WMU Board of Trustees Formal Session December 8, 2011

WMU Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees formal session was called to order by Chair Archer at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2011, Rooms 157-159, Bernhard Center.

Board members present: Chair Archer, Vice Chair Carlson, Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, Trustee Carlson, Trustee Debel, Trustee Hettinger, Trustee Miller and Trustee Tolbert.

Acceptance of the Agenda. The agenda was accepted, including the addition of policy, Duty to Report Criminal Acts, on a motion by Trustee Johnston, supported by Trustee Tolbert.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 28, 2011 Formal Session. The minutes were approved as distributed following a motion by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Carlson.

Remarks by the Chair. Before beginning the formal part of the meeting, Chair Archer said he was pleased to make an announcement. On behalf of the Board, he stated that they have been pleased with the significant progress being made to launch the new medical school and he wished to commend President Duun for his leadership on that front. He introduced the special guests in attendance seated with Dr. Hal Jensen, founding medical school dean—Paul Spaude, president and CEO of Borgess Health, a critical partner in the development of the medical school and Frank Sardone, president and CEO of Bronson Healthcare, the second hospital partner in this important initiative. He spoke of the amazing $100 million anonymous gift announced in March which provides the foundation on which the school is being built. Chair Archer then said there has been much speculation about where the school will be located, and introduced another special guest, William U. Parfet, chairman and CEO of MPI. He said that Bill Parfet is a longtime supporter of the university and the community, and it was his pleasure to announce that Bill Parfet and his company, MPI, have made a committee to donate a major downtown Kalamazoo science and research facility to become the home of the Western Michigan University School of Medicine. The seven-story, 330,000 square foot facility, known as Building 267 from its Upjohn-Pharmacia-Pfizer days will be renovated to provide the space needed to open the new school in 2014, and will provide room for growth in the years to come. Chair Archer, said it was his great pleasure to accept, along with President Dunn, this wonderful gift to the university. He thanked Mr. Parfet, saying his generosity will set the stage for great things to happen for many years, and asked him to comment. Mr. Parfet said that locating the School of Medicine within Building 267 presents unique opportunity for our region, not only advancing the university’s academic programming and curriculum, but will also increase the vibrancy of the downtown community and add critical mass to our long-standing and leading-edge life science corridor in southwest Michigan.
In concluding his remarks, Chair Archer noted that the football team is bowl-bound, playing in the Little Caesar’s Pizza Bowl at Ford Field in Detroit on December 27. The Broncos will play the Big 10’s Purdue University. He reported that WMU’s athletes were also recognized for the overall quality of what they do and in October the athletic program received the 2010-11 Cartwright of the Mid-American Conference for its combined excellence in academics, athletics and citizenship. Chair Archer reported that WMU has been identified by the Military Times’ Edge magazine as Michigan’s top-ranked school for outreach and service to veterans. He spoke of the December 17 commencement ceremonies, with more 1,900 students receiving their degrees. Chair Archer wished everyone a happy holiday season and reminded everyone of the annual holiday reception being hosted that afternoon by President and Mrs. Dunn and the Board of Trustees.

Remarks by the President. President Dunn said he would also like to express his gratitude to Bill Parfet for the wonderful facility, saying that he will be welcomed back in about eighteen months to a new campus location and show him what his generosity has made possible.

President Dunn noted that in the last week in addition to the very nice invitation to compete in the Little Caesar’s Pizza Bowl, it was announced that Bronco wide receiver Jordan White was named an Academic All-American, one of just 25 young athletes in the nation selected for the honor by the American Football Coaches Association.

He reported that trustees have had a busy month on campus, with Trustee Johnston performing as a special guest conductor at the concert of the Bronco marching band. Trustee Archer was at the College of Business as the Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker.

President Dunn said he and Dr. Tim Light represented the university at the 2011 World Confucius Institute conference in Milan, Italy in October. They took part in conference panels, reporting on the accomplishments of the WMU Confucius Institute in its first two years. He also reported on honors received by our faculty and students.

Remarks by the Western Student Association President Erin Kaplan and Graduate Student Advisory Committee Vice Chair Ochas Pupwe. The WSA president and GRAC chair reported on the activities of their groups.

Remarks by the Faculty Senate President. Dr. Peter Krawutschke spoke about the Senate’s work and wished everyone happy holidays.

Recommendation re the University Strategic Plan. As presented by Provost Greene, the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Hettinger, approved the three-year strategic plan developed by a campuswide committee over the past year. Provost Greene stated that the plan is an overarching umbrella under which individual unit plans can be developed. The plan features a clearly identified
set of values for the institution and a vision statement that be condensed by describing WMU as “learner centered, discovery driven, and globally engaged. Provost Greene and President Dunn describe the plan as a short working document that can be amended as needed.

Policy on Duty to Report Criminal Acts. On a motion by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, supported by Trustee Tolbert, the Board of Trustees approved the policy, affirming a set of campus expectations for how students, staff and faculty should report criminal or ethical violations they might encounter. The policy notes that such reports should be made to the University’s Department of Public Safety, the primary reporting spot. The University also has contracted with an external company to provide a website and phone line for anonymously reporting possible criminal or ethical violations. Chair Archer announced formation of a three-person trustee committee headed by Trustee Asmonga-Knapp, along with Trustee Carlson and Trustee Tolbert, to examine related campus Policies and procedure. The committee is to report to the full board any changes it Recommends. Chair Archer noted that board action was taken in light of incidents on Other campuses around the nation and thanked President Dunn for being proactive on The issue.

Agreement with Police Officers Association. As reviewed by Vice President VanDerKley, the Board of Trustees, following a motion by Trustee Carlson, Supported by Trustee Miller, authorized the administration to implement the 2011-2014 tentative agreement between WMU and the WMU Chapter of the Police Officers Association.

Resolution re Sangren Hall. After a motion by Trustee Miller, supported by Trustee Tolbert, the Board of Trustees approved the resolution presented by Associate Vice President Sandra Steinbach. The resolution authorizes the ad- ministration to execute a form of Construction and Completion Assurance Agreement and a form of Lease to comply with the State Building Authority Act (Public Act 183 of 1964 as amended).

Consent Items. On a motion by Trustee Hettinger, supported by Trustee Carlson, the following consent items were approved—personnel report, gift report, grant report, Spindler Hall Facility Use Agreement, Meeting Dates 2012, and Program Proposals.


Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Kocher
Secretary, Board of Trustees