WMU Board of Trustees Meetings

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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session January 22, 2014

WMU Board of Trustees

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The Boards of Trustees annual formal session was called to order by Chair Carlson at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, in Rooms 157-159 Bernhard Center.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented on a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Vice Chair Hettinger.

Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the December 5 formal session were approved as distributed following a motion by Trustee Hall, supported by Vice Chair Hettinger.

Remarks by the Chair – Carlson (Attachment A)

Remarks by the President – Dunn (Attachment B)

Remarks by the WMU Student Association President John Mark-Cuarto and Graduate Student Advisory Committee Chair Damon Chambers. Both reported on the activities of their organizations.

Remarks by WMU-AAUP President – President Lisa Minnick spoke of the accomplishments and death of a faculty colleague, Dr. Anthony Ellis.

Remarks by the Faculty Senate President – President William Rantz provided an update on the work of the Senate.

Election of Officers. On a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Hall, the following slate of officers was approved for 2014—

Chair
Trustee James Hettinger

Vice Chair
Trustee Mary Asmonga-Knapp

Secretary
Betty Kocher

Treasurer and Assistant Secretary
Jan VanDerKley

Assistant Treasurer
Patti VanWalbeck

Remarks by the Newly Elected Chair — Hettinger (Attachment C)
Presentations

--Examples of WMU Student Entrepreneurship – Dean Kay Palan, Professor Tycho Fredericks, and Business and Engineering Students

--Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Associate Provost Wolfgang Schlor and Students

ACTION ITEM

On a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Carlson, the Board of Trustees authorized the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to negotiate and execute the necessary documents to effectuate the acquisition of 10 houses north of the East Campus, two of which are on Oakland Drive and the remaining eight parcels are on Bellevue. As indicated, the houses are to be demolished with terms and conditions deemed appropriate by the administration. The property is being purchased to expand the University’s footprint around the historical campus. The obligation of the University is subject to the following—

- Approval of the Board of Trustees
- Satisfactory inspection including environmental condition within 30 days
- Satisfactory review of title
- The parcels must be vacated prior to closing and closing needs to occur within 60 days.

CONSENT ITEMS – As presented by Chair Hettinger, the following consent items were approved following a motion by Trustee Debel, supported by Trustee Carlson—Personnel Report, Gift Report, Grant Report, Program Recommendations, Board Dates, Authority to Confer Degrees (2014), and Reports – WMU Operating Cash Investment Performance and Annuity and Life Income Funds Investment Performance.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Kocher
Secretary, Board of Trustees
• Good afternoon. This is my last opportunity to, as chair of the board, welcome you all here. My year in this office has passed much more quickly than I could ever have imagined. As I look back on all that has been accomplished over the past year, it's gratifying to see how many significant changes have occurred in just 12 short months.

As an alum, I've always been active on and off campus. But being named a trustee and more recently having the opportunity to lead the board has given me a whole new perspective on Western Michigan University, its current status and most important, its potential. I leave my role as chair with a reinvigorated commitment to sharing all the terrific things I know about this University with all who will listen.

Here are a few of the items that make me very proud of what happened at WMU in 2013.

**Graduates**

Above all else, I think it's important to note that since January of last year, we've awarded more than 5,000 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to students from around the world. That fact alone would allow
me to sit back and reflect with satisfaction on a year well spent. But there's so much more.

Designations
This is a year in which a number of outside organizations took the time and effort to recognize our people and initiatives. At this time last year, we were yet to celebrate:

• Becoming an All-Steinway School, with 123 of those world-class instruments at home in our School of Music;
• Having our sustainability efforts recognized by being named the Detroit Free Press's 2013 Green Leader in the nonprofit sector.
• Having one of our students, Mingyuan Yang (MINGjuan Yang), named the best young bassoon player in the world;
• Being named a "Best Bang for the Buck" by both Washington Monthly magazine and Policy Mic (MIKE) millennial online news site;
• And having WMU Music Professor Steven Wolfinbarger named Michigan's Professor of the Year.

Professional schools
At this time last year, we were a public research university working hard to launch a private medical school. Today, we're just months away from welcoming our first class of medical students and opening a spectacular downtown medical campus. We're also a public research university in the final stage of affiliating with a private law school that
will become the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Construction on campus
At this time last year, our archives and the important historical records of a dozen Michigan counties were still residing in the risky environment of East Campus. Today, those incredibly important documents are at home in the Zhang Legacy Collections Center, a state-of-the-art facility that will ensure those records are available for generations of Michigan citizens for years to come.

And we're well on our way to conserving East Hall and returning it to the active life of the University.

Those are just a few of the achievements for 2013. It was hard narrowing them down to just those few, but I think they're representative of the level of achievement that will only continue. I say that with every confidence.

Closing
I want to thank my fellow trustees for their support during the year I have served as chair. Today, we will elect new board officers, and I look forward to watching my colleagues enjoy the same opportunities to be even more deeply involved in the life of Western Michigan University. I pledge my support and continued enthusiastic involvement.
Dr. Dunn, I'm sure, has news to share with you, so I will now turn the microphone over to him and then we'll hear from our students and faculty leadership.

Thank you.
Opening
Good afternoon, and let me add my thanks to you all for being with us today. And I'd like to voice my thanks to Trustee Carlson for her service as chair over the past year. She's represented the University with grace, energy and outstanding commitment.

Spring semester start
We've been off to an unusual start to the semester, with two very rare days of weather closure that extended our holiday recess. I should note that because of the proactive work of our facilities management staff-- and because of some extremely cold weather, our energy savings over the recess was in the $200,000 range--the result of reducing the set point of thermostats in 75 buildings and reducing the energy use in some 5,000 pieces of mechanical equipment.

Loss of faculty members
The semester got off to a very sad start as well with the deaths, at too early an age, of two faculty members. On New Year's Eve, Dr. Lonnie Duncan, professor of counselor education and counseling psychology, died suddenly. He also was a Kalamazoo Public Schools board member and was active in the community.
Then on Jan. 7, we lost Dr. Anthony Ellis, associate professor of English and an expert on Renaissance literature and early drama. He died after a long battle with leukemia.

Both were only 46--truly too young to be gone. I would ask you to join me for a moment of silence for Drs. Duncan and Ellis.

**Spring lecture series**

I've been struck by the opportunity offered in our spring lecture series for our university and extended communities. These free public events are among the percs we offer the community that surrounds us. Among the topics being covered in semester-long series are:

- The Lee Honors College series on Living with Uncertainty, which looks at uncertainty in medicine, economics and even higher education;
- The College of Arts and Science series on Islam in Global Perspective, which will look at the social, legal and cultural aspects of Islam around the world; and
- Our 50th Anniversary celebration of the Werner Sichel Series, which this year focuses on contemporary economic issues and brings to campus speakers that include three MacArthur "genius award" winners.
Center for Fostering Success kudos

Last week, we learned that our longtime efforts to support and understand the needs of former foster care youth have been singled out for national recognition. A Jan. 15 announcement in Washington, D.C., by the Center for the Study of Social Policy—CSSP—named WMU’s Center for Fostering Success as one of 15 programs around the nation that are making a critical difference in the lives of foster care youth.

Our Center for Fostering Success includes our celebrated Seita Scholars program that supports some 160 former foster youth and has more than 30 graduates already, a statewide outreach network called Fostering Success Michigan that is based at WMU and a research and evaluation component that is our newest effort in the field.

We have the privilege of learning every day from our students and are working hard to share what we’ve learned around the nation.

Department of Defense grant

Drs. Greg Flamme (FLAMMY--like Sammy) and Steve Tasko in our Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology have received a four-year, $1.6 million award from the Department of Defense, to work with researchers at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory to improve the scientific community's understanding of the middle ear and auditory injury from impulse noise--like gunshots. The Injury
Prevention, Physiological and Environmental Health Award builds on the expertise developed over the years by the WMU team. Some of you may recall Dr. Flamme's work last year in analyzing hearing loss in sports referees as a result of continual exposure to their own whistles.

**New Issues Press success**

Our campus publishing house, New Issues Press, has just landed one of its recent books on a list of Michigan "Notable Books for 2014." The anthology "Poetry in Michigan / Michigan in Poetry" has just been named to the list of top 20 Michigan-related books, as decided by a committee of booksellers, librarians, and reviewers through the Library of Michigan. In April, New Issues will be formally recognized at an event, "Night for Notables," in Lansing.

**Faculty and student accomplishments**

I always like to close with brief comments about some of the accomplishments and accolades received by our faculty and students. There is always a wealth of achievement to highlight.

**Faculty accolades**

- Drs. Debra Lindstrom and Jaclyn West-Frasier, both faculty members in the Department of Occupational Therapy, were awarded Distinguished Service Awards during the Michigan Occupational
Therapy Association meeting in late fall. The awards honor members for their continuing and outstanding contributions to the development, growth and process of the Michigan association.

Dr. Lindstrom also was named to the association’s Roster of Fellows.

- Dr. Ming Li, our new dean of the College of Education and Human Development, has been selected to receive the North American Society for Sport Management's Garth Paton Distinguished Service Award during the organization's annual national meeting this spring. NASSM is the largest international professional association in the field of sport management. The award annually recognizes a member's outstanding and ongoing service contributions to NASSM.

Student Accolades
- Alexandria White, a Western Michigan University senior, is one of about 700 American undergraduate students selected to receive a prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad for the spring 2014 semester. She was picked from a pool of applicants representing 341 U.S. colleges and universities. White, a native of Tawas, Mich., received a $4,500 award to spend the spring semester studying European perspectives on economics and business and Spanish language at Universidad de Cantabria in Santander, Spain. She is majoring in global and international studies. Since the award
James Hettinger  
Board Remarks  

Good afternoon.

I'd like to add my personal welcome to you all today. I also am compelled to express my appreciation for the support of my fellow trustees and the confidence they have just expressed in my leadership potential for the coming year.

On behalf of the rest of my colleagues on the board, I'd like to take a moment to thank Jeanne Carlson for her service as board chair for the past year. I know that being board chair represents an enormous investment of time, energy and enthusiasm. It also represents a deep commitment to our students, faculty and staff. This University is a better place for Trustee Carlson's willingness to take on the challenge.

Like Trustee Carlson, I, too, am an alumnus with longtime ties to the University. I fully intend to build upon those ties and my long knowledge of this University as we move forward.

Also like Trustee Carlson, I am determined that this University will continue to move forward and prosper. I bring the same deep commitment
to that end. I also bring a new perspective to the role of board chair. I think that's a good and healthy thing for this governing body.

And I'm convinced--I know--the coming year will witness the same kind of noteworthy achievements that Trustee Carlson just described as some of the proud moments of 2013.

My intent in 2014 will be to enhance this university's strengths. But above all, my focus, and the traditional focus of each of us who are trustees, is on our students. We have a responsibility to ensure our students have the opportunities and academic experiences here that will allow them to become productive and prosperous. I've mentioned before in this setting how much I cherish my own student experience at WMU and the kind of impact some of this institution's longtime professors had on my worldview. I want as many other students as possible to enjoy that same opportunity.

So now, it's time to begin that work.

Thank you.