Grants top $31 million in record finish to 1997-98 fiscal year

The University has closed the books on a record year of grants that saw external awards to the University soar past the $31 million mark for the first time in history.

June grants to the University of $2,493,249 brought the total received by the June 30 close of the 1997-98 fiscal year to $31,028,830. That amount surpasses the 1996-97 previous record grant total of $25,019,439 by more than $6 million, an increase of 24 percent. The figures were reported to the Board of Trustees at its July 24 meeting.

Donald E. Thompson, vice president for research, said the $6 million increase is the largest single-year jump in grant totals in the University’s history. He characterized the huge increase as one that was unusual for its size, but not unexpected.

“It’s not an accident,” Thompson said. “We have, for the last 10 years, been on an upward spiral, doing better and better and better. And that bodes well for federal funding opportunities,” Thompson said. “We’ve been developing a larger cadre of faculty in the sciences who are successful in securing grants. We also have a new science building that, when complete, will support an even broader base of research.”

The 1997-98 grant total included more

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Trustees’ decision means University will continue its seventh-place state ranking in tuition and fees costs

The Board of Trustees July 24 approved a 1998-99 tuition schedule that maintains the affordability of the state’s fourth-largest and most complex university, despite an increase in tuition.

Even with this year’s increase, WMU continues to rank seventh in tuition and fees among the state’s 15 public universities for 1998-99 at $3,929 for a full-time in-state freshman or sophomore. Last year’s cost was $3,655. Students who take fewer than 31 credit hours during the year will pay less.

The University also ranks seventh in state appropriations per student at $5,474 and in total revenue per student at $9,403.

Floyd takes helm on Aug. 1

Elson S. Floyd will begin his first official day at work as the University’s sixth president Monday, Aug. 3, with an informal morning news conference and a live interactive videoconference.

Floyd takes office as WMU president on Saturday, Aug. 1, succeeding President Haenicke who is returning to the faculty after 13 years as the University’s leader.

The videoconference, which will originate from the Fetzer Center at noon, will give invited alumni and University friends in seven cities a chance to see and talk to Floyd using compressed video technology. The videoconference sites are located in Battle Creek, Chicago, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Holland, Lansing and St. Joseph.

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(Continued on page four)
Five Kalamazoo churches and several individuals have pledged to donate $90,000 in a joint effort that will help undergraduate students attend WMU.

The money will be designated by the WMU Foundation to create five endowed scholarship funds in the name of the participating churches. Earnings from the endowments will allow each of the churches to award at least one scholarship per year. To be eligible, either the applicants or their parents must attend and be members of the church sponsoring the scholarship.

Astronaut Jemison will give keynote address in series aimed at improving science and math achievement

The nation's first African-American female astronaut will deliver the keynote address for an Aug. 12-14 campus seminar designed to help educators improve mathematics and science learning in minority students.

Mae Jemison, who made history in 1992 when she traveled into space as a member of the crew of the Space Shuttle Endeavor, will speak at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 13 in the Fetzer Center. Her address is part of the "Goals 2000 Mathematics and Science Seminar Series" being sponsored by the Institute for Leadership Transformation in collaboration with the Michigan African-American Superintendents Association.

Jemison is now a professor of environmental studies and director of the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries at Dartmouth College. She will be joined in the seminar series by nine other leading American educators, including Robert Moses, founder of the Algebra Project Inc., and George McKenna III of the Compton (Calif.) Unified School District. For a complete seminar schedule, see the calendar on page four of Western News.

The series is free and open to the public, but those who plan to attend must register by calling the Institute for Leadership Transformation at 7-8370.

Trustees adopt 1998-99 general fund budget

At its July 24 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a 1998-99 general fund operating budget of $199.1 million, an increase of $10.7 million over last year's revenue base.

The budget reflects increases in state appropriations of $3 million and in tuition income of $7.2 million as well as a decrease of $598,000 in interest income. The budget includes a projected excess of spending over income of $214,000, which is within the normal range.

The biggest increases are for faculty and staff compensation, at $6.2 million; incentives for teaching assistants and doctoral associates, at $1 million; and student financial aid, at $750,000. They constitute 80 percent of the increases in this year's general fund budget.

"These increases represent an investment in the people who deliver and support a quality educational experience for our students as well as our efforts to help soften the impact of this year's tuition increase on our students and their families," said President Haenicke.

"Our goal is to meet our commitment to our faculty to bring their salaries into line with their colleagues at other major universities in the state and to attract the best master's and doctoral candidates," he continued. "This is the primary way we can enhance the quality of our programs and help the University move forward."

The rest of the increase comes from utilities, library acquisitions, equipment, two research regulatory staff positions, student bussing, gender equity in athletics and the opening of new buildings.
Board approves Rapley and Saunders appointments, four retirements

Two academic appointments were among the personnel actions taken July 24 by the Board of Trustees.

Frank E. Rapley, dean of the College of Education, will assume additional responsibilities as acting dean of the Division of Continuing Education, effective Aug. 1, 1998. He replaces James A. Visser, whose return to the faculty was approved by the board in June.

Also appointed was Peter M. Saunders, who will become the director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, effective Sept. 1, 1998. The center encompasses the area previously known as the Office of Faculty Development Services. Saunders also will hold a non-tenure track faculty appointment in the Department of Business Information Systems.

Rapley has served in his current position since 1996 and came to the University after serving for 14 years as superintendent of the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Previously, he was a deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent with the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Ky. He earned a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University in Minnesota and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia.

Saunders comes to WMU from Lehigh University, where he has served as director of the Center for Business Communications and associate professor of business since 1994. Previously, he served as director of the Teaching-Learning Center in Erindale College at the University of Toronto and as director of the Center for Professional Writing at the University of Waterloo. Saunders earned a bachelor’s degree from Pace University and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Toronto.

The board also accepted the resignations of these faculty members: Norma G. Catalan, foreign languages and literatures, effective June 24, 1998; Donald L. Fixico, history, effective Dec. 31, 1998; Srinivas Garimella, mechanical and aeronautical engineering, effective Aug. 9, 1998; George Guthrie, geology, effective Aug. 1, 1998; and Dr. Troy V. Mariage, special education, effective Aug. 14, 1998.

Trustees also approved a professional development leave for Susan A. Fox, communications, effective July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999.

In other personnel action, trustees granted retirement with emerita status to Susan B. Hannah, public affairs and administration, effective April 18, 1999. Hannah, who will have 23 years of service to the University at the time of her retirement, also was granted a leave of absence, effective Aug. 8, 1998, through April 18, 1999.

The board also granted retirement to three faculty and staff members. They are, along with their years of service and effective retirement dates: Anna K. Campbell, psychology, 24 years, effective April 30, 1999; Allen R. Chase, dining services, 33 years, effective Aug. 31, 1998; and Robert D. Havira, geology, 28 years, effective Aug. 14, 1998.

Biosafety policy updated to meet new federal guidelines

The Board of Trustees July 24 approved a revised institutional biosafety policy for all recombinant DNA research conducted by scientists on campus.

The revision is the result of changes in federal guidelines governing recombinant DNA research activities. The University consistently updates its policy to keep pace with changes in the federal rules and regulations.

Recombinant DNA research involves taking DNA molecules from a natural or synthetic source and growing them in an artificial cell. WMU researchers use this method in cells derived from plants, animals or viruses. The research might be used to explore genetic mutations or to improve the heartiness of particular agricultural crops.

“When research is conducted, it needs to be reviewed by some regulatory body to ensure that it’s in compliance with specific guidelines,” said Loreene L. Broker, Officer of the Vice President for Research. “In this case, it’s the National Institutes of Health ‘Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules.’ These are the guidelines that all researchers on campus must follow in order to conduct this type of research.”

Jobs

The following list of vacancies is currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application during the posting period, and may contact the employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

S-01 and S-02 clerical positions are not 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.


(R) Clerk II, S-03, Admissions and Orientation, 98/99-026, 7/28-8/03/98.

(R) Instructor (academic year; terminal), 1-40, Marketing, 98/99-032, 7/28-8/03/98.

(R) Secretary II, S-05, Education and Professional Development, 98/99-036, 7/28-8/03/98.

(R) Director, Annual Giving, P-06, External Affairs/Development, 98/99-037, 7/28-8/03/98.

Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(R) Replacement

WMU is an EO/AA employer
International and area studies center named for Haenicke

Attending his final meeting of the Board of Trustees before his July 31 retirement, President Haenicke was honored July 24 with the naming of an international studies center in tribute to him.

The naming of the Diether Haenicke Center for International and Area Studies was approved by trustees at the meeting to honor Haenicke, who is retiring from the presidency to return to the faculty. The center, which was established by board action in April 1997, serves as a coordinating body to provide an intellectual and academic hub for the increasing number of faculty members with international expertise.

"During his entire career here in the Midwest, Diether Haenicke has worked to encourage Americans to expand their horizons," said Provost Timothy Light, who made the recommendation to the board. "Since he's been here, his efforts have expanded international language and study opportunities, and he's worked to internationalize the institution as a whole."

President Haenicke's efforts in international education were recognized by the anonymous donor who established an endowment in 1997 to support the center, Light said. The donor asked that the center be named for the president when he stepped down from office.

Administered by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the center is housed in the Office of International Affairs. It serves as the focus for four specialized programs: African, Asian, European and Latin Studies.

Grants (Continued from page one)

than $16.5 million in awards to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, with more than $9 million of that figure coming to the School of Engineering Sciences in the form of pilot-training contracts with international airlines and money from the City of Battle Creek and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to enhance facilities and programs.

That college also was successful in securing funding from the corporate world with such developments as a recently announced award for nearly $3 million from Moldflow Corp. of Lexington, Mass. The award will be used to set up a computer design center on campus that Moldflow can use for corporate training and faculty and students can use for research and instruction.

That arrangement and others like it, Thompson said, enhances the University's reputation in the applied sciences and will enable faculty members to build research capacity on the cutting edge of their discipline. Ultimately, that capability will lead to even greater research opportunities.

Thompson said grant activity in areas targeted last year for an infusion of funds through the University's jump-start initiative also is increasing. The jump-start funds provide research support in areas in which University researchers have potential for increased federal funding. Thompson expects that initiative to result in major gains in future years in such fields as chemistry, biological sciences and the health and human service fields.

"We have positioned ourselves nicely to get federal funding in a variety of fields," Thompson said. "We have enough players in enough areas that we can be very successful in the federal arena. I really have to credit our faculty's energy and competence in getting to this level as well as my staff's work in helping faculty follow through on their proposals."

Thompson said he's especially pleased with the development of a core group of young faculty members who have particular expertise in research and development. These young faculty members have enjoyed a high success rate in securing funding for their proposals.

Nearly 100 young faculty members have taken part over the past five years in a Research and Development Award program designed to hone their grant-seeking skills. Of that number, 75 percent have submitted proposals for funding and 60 percent of those have been successful, attracting about $5 million in grants to the University.