Research and sponsored program funding nearly doubles in two years

WMU researchers don’t take a challenge lightly. By nearly doubling support for research and sponsored programs to $8 million in two years, they’ve met and exceeded a goal set by President Haenicke — three years ahead of schedule.

In a dramatic challenge in 1986, Haenicke called on faculty members to double annual support to at least $7.8 million for research and sponsored programs by the end of the 1990-91 academic year. Their response was even more dramatic — mission accomplished in two short years.

At the close of the 1987-88 fiscal year on June 30, the trustees will meet at 10:30 a.m. in 200 Fetzer Center. The proposed increase was tabled at the Board’s June 24 meeting to allow time for public comment.

In addition, the Board will consider the ratification of a three-year contract with Local 1668, Council 25, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and a recommendation for a 1988-89 general fund budget for the University. Also on the agenda are resolutions on official University positions and on the issuance of tax exempt bonds, personnel reports and proposals to offer a Ph.D. degree in educational leadership and a master of science degree in industrial engineering.

The Board’s two standing committees will meet before the full Board meeting. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in 1050 Fetzer Center and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1050.

APARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS — Workers are beginning to put the finishing touches on the renovation of buildings A, B, C and D of the University’s Elmwood Apartments. The $1.3 million project involving both synthetic and steel stair and handrail; upgraded electrical systems; new kitchen appliances; new bathroom fixtures; air conditioning; and carpeting. The major contractor for the project is Maxwell and N and the complex. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

The number of grant proposals submitted by faculty members at WMU has risen by more than 72 percent during the past two years and the acceptance rate for those proposals has increased from 48 percent to 58 percent during the same time span.

It’s not just the number of proposals that matters, but the quality too. The icing on the cake for University officials is that one of the largest areas of increase has been research activity — the most difficult in which to compete. This year’s figures alone reflect an 88 percent increase over last year’s figures in new research funding.

"I give everybody involved in the research increase twice the credit, including the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs," Haenicke says. "In competing for research dollars, we’ve been up against some of the brightest people in the nation and we’ve competed successfully."

Haenicke says that there is a built-in bias against universities that don’t have a long history of large research projects when it comes to competing for the largest grants.

He also notes that, while Western does some medical research, the University does not have a medical school — the source of many universities’ spectacular yearly research figures.

In addition to new research awards, new funding for instructional projects, public service, academic support and student services was put on the total amount of new funding for the year at $2,413,772.

"The gains," says Donald E. Thompson, assistant vice president for academic affairs and chief research officer, result from faculty efforts at increasing research activity in every corner of the campus. More research initiated, more proposals submitted for funding, more efforts concentrating on matching ongoing research with external funding available have added up to more dollars coming into the University.

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"We can and will improve the record over the next few years as we identify other institutional incentives and policy changes to stimulate even broader faculty participation," Dennison says.

"We’ve created the avenues by which individual faculty members can be successful," Thompson says. "We used to have back roads to research funding. Now we have broad avenues."

AFSCME ratifies contract

A three-year contract covering approximately 300 service, maintenance and trades employees of the University was ratified July 25 by members of Local 1668, Council 25, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"Our members approved the new contract by a better than two to one margin," said Local 1668 President William M. Farmer, who also served as chief negotiator for the union. He noted the contract for Monday’s ratification vote was excellent.

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Compensation meetings set

All non-bargaining unit employees are invited to a special meeting with President Donald E. Thompson, Aug. 1, in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Student Center.

He will be discussing the University’s proposals for 1988-89 compensation adjustments. Clerical/technical staff will meet at 11 a.m. and professional/administrative staff will meet at 1 p.m. There will be time for questions and discussion.

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Farmer and Dinsen J. Rank, collective bargaining and contract administration and the University’s chief negotiator, said that they were pleased with the contract, which was reached in amicable bargaining through the new problem-solving approaches developed at WMU.

The contract will be submitted to the Board of Trustees Friday, July 29, for its approval. If ratified by the trustees, it will become effective Aug. 12, with first-year wage increases of 5.6 percent. The second and third years will be $25 and 5 percent, respectively.

The contract also calls for the continuation of the apprenticeship program and the study of training needs in various areas, and provides for employee input.
Telephone to be tested

The Department of Telecommunications will be conducting technical tests on the phone system from now through Saturday, Aug. 13. During the testing period, persons may experience disruption or disturbance of phone service, such as hearing clicking noises, test tones, or voices faintly in the background. All efforts will be made to minimize any disruption of service.

Persons with questions should contact tele-communications at 7-0918.

Seminar set on alcoholism

"Adult Children of Alcoholics" will be the topic of a seminar for faculty and staff members at noon Wednesday, Aug. 3, in the Board Room of the Bernhard Student Center.

The seminar will cover the significant impact that alcoholism and chemical dependency has on individuals and relationships in adult life. It is sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program.

Jobs

The listing below is currently being posted by the University employment office. Interested regular full-time or part-time employees should submit a job opportunities application during the posting period.

1-3 and 2-0 clerical positions are not required to be posted. Interested University employees may contact the employment office for assistance in securing these positions.

(R) Associate, Professor, f-20, Center for Public Administration Programs, 88/89-015, 7/26-1/4/88.


(N) Secretary II, f-05, King/Chavez/Parks Program, 88/89-017, 7/26-1/4/88.

(S) Secretary, x-06, Continuing Education, South Central Regional Center, 88/89-025, 7/26-1/4/88.

(S) Secretary, f-07, Center for Public Administration Programs, 88/89-039, 7/26-1/4/88.


(S) or f-04, Student Financial Aid, 88/89-041, 7/26-1/4/88.


(B) New Position

California State University, Fullerton, is seeking a full-time, EEO/AA employee.

Calendar

July

28

Thursday

(28) 29th Conference, International Association of School Librarians, Bernhard Student Center.

Friday 29

Board and Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, IMAG Fetter Center, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committees of the Board of Trustees, IMAG Fetter Center, 9:30 a.m.

28-31

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JULY 28, 1988

Stamm participates in institute at Bryn Mawr

Carol L. Stamm, chairperson of the personnel staff at the Department of Communications, has participated in the 1988 Summer Institute on Higher Education Administration at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

Stamm was first selected to attend the June 26-July 22 institute from Western's MUW applicants by a University screening committee. Then program organizers contacted her for one of 76 summer internships.

Loniase Bias to speak Aug. I

Loniase Bias, mother of the late Maryland basketball All-American Len Bias, will speak on substance abuse during Western's girls' basketball team camp at 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, in Read Fieldhouse.

Len Bias died as the result of a drug overdose June 19, 1986, just two days after being selected as the number two player in the National Basketball Association draft by the Boston Celtics.

Since that time, Loniase Bias has toured the United States as a lecturer and consultant on the dangers of substance abuse. She seeks to help others avoid her son's tragic end.

International librarians here

School librarians from 19 nations are on campus through Friday, July 29, for the 17th annual conference of the International Association of School Librarianship.

More than 120 participants are attending the conference, which features a full agenda of association business, presentations by guest speakers, workshops, tours of Kalamazoo area schools and public library facilities and four days of book and library information exhibits. Most sessions are taking place in the Bernhard Student Center.

President Haenicke is serving as honorary chairperson for the conference and spoke during the opening ceremony July 25.

Exchange

HOMESTAY FOR SALE - Immaculate Cape Cod style home on large, fenced, landscaped yard; Northwest neighborhood, within walking distance of WMU; two bedrooms, one and a half baths. Monthly payments, including insurance and taxes, under $500. Available immediately. 726-9684.

MARKET

Monday

Meeting, Board of Trustees, 2002 Fetter Center, 9 a.m.

Saturday

Surplus auction, H.O.I. Room, East Campus, 10 a.m.

Tuesday

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committees of the Board of Trustees, IMAG Fetter Center, 9:30 a.m.

Meetings for non-examining unit staff members Wednesday, Aug. 3, 1-5 p.m.

Thursday

Exchange conference, International Association of School Librarians, Bernhard Student Center.

Friday

Meeting, Academic and Student Affairs Committees of the Board of Trustees, IMAG Fetter Center, 9:30 a.m.

Western News

Editor: Rich A. Senator; Staff Writers: Cheryl P. Roland, Michael A. Smith; Photography: Neil G. Rankin; Assistant Editor: Jeff Thompson.

Western News (USPS #61-211) is published by the Office of Public Information, 820 Elloitowall Hlll, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5105; weekly during fall and winter semesters and bi-weekly during spring and summer sessions, except during vacation periods; second class postage paid at Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5105.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western News, 820 Elliotowall Hill, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5105.

Western News is distributed without charge to faculty and students of Western Michigan University. The views and opinions of the University's Associate and other friends of the University including students, faculty, alumni, and residents of a several counties and states.

Dissertations: Items to be considered for publication should be submitted to the Office of Public Information by noon Tuesday of the week of publication. (Office hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Media

Two faculty and staff members will be guests during the coming weeks on "Focus," a five-minute radio interview produced by the Office of Public Information and distributed over WMU's local radio station. "Focus" is scheduled to air at 6:10 a.m. on these Saturdays on WMUP-AM (1420) and at 9:05 p.m. on these Sundays on WMUP-FM (91.3). The following are scheduled to participate in the following shows and topics:

Thompson, who works in the Office of Public Information, "Focus" is a radio interview program of the WMU's Office of Public Information. Thompson says, "It's a good way to get a little bit of the university's research and educational programs to the public."

Thompson points to significant increases in funding for the university's research, education, and applied sciences and health and human services as evidence of the university's strong academic and economic base. Thompson says that WMU's research has responded to Haenicke's commitment to research at the university.

WMU's recent string of grant successes has been noticed across the state and, Thompson says, he's been getting questions from his colleagues at other state universities.

"When I travel around the state, I'm constantly asked what we're doing here, how are we getting these results," Thompson says.

"I tell them that we've got faculty enthusiasm and the kind of leadership that provides support for faculty research and creative activities."

With the five-year goal achieved so quickly, Thompson and his staff predict continued healthy growth in WMU's research activity, particularly in allied health, technology transfer and engineering and water research.