Provost lays out planning process to chart WMU's academic future

Provost Timothy Light has outlined a strategic planning process for the University that will help set its course for the next five years. He presented his plan Jan. 5 to the Faculty Senate.

President Floyd issued a call for such a planning process last fall, which also is to include infrastructure and fund-raising elements.

Light told senators that he has established a committee of students, faculty members, staff and a member of the Board of Trustees that is to provide preliminary recommendations to the President by April 30. After he responds to that preliminary report, committee members will flesh out details and present a final report to Floyd by Aug. 31.

An open process

"During the process, there will be both asynchronous and possible and as many opportunities for community-wide input as possible," Light said. "I expect that this will include a Web site, hearings and open forums."

The committee (see list on page four) will be made up of staff members and consultants. Staff support includes Carol L. Stamm, associate vice president for academic affairs, and Margaret von Steinen, a non-traditional student majoring in communication and a Western Herald editor, who will serve as secretary.

Linda M. Delene, marketing, a former senate president, has agreed to serve as special assistant to the provost for strategic planning. David Kirby, a WMU graduate who heads a local consulting firm, PeopleWorks, will assist the committee.

An out-of-state academic consultant also will be available.

Light, who heads the committee, said the group is being provided with a number of specific charges, including:

• Treasure and strengthen core intellectual and social values.

Light

• Become flexible and responsive to external demands.

• Continue and recognize that WMU has a small number of students and modes of entry by students.

• Provide students with a seamless pathway from recruitment to job placement.

• Become international, global and comprehensive throughout the curriculum.

• Reflect in WMU's population and curriculum the diversity of American society.

• Make appropriate and imaginative use of technology in instruction.

Two subcommittees set

As part of the committee's charge, Light has identified two subcommittees: one on racial and ethnic diversity, to be headed by Lewis Walker, chairperson of sociology, and one on internationalization, to be headed by Ronald Davis, chairperson of history and director of the Haenicke Center for International Education.

Image experts on campus today to focus on improving Michigan's technology reputation

Image experts ranging from a research chief at North Carolina's famed Research Triangle to the former chief of Gateway computers will mount on campus today to examine ways to put a shine on Michigan's image as a high-tech business center.

"The Buzz Starts Here" is the theme of a special meeting of the Image and Culture Committee of the Governor's Innovation Forum, which will meet from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a public session at the Fetzer Center.

Participants, including business, government and university officials from across the state, will 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.

As acting hosts for the event will be President Floyd and Rick Snyder, president of the Ann Arbor-based PeopleWorks International.

Robert Filka, president of the Michigan Renaissance Fund and director of technological development and industry relations for the Michigan Job Commission, will issue the committee's charge for the day.

Floyd will open the meeting with a brief remarks.

Highlights of the meeting's morning session will include:

• A panel of communications, image and media experts from inside and outside the state, providing perspectives and suggestions on "Getting the Buzz Going" about Michigan's high-tech personality.

• A panel of communications, image and media experts from inside and outside the state, providing perspectives and suggestions on "Getting the Buzz Going" about Michigan's high-tech personality.

Panelists will include: Marcie Brogan, president of Brogan & Partners Inc. of Detroit; Paul Dickensheets, vice president of engineering for interiors, Johnson Controls; Craig Gaulding, a worldwide business and economic writer for Booth Newspapers; Mary Kramer, executive editor of Crain's Detroit Business; and Steve McLaughlin, a writer for Inc. magazine and Inc. Online. The panel will be moderated by David Harfield, president and chief executive officer of Keystone Commonwealth Bank of Farmington Hills.

Following a noon luncheon, Floyd will introduce Claude E. McKinney, professor of design at North Carolina State University and president of both the NCSU Research Corp. and Triangle Universities Center for Advanced Studies Inc. That center is a collaboration between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and NCSU. McKinney will give an insider's view of how North Carolina developed its Research Triangle and crafted an image as a high-tech state.

Following McKinney's address, participants will take part in breakout sessions to address internal and external solutions to Michigan's image problems.

Pulp conviction

The Department of Paper, Printing and Science and Engineering is taking its show on the road this year, giving hand-on demonstrations to more than 1,600 area school children. Barbara L. Reed, who is director of seminars and training for the department, is shown here making paper with students from East Elementary School in Comstock during a recent visit to the school. Students and faculty from throughout the department are taking part in the outreach effort designed to familiarize students with the paper and print industries. (Photo by Neil Rankin)
Two January 21, 1999 Western News

Decision process reinforced WMU's leadership position in region

By the time this week ends, you will know which city I will recommend to the Board of Trustees as the new home for our University. But for the moment, I would like to discuss some important points that set this process apart from others in the past.

This decision is one that will profoundly affect the future of our University and I am positive that, while making the decision, I could include you with a valuable input in my deliberations. I did bring you remiss if I did not extend my thanks to those of you who demonstrated a willingness to share your opinions, expertise and desires.

Across the campus, many faculty and staff members acknowledged that the stakeholders were able to set aside their personal preferences and focus on what is best for the University. Frank and open discussions with results and participants made their feelings abundantly clear.

Because so many voices and opinions were heard and considered, I have great confidence in the correctness of our decision.

We went through a difficult process. But there was value in this process that led to the outcome of a decision that the WMU community will support.

The process was difficult. But there was a reward to that process and a lesson that must not be overshadowed by news of our decision.

I want to thank the many representatives from Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, we were given ample evidence of the high regard the citizens of this region have for our University. Two communities let us know, in no uncertain way, how much they want to be a part of what we do and what we represent. It is a message that should fill each of us with pride. I will remember the sincerity and depth of that message as future challenges and opportunities present themselves. Hope each of you will do the same.

People outside the University made it very clear during our discussions that they realize what many of you have known for a year. This University is vital to the growth of the entire region. This is not just a Kalamazoo institution, but a statewide one.

I am very clear during our discussions that they realize what many of you have known for a year. This University is vital to the growth of the entire region. This is not just a Kalamazoo institution, but a statewide one. It has been rewarding to hear that so many feel strongly about our leadership role in this area, but it brings special responsibility as well. We have a moral imperative to bring this institution’s considerable resources to bear on economic development initiatives.

In the future, you will see this administration make every effort to bring the surrounding communities together. It is critically important that we work in tandem with our neighbors throughout the region to develop the I-94 corridor into the business and economic powerhouse that it can be. It will only happen if we set aside the traditional barriers that have separated communities from working together. Regional cooperation is absolutely vital to what WMU and the communities it serves are to continue to grow.

The President's Comments

Elson S. Floyd

Reading set for Milford's leading undertaker and poet

The man who buries a couple hundred of his fellow townspeople each year, university President Thomas Lynch, will present a reading of his work on campus Thursday, Jan. 28.

A reading by the Milford, Mich., undertaker and poet is set for 8:30 p.m. Jan 25 in Knies Hall. The reading, sponsored by the Department of English, is free and open to the public.

The winner of an American Book Award and a nationally known National Book Award for his history book "The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade," Lynch has been described as a cross between Charles Dickens and an Irish poet. His most recent work, "Still Life in Milford," explores life, death, history and memory, and the local and larger geography.

His poems and essays have appeared in Harper's, the London Review of Books, The New Yorker and the Paris Review. For more information, call Julie Stontz at 373-9212.

Two-month gift total tops $1.3 million

More than $1,360,000 in cash and non-cash gifts was received in October and November by the WMU Foundation, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees at its Dec. 11 meeting in Grand Rapids.

The foundation, which was established in 1976, receives gifts for a variety of University departments, programs and activities.

It reported receiving cash and non-cash gifts of $964,788 in October and $404,460 in November for a total of $1,369,248. This puts the total gifts received by the foundation at $3,732,260 since the 1998-99 fiscal year began July 1. The amount is $1,255,331 more than the total gifts received last year at this time.

The major gifts received were $619,703 of a planned $1.5 million anonymous donation to create the Bernardine M. Lacey Nursing Chair in the College of Health and Human Services. The previously announced gift establishes a permanent endowed chair in the School of Nursing that is named in honor of Lacey, the school's founding director.

The report also noted a second anonymous donation for WMU's gift annuity program and two $10,000 donations in support of health care-related scholarships.

The estate of Alma S. Boughey gave $10,309,000 to establish the Alma S. Boughey Occupational Therapy Scholarship. Proceeds from the permanent endowment fund will go toward scholarships for full-time undergraduate students in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Boughey of Marble Falls, Texas, died earlier this year. She received a bachelor of science degree with a concentration in occupational therapy from WMU in 1953.

Her career included service as chief of occupational therapy for Veterans Affairs hospital.

Also honored this year was the $10,000 gift donated by Mary Ruth White to establish the Helen Elizabeth Gibbens Endowed Scholarship for students pursuing a degree in occupational therapy. Scholarships generated from this endowment will support full-time students in the Department of Physician Assistant.

White, of Buchanan, Mich., made the donation in honor of her sister, Helen Gibbens, who died this year. Gibbens, an assistant professor emeritus, worked as a nurse and a nursing supervisor at WMU's health center.

Two months ago, her brother, Philip, a retired professor, gave the University in 1946 after serving as an Army lieutenant and nurse in World War II.

History from Albion to Zeeland uncovered through new regional guide

A new "Guide to Western Michigan University's Regional History Collections" is designed to pave the way for professional historians and local history buffs alike as they explore Michigan information about areas ranging from Arcadia Creek to Zeeland.

With entries noting Riverside Cemetery records, evidence of labor unrest at the Kalamazoo Corset Co., the business records of F.D. Garrison's Kalamazoo Mint Distillery, and 18 minutes of film from the Schoolcraft Temperance Society, the 342-page guide provides clues about the wildly diverse records in the WMU and it serves to continue to grow.

The guide, published by WMU's New Publications and Communications office, is free and open to the public through New Publications and Communications at 1111 W. Beach St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5165.

"Our holdings information is not yet online," she notes. "That's the next step. The information will be part of the University's new, Web-based WestCAT catalog/reference service."

The guide is available through New Publications Press for $3.5. Persons wishing to order a copy should call 7-8743.
Trustees approve naming of two interim chairpersons, faculty appointment for Floyd

The Board of Trustees Dec. 11 approved the appointments of two interim department leaders in the Department of Dining Services, effective Jan. 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000.

Mabrey was named interim director of the School of Aviation, effective Nov. 26, 1998. Kenneth D. Bartholomew was named interim director of dining services, effective Jan. 19, 1999.

Orientation leaders sought for summer positions

Staff and faculty are asked to lend a hand to the Office of Admissions and Orientation by identifying students who would be good orientation leaders. A total of 30 students with strong leadership skills are needed for the summer orientation program. Application forms are available, and transfer students make the transition to WMU.

The activities orientation leader students are responsible for include facilitating small groups of new students and parents, explaining academic opportunities and procedures, and assisting in the development of class schedules and the registration process. Qualifications for the positions include excellent communication skills, a 2.3 minimum grade point average and good organizational skills and flexibility. Orientation leaders must have completed one year of college, or have one year of work experience, and be good orientation leaders. A total of 36 students make the transition to WMU.

Weits, community health services; and Victoria A. Wade, physical plant-building custodial and support services. Bartholomew, a 31-year veteran of WMU's food service system, replaces James R. Dean, whose retirement was also approved by the board this Dec. 11 meeting.

Bartholomew, a 1966 graduate of Ferris State University, joined the WMU faculty in 1967 as an assistant supervisor of managed food service operations in Spindler Hall and Valleys #2 and #3 before being named assistant director of dining services, a position he has held since 1977.

In other personnel action, the board approved a return to the faculty for Robert E. Shamu, chairperson of the Department of Physiology, effective June 30, 1999.

Service

These faculty and staff members are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service to the University in January.

10 years—Wesley Aptheker, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Matthew J. Babin, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Jace S. Stell, computer information systems; Nancy M. Aalsburg, University computing services; Joseph F. Hamilton, University Counselor and Testing Center; Matthew J. Kruska, University computing services; Katherine J. Goiser, community information systems and research services; Cherri S. Neuman, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Allan C. Poole, University computing services; Joseph E. Henry/Hojek/Bigelow dining services; John J. Rook, physical plant-building maintenance services; Arthur E. Sindecuse Health Center; and Kathleen M. Wine, Valley #2 dining service.

25 years—Glory J. Hendrickson, inter-collegiate athletics; Katherine Kinsley, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Donna M. Ring, University libraries; William Squiers, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Edtn Weits, community health services; and Ruby Wilson, physical plant-building custodial and support services.

15 years—Wendy C. Asmus, education; Lynn C. Kell/McKintosh, student employment referral service; John E. Martell Jr., Lee Honors College; and Susan E. Oster, Center for Developmentally Disabiled Adults.

10 years—Joyce A. Alexander, accounts payable; Steven H. Early, physical plant-building maintenance services; Joseph F. Eskowski, University computing services; Robert E. Fedorchak, physical plant-building maintenance services; Jeanine M. Hamilton, University Counseling and Testing Center; Michael T. Hruska, University computing services; Kathryn G. Goiser, community information systems and research services; Cherri S. Neuman, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Allan C. Poole, University computing services; Joseph E. Henry/Hojek/Bigelow dining services; John J. Rook, physical plant-building maintenance services; E. E. Sindecuse Health Center; and Kathleen M. Wine, Valley #2 dining service.

10 years—Gary M. Stanczak, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Thomas H. Ayers, Information Management; Maureen M. Sommers, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Joan S. Stoff, Information Management; and Audrey L. Westmore, information management system.

9 years—Nanci M. Aalsburg, University computing services; Jerry L. Brodsky, University computing services; and Richelle Kuss, information management system.

8 years—Barbara M. Anderson, information management system; and Jo Ann R. Sheid, information management system.

7 years—Nanci M. Aalsburg, University computing services; Kristy L. Hannon, physical plant-building custodial and support services; Joseph F. Calvin, University computing services; Shelly R. Wright, customer account services; and Christy L. Mitchell, information management system.

6 years—Nanci M. Aalsburg, University computing services; Mark D. Poole, University computing services; Joseph F. Calvin, University computing services; Shelly R. Wright, customer account services; and Christy L. Mitchell, information management system.

5 years—Vicki M. Kuss, information management system; Mary B. Kuss, information management system; and Christy L. Mitchell, information management system.

The Department of Human Resources has decided to conduct a review of University pay practices, the (Hay) job evaluation and classification system, and the performance management system for nonbargaining employees.

Many of these human resources systems were developed during the early 1980s, and human resources recognizes the value of obtaining periodic professional reviews to ensure efficiency and accuracy in light of changing methodology and needs.

Human resources has retained the international consulting firm of Towers Perrin to conduct the review. The review will be completed over the next several months, and the final report will be presented to senior executive officials in March 1999.

Towers Perrin will conduct administrative and academic executive briefings; focus groups with a cross-section of clerical/technical employees, professional/technical/administrative employees, supervisors personnel, and the academic deans; and data analysis. The firm will use information gathered to assess strengths and weaknesses of current systems and practices.

On campus

The Los Angeles Times has chosen a World Wide Web site constructed by two WMU faculty members as a "Times Pick.

The site, created by Richelle Kuss and Alan Rea, both business information systems, provides answers to frequently asked questions about the Year 2000 problem. The address is <http://unix.cc.umin.edu/rea/Y2K/FAQ.html>.

The site is provided to visitors to its own site as a guide to what's new, timely, useful and interesting on the Web.


Thursday, January 21

Thursday, January 21 (through Jan. 22) Exhibition, "Acute Observations," photography by Ryan Flathau and Communications for use in Western 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 visit the College of Education for more information.

Friday, January 22

School of Music pedagogy session, pianist Marvin Blickenstaff, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Meeting, WMU Board of Trustees, Cointe Board Room, 11 a.m.; BOT Committee, 206-207 Benerdt Hall, 1-5 p.m.; and Student Affairs Committee, 9 a.m. and Budget and Finance Committee, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 25 (through Jan. 29) Exhibition, BFA Degree Show, photography by Sara Struckmeyer, World Wide Web. Select WMU News and then look for Calendar of Events. You can also visit the College of Education for more information.

Saturday, January 23

School of Music master class, Richard Cass, piano, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 10 a.m.

For International and Area Studies, Affirming his own commitment to the liberal arts and classical studies, Light also involved in four NSF-funded projects that are charged with the development of instructional materials in science and mathematics.

Thursday, January 28

Wednesday, January 27

School of Music Convocation Series performance, Eric Ruske, horn, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 1 p.m.


School of Computer Science and Engineering, "Computing and Beyond: A Joint Conference on Computing and Corporate Strategies," 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Student Affairs Committee, 9 a.m. Information for people with special needs as identified sidewalk curb cuts and ramps; handicap parking spots; emergency phones; and accessible restrooms; handicap parking entrances, automatic ramp or grade-level changes; accessible restrooms; handicap parking entrances, automatic ramps.

Thursday, January 28

Meeting, Faculty Senate's Graduate Studies Committee, Faculty Lounge, Berhard Center, 2-4 p.m.

Thursday, February 4

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Thursday, January 21

MLK Day events: Poetry recital by members of the African Students Association, noon-and Jan. 22) Exhibition, "Acute Observations," photography by Ryan Flathau and Brandon Morkut, Rotunda Gallery, East Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; reception, Friday, Jan. 22, 5-7 p.m.

Special visitors to the Image and Culture Committee of the Governor's Innovation Forum to address Michigan'sproblem, Fetzer Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Library universities libraries to work on "ScienceDirect" web database, Classroom A, Waldock Library, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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Planning process

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Strategic Planning Committee members

One graduate student, one undergraduate and two graduate students.

Map outlines campus special needs access

One new campus map is making it easier for many students and visitors to get around the university.

Campus Accessibility Map, which debuted this fall, provides important information for specialists who can help districts select and implement new mathematics programs for students.

One of the new grants reported to the board were awards totaling $130,846 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to WMUK.

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