Grants and gifts soar to record levels

'94-'95 grant total tops $21 million, marks 10th year of record figures

Grants to the University have soared past all previous University records, closing the 1994-95 fiscal year at more than $21 million.

WMU officials announced Sept. 13 that grants to the University reached $21,121,444, an increase of more than $4.3 million or 25.7 percent above last year's record total of $16.8 million. The accomplishment marks the 10th consecutive year of record grant totals at the University.

The $4.3 million increase over last year represents the largest single-year boost in WMU history. The $21.1 million figure is more than five times the benchmark figure of $3.9 million set in 1984-85 and used by President Haenicke when he challenged campus researchers in 1986 to double grant funding and make WMU a more research-intensive institution.

"The growth of faculty research has been spectacular," Haenicke said. "On the basis of my experience as chief academic officer at two federate American research universities, I am proud to say that our faculty meets very high standards. In fact, their accomplishments over the last decade have exceeded all my expectations."

"We've passed the $20 million mark and we did it by building a broad research base," said Donald E. Thompson, vice president for research. "Over the past decade, that base has continued to become more and more diverse and increasing numbers of faculty members have become involved in the research enterprise."

Sparking this year's dramatic increase, he noted, was a better than 30 percent increase over the previous year's rate in the number of grant proposals submitted by faculty members. Submission of 584 proposals this year resulted in funding of 283 grant projects.

Research funding accounted for $9.7 million or 46 percent of the total funding received for the fiscal year, followed by funding for public service projects at $5.6 million and funding for instruction at $5 million. Approximately $6.8 million, or 32 percent of grants received, was funded by federal agencies.

Retaining federal funding in an era marked by congressional budget cutting has not been a problem for WMU researchers, Thompson said.

"Congress has been saying 'no' to basic research but 'yes' to applied research," Thompson noted. "We are an institution that is very good at applied research, so we have continued to be successful in the federal arena."

Contributing to this year's record grant totals were increases in the amount of awards received by three of the University's colleges -- the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Haworth College of Business. The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences received $9.7 million in funding, accounting for 44 percent of all funding received by the College.

"We were able to get that program off the ground because the president and other members of the University administration went out and convinced people that the program was needed and deserving of support," Pretty said. "As individuals, foundations and corporations see new programs that interest them coming forth from the University, they are showing their willingness to support them."-

Cash gifts achieve 37% increase; annual total reaches $8.7 million

Cash and deferred gifts to the University reached a record total of $8.7 million at the close of the 1994-95 fiscal year, WMU officials announced Sept. 13.

Record cash gifts of $7,804,183, up 37 percent over last year's cash total, and deferred gifts valued at $900,513 brought the year-end total to $8,704,696, a figure that is the highest total in University history.

The total is an increase of nearly 13 percent over the previous year's record for cash and deferred gifts that was set in 1991-92, when $7,726,212 was received.

Among the most gratifying developments of the past few years has been the steady growth in the number of individuals, corporations and foundations who are generously supporting this institution's goals with major gifts as well as the increasing number of contributors who make a donation to WMU a part of their yearly giving pattern," said President Haenicke. "We are exceedingly grateful to each of them because each has contributed to this achievement."

Cash gifts in all categories were up significantly, according to Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel. Those categories include alumni and friends, faculty, staff and emeriti; corporations and foundations; and bequests.

"There certainly is recognition by all of our constituents of the many important new programs and initiatives at the University that need private support to move forward," Pretty said. He pointed to the University's new School of Nursing as one such initiative that has attracted a significant amount of private support from corporations, foundations and other parts of the community, enabling the program to open its doors to students this year.

Did you know?

- The close of the 1994-95 year marks the 10th consecutive year of record grant totals. For those 10 years, the annual grant total has risen by more than $17 million.
- Since 1986, the number of grant proposals written and submitted to funding agencies each year by WMU faculty members has increased by 208 percent -- from 189 in 1985-86 to 584 this year.
- During the last 10 years, more than $57 million in cash and deferred gifts has been given to the University.
- When the value of non-cash donations to WMU is included, the 10-year total for gifts is nearly $75 million.
Senator takes action on program review, MLK Day and enrollment management practices

The Faculty Senate Sept. 7 approved recommendations on the review of academic programs, the University’s 1996 Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance and enrollment management practices of academic departments.

Program review

The review of academic programs “aimed at strengthening and improving our academic programs,” said Provost Nancy S. Barrett in a memo initiating the review process. “We will spend our full attention on graduate programs, undergraduate programs will be included.”

The review is to cover all academic programs over a six-year cycle, beginning in 1996-97. Departments to participate in the first round of review would be identified this year.

“It is suggested that the first department be those with the oldest doctoral (or highest graduate) programs,” Barrett said.

“Colleges other than the College of Arts and Sciences would be reviewing no more than one department per year.”

“The review process should involve department faculty members, a presentation external to the department, student representatives and others as appropriate,” she continued.

“There should be a departmental self-study, based on a statement of goals and objectives, and a review by peers outside the University and others as deemed appropriate,” the Graduate Studies Council, which recommended the review effort to the senate, stated. “Program review allows a department to recognize strengths and achievements, to uncover areas of concern and to respond to concerns in a meaningful way.”

The departmental review process would complement the University’s internal program review process to which a department is subject, the recommendation stated.

MLK Day

The senate approved a recommendation of its ad hoc Committee on Martin Luther King Jr. Day that classes be canceled between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, to accommodate a variety of observances that day, including a convocation.

The senate approved a recommendation of its ad hoc Committee on MLK Day that classes be canceled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. so departments, colleges and other groups could organize activities “appropriate for a university that maintains high intellectual, moral and artistic standards.”

Last year, the senate’s MLK Day committee planned a convocation for 10:15 a.m. in the University Arena that more than 1,000 persons attended. It is hoped that starting the convocation an hour later would enable even more faculty, staff and students to attend.

“Several respondents to a survey expressed a desire to attend more events,” said S. Payne Smith, educator and professional development chairperson of the MLK Day committee.

“By extending the period to 4 p.m., we make more time available for those events and yet enable classes that meet just once a week to proceed as usual,” she said.

Enrollment management practices

The senate approved a recommendation by an ad hoc committee that the registrar not allow departments to withdraw students already enrolled in courses to make room for other students, such as majors, before the first day of classes.

“The committee finds this practice to be unfair to the students already enrolled in the course,” said Kent Baldner, philosophy, chairperson of the senate’s ad hoc Committee on the Directory of Classes.

“The ad hoc committee is tasked with studying the dropping of students from classes who do not attend the first day of class and finding further rulings.

The ad hoc committee considered the practice of setting aside seats for certain groups of students, but decided that more information was needed before it could make a recommendation.

All senate recommendations are sent to the administration for its consideration.

Expert on school dropouts will visit here next week

A national leader in the fight to prevent students from dropping out of school will speak at WMU Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Jay Smink, executive director of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, will present a free public talk on “Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention” at 7 p.m. in 1005 Fetzer Center.

Smink, a frequent guest on television and radio talk shows, is widely recognized as an authority on dropout prevention and on vocational education research and development. A charter member of the National Dropout Prevention Network, he also serves on a number of national boards and advisory panels, including the National Association for Industry-Education Cooperative and the Kellogg Foundation Vision for Youth Program.

Smink’s two-day visit is being coordinated by WMU’s Center for Research on At-Risk Students and is sponsored by that center and by the Department of Consumer Resources and Technology. While on campus, he will be consulting with faculty members regarding the potential for research projects on student dropout issues. He also will meet with officials from West Michigan area school districts and community colleges.

For more information about Smink’s visit, persons should contact Craig Hubble at the Center for Research on At-Risk Students at 7-2408.

Workshop to focus on internal funding programs

The first of two workshops planned for this year on WMU Internal funding programs is set for 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in the Bernhard Center Brown and Gold Room.

The workshop, presented by the Office of the Vice President for Research, will focus on internal funding programs available to faculty and staff across the University as well as more specific support programs for individual colleges. A second workshop is planned for Thursday, Jan. 18.

To reserve a place, call 7-8298.

Kalamazoo area college students and community members will have an opportunity to match their skills with the volunteer needs of several organizations when WMU holds its seventh annual Volunteer Opportunities Fair Thursday, Sept. 21.

More than 80 area agencies and organizations will have representatives on hand for the fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. Prospective volunteers can view agency displays and obtain information on volunteer opportunities that range from one-time projects to weekly commitments on internships undertaken for college credits. The event is free and open to the public.

“All area college students as well as faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend the fair,” said Dean Joseph G. Reish, Lee Honors College. “It’s an opportunity for these students to find out how they can make a difference while getting valuable hands-on experience in a field of interest.”

For more information about the fair, persons should contact Reish at 7-3230.
Hispanic Heritage Month activities planned

On campus

Santos

Los Angeles for five years. He covered several assignment reporter for KABC-TV in Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. A requisitioned, sluggish bureaucracy to a state-of-the-art money management operation. She is managing an annual cash flow of more than $60 billion. She has worked to transform the city treasury from an anti- nugget, sluggish bureaucracy to a state-of-the-art money management operation.

Santos was appointed to her post in 1989 and was subsequently elected to the position in 1991, and again in 1995 with 82 percent of the vote. She is the first woman, the first Hispanic and the youngest person ever elected treasurer. As "the city's banker," she manages an annual cash flow of more than $60 billion. She has worked to transform the city treasury from an anti-nugget, sluggish bureaucracy to a state-of-the-art money management operation.

Hispanic Heritage Month activities are being sponsored by WMU’s Hispanic Student Organization in conjunction with the Office of Latino Affairs, Office of Latino Advocate, Office of Admissions and Orientation, Student Affairs Fee and the Director of Education. Furthermore, persons may call Miguel A. Ramirez, minority affairs, at 7-3329.
**Thursday, September 14**

(thur thru 30) WMU Department of Art faculty exhibition, Dalton Center Multi-Media Room, Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

(thur 22) Student Art Gallery exhibition, Department of Art MFA degree candidates, Rotunda and South galleries, East Hall, weekdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closing reception, Friday, Sept. 22, 4-6 p.m.

Instructional technology services and human resources brown bag lunch, “Where Do I Go for Graphic and Media Support?”

**Friday, September 15**

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.

Meeting, Board of Trustees, Board Room, Bernhard Center, 10:45 a.m.

Hispanic Heritage Month events: concert of Tex-Mex music, “Unplugged: Guillermo Parrish and the Remainders.”

**Monday, September 18**

(thur 13) Hispanic Heritage Month cultural exhibit, showcases, third floor, WMU Library.

Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lecture, “Interpretation of Photochemical Age and Source of Rapidly Mixed Troposphere,” David D. Parrish, research chemist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s tropospheric Laboratory in Boulder, Colo.

University Computing Center discussion, “Windows 95.”

**Tuesday, September 19**

Center for Research on At-Risk Students lecture, “Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention,” Jay C. Thompson, executive director of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, 1005 Feterer Center, 7 p.m.

Visiting Scholars and Artists Program lecture, “Ozone Smog: Real Problem or Environment Marketing Ruse?”

* Volleyball, WMU vs. the University of Texas, University Arena, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 20**

* Football (CommUniverCity Night), WMU vs. the University of Toledo, Waldo Stadium, 7:30 p.m.; tailgate parties at Haynes Field, Ebert Field and Kanley Track, 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 21**

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.

Meeting, Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, 204 Bernhard Center, 9 a.m.

**Friday, September 22**

Wisconsin, WMU vs. Wright State University, Waldo Stadium, 2 p.m.

**Saturday, September 23**

**Sunday, September 24**

**Monday, September 25**

**Tuesday, September 26**

**Wednesday, September 27**

**Thursday, September 28**

**Friday, September 29**

**Saturday, September 30**

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**Wednesday, October 4**

**Thursday, October 5**

**Friday, October 6**

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