WMU to receive largest percentage increase in appropriation

WMU will receive the largest percentage base appropriation increase among the state's 15 public universities for 1995-96.

After several months of work on the budget bill, the Michigan Legislature concluded a marathon session June 15, preserving WMU's 7.8 percent appropriation boost that was originally proposed in Gov. John Engler's executive budget. For the next fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, WMU's state appropriation will be $97.6 million, an increase in excess of $7 million over last year.

"I would like to put on the public record my sincere and genuine gratitude to Rep. Don Gilmer, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of this institution," President Haenicke told the Board of Trustees at its June 23 meeting. Gilmer is chairperson of the House Appropriations Committee and has led the legislative charge for equitable funding for WMU.

Haenicke also thanked Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel, and his staff for their hard work over the past several months. In addition to keeping on top of issues in Lansing, Pretty's office coordinated a Legislative Advocacy Network of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends around the state to contact lawmakers.

"I cannot say enough about the vital role that Don Gilmer played for us," Pretty said. "He really knows the needs of higher education in this state. He 'went to the wall' for us, especially in the 11th hour. He made a strong recommendation to Gov. Engler in support of our appropriation. And he pushed our budget through the whole legislative process. Our local legislative delegation of Reps. Ed LaForge and Chuck Perricone and Sen. Dale Shugars also was very supportive of our institutional appropriation.

"I must also salute the special efforts of many alumni, employees and friends of the University who contacted their local legislators around the state on our behalf," he continued. "They were remarkable in their steadfast support for WMU."

Pretty credited Haenicke with effectively stating WMU's case and calling the University's history of underfunding to the attention of the legislators.

"I am confident that our success is a direct result of the strong leadership of President Haenicke, who really captured the attention of legislative leaders, governmental officials, alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students by very effectively pointing out that WMU is a unique institution with a first-rate comprehensive academic program at both the graduate and undergraduate levels," he said.

Board holds tuition increase to 2.6 percent; figure is lowest among state public institutions

Students at all levels attending WMU this fall will be assessed the smallest percentage increase in costs at any public, four-year institution in the state.

The Board of Trustees June 23 approved an across-the-board 2.6 percent increase in tuition and required fees for all students — undergraduate and graduate, resident and non-resident. The increase is the smallest at WMU in 10 years.

The board's action is part of a continued three-year effort at WMU to hold down the cost of higher education. A year ago WMU had the second lowest tuition increase in the state and the year before WMU had the lowest tuition increase of all public universities in Michigan.

This past March, the board approved a freeze in room and board and apartment rental rates for the first time in 25 years. WMU is the only institution in Michigan with no room and board increase. Moreover, those students who stay in the residence hall system and freshmen entering this fall will have no room and board increases for two years.

President Haenicke commended the trustees for accepting his tuition recommendation, and he added, "When coupled with our zero percent increase in room and board rates for the next two years, WMU has clearly demonstrated its institutional commitment to accessibility by minimizing any cost increases for all of its students."

In recent years, WMU also has increased funds for student financial aid by at least the same percentage that tuition has increased. Last year WMU increased student aid by 6.75 percent and the year before by 5 percent. The increase for this coming year is expected to be 3.8 percent. Nearly 70 percent of all WMU students received $80 million in financial aid last year.

WMU's trustees did not table the tuition proposal for one month, as has been the practice in the past to allow time for constituency input, because they wanted to be sure that WMU's resident undergraduate students would qualify for a state tax credit under Public Act 7 of 1995. There is a July 1 deadline for each institution to certify with the state treasurer that its tuition increase is below the cost of living increase.

After the new tax credit, for which all in-state undergraduate WMU students will be eligible, those students will pay less to attend WMU in 1995-96 than in 1994-95.

Haenicke noted that three other public universities have taken similar action, but they did not stay under the 2.6 percent ceiling for non-resident undergraduates or for graduate students; those students are not eligible for the state tax credit.
Five chosen to receive year-end Staff Service Excellence Awards

Five employees have been chosen by the Staff Service Excellence Awards selection committee from campuswide nominations to receive the first year-end awards of $1,000.

They are, along with the employee groups they represent: Terry L. Baxter, Sindecuse Health Center, professional/technical/administrative; Alberta M. Cumming, history, clerical/technical; Carol R. Dedow, public safety, Police Officers Association; and Thomas H. Flickinger and Bryan K. Sutton, physical plant-building custodial and support services, who are sharing the award for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. The selection committee is made up of representatives from each of WMU’s staff employee groups.

The awards are intended for those staff members who reach far beyond their assigned responsibilities to give generously and creatively of their time and talents to make a difference. A total of 31 persons were nominated. In addition to the cash awards, the winners received a framed certificate, were honored at a luncheon and will have their photographs placed in a permanent display.

Baxter, who came to WMU eight years ago, was recognized first and foremost for her personal dedication to students as their physician. As director of the health center, she also was cited for bringing total quality management concepts to Sindecuse to create an environment fostering staff growth and development. Under her leadership, staff members have taken on such projects as helping to sponsor an exhibit of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which sets records for participation, and the staff/pharmacy program for employee prescription drugs, which has resulted in substantial savings to the University. In addition, Baxter was nominated for her commitment to the community, including organizing two bone marrow donor drives and helping to create a new Eating Disorders Recovery Program. Her work training staff in WMU’s Division of Environmental Health and Safety in OSHA guidelines and her training lectures to students in the Department of Physician Assistant also were recognized.

Cumming, an employee for almost 16 years, was chosen because of her work as an administrative secretary to coordinate the myriad activities of a busy academic department with diverse responsibilities to students, faculty and administrators. “By her personal, unselfish dedication of time and effort, in the face of staff cut-backs, she enabled us to inaugurate a new doctoral program staff by 50 percent and resulted in hugely increased demands on her secretarial responsibilities,” one nominator wrote. “In addition to everyday office duties, she assisted in the mounting of three national and international academic conferences, is working on another scheduled for late fall and supplied the secretarial aid for producing the department’s first scholarly journal. She has taken the initiative to improve and expand her own skills to meet the ever increasing demands of her position.”

Training programs for new WMU police officers and for the Law Enforcement Academy at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, safety presentations for Sara Swickard Preschool summer campers and seminars on personal safety for women are just a few of the extras taken on by Dedow beyond her regular duties as a campus police officer. The 11-year WMU employee also was recognized for her outstanding dedication to students. Dedow has set up controlled drinking experiments to demonstrate the effects of alcohol. “...most of all, she listens to problems, offers support and helps find solutions, at a personal level, because she cares,” wrote one nominator.

Flickinger and Sutton worked as a team to greatly improve the appearance, cleanliness and general condition of Lawson Ice Arena, which receives extremely heavy seasonal usage. The custodians were commended for their enthusiasm and friendly demeanor that make a positive work environment, and for their hard work that “turned around the former conditions at Lawson” and resulted in numerous compliments on the excellent condition of the facility. Flickinger became a permanent employee in 1993 after working as a temporary employee for two years. Sutton is a five-year employee, who also began as a temporary worker.

These awards conclude the first full year of the Staff Service Excellence Awards Program, which was established by the University at the joint request of the Administrative Professional Association, Clerical/Technical Organization, AFSCME and POA. In addition to the annual awards, the program includes the presentation of up to 12 quarterly awards consisting of a $50 gift certificate and a recognition certificate.

First-quarter nominations for 1995-96 are invited now and are due Saturday, July 15. For more information, persons may call Barbara Mattingly, human resources, at 7-3664.

Human resources

Because there are no longer change of address boxes on the back of the new pay envelopes, the staff of the Department of Human Resources-Information Systems asks that employees with changes notify them by telephone, 7-3622; fax, 7-3441; or in a written note by campus mail.
Sunseeker in top 10

Sunseeker 95, the University's sleek, brown-and-gold solar car, has maintained its position in the top 10 for most of Sunrayce 95, finishing June 26 in seventh place.

Sunrayce 95 began June 20 in Indianapolis with 38 teams qualifying for the 1,100-mile trek to Golden, Colo., where the race ends June 29. The winner is determined by total elapsed time.

The University of Michigan team — winner of the two previous races — was forced to drop out June 25, leaving WMU the only other Michigan team in the race. Only seconds separated the top four teams, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, George Washington University, the University of Minnesota and California State Polytechnic University at Pomona.

They were followed by Northern Essex Community College of Massachusetts; Queen's University of Ontario; WMU; Stanford University of California; the combined team of Mankato and Winona state universities of Minnesota; and the University of Missouri at Columbia, rounding out the top 10.

Sunrayce 95, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, is the third race for solar cars built by colleges and universities. WMU finished in eighth place in 1990 and 18th place in 1993.

Retired Kellogg exec to advise the president

Charles W. Elliott, the Kellogg Co.'s executive vice president for administration and chief financial officer who is retiring July 1, has accepted a position as senior adviser to President Haenicke.

The Board of Trustees approved his appointment at its June 23 meeting.

Initially, Elliott's principal responsibilities will involve working closely with Dean David B. Vellenga, Haworth College of Business, Haenicke said. "I want Chuck to develop external relationships, particularly with the business community, and to enhance the visibility and academic programs of that college," he said. "We are extremely fortunate to have someone with his expertise, business acumen and remarkable experiences to assist our institution."

"I don't plan to slow down," Elliott said. "I view this change as a new and challenging stage in my career. I am very anxious to get started.

"I was deeply impressed with what a great facility the Haworth College of Business has in Schneider Hall," Elliott continued. "I want to meet with the department chairs, faculty and alumni to get a better understanding of the college."

Before joining Kellogg in 1987, Elliott held various executive positions during his 30-year career with Price Waterhouse, including partner-in-charge of its Chicago Tax Department and member of the Price Waterhouse Policy Board.

He is chairman of the board of the Ambassador Fund and a member of the boards of EMPHESYS Inc. and Steelcase Financial Services Inc. He also is a director of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

His first association with the University began when he joined the WMU Foundation board of directors in 1988; he now serves on its executive committee.

Board OKs revised budget

The Board of Trustees June 23 approved a 1994-95 general fund operating budget totaling more than $170 million.

The routine action is required to reflect "inevitable changes" in the original budget that the board adopted at the beginning of the current fiscal year, said Dean K. Honsberger, University budgets.

The difference between the two budgets is $8.2 million. Most of that, about $6.1 million, stems from funds committed to individual units at the University not yet spent by them, Honsberger said.

Obituary

John Woods, emeritus in English, died June 15 in Kalamazoo. He was 68.

A WMU faculty member from 1955 to 1992, Woods was a nationally-acclaimed poet. He was the author of nine books of poetry, six shorter collections and more than 250 poems published in journals. He received numerous awards for his writing, including being selected as a Distinguished Michigan Artist in 1978 and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow in 1982.

In 1978, Woods was one of the first two recipients of the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, WMU's highest honor for a faculty member. He was named the first poet-in-residence in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1991 to recognize his stature as a poet and to enhance the study of poetry in the Department of English.
Board grants tenure to 23 faculty members

Twenty-three faculty members were approved for tenure by the Board of Trustees June 23. The appointments are effective with the beginning of the 1995-96 academic year.

The faculty members and their departments, by academic rank, are: associate professor — Donald L. Alexander, economics; Michael W. Bahr, counselor education and counseling psychology; Miriam Bat-Ami, English; Janet L. Coryell, history; Karim Essani, biological sciences; Ajay K. Gupta, computer science; Lynn Nations Johnson, education and professional development; Rand H. Johnson, foreign languages and literatures; Paul A. Johnston, English; Sheldon Langsam, accountancy; John O. Norman, history; Silvia Roederer, music; Quentin Smith, philosophy; Scott W. Thornburg, music; Benjamin Torres, foreign languages and literatures; and Victor C. Xiong, history.

Assistant professor — Ellen H. Brinkley, English; Jody A. Brylinsky, health, physical education and recreation; Suzanne Davis, education and professional development; Suzanne M. Hedstrom, counselor education and counseling psychology; Thomas R. Holmes, social work; Robert Landeros, management; and Jung-Chao Wang, mathematics and statistics.

The board also approved sabbatical leaves for the 1995-96 academic year for these four faculty members: Bat-Ami; Coryell; Landeros; and Xiong.

Calendar

The master calendar maintained by news services for use in Western News is available through Gopher on the VMScaluster. Currently, there are three calendars available: July events; August events; and future events, which run from September through March. To view the calendars, type Gopher at the system prompt. At the next menu, choose 2. Western Michigan University, then choose 3. Campus Calendar. You will find options for 1. This Month’s Events, 2. Next Month’s Events and 3. Future Events.

Thursday, June 29
(and 30) Exhibit, autographs from the collection of Fred V. Hartenstein, emeritus in management, showcases, third floor atrium, Waldo Library.

Friday, June 30
Retirement reception honoring Carolyn R. Henning, human resources, the Oaklands, 3-5 p.m.

Tuesday, July 4
Independence Day, no classes.

Monday, July 10
Doctoral oral examination, “The Use of Analogies in an Industrial Environment to Facilitate Status Changes for Radiation Science Concepts,” Charles T. Lohrke, science studies, 300 Moore Hall, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11
Writing workshop for the preparation of doctoral dissertations, specialist projects and master’s theses, Graduate College conference room, Seibert Administration Building, 10 a.m.; call 7-3569 to register.

Two new degree programs available this fall

WMU students will have two new graduate degree programs from which to choose beginning this fall.

The Board of Trustees June 23 approved proposals to offer a doctor of philosophy degree in comparative religion and a master of science degree in materials science and engineering. The new Ph.D. brings to 22 the number of doctoral programs available at WMU, while the new M.S. brings the total of master’s programs offered to 60.

The doctoral degree will be the only one of its kind in the state. WMU already offered the only graduate program in Michigan devoted to the academic study of religion with its master of arts degree in comparative religion.

The new program is designed to prepare students for undergraduate and graduate teaching in colleges and universities, to develop a comparative focus and to initiate new areas of research.

Preschool seeks donations

The Sara Swickard Preschool might be interested in some of the treasures you discover as you clean out your homes for those summer garage sales.

The school is looking for donations of these items: Little Tykes toys, sprinklers, wooden puzzles, water slides, plastic swimming pools and working old computers with learning software.

Those interested in donating may call the school at 7-3847 or simply drop the items off.

Appropriation

(Continued from page one) increase, MSU is slated for a 7.5 percent increase and GVSU for a 6 percent increase.

All of the rest of the state institutions will get a 3 percent appropriation increase, except for Central Michigan University, which will get a 3.8 percent increase with extra funds to establish a higher education charter school center.

“I take great pleasure that we developed here at Western about two years ago the concept of funding which takes the Carnegie classifications as a base,” Haenicke said. “I cannot say that it is widely accepted in the state of Michigan as a basis of funding, but the point is that people who didn’t know what Carnegie meant three years ago now use this word — it is all over Lansing. Everybody in the Legislature now knows about Carnegie and we have been successful with this.

“I personally find it eminently fair and appropriate and am very glad that the idea originated here because it has helped not only us but some other institutions that in my opinion have been historically underfunded,” he said.

WMU may be in line for even more funds in 1995-96. The Legislature also approved an amendment to the state Management and Budget Act calling for the first $22.7 million of any 1994-95 fiscal year budget surplus to be available for appropriation to state universities and community colleges for special maintenance projects on campus buildings. A total of $18.8 million of that money will be allocated for the 15 four-year state universities.

“We stand to get $475,000 in additional revenue in March of next year if surplus funds in the state budget become available,” Haenicke said.