Board approves reorganization

The Board of Trustees April 25 approved an administrative reorganization, as recommended by President Haenicke, who said it will provide a better distribution of labor and enable us to sharpen our focus on such critical areas as research, graduate programs, development, governmental relations and communications.

The changes are:

- Philip Dennenfeld, from vice president for academic affairs, to provost and vice president for academic affairs.
- Robert M. Beam, from vice president for finance, to vice president for business and finance.
- Chauncey J. Brinn, from vice president for University relations and secretary to the Board of Trustees, to vice president for development and administrative affairs and secretary to the Board of Trustees.
- John R. Cooley, from associate director of governmental relations, to executive director of governmental relations and communications.
- Laurel L. Grotzinger, from dean of the Graduate College and chief research officer, to dean of the Graduate College.
- Donald E. Thompson, from associate dean of the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs, to assistant vice president for academic affairs.
- Carolyn Collins-Bondon, from assistant to the vice president for institutional relations, to associate director of governmental relations.

All of these changes are effective immediately.

Haenicke explained that Dennenfeld’s promotion carries additional functions, including increased representation of the institution in the person of the provost, who is always representing the president and the institution as the first deputy to the president. It is the most important administrative position in the University after the presidency and designed to provide me more time to address issues external to the campus; eventually, I want the provost to be more involved in the day-to-day internal administration of the institution.

Dennenfeld characterized the change for Vice President Beam as a change of title designed to more adequately describe his diverse responsibilities. “He is not just handling the finances of the institution; he oversees many offices, like physical plant, auxiliary enterprises, personnel, purchasing and others that report to him, in addition to the finance areas.”

“Vice President Brinn continues to hold one of the broadest and most diverse portfolios,” Haenicke observed. “His new title is intended to place heavy emphasis on the fact that I want to significantly strengthen the institution’s involvement with fund raising and our alumni.” Brinn will also be responsible for affirmative action, intercollegiate athletics and institutional liaison with the Board of Trustees.

“I want an executive officer with Cabinet rank to work on the major areas of governmental relations and communications,” said Haenicke. “His new title is intended to place heavy emphasis on the fact that I want to significantly strengthen the institution’s involvement with fund raising and our alumni.”

As for changes for Grotzinger and Thompson, Haenicke said, “I want to give very strong attention to our graduate offerings and to research; therefore, I think it is wise to devote the full attention of one administrator to each of these two very important aspects of our university. These changes facilitate our goal of having the graduate and research components of the University intensified. We are very grateful for Dean Grotzinger’s efforts to place these two key areas for many years.”

“I expect Dr. Collins-Bondon to continue to provide good service to Western as she works closely with me and Mr. Gagle in the critical governmental relations areas, including city, county, state and federal activities,” Haenicke concluded.

Kiev group returns home

Glad to be home. Grateful to U.S. news media for information about their situation. Concerned for their safety. Angry that the Soviets provided so little information. Anxious to get back to normal.

And ready to return.

Those are among the sentiments expressed by members of the WMU tour group that returned to Kalamazoo May 4 after a 10-day cultural tour of three Russian cities including Kiev, 80 miles south of what has been described as the world’s worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Though they were never given detailed information, they came to believe they were in danger — all seemed to depend on which way the wind blew. And while they considered leaving early, they elected as a group to stay together and complete their itinerary as scheduled.

“One of us, to a person, would go back,” said John R. Cooley, English, leader of the tour and the group’s primary spokesperson. “Kiev is one of the most beautiful cities in Russia.”

Kiev Cooley and others of the 16-member group of students, three staff members, five faculty members, four spouses and one other person expressed dismay that Soviet authorities allowed the group to leave Moscow April 29 for Kiev despite knowledge of a reactor meltdown three days earlier.

“We were very grateful to western news media for the information they gave us,” Cooley said. “Many of us had some pretty unusual interviews, asking for more information than we had to give. We were angry that we were given so little information by Soviet authorities.”

Meanwhile, on campus, hundreds of telephone contacts with the relatives of tour members and from news media around the country were handled by the Office of International Education and Programs, which arranged the tour and conducted the University’s response to the situation beginning April 30.

“The relatives of each tour member were kept constantly up to date,” said Dean Nor­ man C. Greenberg. “Each time we had new information, we initiated another round of calls.” Greenberg expressed appreciation to members of his staff for their special efforts, pointing out that the situation under­ scored the value of a central office for inter­ national education.

Forum set on living wills

“Medical Decision Making: Do Living Wills Help?” is the title of a free public forum to be presented at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 28 in the Fetzer Center. The event will address ethical issues involved when families and physicians must make health care decisions for incapacitated patients.
Haenicke says 5.1 percent not enough for Western

President Haenicke pleaded for an across-the-board increase in 1986-87 state funding in a May 8,1986 address before the House Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee.

He told the legislative panel that the Governor's recommendation of $120 million for a three-year increase in Western's share of the state's budget for higher education is not enough.

"We need at least a 5.1 percent increase this year and a 4.7 percent increase next year," he said.

Haenicke told the legislators that the $120 million increase, the largest in the state, is "absolutely $250,000 short of the Governor's recommendation of $122.5 million for the Board of Regents' priorities for the year, and the Governor's recommended $122.5 million is "way below" what the Governor has recommended, he said.

He pointed out that WMU has made "several severe cuts" -- $14 million in about five years.

The festival opens at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 8, on campus.

"The Holocaust cost us all for a time, our uniqueness that results in part from our very comprehensive College of Health and Human Services," he stated.

The largest annual gathering of medievalists -- specialists in the history and culture of the Middle Ages -- will be at Western Thursday through Sunday. Five hundred of the nearly 3,000 medievalists who will attend the festival will be in Kalamazoo.

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Festival will be in Western's Goldsworth Valley residence hall complexes.

Congress registration will be accepted in the Office of the Registrar beginning May 8. Students who register before May 8 will be eligible for discounts.

The festival will be open to the public free of charge.

University and Western as Michigan's two most severely underfunded institutions, he reminded the legislators, that they hold 40 percent of the state's budget for higher education.

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