1996-97 grants set record, topping $25 million for the first time

The University has closed the books on its largest grant year ever, passing the $25 million mark for the first time in history.

June grants to the University of $1,730,572 brought the total received by the June 30 close of the 1996-97 fiscal year to $25,019,439 — up 4 percent over the previous record total of $24.1 million set in 1995-96. The new figure, reported to the Board of Trustees at its July 25 meeting, represents the University's third consecutive year of posting grant totals in excess of $20 million.

Donald E. Thompson, vice president for research, attributes much of the recent research gains to the caliber of the team of researchers the University has assembled and to the research support mechanisms and personnel who work to make the grant process run smoothly.

Board establishes search advisory committee

The Board of Trustees July 25 approved a resolution establishing a Presidential Search Advisory Committee and named Richard G. Haworth of Holland, chairperson of the board, as the committee's chairperson.

It is the board's “primary concern ... to select the best possible president” for WMU, the resolution stated. “The board recognizes the importance of the involvement and participation of the University community in this important undertaking.”

“It is the board's responsibility, and the board's alone, to make the final selection of a successor to President Dieter H. Haenicke,” said Haworth, citing the resolution. “However, ours will be a highly inclusive, representative search process. It will be conducted in full and complete compliance with the state's open meetings law, and it will seek broad participation of the University and larger communities.”

Haenicke, who has been president of WMU since 1985, announced June 27 that he would step down as president to return to the faculty, effective July 31, 1998. He is the University's fifth president since it was established in 1903.

“We have really been blessed to have attracted top quality faculty members in the past four or five years,” Thompson says. The mentoring process that teams senior and junior faculty members as well as the support of senior administration and the deans also have been critical ingredients in the success, he says.

Thompson says efforts to be more visible in making contact with federal agencies and the national recognition attracted by some of the University's outstanding researchers have made the task of attracting both grant dollars and talented new faculty members easier.

“Kudos really go to our faculty. It's their strength, their ability to perform well when they get awards and their willingness to go after new awards that have made all the difference,” he says. “And all the indicators say we'll continue to attract this kind of success.”

Thompson says grant funding to the University has entered a new era with the $25 million total recorded for the fiscal year just completed. The figure has been a recent goal and part of the institution's long-term plan for advancement. Achieving the total while President Haenicke is still at the helm, Thompson notes, is a tribute to his leadership and the support he has brought to the research enterprise.

“We've said for some time we thought we were a $25 million research institution,” Thompson says. “People across the University are now on board and recognize that we are on the cusp of becoming a Research II institution.”

WMU is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as Michigan's only public Doctoral I institution. The University has been working recently toward placement in the foundation's next highest category of Research II. Research II institutions are those that receive a minimum of $15.5 million in federal funds annually in addition to supporting the kind of doctoral programs that WMU already offers. WMU's federal funding has averaged $10 million per year over the past three years.

“Proposal submission numbers are up, the number of awards granted is up and we have more researchers in the pipeline than ever before. This is exactly where we wanted to be,” Thompson says. “Some of the new faculty coming in the next year are the kind of people who will continue to keep us on this track.”

Major grants noted on Thompson's June report to the trustees included several federal awards that reflect both the basic and applied research realms in which WMU researchers have been successfully competing as well as grants for innovative academic programming. Two such awards from the U.S. Department of Education will

(Continued on page four)
The University has a new general fund operating budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year that began July 1 that totals $188.4 million. It represents an increase of $9.1 million or 5 percent over last year’s budget of $179.2 million.

The new budget was approved July 25 by the Board of Trustees. The University had been operating under the authority of last year’s budget until the level of state appropriations was known. WMU is to receive $107.9 million in state funds for 1997-98, an increase of 4 percent.

The budget carries a projected deficit of just under $1.4 million. Of that, $1 million will be made up by one half of 1 percent in cuts to each of the University’s five vice presidential areas and the Office of the President. The remaining $399,100 will be accounted for through normal employee turnover. This is the fifth time since 1991 that WMU has been required to set a target budget reduction.

Income from tuition and fees is expected to generate $76.4 million, a $4.9 million increase over last year. Income from indirect cost recovery from research and sponsored programs is projected at $1.5 million, the same as last year.

Despite its budget limitations, the University still will be able to support new initiatives in several areas. The University’s academic programs will continue to be bolstered with an additional nine faculty positions, five of them for faculty members with significant international expertise. The number of doctoral associates will be increased by 20 and faculty computer resources will be increased by $250,000.

The University’s academic advising staff will be increased by two positions and two computer technicians will be added to support those services. Equipment for the Science Research Pavilion now under construction will receive $500,000 and gender equity in intercollegiate athletics will get $115,000.

The largest increase in expenses over last year comes in faculty and staff compensation, at 4.5 percent or $6.1 million. Supplies will go up by 3 percent, utilities by 6 percent and student financial aid by 6.6 percent. Funds for library acquisitions will increase by 10 percent.

In other action, the board authorized the administration to enter into a contract with James E. Fulton & Sons Inc. of Kalamazoo for site demolition, clearing and excavation on a major addition to Waldo Stadium. Called the Bronco Alumni Football Center, the 50,000-square-foot addition and renovation of the stadium will provide new locker rooms, coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, training rooms and other facilities (see architect’s rendering below).

The entire cost of the $7 million project is being met through private donations. This is the first of several contracts that are to be awarded as the project continues. Tower, Pinkster, Titus and Associates of Kalamazoo is the architect and Kallward-Bergerson of Kalamazoo is the construction manager/general contractor. The project is expected to be completed by the start of the 1998-99 football season.

The board also authorized the administration to execute agreements for refinancing existing debt and borrowing additional funds for three projects. They include renovating, constructing and equipping facilities for athletics, engineering and parking. The borrowing is being done on a tax-free basis.

In addition, the board authorized the administration to execute documents to acquire the property housing the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, which adjoins East Campus along Oakland Drive and Howard Street.

The state Legislature authorized the transfer of the property late last year. It includes about 120 acres and 20 buildings. The Department of Community Mental Health will lease a portion of the facilities for the operation of the hospital for a nominal fee.
Tenure granted to 21 faculty members

Twenty-one faculty members were approved for tenure July 25 by the Board of Trustees. The appointments are effective with the beginning of the 1997-98 academic year.

The faculty members and their departments, by academic rank, are: professor — R.V. Krishnamurthy, geology.

Associate professor — Nora Berrah, physics; Linda J. Borish, history; Liwana S. Bringelton, industrial and manufacturing engineering; Susan M. Carlson, sociology; Margie J. Geasler, family and consumer sciences; Jerry W. Gilley, education and professional development; John Jellies, biological sciences; Bharti J. Katbamna, speech pathology and audiology; Stephen B. Malcolm, biological sciences; John Martino, mathematics and statistics; Joshua Naranjo, mathematics and statistics; Galen E. Rike, University libraries; Tal L. Simmons, anthropology; Dennis K. Strasser, University libraries; Mercedes Tasende, foreign languages and literatures; Grace C. Tiffany, English; and Elizabeth Whitten, special education.

Assistant professor — Lisa E. Baker, psychology; Patrick A. Benton, aviation sciences; and Mary Jo Peterson, family and consumer sciences.

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 an 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) Secretary III (Term Ends 6/30/98), S-06, Office of the Vice President for Re-Exchanges


FOR SALE — Queen-sized four-poster waterbed with heater and liner. $65. Call 7-3278 or 345-2935.

WMU junior to appear on ‘Sunday Morning’

A WMU music student will be the focus of an eight-minute feature story on the popular CBS program “Sunday Morning” at 9 a.m. Aug. 17.

Shawn “Thunder” Wallace, a saxophonist from Eaton Rapids, will be profiled in a story by jazz pianist Billy Taylor, who is also a correspondent for the program. Taylor has followed Wallace’s career for a number of years, but plans to do a story about him didn’t emerge until the two performed together in a concert last summer.

Wallace, a junior, is considered one of the rising stars in the field and his personal story is extraordinary. He began studying classical and jazz music with his father at age six. In fact, his first instrument, the alto saxophone, was so heavy for his young hands that he had to build a special stand to hold it.

Before he reached his teens, Wallace was composing his own work and performing as a guest soloist with professional big bands. By age 14, he recorded his first album and opened for Ray Charles at a jazz festival. Wallace now has four CDs and a number of awards to his credit. A fifth CD is currently in the works and he has opened or shared the stage with Spyro Gyra, Branford Marsalis and others.

For Wallace, being the subject of a CBS news story was an interesting and in-depth experience. CBS crews spent a weekend at his home, taped him at a jazz club in Detroit and spent an entire day at WMU, where they filmed him performing in a Jazz Orchestra concert, rehearsing with the Symphonic Band and presenting a jazz flute workshop. Crews also followed him around campus, gathering footage of him eating lunch, participating in his Bible study and lifting weights at the Student Recreation Center.

“He’s a great student, a wonderful young man and very, very talented and serious,” says Trent P. Kynaston, music. “Shawn works extremely hard and I think that’s important. Many times you’ll get students who have a natural ability at something and they just kind of lay back and wait for it to happen. I don’t think he works hard because he’s trying to be great. He just loves it so much that he’s constantly involved in the music.”

In addition to the saxophone, Wallace plays numerous other instruments including the flute, clarinet and piano. He also sings. Wallace says he plans to attend graduate school and eventually become a teacher at the college level.

Trustees endorse proposals for two degree programs

The Board of Trustees July 25 approved two degree programs designed to meet the needs of professionals in their respective fields.

The trustees endorsed recommendations to offer a doctor of philosophy degree in counselor education and a master of science degree in construction management.

The Ph.D. degree replaces a doctor of education degree that WMU has offered in counselor education since the late 1960s. The change in the program will take effect this fall.

The M.S. in construction management is a new program designed to meet the needs of engineering and technology graduates working in the construction industry who want to play an active role in the management of state, national or international construction. No master’s level program of this kind presently is offered in the state.

Beginning with the winter semester in January 1998, the University plans to offer the program live at its Grand Rapids Regional Center and to broadcast it to its main campus in Kalamazoo.
Social work honors Amos with scholarship fund

The School of Social Work is establishing a scholarship fund in honor of Freida M. Amos.

Amos, a secretary in the school's Office of Admissions and Student Services, is retiring in July after 24 years of service. The scholarship is intended to celebrate the energy, enthusiasm and support Amos brought to her job. "We believe that a fitting memorial to this wonderful, warm and caring person would be a scholarship offered in her name," said Gary Mathews, social work.

The school is hoping to collect more than $10,000 so that the scholarship can be continued in perpetuity. If less is received, the scholarship will be awarded for a limited number of years.

The first scholarship will be awarded in spring 1998. Criteria for selection will be decided in consultation with Amos.

To contribute to the fund, persons should send a check, made payable to the WMU Foundation with "Amos Scholarship" noted somewhere on it, to Sue L. Barnette, social work.

Tuition increase OK'd

The Board of Trustees July 25 approved rates for tuition and fees for 1997-98. The total includes a 5.5 percent increase in tuition over last year's tuition and fees, an increase in the University's fee for technology and the addition of an infrastructure fee for deferred maintenance. For full-time Michigan freshmen and sophomores taking 31 credit hours, the increase amounts to $322.90 for 1997-98.

Search (Continued from page one)

this search," Haworth said. Ludlow, a 1950 WMU graduate, served as a member of the WMU Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1987 and was chairperson of the search that recommended Haenicke for the presidency in 1985.

The process will include internal constituency sessions that will help the committee create an institutional profile, from which desired presidential characteristics will be developed. Public input will be solicited. A pre-search study by the consulting firm, the institutional profile and the desired presidential characteristics will be presented at a meeting of the Board of Trustees for review and approval.

This is expected to occur by late fall, after which the position will be advertised, and nominations and applications sought. The committee is to seek out candidates "observing the equal opportunity/affirmative action and other relevant personnel policies and applicable state and federal law and following proven procedures that will lead to the appointment of the best qualified person for the presidency," the resolution stated.

By spring 1998, the committee is expected to present the names of five unranked finalists to the full board, as is required by the open meetings law. The resolution stipulates that "there is to be no communication between the Board of Trustees members on the committee and other board members about the candidate list or other work of the committee." However, the committee is to make periodic public reports to the board and the public.

Once five candidates are identified by the committee, the board by law must wait at least 30 days before making an appointment. The finalists will be invited to the campus for public presentations. They also will be interviewed in a public session of the Board of Trustees.

"Our goal is to have the five finalists identified before the end of the 1998 winter semester so that as many members of the University community are available to participate as possible," Haworth said. "But, as with any dynamic process, it is impossible to predict exactly when any part of the search will be completed."

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by the Office of Marketing, Public Relations and Communications for use in Western News is available through WMU's home page on the World Wide Web. Select University Information and then look for the Calendar of Events under the News and Events heading. You can also link directly to the calendar at this URL: http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/calendar1.html.

Thursday, July 31


Monday, August 4


Wednesday, August 6

Writing workshop for the preparation of doctoral dissertations, specialist projects and master's theses, Graduate College conference room, Seibert Administration Building, 3 p.m.; advance registration required by calling 7-3569.

Thursday, August 7

Doctoral oral examination, "Programmed Instruction: Within-Subject Analysis of Four Types of Instructional Materials," Matthew L. Miller, psychology, 208 North Hall, 11 a.m.

*Admission charged

Grants (Continued from page one)

be used for graduate education initiatives involving the field of blind rehabilitation.

A new award for $36,328 to William R. Wiener, chairperson of blind rehabilitation, and Elizabeth Whitten, interim chairperson of special education, will help launch a training program that will train students to provide mobility instruction to blind, working-age adults to enable them to return to gainful employment.

Also reported was a $129,172 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to William F. Jackson, biological sciences. Jackson will use the grant to support his research on determining the site and mechanism of the action of oxygen on vessels in the body's microcirculation system.

The National Science Foundation, the source last year of nearly $5 million in WMU research funding, provided another grant noted in the June report. Quiji Zhu, mathematics and statistics, will use the $64,754 award for basic research on mathematical control theory and the calculus of subdifferentials.

An award from the state of Michigan to Lynn C. Todman, Institute for Leadership Transformation, will go toward developing leadership training activities for Michigan public school superintendents.