Gov. James J. Blanchard's 1988-89 budget recommendation "will seriously erode higher education's capabilities to contribute to the economic development and cultural vitality of the state," President Haenicke told the joint legislative hearing March 21 in Grand Rapids.

"Unless we make investments now, then surely the citizenry will pay later," Haenicke testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, chaired by Sen. William A. Schuette (R-East Lansing). Other panel members present were Jackie Vaughan (R-Northville), vice chairperson; and James S. B. Strickling (R-Northville). Also present were State Sens. Vernon Ehlers (R-Rapid Grand Rapids) and Dick Posthumus (R-Holland).

Two members of the Board of Trustees joined Haenicke on the witness table: Carol A. Waskiewicz of Kalamazoo, vice chairperson; and James S. B. Strickling (R-Northville).

Waskiewicz noted that WMU "has an exemplary record of providing a high quality education to a diverse student body, moving forward in academic excellence under the leadership of President Haenicke. We would like to see that continue, but state funding support is critical."

Brady cited the state's growth patterns, forecasting a shift in population from the west, the high technology needs of West Michigan and good signs of international students and business. He noted that Haenicke earlier had noted cooperative programs between Western, Grand Valley State and Michigan State universities to offer graduate and undergraduate engineering education in Grand Rapids as well as a joint doctoral program with Northern Michigan University.

Ehlers said, "I want to commend Western and President Haenicke for a real change for the better, a new attitude of cooperation." He, too, was referring to the cooperative engineering programs among the region's institutions of higher education.

Posthumus echoed the words of President Haenicke, who earlier had said that the West Michigan institutions of higher education had been treated as "stepchildren" by the state despite increased enrollment and service to the region. Sederburg responded by saying, "The state must come to grips with some overriding policy issues to address population shifts, enrollment patterns and the high tech age."

Haenicke said efforts would be made to maintain enrollment at about 23,000 students in total head count, although the institution would seek to respond to increases in off-campus enrollment.

Regarding the substance of Blanchard's budget proposal for next year, Haenicke said, "I am basically an optimistic person, but the proposed executive budget recommendation seriously tests that tendency."

He explained that a recommended 1.05 percent base reduction of $549,000 as well as an increase for Western of only $23,000 would reflect a 75 percent permanent base reduction of $549,000 as well as a further examples of increased productivity.

"We have pushed hard toward increased productivity at all levels, with the active participation of the faculty and staff," Haenicke said. "But there are limits to what we can accomplish with available resources."

"If a recommended transfer of increased productivity of 14 to 15 percent would be needed "to meet salary obligations and provide nominal increases to other support services, such as libraries, plant, library and program development budgets, based on the recommended 1.05 percent increase in appropriations."

"That level of tuition (increase) is prohibitive," Haenicke said, adding later, "In developing a (final) recommendation, I do not intend to blame the state government for lack of support because I appreciate the difficult situation we all face. But I need all the help you can provide."

Haenicke concluded by saying, "Despite the state's increased support of higher education over the past four years, we at Western Michigan University have yet to solve the problems spawned by an inadequate base that fails to take account of our mission, program mix and market."
ADEPT AUDITOR -- Marilyn K. Marion helps the University make sure that fiscal telephone operations and accounting run "by the book." An internal audit assistant, Marion's major work involves looking at the financial aspects of the University. She helps make sure financial records are being properly kept. She also works on preparing the University's annual financial statements.

In addition, she sometimes helps with educational audits making sure departments are conducting their jobs efficiently. Although many of these tasks are done on a fiscal year basis, she says there is no month-to-month routine, like the flexibility and not being tied to a monthly routine," she says. "I'm always looking to learn something new." Marion, a WMU employee for seven years, worked in grants and contracts and joining the internal audit staff two and a half years ago. Also, her responsibilities on campus, she is on the executive committee for this Friday's issues and opportunities for faculty and staff conference. In addition, she is on the Council of Representational Faculty and staff members. 

Haenicke welcomes employees

"We want you to be a success, to stay with us here at Western and to achieve your goals," said President Haenicke, who last week held a meeting of new employees to describe the strategies and goals of the University.

"One of the most exciting developments here is the new emphasis on service. We are committed to serving our students, our faculty, and our community in a more effective and efficient manner."

Our new employees will help us achieve this goal.

Haenicke emphasized the importance of cooperation in achieving institutional goals.

"We are committed to working together to ensure that every employee shares in the decision-making process."}

Helping our new employees get started is particularly important, he pointed out, because they are the people who will literally build the future of the University.

"We welcome them to the University and look forward to working with them to meet our goals."
**Calendar**

**Thursday 24th**

(18th) Annual Seminar for Secretaries and Office Personnel, Fetzer Center, 7:30 a.m.

(20th) Spring Into Wellness Week activities: workshop, “One Thing Worse Than Being an Alcoholic: Being a Child of One.” Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Workshop on AIDS and the Employee Assistance Program for all University employees, 8-9:30 a.m.

Two 20th Century American Women Teachers, Artists and Factory Workers, 3760 Knauss Hall, 7-9 p.m.

Visiting Scholars Program lecture, “Multiple Intelligences and Revolution in Education,” Howard E. Gardner, professor of education, Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, and co-director, Harvard Project Zero, North Ballroom, Bernhard Center, 7:30 p.m.

Guest artist recital, pianist Andreas Klein, Dalton Center Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

Staff training seminar, “Business Principles and Practices III,” Payroll and P-006, Rosemary Brennan, Personnel Office, Bernhard Center, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Open house, Medical and Dental Administration Building, 3-5 p.m.

Meeting, Graduate Student Council of the Faculty Senate, Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Seiberth Administration Building, 3-5 p.m.

Workshop on AIDS and the Employee Assistance Program for all University employees, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Workshop on AIDS and the Employee Assistance Program for all University employees, Knollwood Building, 1-4 p.m.

*Admission charged

Spring Into Wellness Week activities: workshop, “One Thing Worse Than Being an Alcoholic: Being a Child of One.” Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and 12:30-1:30 p.m.

*Admission charged