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2014 Tenure and Promotion Lunch

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John M. Dunn
2014 Tenure and Promotion Lunch
June 10, 2014

- Good afternoon, tenured faculty and newly promoted faculty specialists, assistant and associate professors and professors of Western Michigan University!
- You did it, and the board, senior leaderships and I wanted to be among the first to offer our congratulations and best wishes for continued success as members of this university community.
- Your feeling of achievement today is something that will remain with you throughout your career. I speak from experience. When I see you celebrating, it reminds me of my own feeling of pride and accomplishment at getting tenure and being promoted. For me, it was a while back. Your euphoria may not remain at this level, but it will always be a source of deep satisfaction--a signature moment in your academic career.
- This moment is best enjoyed among your colleagues who truly do understand what it took to achieve. That's another reason why we wanted to bring you all together for a celebratory event right after the board vote was taken. I suspect the celebration does not stop here, and that's just fine.
- You know, in recent years, tenure celebrations have taken on a life of their own. Online, we now find popular YouTube videos and commercial sites hawking "Got Tenure" T-shirts and mugs to capture and enshrine the moment.

- I think my favorite item, however, is a site that notes the significance of this academic achievement by laying out the reasons that even God didn't get tenure.

Among them:

- He only had one major publication that wasn't published in a refereed journal.
 - He rarely came to class, just told students to read the book.
 - He never cleared his research with the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board.
 - When one experiment went awry, he tried to cover it up by drowning the subjects.
 - His office hours were infrequent, and usually held on a mountaintop.
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- You did it. Now it's time to take some time to celebrate and reflect on your accomplishments and set your path for the future. Now that you are among our senior faculty members, we're counting on you to set your research and creative goals to match and extend that sense of pride you have today.
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- Congratulations and enjoy your new status. Thank you for all you do and all you will accomplish in the future.