Advocacy efforts could pay off in appropriations process

The voices of WMU supporters have been heard in the Michigan Legislature. But, the work has only begun for those seeking funding equity for the University from the state legislature.

Following a barrage of letters, telephone calls and visits from WMU advocates to lawmakers over the past several months, the Michigan House of Representatives last week approved a proposal that would give WMU a $4.3 million increase in its appropriation for 1994-95. The University's per student appropriation figure would jump from $3,991 this year to $4,191 next year.

"This is indeed good news for the University," said Keith A. Pretty, vice president for external affairs and general counsel. "Our advocates have let the decision-makers in Lansing know that WMU deserves equitable funding.

In each of the last two years, WMU has received a state appropriation totaling $86.3 million, according to Pretty. This amount has remained per full-time equivalent student has increased by only $7. In terms of appropriation per student, WMU currently falls sixth in the state, with every other campus receiving its fair share of state funds, the greatest supporter being Michigan State University, followed by the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Lansing know that WMU deserves equitable funding.

Senator commits proposal that would give WMU a $2 million appropriation increase for 1994-95. The University's per student appropriation figure would jump from $3,991 this year to $4,191 next year.

The next step is for representatives from the House and the Senate to meet in a conference committee to adopt a bill that can be approved by both chambers of the Legislature.

"This is a critical period in determining the University's fate," Pretty said. "It is not a better time now for legislators to hear from their constituents about what an excellent, highly respected higher education institution WMU is," Pretty said. Pretty credits concentrated lobbying by members of the WMU community last spring that resulted in the increase. "We need to discuss the large parts of his agenda that remain unresolved rather than continue with the WMU community about King and seminars in the future of the University to become a "significant" for both the campus community.

For more information, persons may contact the Office of External Affairs at 7-8970.

Senate approves committee recommendations regarding campus observance of King birthday

The Faculty Senate June 2 approved recommendations for the campuswide observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. The observance for this year included a number of efforts to reach state legislators and the public.

A recommendation to cancel classes beginning Jan. 21 and to close most University offices during the four-day period to allow students to participate in the observance was approved. The recommendation had been forwarded to President Haenicke.

Special events being planned include an inaugural speaker at 10 a.m., an art exhibit, a writing and speaking contest, a public campaign to inform and educate the University community about King and seminars in each campus dining center.

The recommendations and plans came from the senate's MLK Day Committee, which was established March 10 to make the observance of the slain civil rights leader's birthday "very significant" for both the campus and the community. Carol Payne Smith, education and professional development, heads the committee, which represents a wide range of campus groups.

"These activities should be appropriate for way to prevent adiscontinuance of these students who wished to attend MLK observances. The recommendations have been numerous letters, calls and visits made by our Legislative Advocates and the greater response" to it by the campus community.

"We need to discuss the large parts of his agenda that remain unresolved rather than continue with the WMU campus community," Pretty said. Pretty cautioned that there is still a great deal of work to be done. "We need to discuss the large parts of his agenda that remain unresolved rather than continue with the WMU campus community," Pretty said. Pretty cautioned that there is still a great deal of work to be done. "We need to discuss the large parts of his agenda that remain unresolved rather than continue with the WMU campus community."
Rodeo, science program planned for June 18-19

South Haven Street and end at the resort.
The weekend events also will feature science workshops, food, arts, and crafts, a square dance competition and musicians. Among the musicians will be John Hair, vice president for student affairs at Davenport College in Grand Junction. The hands-On-Science Program will take place both days at The Farm, 14530 County Road 665 in Bloomdale.

Candidates for the rodeo performances and participants in both events is scheduled for Saturday, June 18 and Wednesday, June 22.

Master’s and doctoral programs in counseling earn accreditation from national organization

Four programs in the Department of Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology have been accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Earning accreditation through June 30, 1998, were the master’s degree programs in community counseling, in school counseling and in student affairs practice in higher education that are part of the hands-On-Science Program as well as the doctoral program in counselor education and supervision.

The council is nationally recognized accrediting body for counseling programs. WMU was the first institution of higher education in Michigan to receive CACREP accreditation in 1983. The programs earned conditional accreditation again in 1989 and were granted full accreditation before achieving final accreditation this spring.

“Other than the fact that our peers recognize us as a quality program, two other important elements are attached to accreditation,” said John S. Geisler, counselor education professor and director of the Division of Continuing Education.

The council is the nationally recognized accrediting body for counseling programs.

Awards for two positions in the College of Arts and Sciences have been awarded. Students who are completing their bachelor’s, master’s and specialist and 17 doctoral degrees will be awarded. Students who are completing their degrees at the end of the spring semester in June, as well as those who will finish at the end of the summer semester in August, are invited to participate in the ceremonies. WMU has no August ceremonies.

Regalia available next week

Candidates for the June 25 commencement will be available for pick-up on June 22 at 2100 Benedict Center; from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 21; from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 22; and from 8 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, June 25.

HHS candidates to make presentations during visits

Candidates for two positions in the College of Arts and Sciences have been awarded. Students who are completing their bachelor’s degrees will be on campus in the coming weeks for interviews. Each will make a public presentation, which will follow this spring. William H. Fenf, a candidate for chairperson of the Department of Physical Education, and Kathleen W. Callahan, a candidate for the Department of Health Education, will present "Satiety and the Role of Hunger," on Wednesday, June 16, in 204 Benedict Hall. Callahan is a research coordinator for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Gaylord Outpatient Clinic.

Two other institutions in the state—Andrews University and Eastern Michigan University—have also suspended counseling programs accredited by the CACREP.

Faculty artists win awards

Two WMU art faculty members were among 353 artists whose works were chosen for the largest in the state. Some 125 pieces were chosen for the exhibition and eight works were chosen for cash prizes.
New engineering faculty member awarded grants for research on finding more uses for polymers

One of the University's newest researchers has been awarded $135,000 to develop new methods of chemically modifying polymers. Vladimir V. Tsukruk, engineering technology, has been awarded a $100,000 grant through the National Science Foundation's Research Initiation Awards program, which is designed to support work by new researchers in an area of high research potential. These new materials, developed under a grant from the Advanced Polymeric Material for Boundary Lubrication project, are characterized by their potential to increase the performance of a particular class of polymers.

Tsukruk, along with co-investigators Vladimir M. Huggins and Terri S. Harris, plans to use the $135,000 NSF grant to explore the potential uses of a particular class of polymers. His research will focus on the development of novel materials that can be used in a variety of applications, including lubrication, adhesives, and coatings.

The project is funded by the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund to study the potential of advanced polymers to serve as lubricants reducing friction of two surfaces. "I propose to arrange advanced polymers, which are tough and stable, in such a way that the liquid crystals are only loosely attached to the solid substrates," Tsukruk says.

Small polymeric molecules like liquid crystals have many advantages over conventional lubricants, he says. They can provide uniform friction over a wide range of sliding velocities and are not chemically unstable at low temperature changes and are easily scratched from the surface because they are not strongly attached. Tsukruk says that the polymers are rigid, stable and easily withstand temperature fluctuations. Successfully applied research in this area would lead to same low friction coefficients of conventional lubricants combined with the advantages of the liquid crystals.

One potential use for such a high tech lubricant, Tsukruk says, would be on computer disks. Both the release of information that a disk could accommodate would be increased by making CD surfaces smoother and another thin polymer coating as a lubricant. "This project could be characterized as applied science because of its potential immediate use in industry," Tsukruk says. "I am already discussing the work with several major corporations," he says.

The project sponsored by the American Chemical Society will focus on producing a novel type of low friction coating material that is between liquid and crystal and is characterized by large, disk-shaped molecules. Such a thin film of organic film can be used as either a conducting or insulating agent and could be managed by a laser beam. The coating material should form thin films with the liquid crystal and still preserve the optical and photo response qualities that the material possesses, Tsukruk says.

In addition to his work at the University of Kalamazoo, Tsukruk is part of the research team in the new Center for Advanced Tribology, which is designed to support work by new researchers in an area of high research potential.

On campus

Human resources

Hancock claims to be processed locally

To better serve WMU's faculty and staff, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. will begin processing health claims in Kalamazoo.

Effective July 1, those persons insured under the University Plan should mail their claims to the Hancock Claims Service Office, 4351 S. Westnedge Ave., Suite 1200, Kalamazoo, MI 49008. Hancock's toll-free telephone number also will change July 1; the new number, for the exclusive use of insured persons, will be included in a Hancock informational mailing. These changes do not affect persons insured with Blue Care Network or Physicians Health Plan.

In addition of issuing new insurance cards, Hancock is mailing change of address stickers to all employees insured under the University Plan. Watch for them in the mail within the next two weeks. The change of address stickers are to be placed on the front of insurance cards, and the change of telephone number on the back of cards. If needed, the benefits office will furnish additional cards.

Major health care providers throughout Southwest Michigan have been notified of this change. Hancock encourages all faculty and staff to verify their own physicians and dentists of the new address and give them the local Hancock office telephone number.

Individual campus consultations with Betty McSpadden, Hancock claims representative, will continue to be available at the Department of Human Resources every Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Appointments may be made by calling 7-8360.

Exchange

FOR RENT — House in Westhouse area.
Three bedrooms, one and a half baths, hardwood floors, two car garage, nice kitchen, three patios.
Sept. 1- June 30. $725 plus utilities. Call Jim at 7-5541 or 558-3566 evenings. Frostbite, white walls, white furniture. Loaded, excellent condition, $750. Call 7-2649 days or 432-6277 evenings.

Service

These employees are recognized for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service to the University in June:
30 years — Ronald J. Pelc, registrar's office; and William J. Siefel, mechanical and aeronautical engineering.
25 years — Theodore J. Petropoulos, Bernard Center; and John R. Rizzo, management.
20 years — Sandra J. Edwards, occupa- tional therapy; Leigh W. Fitzgerald Jr., public safety; and Martin R. (Joe) Gagie, executive director of public relations.
15 years — Karen F. Culh, College of Education; Ruth Varnum, human resources; Linda A. Goldner, College of Arts and Sciences; Mark S. Hall, physical plant/UG maintenance; and John E. Vernick, physical education and recreation; Paul D. Miller, physical plant/UG maintenance; and Charles A. VanDyke, student recreation.
10 years — Jeannine M. Baran, University publications; Billie A. Blake, accounts receivable; and Terri S. Harris, at the University's orientation.

Five years — Kirk D. Bollery, physical plant/UG maintenance; Joseph B. Edwards, continuing education; Robert R. Everso, biological sciences; Andrea Jenner, academic records; Robert Landerer, mainframe operations; Thomas Lentz, physical plant/UG maintenance; Dori S. Presley, academic records; Gwen Rosenboom, English; and Thomas L. Richardson, intercollegiate athletics.
Houser investigates 'pressure cooker' technique to turn toxic compounds into harmless material

A WMU faculty member has been awarded a federal grant to continue his research on perfecting new ways to break down toxic materials and to develop a glass liner for the reactors used to destroy the chemicals using "supercritical water" - a technique that involves heating water under pressure to the point of being very high pressure, high temperature steam.

The supercritical water technique uses the same principles as a pressure cooker, where substances to be treated are sealed with water in a reactor at temperatures of 400 to 500 degrees Celsius and at a pressure of more than 5,000 pounds per square inch. Many toxic compounds treated in the reactor become harmless even before they are processed further.

Houser, who conducted an earlier research project on the technique for the Army, says his project is aimed at developing a process that will help protect the walls of the reactor from being ruined when certain compounds arereated.

Chlorine and sulphur, common ingredients in chemical warfare substances such as mustard gas, can be broken down with the metal walls of the reactor when they are treated with supercritical water and cause no hazardous damage. Besides chemical weapons, many cleaning fluids contain chlorine. Houser notes, and perfecting a way to break down such substances would open up the application in treating hazardous waste in landfills.

"If we can perfect a glass lining or insert for the reactor," Houser says, "it will give us more flexibility in the use of supercritical water for the destruction of a wide range of toxic materials.

Houser's work will focus on the inherent design problems of using a glass insert in the reactor. The primary purpose of the insert, in general, is to be made up of chemical warfare substances such as Pyrex to react with supercritical water even when no other compounds are involved. The glass insert would be sealed with the water and the compounds to be treated inside.

"The trick will be to balance the pressure both inside and outside the glass container," Houser says.

Because supercritical water treatment still must overcome such problems as the one he is examining with his current research, Houser says incineration is still the most common method now being used to destroy toxic substances. Although incineration requires higher temperatures, it does not require the same high levels of pressure.

Houser says that aside from the destruction of skillfully and hazardous land-fill materials, supercritical fluids technology is already being used for a number of other industrial tasks such as extraction. Some industries, however, have even started the research on utilizing supercritical fluids to extract caffeine.

Houser has presented his work at earlier international conferences, will travel to France in October to deliver a paper at an international symposium on supercritical fluid chemistry, and will present at the Washington University in St. Louis Institute of Chemical Engineers' meeting in San Francisco in November.

Mousavinezhad honored

S. Hossein Mousavinezhad, electrical engineering, has been named an Outstanding Zone Representative for the American Society for Engineering Educators. The award recognizes consistent and outstanding coordination of the activities of engineering educators. The ASEE is divided into four zones; the zone that Mousavinezhad represents includes Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

He will receive a plaque and award banquet June 29 during the ASEE's annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association requires schools to sponsor sports for men and women to maintain Division 1 status. WMU currently offers football, basketball, baseball, tennis, track and field, and women's competition is sponsored in softball and volleyball. The Mid-American Conference requires member schools to offer football, basketball, baseball and men for volleyball, basketball, and softball for women.