developing new charter initiatives

On Friday, Dec. 11, the Board of Trustees accepted a resolution to exercise the authority to charter schools. The Board of Trustees would then be asked to approve charters.

The board resolution delegates authority to President Elson S. Floyd to proceed on charters. The charter recommendation also includes a position statement that affirms the University's continued support for public schools and vows to work with public schools as it begins granting charters.

The University's highest technological personality, Michigan's high-tech image has been developed through the Governor's Innovation Forum, launched by Michigan Gov. John Engler. The forum will meet at 10 a.m. in a public session at the Frerer Center to discuss ways to overcome Michigan's image problems and begin building a more accurate picture of the state that reflects its high-tech talent and substance.

University representatives will issue recommendations to attract nationally known technical writers to the forum, providing perspectives and suggestions on creating "a new buzz" about Michigan's high-technology personality. The Governor's Innovation Forum, launched by Michigan Gov. John Engler last year, is a year-long series of meetings examining the relationships between Michigan's universities and industries, with the goal of fostering collaboration leading to the development, attraction and expansion of new businesses in the state and the creation of new jobs for Michigan citizens. The meetings have been held at the state's major universities. In April 1999, forum participants will issue recommendations for actions state government, universities and industry can take to achieve the goal.

For grounds crew, it's 'snow' joke when two feet of snow and blizzard-force winds hit campus roads

The Governor's Innovation Forum is expected to attract national attention and technical writers as well as state and national image experts to the campus Thursday, Jan. 21. The Image Commission of the forum will meet at 10 a.m. in a public session at the Frerer Center to discuss ways to overcome Michigan's image problems and begin building a more accurate picture of the state that reflects its high-tech talent and substance.

Agenda items for the meeting include:

- an insider's view of how North Carolina developed its Research Triangle and crafted its high-tech image;
- the results of a new State of Michigan image and attitude survey conducted among high-tech companies in key states; and
- a panel of communications, image and media experts from inside and outside the state, providing perspectives and suggestions on creating "a new buzz" about Michigan's high-technology personality.

The Governor's Innovation Forum, launched by Michigan Gov. John Engler last year, is a year-long series of meetings examining the relationships between Michigan's universities and industries, with the goal of fostering collaboration leading to the development, attraction and expansion of new businesses in the state and the creation of new jobs for Michigan citizens. The meetings have been held at the state's major universities. In April 1999, forum participants will issue recommendations for actions state government, universities and industry can take to achieve the goal.

If you think removing snow from your front walk this week was a chore, consider the 39 miles of walkways campus grounds crew had to tackle in the aftermath of last weekend's blizzard. After a storm that blanketed the area with more than two feet of snow and shut the University for two days, campus grounds crews have their annual snow and ice removal process down to a science. It began Friday afternoon, Jan. 1, with the first hints of the big storm that was to come, and by Saturday, the University's 47-member grounds crew was on rotation 12-hour shifts that would continue through Tuesday, Jan. 5, so the University could open on time. "Our crews have done a fabulous job under some of the most difficult conditions we've ever had," said Paul MacNeil, landscape services, of the Blizzard of '99. Nobody could have asked for more dedication," said President Elson S. Floyd, who decided by noon Sunday, Jan. 3, that the University would be closed Monday, Jan. 4. By 10:30 a.m. Monday the decision was made to close again Tuesday, Jan. 5. It was not the first time WMU would be closed for two days in a row, but it is unusual. "The safety of our students, faculty and staff is the paramount concern," Floyd said. "The issue was magnified because it was the beginning of a semester, when many of our students as well as a number of faculty and staff members would be traveling from across the state and around the region."

The quantity of snow was almost overwhelming, MacNeil said. "It's only the first storm of the year and already we've used up all of our snow storage capacity in the corners of parking lots," he explained. "Ordinarily, this would not occur before the middle of February." Excess snow must be taken by front-end loader to lawns located near many of the lots so that any new snow can be pushed into the northwest or southwest corners of lots.

MacNeil said the snow was not the only problem. Under such heavy use, equipment breaks down with considerable regularity. The University's four mechanics worked as much as 24 hours at a time to make repairs and keep the equipment running. "I don't think we could have done it without them," MacNeil said.

Did you know?

- The University has some 100 parking areas totaling more than 120 acres that must be cleared following a snow storm.
- More than 20 miles of roadway and 59 miles of sidewalks must be cleared after each snow fall.
- All 47 members of the University's grounds crew are involved in snow removal. Of those, 12 are heavy equipment operators. To tackle the 35,000 square feet of steps which must be shoveled, 27 crew members work in groups of two or three, with each group shoveling 5,000 to 7,000 square feet of steps.
- Students, faculty and staff with special mobility needs during the winter can call landscape services at 78-5577 to request schedule adjustments to accommodate needs.

For grounds crew, it's 'snow' joke when two feet of snow and blizzard-force winds hit campus roads

If you think removing snow from your front walk this week was a chore, consider the 39 miles of walkways campus grounds crew had to tackle in the aftermath of last weekend's blizzard. After a storm that blanketed the area with more than two feet of snow and shut the University for two days, campus grounds crews have their annual snow and ice removal process down to a science. It began Friday afternoon, Jan. 1, with the first hints of the big storm that was to come, and by Saturday, the University's 47-member grounds crew was on rotation 12-hour shifts that would continue through Tuesday, Jan. 5, so the University could open on time. "Our crews have done a fabulous job under some of the most difficult conditions we've ever had," said Paul MacNeil, landscape services, of the Blizzard of '99. Nobody could have asked for more dedication," said President Elson S. Floyd, who decided by noon Sunday, Jan. 3, that the University would be closed Monday, Jan. 4. By 10:30 a.m. Monday the decision was made to close again Tuesday, Jan. 5. It was not the first time WMU would be closed for two days in a row, but it is unusual. "The safety of our students, faculty and staff is the paramount concern," Floyd said. "The issue was magnified because it was the beginning of a semester, when many of our students as well as a number of faculty and staff members would be traveling from across the state and around the region."

The quantity of snow was almost overwhelming, MacNeil said. "It's only the first storm of the year and already we've used up all of our snow storage capacity in the corners of parking lots," he explained. "Ordinarily, this would not occur before the middle of February." Excess snow must be taken by front-end loader to lawns located near many of the lots so that any new snow can be pushed into the northwest or southwest corners of lots. MacNeil said the snow was not the only problem. Under such heavy use, equipment breaks down with considerable regularity. The University's four mechanics worked as much as 24 hours at a time to make repairs and keep the equipment running. "I don't think we could have done it without them," MacNeil said.

Did you know?

- The University has some100 parking areas totaling more than 120 acres that must be cleared following a snow storm.
- More than 20 miles of roadway and 59 miles of sidewalks must be cleared after each snow fall.
- All 47 members of the University's grounds crew are involved in snow removal. Of those, 12 are heavy equipment operators. To tackle the 35,000 square feet of steps which must be shoveled, 27 crew members work in groups of two or three, with each group shoveling 5,000 to 7,000 square feet of steps.
- Students, faculty and staff with special mobility needs during the winter can call landscape services at 78-5577 to request schedule adjustments to accommodate needs.

For grounds crew, it's 'snow' joke when two feet of snow and blizzard-force winds hit campus roads
Trustees approve retirements of six at meeting

The Board of Trustees approved the retirements of two faculty members and four staff members at its meeting Dec. 11. The faculty members retiring are: Donald Hoppel, professor of psychology and director of the department, effective Jan. 31, 1999; and Richard Williams, professor of computer science, effective Dec. 31, 1998; and Kenneth Lyon, professor of computer science, 30 years, May 1, 2003. The four staff members retiring are: John W. Beatty, director of media relations in inter-collegiate athletics, 30 years, effective June 30, 1999; James R. Dean, director of food services, 32 years, effective Jan. 1, 1999; and Howard Hoppel, planner-estimator, in plant-administrative services, effective Dec. 31, 1998; and Terry R. Stover, secretary, in maintenance services, 33 1/2 years, effective Dec. 31, 1998.

The board also approved the resignation of Todd J. Dicker, instructor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration, effective Aug. 8, 1998.

Engineering college decision delayed until later this month for closer examination, input

President Elon R. Floyd announced Dec. 10 that he will delay making a recommendation about where to build the University’s new College of Engineering until the United States facilities until sometime in January.

Floyd originally had planned to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the board’s Dec. 11 meeting. Both the cities of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo are vying to become home to the new college facilities along with new paper and printing research facilities and a National Technical Research park. Officials from both communities submitted written proposals for the project to the University Nov. 30.
Campus counseling center expands its community service impact in area

A WMU center with a long history of community service has a new director and has expanded its impact on communities in Southwest Michigan. Professor P. Hackworth, a counseling psychologist with a long record of service in Michigan community mental health work, has been appointed as the first full-time director of the center for Counseling and Psychological Services. The center, which was founded in 1964, has provided counseling for nearly 5,000 area residents over the years while serving as a training site for graduate students preparing for counseling careers as well as a site for faculty and student research.

Hackworth's appointment is to head the center, which is part of the Department of Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology. "We want to build a culture that will better facilitate research and broaden our students' experience," says Joseph R. Morris, CECP chairperson and the center's director. "O ur mission was always to provide service to under-served members of the community as a training site for our students and furthering the body of research in the field," says Betz. While the mission remains intact, there will be changes to the way the center operates that will enhance the impact of its elements, says Morris. A minimal sliding scale fee-for-service plan for individual clients, similar to payment methods other campus service providers use, will likely be adopted to help the center become self-supporting. "Hackworth comes to the University from St. Joseph, Mich., where he served as the chief executive officer of the Lighthouse Behavioral Health Facility."

Web watch

If you need to know the latest on weather or other weather-related topics, you can find it at the WMU/News Web page. The recipient of the WMU/News, which is maintained by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications, is the only site at the University that updated daily—a full year, including holidays. It was updated two or three times daily with news of the closing and opening of the University earlier this week.

One year ago, WMU/News was averaging about 1,000 hits per month. In the two weeks that the University was closed this week, WMU/News had more than 1,000 hits per day.

Faculty, staff volunteers needed to provide cultural experiences for international students

Faculty and staff members can learn about foreign cultures without leaving the confines of Michigan while helping international students improve their grasp of American culture and language through a campus program linking international students with faculty and staff at the University.

The Career English Language Center for International Students is looking for Faculty and Staff Volunteers from the University to provide international students with American family life and culture through interactions with their families.

The University has nearly 2,000 students from 97 nations. Most of the students are international students. International students are Asian, Latin American, European and Middle Eastern and are studying for degrees which require them for enrollment in the University.

To participate in the Friendship Families program or for more information, contact Cheryl Ruiter at 7-4802.

Obituaries

Lindsay Farnan, associate professor emeritus of industrial education, died Dec. 20 in Port Charlotte, Fla. He was 82.

Farnan, a native of Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada, retired in 1979 after 30 years at the University. He earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree from Iowa State University, where he taught in 1947-48.

He came to WMU in 1948 as an assistant professor and over the years served as state judge and program presenter at Michigan Industrial Education Society conventions.

David P. Karsten, professor emeritus of theatre, died Dec. 1 in Kalamaazoo. He was 71.

The recipient of a 1993 Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award and a WMU faculty member for 28 years, Karsten retired in 1995. During his years at the University, he directed five productions that were selected to compete in regional competitions of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival. He also was active with community and professional theatre organizations across Southwest Michigan. A graduate of Hope College, he earned master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Michigan, respectively. He taught in high schools in Hudsonville, Mich. and Yukon, Alaska, and was a doctoral student before joining the WMU faculty in 1968.

WMU Trustee Emeritus Philip N. Watterson of Ada, Mich. died Dec. 18 in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was 90.

Watterson, a 1932 WMU alumnus, had a career as a teacher and an executive with the auto industry before joining the WMU board of trustees in 1964. He was re-elected to the board for the next ten years, until 1974. He also served as director of the WMU Alumni Association. After his term as a director, he was appointed by the Board of Control of the Sate Council of Higher Education.

In 1975, Watterson was honored with the first WMU Distinguished Service Award during winter commencement ceremonies. He was subsequently named recipient of a WMU Distinguished Alumni Award.
MLK Day (Continued from page one)

were canceled for the observance but the University remained open. This is the 10th year that WMU has officially recognized the birthday of the slain civil rights leader. It is billed as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic celebration of the life and work of King.

It is my hope that all members of the University community will use the opportunity of this holiday to come together to honor King's dedication to equality and freedom for all persons," Ford said.

The MLK Day events include:

- The WMU student chapter of the NAACP's march to downtown Kalamazoo, leaving from the Bernhard Center at noon Jan. 18. A program of reflections will be presented.
- A science and art fair for Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County students, Knauss Hall, 10-11:50 a.m.; Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 and a portrait of King and his crusade for freedom and human rights.

The MLK site available at <www.wmich.edu/mlkday> provides an introduction that sets out the historical context of King's visit to WMU in 1963 and a discussion of the book by Derek Bok and William Bowen, sponsored by the Graduate School and the History Chair.

Charter schools (Continued from page one)

Charter schools are a continuing resource on King isa Web page at <www.mlkevent.com/mlkevent>. The MLK Web page at <www.mlkevent.com/mlkevent> provides an introduction that sets out the historical context of King's visit to WMU in 1963 and a discussion of the book by Derek Bok and William Bowen, sponsored by the Graduate School and the History Chair.

In 1999, the University officially has recognized the birthday of the slain civil rights leader. It is billed as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic celebration of the life and work of King.

Many other events and activities honoring King's birthday are listed in the Calendar section this week’s Western News. A complete list of events distributed to the University community next week will and will be available on the World Wide Web at <www.wmich.edu/mlkday> or through <www.wmich.edu/library/archives-MLK.html> .

The statement also says that the University grants "must not erode existing public education nor negatively affect the historical context of King's visit to WMU in 1963 and a portrait of King and his crusade for freedom and human rights."