Houdek called the meeting to order at 2:00. Those in attendance were: Appel, Bach, Caruso, M. Cordier, Ebling, Hamner, Houdek, Kobrak, Meyer, Petro, and Williams. Bosco, Nagler, and Raup, were absent.

Emeriti Textbook Scholarship Fund Drive: Houdek reported that the letter for the Emeriti Textbook Scholarship Fund Drive has been sent. In the request for donation, the letter stated that members of the emeriti council had endorsed the effort by already making gifts of more than $1,000. Houdek had made his own donation in advance so as to be able to make that statement in the hope that it would make the request more persuasive. In the future it might be beneficial to get additional donations from Council members in advance to further enhance the request. Houdek reported that in the first month since the letter was mailed on June 10th, the Foundation has received $4,500 from 64 donors. This will fund 9 scholarships. A letter reminding those who have not made a donation will be sent in November.

Organization of Emeriti Council Steering Committee: Houdek announced that the Emeriti Council Steering Committee has been formed and is comprised of: Caruso, Ebling, Hamner, Williams and himself. The Steering Committee will meet on an as needed basis in the month between meetings of the Council.

August Break-Fest: After discussion with the Steering Committee, Houdek indicated there will be more choice at the Break-Fast on August 3 and as a result the cost will be 50 cents higher. This is in response to the lack of choice last year. This year’s Break-Fast will be a buffet. The announcement of the Break-Fast is being sent to Emeriti this week.

Compilation of Emeriti Council “Recipe Book:’ At previous meetings, Council members had indicated concern that there was neither a list of the tasks the Council is to undertake nor suggestions as to how they are to be undertaken. It was decided that the Council should assemble that information into what is being called a “recipe book.” Considerable progress has been made.

REPORTS:

Wednesdays II: Ebling reported that we now have dates, presenters and descriptions for the three Wednesdays II for the Fall Semester (George Dales, Bill Stiefel, and Molly Williams. We also have four presenters scheduled for Spring (Winter) Semester (Mary Cordier, Robert Poel, Woody Ehrle, and Walt Turner. Ebling asked for suggestions for a fourth. Someone suggested Donna Shuman. Ebling reported that there had been discussion of a “Christmas” party which would be held in the room directly below the Emeriti Lounge. She inquired whether anyone had ideas for someone to provide some music for the party and whether members thought it was a good idea. Discussion ensued. Consensus was that it would be nice to have such a program.

Treasurer’s Report: Caruso presented a treasurer’s report. He reported that our budget for the year is a “soft” $4,000 and that we have $1,500 left for the end of the year. He reported that on the basis of the numbers that he had obtained from M WiSeon Salisbury in the Office of the President, each single page mailing to local emeriti costs about $300, that the mailing of the
ballot costs about $312 and that each of the newsletters costs about $475. Given the number of individual mailings we send out for Wednesdays II, that leaves us with a potential substantial deficit. He suggested that we send one announcement of the schedule of Wednesdays II each semester. The possibility of sending out the information electronically to those who preferred that would save us money as well.

Flu Clinic Schedule: Meyer had contacted Sindicuse about the dates for the Fall Flu Shot Clinic. At this point they are unable to say when or how much of the appropriate flu vaccine, or indeed, the extent to which the vaccine might be on restricted distribution. At this point all that is known is that the clinic will not be held before October 1st. (NOTE: On July 14, Ruth Ann forwarded a note from Bill Green indicating that the emeriti flu clinic is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 4th, but that this may change depending upon further information from the Center for Disease Control and the vaccine manufacturer.)

Care and Nurturing of Emeriti Council Website: Houdx has contacted Bradley Horstman who manages the WMU webpage. Horstman intends to make some changes in the webpage and Houdex will be speaking with him again. Members of the Council requested that the URL of the AAUP portion of the webpage be published in the newsletter. (NOTE: The web address for the Emeriti Council Webpage is: www.wmich.edu/emeriti/. Clicking on this address may get you a “Not Found Error.” Alternatively, go to WMU homepage, click on directory and then find the Emeriti Council under the letter “e.” and use the directory to get to link. Presently the webpage shows our most recent newsletter, the Wednesdays II from last Spring (Winter) Semester, the list of officers and phone numbers, and a section labeled “About the Council.”)

Emeriti Newsletter: Caruso indicated that he is continuing to assemble the information that he is given for publication in the Fall Newsletter. He has received all of the descriptions for Wednesdays II for Fall Semester presentations.

AAUP Update: Caruso reported that the last meeting of the Western Association of Retired Faculty was May 25. At that meeting it was reported that the members had approved the by-laws and elected the members of the Association’s Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee are Mary Cain, Joe Ellin, Arthur Falk, George Miller, Carol Payne Smith, Larry Syndergaard and Shirley Woodworth. The Steering Committee has elected the following officers. Presider: Woodworth, Vice-Chair: Miller, Secretary: syndergaard and Information Officer: Arthur Falk. At the May 25 meeting members of the WMU-AAUP Negotiating Team spoke with the members of the Association.

Emeriti Council Forum: Bill Appel and Peter Korbak had agreed to begin thinking about potential topics for an Emeriti Council Forum for the Fall of 2006. Appel indicated that topics that had been suggested so far include War, Health, and Poverty. He suggested that a topic that might interest students might increase participation. Someone suggested the Politics of Art.

Emeriti Theatre Nights: Hamner reported that Emeriti Theatre Nights will be Thursday, October
20 (Proof by David Auburn.) and Thursday, April 6 (Misalliance by George Bernard Shaw). Tickets will be available for $10 each at the box office by identifying yourself as emeriti. On each night there will be complementary refreshments after the performance.

Emeriti Computer Discounts: Someone requested clarification as to whether Emeriti are eligible for the computer hardware and software discounts that are available to faculty. It was suggested that Caruso contact Arthur Smith at the WMU help desk to obtain an answer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Caruso

While reviewing my notes in preparing the above minutes, I encountered the Agenda from the May 10 meeting with the names of the people assigned various tasks. Since I don’t remember seeing it typed up, I have typed it below for your reference. If my notes are incorrect or there have been changes made, tell me at the next meeting and I will correct the list.

Guidance for the Following Activities:
Break-Fast: Bach and Houdek
Wednesdays II: Cordier, Ebling, and Williams
Flu Clinic: Meyer
On-Campus Visits: Raup
Medallions Scholar Lunches: Kobrak and others
Care and Nurturing of Website: Bosco
News Items for PRISM: Appel, Petro
Nominations for 2006: Ebling and Meyer
Emeriti Newsletter: Caruso and Meyer
University Theatre Specials: Hamner and Raup
Off Campus Events: Bach and Cordier
Fund Raising for Textbook Scholarships: Bosco and Houdek
Forum: Appel and Kobrak
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 MEETING OF THE EMERITI COUNCIL

Houdek called the meeting to order at 2:00. Those in attendance were: Appel, Bosco, Caruso, M. Cordier, Ebling, Hamner, Kobrak, Meyer and Nagler. Excused Absences: Bach, Petro, Raup and Williams.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Houdek had distributed the agenda. Cordier pointed out that she should not be listed as the second person on the AAUP/WARF assignment. The agenda was accepted as so modified.

APPROVAL OF JULY 12, 2005 MINUTES: The minutes of the July 12 meeting had been distributed earlier. It was accepted as distributed.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:
Houdek reported that the Council had received thank you notes from two of the 14 recipients of the Emeriti Textbook Scholarships. He read each of them to the Council. The fund raising has been even more successful this year as last Fall the Council only raised enough to fund 10 scholarships. A second mailing reminding emeriti will be sent out sometime in November.

Houdek inquired whether the Council thought we needed to have more promotion for the Exploring Our Campus program. An announcement of the program is included in the Fall Newsletter which should be in the hands of Emeriti in time for the program on Wednesday, September 28. It was also pointed out that we can announce it to those who attend the the Wednesdays II program on September 14. It was decided that should be sufficient.

UPDATES/REPORTS

Break-Fest: About 60 people attended the Break-Fest. Houdek reminded the Council that we need to begin thinking about next year’s and to reserve the Fetzer Center. It was agreed that the date for the 2006 Break-Fest was to be August 2.

Flu Clinic: The announcement of the Emeriti Flu Clinic is in the Fall Newsletter.

Lunch with our Medallion Scholar: Kobrak had found the current address of our Medallion Scholar, Sarah Hurd. It was agreed that he should call Ms Hurd and try to schedule a lunch. If schedules allow, Bosco and Cordier were among those who indicated they would be willing to attend such a lunch. He also found out that there is presently $352,000 in the Emeriti Medallion Scholar Fund. Each medallion scholarship requires an endowment of $190,000 so at this time we do not have enough for a second. Of course, future increases in costs would make this shortfall in the endowment for a second Medallion Scholarship bigger. It was concluded that the current fund was begun as a result of the last fund raising campaign by WMU. Another such general fund raising campaign is expected soon. Having a specific option of donating to the Emeriti Medallion fund on the campaign literature would probably help attract donations to that fund.
Care & Nurturing of our Website: Bosco suggested that members of the Council visit the Emeriti Council webpage and give him feed back as to what the Council would like to see on the webpage. He will then talk to Bradley Horstman.

News Items for Prism: Appel inquired what items the Council would like to see submitted to Prism. Items suggested included a report on the Textbook Scholarship fund raising, faculty accolades and the Wednesdays II scheduled programs.

AAUP/WARF: Caruso had written a report on the tentative agreement for the newsletter. He added a few comments and passed out a list of changes in the article on health benefits to which the AAUP has tentatively agreed and has posted on the University website. (See addendum from the WARF Steering Committee attached below.)

Emeriti Dinner: It was agreed that we need to reserve the room for the Emeriti Dinner for late March or early April. It needs to be held before the beginning of the Gilmore Festival events. Houdek and Williams are responsible for this.

Off-Campus Events: Bach and Cordier have been discussing a possible off-campus trip in the Spring. Ideas that have been discussed include a possible trip to one of the nearby art Institutes (Chicago Institute of Art, Cranbrook Art Institute, Toledo Museum of Art(?)). Someone suggested a trip to the Kellogg Mansion. All were thought to be good ideas.

2006-2007 Forum: Appel and Kobrak had been asked to come up with some ideas for a possible Forum for the 2006/2007 academic year. They reported that Howard Wolpe is now connected to the Woodrow Wilson Institute and is continuing his work in relation to Africa. Presently, he is interested in attempts at conflict resolution and some of the attempts appear to be working. Appel and Kobrak thought that a possible forum could be developed with Wolpe playing a major role dealing with the topic of how to make democracy work in Africa. Discussion ensued. Everyone thought the topic a good topic. Concerns were registered as to how we could get more student involvement in our forums. Bosco suggested that the use of satellite transmissions might make it possible to involve scholars/participants who are located in Africa without the associated travel expense. After discussion, Bosco moved with Ebbling providing a second to have Appel and Kobrak explore this idea further. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Caruso

The following material was sent by the WARF Steering Committee. I am forwarding it to you along with the minutes above.

TO: MEMBERS OF WARF
FROM: THE WARF STEERING COMMITTEE
On the evening of September 1, the AAUP leadership held a Chapter meeting to present the important contract changes in the tentative Agreement reached that morning. Members of your Steering Committee and other WARF members were there. The negotiation team presented a summary of all changes, which are also posted at www.wmich.edu/aaup/negotiations/index.php. We urge you to read this summary.

On balance, health-care benefits should continue at about the same level. Some costs increase (annual deductibles are $50 and $100 a year higher for an individual and a family, respectively; premium contribution for dependants increases from 40 to 42.5% in the third year; massage therapy and acupuncture benefits are reduced; a single's contribution will be 10% of the two-person premium). Maxima on pharmaceuticals are $10, $20, and $30 for generic, "second-tier" brand name, and "third-tier" brand name prescriptions, respectively. You can obtain a 90-day supply of your usual prescriptions. Several benefits increase (preventive services to $750 from $500; transplant coverage to $1.5 million; and increases in maximum dental coverage, orthodontia, and single tooth implants). We now have access to the MSU/WMU Unified Clinics, paid at 100%. Student Recreation Center membership is free. The indemnity or "University" plan is replaced for all by the PPO plan, which will be supplemental to Medicare. We are told that Blue Cross Blue Shield lists approved physicians throughout the world.

Because the AAUP cannot bargain for retired faculty, no discussion took place at the table regarding retirees' health benefit premiums. From our recent discussion with the Chief Negotiator, we believe that our single-person quarterly premiums will remain about the same, or even decrease. A difference may arise from the switch from the indemnity plan to the PPO.

A number of major changes reflect the Chapter's pursuit of the AAUP principle of shared governance. Departmental Policy Statements can include guidelines regarding workload. When approved, these guidelines are binding. The elimination of Article 5 (Past Practices) gives the faculty more power in grievances. The Chapter can now grieve layoff decisions involving seniority. One-year term appointments can now be evaluated for conversion to tenure-track appointments in the fourth year. In addition, physical, speech, and occupational therapy are now available to children of any age. Tuition discounts have been increased to 100% for bargaining unit faculty, and to 75% for dependents.

These examples do not include all changes; therefore, we urge you to consult the Chapter's website.

Members of WARF will remember the succession of struggles by the AAUP to gain benefits and greater autonomy for the faculty. It seems to us that the current tentative Agreement is another positive step in this continuing process. If your judgment of the provisions agrees with ours, and if you are in touch with active faculty, we suggest that you encourage faculty to ratify the Agreement.

The WARF Steering Committee:
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2005 MEETING OF THE EMERITI COUNCIL

Houdek called the meeting to order at 2:00. Those in attendance were Houdek, Appel, Hamner, Bach, Meyer, Cordier, Kobrak, and Ebling.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA. Houdek distributed the agenda. Meyer pointed out that she was not on the AAUP/WARF committee. Agenda was accepted as modified.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13: Accepted as distributed.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR:

• To encourage attendance at Board meetings, reminders should be sent to board member via email and the next meeting should be cited in the minutes.
• Items about emeriti are being printed in PRISM. Claude Phillips will be included in the next PRISM. Submit information to Appel.
• The time for the Wednesday II meetings should be included in the Newsletter and other reminders.
• Breakfast has been scheduled for August 2, 2006, 8:00-10:00, Fetzer Center. Speaker and menu to be determined.
• Emeriti Spring Dinner has been scheduled for April 5, 2006, 5:30-10:00, Fetzer Center.
• Current WMU Directories were distributed courtesy of Houdek.
• An emeriti person is needed for the planning committee for the Retirement Dinner in May. Also, an emeriti speaker is needed to welcome to new retirees. Houdek will locate both persons.
• Mary Cain and Shirley Woodworth of WARF would like to encourage retirees to volunteer in the local schools. It was noted that many retirees already are involved in volunteer work, in the schools and elsewhere. An announcement of this volunteer project will be made at the December Wednesday II meeting.
• Book Scholarships. Houdek will send out another letter seeking additional funds for the Book Scholarships so as to increase the number of scholarships to twenty. Houdek is also exploring ways that books used through the scholarship might be recycled through the Bookstore, cutting costs of such books for the next semester.

FLU CLINIC. The process went well.

EXPLORING THE CAMPUS. Only three people toured the Core Lab. Notice of the tour was delayed through the hold up of the Newsletter in the president’s office. Winter Campus tour will be to the Health and Human Services Building.

MEDALLION SCHOLAR/SCHOLARSHIPS. Kobrak, Hamner, and Cordier enjoyed lunching with Sara Herd, a bright, dynamic young woman who is currently majoring in public relations. Also, the scholar would like to be
invited to the December Wednesday II meeting and would be pleased to speak briefly to the emeriti.

Kobrak reported on the financial status of the Emeriti Medallion Scholarships. Currently the scholar receives $8,000. This amount needs to be increased to $10,000, then eventually, to $12,000. Other universities are also giving this kind of financial support, perhaps draining some students from enrolling in WMU. Kobrak raised the question as to whether the Emeriti Council should try for two scholarships and at what level. We currently have enough funds to support two scholarships, but would need to draw some of the funds from capital. We need to decide on the next move on fund raising. Our request could be part of the Capital Fund Campaign, or, we could seek the funds ourselves. Further discussion is needed at next meeting.

WEBSITE. The website has not been updated. Appel will look into this.

NEWSLETTER.

• January Newsletter should include a brief article about meeting with the Medallion scholar.
• Fall Newsletter should be sent out in August with the fall schedule of Wednesdays II and other events. The Flu Clinic is announced through other sources so should not hold up the fall Newsletter.
• A small one-page or post card reminder could be sent about the December and January Wednesday II meetings.
• Winter Newsletter should cite Wednesdays II for February through May.
• Efforts must be made to encourage emeriti to receive their Newsletters and announcements via email, saving us postage.

THEATRE SPECIAL. Although not many emeriti attended the play on opening night, it was an excellent play.

OFF-CAMPUS TRIP. Cordier and Bach discussed two possibilities. The consensus supported a trip to Brook Lodge for lunch and tour, May 10. Initial announcement will be in the winter Newsletter. Cordier and Bach will work out the details. There was some interest in having a fall trip to Binder Park Zoo.

WEDNESDAYS II. Robert Poel will be the speaker in March. Walt Turner will be the speaker in April.

The December 14th meeting will be a holiday gathering. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED BRING 2 DOZEN HOLIDAY COOKIES: MEYER, HOUDERK, CORDIER, BACH, AND EBLING. Meyer and Ebling will also bring nuts.
PLEASE BRING THE COOKIES AT 1:00 ON DECEMBER 14, OR GET THEM TO MOYRA EBLING, 1937 Quail Cove Drive, Kal., MI, 373-8094, or MARY CORDIER, 1115 Cherry St., Kal., MI., 349-7560.

EMERITI CONFERENCE: The Council reviewed a draft proposal by Bill Appel and Peter Kobraa for a conference in the fall on Achieving Peace in an Embattled World. It was agreed that they will approach Howard Wolpe about discussing his conflict resolution strategy in Burundi, Africa. If Howard agrees with the conference format from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm on a Friday afternoon, they will then approach others about providing a role-playing demonstration on what happened in Burundi and about serving on a panel that would address the advisability and feasibility of using such a strategy in other parts of the world. The council agreed that either Friday, September 29 or Friday, October 6 would be suitable dates for the event.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED ABOUT 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cordier
Substitute Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

Next Wednesdays II: Wednesday January 11, 2006 at 2:00 pm