WMU Board of Trustees Meetings

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WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session July 22, 2011

WMU Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees formal session was called to order by Chair Archer at 10:50 a.m. on Friday, July 22, 2011, in Rooms 157-159, Bernhard Center.

Board members present: Chair Archer, Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, Trustee Carlson, Trustee Hettinger, Trustee Miller, and Trustee Tolbert. (Vice Chair Johnston was unable to be present but asked that his support of the agenda action items be noted.)

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

Approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 2011 Formal Session. The minutes were approved as distributed following a motion by Trustee Tolbert, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp.

Remarks by the Chair (Attachment A).

Remarks by the President (Attachment B)

Remarks by the WSA President and GSAC Chair. Erin Kaplan spoke on plans for the upcoming year for the Western Student Association. Joel Raveloharimisy, outgoing chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee, reported that he had enjoyed his work with the committee and wished the GSAC well in the future. He introduced the new committee chair, LaTasha Chaffin, who reported on activities for fall 2011.

Remarks by the Faculty Senate President. Dr. Peter Krawutschke reported on behalf of the Senate.

Recommendation re Election of Board Officers (Treasurer and Assistant Secretary). Following a motion by Trustee Tolbert, supported by Trustee Hettinger, Jan VanDerKley, Vice President for Business and Finance, was elected Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees, positions formerly held by retiring Vice President Rinker. The Trustees thanked Vice President Rinker for the time he served.

Recommendation re Purchase of University Bookstore Property and Business. On a 6-0 roll call vote, after a motion by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp the Board approved the purchase of a privately owned bookstore adjacent to the WMU campus. The purchase price is $1 million for the land and building housing the University Bookstore located at 2529 W. Michigan Avenue, with the business itself to be purchased for $980,000. The University Bookstore has been in operation since 1958, with the current owner now retiring. The purchase agreement also calls for the University to sign a three-year lease for 4,500 square feet of warehouse space located at 4155 S. 9th Street and continue the operation of bookstore’s online business, with
annual rental for the property to be $20,000.

Recommendation re Presidential Evaluation. On a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Tolbert, the Board of Trustees approved a document outlining goals and evaluation criteria to be used in the assessment of the performance and functioning of the President and of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the President. The Board will report on its findings later this year. (Attachment C).

Consent Items. The following consent items were approved as moved by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, supported by Trustee Hettinger—personnel report, gift report, grant report, Kalamazoo County Health Plan (KCHP) and application for two license licenses.

WMU Annuity and Life Income Funds and Operating Cash Accounts Report – Reviewed by Vice President VanDerKley.

Public Comments. Dennis Moore, president spoke on behalf the local unit of AFSCME, and expressed concern re the economic situation in the State of Michigan.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Kocher Secretary
Board of Trustees
Good morning.

• It is wonderful, as always, to be back on campus. In fact, it's been possible this summer for me to visit a bit more frequently, and I've been taking great pleasure in watching the progress of two tremendous building projects on campus that are moving rapidly toward completion.

First, of course, is the replacement for Sangen Hall--our largest classroom facility and a facility that was brand new when I was a young student here. The size and scope of the project mean it's still far from being ready for use, but the change to center campus is already evident.

And then there's the Western View Apartments. We're just weeks away from seeing the first students move in. This is the first significant
on-campus housing project since the 1970s, and the first new housing for undergraduates, since I was here in the early 1960s.

After the meeting, my fellow trustees will tour the complex. I won't be able to stay for that event, but I've been staying up to date on the progress of the site. I could not be more pleased with the way it is turning out and with all the student input that has gone into the work.

• Medallion Scholarships

Among the students I suspect will live in the Western View Apartments at some point in the future are 19 new Medallion Scholars who will begin their studies at WMU this fall.

Selected from among nearly 700 top high school students from around the nation after a competition held this winter, each of those 19 students will receive $50,000 over four years, making them the winners of one of the largest merit-based scholarships in American higher education. This year's Medallion Scholars have an average ACT score of 30.74 and a grade point average of 4.20. They will begin their studies here in the fall
and are scheduled to graduate during the 2014-15 academic year. I suspect we'll be hearing more about each of them in the coming years.

**Outreach by faculty**

As an alumnus, a trustee and someone who simply cares deeply about WMU, I am always delighted to hear our faculty experts called on to share their talents beyond this community or be featured by our state's major media. It's also rewarding to hear our signature initiatives recognized as well. All of those outreach activities serve to reinforce the caliber of this institution. Several times over the past few weeks, I've noted the Bronco presence in several news stories from Detroit.

-In TV and newspaper coverage, I learned that music professor and cornet player Scott Thornburg was a guest artist for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Salute to America concerts over the July 4 weekend in Greenfield Village. He regaled the crowds attending with works ranging from Sousa and Gershwin to Tchaikovsky and John Williams.
-A week later, English professor Gwen Tarbox, our campus expert on children's literature, was called on by the Detroit News to predict, for a front-page feature, just how the Harry Potter books would fare through history and what authors might already be working on the next blockbuster series for adolescents.

-And earlier this week, the Detroit Free Press weighed in on the success of our Seita Scholars Program as an example of a program that works when it comes to helping former foster youth live up to their potential and earn a college degree.

That kind of outreach takes time and effort, but it pays huge dividends to this University. I am always on the lookout for more such mentions of the good work being done here.

**Closing**

Dr. Dunn, I'm sure, has even more 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.
Good morning, and I can also say it's good to be back on campus.

- **Dominican Republic visit**

Linda and I have returned recently from a visit to the Dominican Republic to visit our partners in that nation and meet with alumni and new students and student families. Among our trip highlights were:

- Celebrating the 4th of July at the American embassy where we met US Ambassador Raul H. Yzaguirre, who has been on our campus before.

- An alumni event attended by 17 recent alumni

- Attending the opening of a new state university satellite campus in Barahona

- Meetings with DR President, Dr. Leonel Fernandez, including lunch with him at the National Palace. There is the potential of a visit by President Fernandez to WMU to see our first class of DR students graduate next April (?)
We also hosted over 70 recently admitted students with family members. We are particularly excited about the group of more than 80 students who will be joining us this fall.

The relationship between that nation and Western Michigan University continues to grow and gain momentum. We look for great things to come.

• Creative Writing triumphs continue
As you know, our Creative Writing Program is one of incredible strength and growing reknown. Over the past two years, we've had two finalists for the National Book Award, and of course faculty member Jaimy Gordon won that coveted prize in November. Her one-time writing student, Bonnie Jo Campbell was a finalist in 2009. This year Bonnie Jo is back with another book that is making literary waves. Her "Once Upon a River" is drawing comparisons to Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" and is gathering attention nationwide.

Meanwhile a very recent Ph.D. graduate of the program has just published his first novel--and has garnered cover notes of praise from two of his former teachers--Jaimy Gordon and short story giant Stuart Dybek. Their one-time student, Dr. Jason Skipper, is now a professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. His new book is called "Hustle."
And right now, our annual Prague Summer Writing Program is underway (through July 29) for its 20th year--and the 10th year under the auspices of this University. That high-profile graduate and undergraduate summer program attracts the participation of some of the finest writers, poets, playwrights, visual artists and scholars from America and Central Europe. It is continuing to enhance the reputation of our overall creative writing efforts.

• Two Haworth programs lauded
Our Integrated Supply Management and Sales & Promotion programs, both in the Haworth College of Business, have been named top business programs by their respective professional associations.

The Integrated Supply Management Program has been named No. 12 on a list of the top undergraduate supply chain management programs in the nation, sharing that slot with the University of Maryland and Stanford University. The ranking was done by Gartner, the definitive professional organization dealing with the supply chain industry, and was announced at Gartner’s June annual conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Meanwhile, the University has been recognized for having one of the top-50 Sales and Business Marketing programs in the nation. That designation was made by the Sales Education Foundation, which assesses such programs internationally.