-95. In addition to consulting for the Journal of College Health, Founded in 1920, ACHA is a national nonprofit organization representing interests of professionals and students in health and higher education.

Zimmer, who currently directs the Office of Health Promotion and Education at Sincere since 1985, has received numerous awards for her work in health promotion including an Honor Award from WUM’s Eta Sigma Gamma, Rho Chapter in 1992; a Distinguished Service Award from ACHA in 1994. She also received a WUM Quarterly Staff Service Award for her leadership in the Southwest Michigan AIDS Memorial Quilt Project in 1995.

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunities Program Employment Services for the Department of Human Resources. Interested-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application to Human Resources.

Invest today to enjoy tomorrow-buy U.S. Savings Bonds.

The WUM annual savings bonds drive is under way through September 30. All regular employees have been sent a letter describing the payroll savings bonds plan, which allows employees to purchase U.S. Savings Bonds through payroll deduction. Savings bonds are a flexible financial product that is as safe and convenient as the Post Office and offers tax advantages. With the payroll savings bonds plan, employees can determine how much they would like to save and how they would like to invest their savings. By purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds, we help ourselves and our country. A limited number of U.S. Savings Bonds are available, and answer booklets providing more detailed information are available at human resources. You can obtain a copy by calling 7-3654.

Last Chance for Directory Corrections

Information for the directory comes from the computer record for each employee. If your record is incomplete, you receive a Personal Data (EDF) form earlier this month asking you to provide the missing information. The new information you submitted will be used to update your computer record before the next directory. If you received an EDF but have not responded, you can bring your completed EDF to HRIS, 1240 Seiber, or fax it to 7-3441. If you would like to make a change to your personal data, but did not complete an EDF, you do not receive an EDF, please stop by HRIS or give us a call at 7-3622 before 5 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 18.

Service

These faculty and staff members are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to the University in September:

35 years — Lynnwood H. Barley, computer science; John H. Carter, education and counseling psychology; Norman E. Carlson, English; David O. Lyons, legal affairs; John J. Marone, physics; science studies; Richard Pippen, international affairs; and Herbert L. Smith, sociology.

30 years — Edward L. Britten, physical plant; landscape architecture and grounds maintenance; students; Sue H. Green, Bernard Center; Richard M. Hoff, Brink Printing Services; and Michael J. Hunt, University Counseling and Testing Center.

25 years — Charles W. Amos, physical plant; custodial and support services; Robert J. Brown, public safety; Peter Kobrak, public affairs and administration; and Robert A. Ragan, custodial and support services; and David A. Ragan, public safety.

20 years — Vera D. Brower, physical plant; building custodial service; Karen Ferrara, dining services; Bettina S. Meyer, university libraries; and Barbara A. Vilenksi, painting and science and engineering.

15 years — Deborah L. Bartholomew Juarez, dining services; Tanya Bellamy, human resource management; William K. Forester, paper and printing science and engineering; Joyce A. Gard, speech pathology and audiology; Tenley Lagrange, physical plant; landscape architecture and grounds maintenance; Frederick Harvey, residence hall facilities; Carol J. Lint, human resources; Vicky A. Meinehra, accounting; Peninnah S. Miller, planning and institutional research; Noreen B. Mombuch, human resources; and Candis H. Warner, speech pathology and audiology.

10 years — Lori A. Bell, residence hall facilities; Bonnie Dube, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs; Dale Eldred, food services; Patrick L. Lem, physical plant; building maintenance service; Steven F. Thomas, University computing services; Donald L. Zuckerman, telephone. Angela P. Walsh, Graduate College; Minnie White, physical plant; building custodial and support services; Leann J. Vankoughlen, University computing services; and Ralph N. Yingling, Haworth College of Business.

Five years — Melissa L. Hess, grants and contracts; Lauren Hughes, geology; Robert D. Park, physical plant; general services; and Laureen A. Summerville, human resources.
Thursday, September 17
(thru Sept. 27) Exhibition, "Images of India: People of Cuttack," photographs by Kalamazoo artist Biljoo Bhuyan, Sangren Hall, thru Sept. 27.
(thru Sept. 18) Exhibition, "MFA Candidates Show," South Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(thru Sept. 23) Exhibition, paintings by Lorna Marsh, Chicago artist, gallery II, Sangren, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; slide lecture by artist on her work, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2302 Sangren Hall, 7 p.m., reception following in gallery II.
Lecture, "Adequate Leadership: Good Goal for Education," by Dean Frank Rapley, College of Education, Phi Delta Kappa meeting, 2000 Schneider Hall, 7 p.m.

Friday, September 18
Meeting and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 9:45 a.m.
Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 10:45 a.m.
Meeting, Board of Trustees, Connable Board Room, Bernhard Center 10:45 a.m.
Department of Dance showing, Dance Studio B, third floor, Dalton Center, noon.
University reception to welcome President and Mrs. Elson S. Floyd, Miller Auditorium veranda and the Fountain Plaza, 2-4 p.m.

Biological sciences seminar, "Recombinant Microorganisms as Tools for High Throughput Screening," with K. D. Klein, Pharmacia & Upjohn, 1718 Wood Hall, 3:30 p.m.

*WMU Invitational, volleyball tournament featuring Western Illinois, West Virginia and Iowa state universities; Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, noon and 7 p.m.

*Meeting, Faculty Senate, 204 Bernhard Center, 8 p.m.

School of Music guest artist recital, Sisters in Jazz Collegiate Quintet, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Men's soccer, WMU vs. Eastern Illinois University, WMU Soccer Complex, 2 p.m.

Women's soccer, WMU vs. Ohio University (Southwest Fest), Waldo Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 19
School of Music Convocation Series concert by clarinetist Larry Maxey and marimba player Linda Maxey of Kansas City, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

(thru Sept. 25) Exhibition, "Printmaking," by San Francisco artist Frank Lobdell, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Oct. 2, 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23
American Water Resources Association—Michigan Section meeting and lectures, American Water Resources Association, 2304 Sangren Hall, 7 p.m.

Workshop on the workings of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, 242 Bernhard Center, 10-11:30 a.m.; call 7-8282 for more information.

Tuesday, September 22
Design lecture, "20th Century Furniture by Architects," Albert Pfeiffer, vice president of curatorial and Western News departments, 204 Bernhard Center, 3:30 p.m.; reception follows.


Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lecture, "From the Indestructible Atom to the Invisible World: The Story of Kameshwor C. Walli," Steve Professor of Physics, Syracuse University, 1110 Rood Hall, 7:40 p.m.

Poetry reading by author Alice Fulton, professor of English, University of Michigan, 1110 Rood Hall, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23
American Water Resources Association—Michigan Section lunch meeting and lectures, President's Ballroom, Brown Auditorium, 111, 1:30-2 p.m.; call 7-3410 by Sept. 18 to register for lunch buffet.

School of Music Convocation Series concert by clarinetist Larry Maxey and marimba player Linda Maxey, Williamston, 204 Bernhard Center, 7 p.m.; reception, Friday, Sept. 25, 7-7:30 p.m.

Workshop on the workings of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, 242 Bernhard Center, 1:30-3 p.m.; call 7-8282 for more information.

Keystone Lecture Series lecture, "Leader: That's YOU!" with ESPN commentator Bill Clement, North Ballroom, Bernhard Center, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24
(on Sept. 23) Lecture, "The Challenge of Modifying Host Range," with Suzanne Thiem, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, 204 Bernhard Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; call 7-8282 to register for either of two sessions.

Friday, September 25
Biological sciences seminar, "Developing Designer Insecticides from Baculoviruses: The Challenge of Modifying Host Range," with Suzanne Thiem, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, 1718 Wood Hall, 3:30 p.m.

Women's soccer, WMU vs. Eastern Michigan University, WMU Soccer Complex, 4 p.m.

*Concert, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Sunday, September 26
*Football, WMU vs. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, noon, 3002 Kohrman Hall, 4 p.m.

Monday, September 28
(on Sept. 27) Exhibition, "Sculpture and Ceramics Group Show," Rotunda and South Gallery, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Oct. 2, 5-7 p.m.

(thru Sept. 10) WMU Sculpture Tour Program sculpture installation by artist Robert Naperville, 1111 Main Street, Naperville, 111., 3002 Kohrman Hall, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29
Workshop on the workings of the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund, 242 Bernhard Center, 10-11:30 a.m.; call 7-8282 for more information.

Men's soccer, WMU vs. University of Notre Dame, WMU Soccer Complex, 4 p.m.

*Plaza Arts Circle Young Concert Artists Series concert, Jeremy Denk, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

School of Music Convocation Series concert by pianist Jeremy Denk, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Electrical and computer engineering seminar, "Quality and Process, Making Our Lives Easier," with Sami A. Esmail, senior design engineer for Lucent Technologies, Naperville, Ill., 3002 Kohrman Hall, 4 p.m.

*Campus Activities Board movie showing, "Titanic," Miller Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Thursday, October 1
(thru Oct. 20) Exhibition, "Printmaking," by San Francisco artist Frank Lobdell, Gallery II, Sangren Hall, weekdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Meeting, Faculty Senate, 204 Bernhard Center, 8 p.m.

Center for the Study of Ethics in Society lecture, "Journalism as a Distinct Practice Worth One more Micromangement," Sandra Borden, communication, 204 Bernhard Center, 7:30 p.m.

*Admission charged

Floyd's Senate remarks

"It already is a federal holiday, so it is a state holiday and it seems entirely appropriate to mark it as a University holiday for all purposes," he said. "We will, however, maintain the educational programming associated with MLK Day because it is important for us to do so.

Continuing education

He predicted the increasing importance of program delivery in Grand Rapids, pointing out that it is the state's second-largest city and has a significantly upward growth trend, but not at the expense of quality.

"We cannot increase our commitment to Grand Rapids on the backs of our faculty, spreading them thinner and thinner and thinner," he said. "It reduces the quality of our standard, of which I have spoken before.

"There are other institutions that can provide first-rate programs in Grand Rapids," he continued. "On the other hand, the strength of our faculty positions us exceptionally well to do an even better job than some of the institutions that are currently serving Grand Rapids, and I am convinced we will be able to do that.

Management style

He said it would make clear that his will be an attentive, responsive administration but not one of micromanagement. "This administration will listen very carefully to your issues and your concerns," he said. "We cannot as a faculty, have issues about the size of the administration, I will have the appropriate vice president in town with me to explain why it has grown in that area," he said.

He also announced that he would dissolve the presidency of the president's office, which, he said, had served the University well. In its recent graduates would be employed by the University in executive offices for up to two years while they pursued master's degrees. Campuses could be as comfortable with the modest size the president's immediate staff, he said. "I have no intention of augmenting that staff," he said. Besides Barbara Johnston, executive secretary to the president, there is Andrew A. Rivers, executive assistant to the president; Betty Anstett, administrative assistant to the president; and Bernadette Ballard-Reid, administrative assistant.

State Legislature

Floyd may need his remarks with a pledge that "I will do everything in my power to represent you as effectively as I can.

"There are major challenges in front of me and the first is to make sure that we improve our relationship with the state Legislature," he said.

"To that end, I will talk often about the excellent relationship which the citizens of Michigan, and how having a very strong Western Michigan University enhances the quality of every single citizen in the state."