MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2007 MEETING OF THE WMU EMERITI COUNCIL

Molly Williams called the meeting to order at the request of John Houdek who was unable to attend due to another commitment. Those in attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Mary Cordier, George Dales, Woody Ehrle, Nancy Falk, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer, and John Petro. James Bosco, Ruth Heinig and Phil Kramer had notified the secretary they would be unable to attend.

I. Call to order and Acceptance of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as distributed.

II. Approval of November 14, 2006 Minutes: The minutes of November 14, 2006 were accepted as distributed.

III. Comments from the Chair: There were no comments from the Chair.

IV. Updates/Reports
   a. Emeriti Newsletter: Caruso reported that he is assembling the material for the January Newsletter. Any member of the Council should get material they want included in the Newsletter should email it to him by January 23.

   b. Emeriti Textbook Scholarships: Houdek had informed Williams that the second effort of the academic year to raise funds for the Emeriti Textbook Scholarships raised enough for an additional 9 scholarships. He also reported that due to personnel changes, the contact person for this effort is Jodie Laraway in the Office of Student Financial Aid.

   c. AAUP/WARF: Discussion ensued as to the relationship between WARF and the Emeriti Council. It was agreed that it was appropriate for the Council to continue encouraging membership in WARF. Caruso indicated there would again be a paragraph in the next Newsletter encouraging such membership along with information as to how to become a member. He indicated that he had sent such a paragraph to Joe Ellin and Arthur Falk for their comments.

   d. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is composed of Ruth Ann Meyer and John Houdek. Meyer reported that suggestions for candidates should be sent to her or John and that we needed to finalize the slate of candidates so that the ballot can be sent out with the reservations forms for the On-Campus tour or the Off-Campus trip to the Ladies Library Society. She also asked whether current members of the Council whose terms were expiring were interested in being candidates for another term. Two questions were raised at that time. It was agreed that those were alternates could run again and that an alternate position does not count against the limit of successive two year terms.

[Note from the secretary: It seems reasonable that those whose terms are expiring should send an email to the Nominating Committee formally indicating whether they are willing to be candidates for another term. To simplify coordinating and since he was absent from the meeting, let me suggest such emails be sent to John Houdek (jthoudek@charter.net). The terms of the]
following members are expiring according to the secretary’s records: Bosco, Caruso, Cordier, Dales, Ehrle, Kobrak, Meyer, Oas and Williams. John and Ruth Ann: Are these correct?

e. Items for Prism: After discussion, Caruso agreed to send in the information on the future Wednesdays II to Prism. It was agreed that he should indicate that the public is invited. [The current editors of Prism are Amy Routhier (amy.routhier@wmich.edu) and Megan Anderson (m.anderson@wmich.edu).

f. Exploring Our Campus: the committee for Exploring Our Campus is composed of Ruth Heinig and Molly Williams. Williams reported that the current plans are for a one hour tour followed by optional heavy appetizers in turn followed by optional opening night performance of Doctor Faustus and refreshments. Purchase of theatre tickets will be by the individual. A reservation form will be required for those wishing to partake of the heavy appetizers. We will not be able to offer wine. (It may be possible to have a cash bar, Williams will check on that.) The charge for the heavy appetizers will depend upon the options chosen. She inquired whether $10 or $15 dollars would be too much. No objections were voiced.

g. 2007-2008 Wednesday II Program: Cordier reported that at this time that Erica Loeffler has indicated willingness to present a program on Iran in October and Lois Stegman has suggested that we could get somebody to do a program on the problems of senior citizens in retirement. Two names were suggested for the latter: Marie Stoline and Diether Haenicke. Additional suggestions for this or any other Wednesday II program should be passed on to Cordier.

h. Lunch with our Medallion Scholar: Ehrle reported that he and three other members of the Council had attended lunch with our Emeriti Medallion Scholar and had a very pleasant time.

i. Our Next Forum: There is interest in formal discussion of the future of the university. WARF has already undertaken a program dealing with this topic. If the Council is also interested, its members need to consult with their plans and how the Council might work around those plans and supplement them. Kobrak is undertaking discussions with Joe Ellin. Ehrle was concerned as to the horizon assumed with such a topic. There was consensus, that we were thinking of something like 5 years.

j. Our Spring Dinner: The Annual Spring Dinner for this year is being combined with the Exploring Our Campus program.

V. Other Business

a. Break-Fest: This committee is composed of Kobrak and Oas. Kobrak indicated that he would contact Fetzer about possible dates in August. In response to questions about possible speakers, Ehrle indicated that there will be a rather extraordinary retirement this summer as Bob Beam departs after 40 years. That led to the question of whether persuading Beam to deliver a retrospective of 40 years with the University.

b. A Semi-Permanent Brochure for the Council: Ehrle suggested that a number of retirees have little knowledge about what the Council does and wondered whether the Council would be
interested in developing a small brochure to be distributed, at least, to new retirees from the faculty. There was a consensus that this would be a good idea. The brochure would include a one or two sentence description of each of our activities. It would not need frequent revision.

c. SOAR: Haenicke had presented a copy of Wayne State University’s SOAR program to Arthur Falk and Nancy Falk had brought it to the attention of the Council. SOAR (Society of Active Retirees) is a program in which retired faculty voluntarily present short courses. SOAR is affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network. Would the Emeriti like to undertake such a program? (Information about the Wayne State University program and a copy of their Fall Schedule of Classes can be obtained at http://www.mpss.wayne.edu/SOAR/) There was general interest in pursuing such a program.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Phillip Caruso
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2007 MEETING OF THE WMU EMERITI COUNCIL

John Houdek called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Mary Cordier, Woody Ehrle, Nancy Falk, Ruth Heinig Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer, Donna Oas, John Petro and Molly Williams. George Dales, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris and Phil Kramer had notified the secretary they would be unable to attend.

I. Call to order and Acceptance of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as distributed.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2007 MINUTES: The minutes were accepted as distributed.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: The Council’s request for donations to the textbook scholarship fund has resulted in about $8600 this year. The funds have been distributed resulting in about 32 students receiving textbook scholarships.

IV. UPDATES/REPORTS
FUTURE MAILINGS: Caruso consulted with the Council on the tentative schedule for future mailings. Mailing labels for the entire list of emeriti have been requested from Shannon. The flyer for the dinner at the Ladies Library association has been sent to Shannon. The plan is to have that reservation form and the ballot ready for mailing no later than Friday, April 6 with a deadline of Friday April 20 for reservations and the ballot to be returned. This will provide sufficient time to inform the Ladies Library Association of the number of dinners and to count the ballots and inform those who have been elected about the joint meeting of old and new members of the Council on Tuesday, May. (The flyer announcing the forum discussed below will be mailed at the same time. Ruth Ann Meyer will get the ballot to Landis and Kobrak will get the announcement of the forum to Landis.)

Caruso indicated that the next Newsletter is scheduled to go out in early July along with the reservation form for the Break -Fest in August. That Newsletter is to contain the list of Wednesdays II for the Fall Semester and the first Wednesdays II in January as well as the Emeriti Theatre Night information.

AAUP/WARF: The possibility of having emeriti offering general courses to the public was conveyed to WARF. They indicated that they do not believe it is in their interest to offer such courses. The officers of WARF have met with Robert Beam to analyze the data on insurance for dependents. The analysis reveals that retirees actually cost less than regular faculty last year, but there is lots of variation from year to year in health expenditures. Some alarming news: For the whole university, expenditures last year were two million dollars higher than the previous year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Meyer and Petro circulated the draft of the ballot and the Council approved the list of candidates. It was suggested that the current members of the Council who are on the ballot should be listed as incumbents.

ITEMS FOR PRISM: Kobrak will get a copy of the Forum announcement to the editor of PRISM.

EXPLORING OUR CAMPUS: Discussion ensued about Exploring Our Campus. There are two new buildings that we could visit this Fall Semester. The Chemistry Building is open and by this
Fall, the modifications to Kohrman with its connections to the Richmond Art Center will be completed. Whether to schedule an Exploring Our Campus program in the Fall or Spring Semester would partially depend upon whether we choose to do an off-campus activity in the Fall or Spring Semesters.

OFF-CAMPUS TOUR: Discussion ensued as to a possible off-campus trip in September. Someone mentioned the Toledo Glass Museum. Someone mentioned Brook Lodge.

WEDNESDAYS II FOR FALL 2007: Possible presenters for the Fall Wednesdays II were discussed. They included Erika Loeffler on the Iranian village, Mick Hanley, Bill Appel for music at the Holiday gathering in December, Marie Stoline on Senior Concerns and James Bosco on the Kalamazoo Promise.

LUNCH WITH OUR MEDALLION SCHOLAR: Houdek indicated that he would contact Sarah Hurd about a possible lunch later this Spring Semester, and to ask her whether she would be interested in attending the dinner at the Ladies Library Association.

OUR NEXT FORUM: Kobrak has been instrumental in organizing a Forum entitled “Forum on the Future of the University: WMU Financing and State Relations.” The Forum is being jointly sponsored by WARF and the Emeriti Council as well as the Friends of WMU (the University’s PAC). It is scheduled for Friday, April 20 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in Room 2000 Schneider Hall in the Hayworth College of Business. There will be 4 presenters and ample time for questions and answers. The speakers are Tom Clay (State Director of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan) Jon Neill (WMU-AAUP and WMU Department of Economics), Bob Beam (WMU Vice President of Business and Finance) and Greg Rosine (WMU Senior Vice President Advancement and Legislative Affairs). Kobrak has prepared specific questions for each of the Forum speakers to address. Kobrak has agreed to moderate the discussion. The Council discussed various ways to promote the Forum.

THE AUGUST BREAK-FEST Gianakaris has reported that Bob Beam has agreed to be the speaker at the August Break-Fest.

THE USE OF LITTLE THEATRE: The Council had discussed using The Little Theatre for events which were too big for the Emeriti Council Lounge. Meyer had obtained the cost of using The Little Theatre. There would be a charge of $175 a day plus from $17 to $22 per hour for a “stage hand.”

WMU RETIREMENT DINNER: Heinig had arranged for speakers at the Retirement Dinner. They are: Pisaneschi, Isaacson and D. Terry Williams.

EMERITI COUNCIL BROCHURE: Someone had raised the possibility of constructing a brochure describing the activities of the Emeriti Council at the previous meeting. After further discussion, it was agreed that the material on the Emeriti Council page on the WMU website contains that information and, theoretically, is less costly to produce and update.

Disrespectfully Submitted, Phil Caruso
MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2007 MEETING OF THE WMU EMERITI COUNCIL

John Houdek called the meeting to order. Members of the 2006-2007 in attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Mary Cordier, Nancy Falk, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, Ruth Heinig, Peter Kobrak, Phil Kramer, Ruth Ann Meyer, Donna Oas, and Molly Williams. In-coming members of the 2007-2008 Council in attendance were: Rollin Douma, and Ed Edwards. John Petro had informed the secretary that he would be absent due to another meeting.

I. Call to order and Acceptance of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as distributed.

II. APPROVAL OF March 13, 2007 MINUTES: The minutes were accepted as distributed.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: Houdek welcomed the new members to the Council.
--Textbook Scholarships: Houdek reminded the Council that the next request for funds for the Emeriti Council Textbook Scholarships should be sent out sometime in July and that the person or persons in charge might wish to change the wording in the letter. Bender in the Development office will otherwise do most of the work. Last year Houdek and other members of the Council sent out thank you notes to those who donated.
–Prism: Submitting information to the Prism gives the Council visibility on campus. Kobrak has submitted material on the Forum. The Council should take some effort to make sure its other activities are submitted.

UPDATES:
The 2007 FORUM: Kobrak presented a report on the 2007 FORUM. The topic for 2007 was THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY: WMU FINANCING AND STATE RELATIONS. Joining the Council in sponsorship were the Western Association of Retired Faculty (WARF), and the Friends of WMU. The Panel included Robert Beam, Vice President of Finance for WMU, Tom Clay, Director of State Affairs, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, Jon Neill, WMU-AAUP and Professor of Economics at WMU and Greg Rosine, Senior Vice President for Advancement and Legislative Affairs. Kobrak summarized the comments of the presenters.

FUTURE FORUMS: Kobrak has met with Joe Ellin and Mary Cain and has discussed the possibility of a forum on undergraduate and graduate education and research and its impact on the State of Michigan. He requested that any suggestions for future forums be forwarded to him. Cordier commented that she has a publication about the extent to which small colleges change lives and wondered whether we can do something at WMU to “change lives.” Kramer commented about the recent survey of WMU alumni In the Kalamazoo Gazette and Edwards commented that the survey was fairly narrow and wondered as to how and why students pick our competitors over WMU. Houdek added a comment about the extent to which the Medallion Scholarships no longer cover full costs of attending WMU.

WARF: Falk reported that WARF has another meeting with Robert Beam to discuss some issues with respect to medical insurance and that WARF is contemplating a series of programs on medical insurance for next year.

NEW WMU PRESIDENT: Kramer suggested that the Council might have an informal meeting with the President-Elect John Dunn.

WEDNESDAYS II: Cordier delivered a status report on the Wednesdays II for 2007-2008. Erica
Loeffler will present a talk on her experiences in Iran, John Michael Hanley will speak on Charles VanRiper, a.k.a Cully Gage in November. In January, Nancy Falk will try once again to deliver her previously cancelled talk about Hindus in Kalamazoo. Other possibilities include the Marie & Mike Stoline on either geriatric issues or Pushkin, Bosco on mentoring students Garrard Macleod, someone on proposals for the East Campus, and Ernst Breisach on the History of Time. There is also the possibility of Bill Appel doing a program, possibly the December Holiday Gathering. Caruso reminded everyone that the information of Wednesdays II for the Fall 2007 Semester and for the Wednesdays II for January needs to be in his hands by the second week in June in order to get the Summer Newsletter out along with the Break-Fest reservation form.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS Houdek indicated that he did not want to be chair of the Council again. After discussion, Falk agreed to be Chair with Heinig as Vice-Chair and Caruso agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Houdek offered thanks to the out-going members of the Council: James Bosco, George Dales and Donna Oas.

ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS Falk asked for volunteers to work on the various tasks the Council undertakes. The following is the completed list of volunteers. There is no significance to the order that names are listed.
--Break-Fest : Gianakaris. Oas volunteered to help on this task as she had in 2006 even though she is not a member of the 2007-2008 Council. The Council gratefully accepted her willingness to serve.
--Flu Clinic: Meyer and Douma (See Note 1 below.)
--Exploring Our Campus: Heinig and Williams
--Lunch with our Medallion Scholar: Ehrle and Kramer
--Care/Nurturing of the Council’s website: Petro and Williams. (But see Note 2 below.)
--Emeriti Newsletter: Caruso & Meyer
--Emeriti Dinner: Cordier & Heinig
--University Theatre Specials: Houdek and Douma. (Some discussion ensued as to the possibility that we might combine a matinee performance with a program or dinner. Since the newsletter needs to be printed in late June, Houdek and Douma were authorized to organize whatever they think appropriate.
--Emeriti Textbook Scholarships: It was thought that Ehrle had some interest in undertaking this task.
--Off-Campus Events: Cordier and Heinig
--2007-2008 Forum: Kobrak and Edwards
--Wednesdays II: Cordier and Gianakaris
--Prism (newsletter from Provost office): Falk
--Nominating Committee: Petro and Edwards
--AAUP/WARF: Falk agreed to pass reports to Caruso for forwarding to the Council.

Updating the list of 25 Year Club Widowed Spouses: (The secretary’s notes do not indicate the volunteer. See Note 3 below.)

NOTE 1: Ruth Ann Meyer has received an email from Katie Branch, Director of Nursing of the Sindecuse Health Center that the Fall 2007 Influenza Clinic will be held at Sindecuse on Thursday, October 18 from 9 to 2.
NOTE 2: Ruth Ann Meyer has reported that John Petro is willing to write content, but not serve as webmaster. There are several aspects that could be considered under “care and nurturing.” Would it help for us to clarify the various aspects of this task so that we can then figure out...
which tasks we are able to do and which we cannot and volunteers will know for what they are volunteering.

NOTE 3: I have contacted Mary Cordier, Ruth Heinig and John Houdek to see if they know who if anybody volunteered. Apparently, no one volunteered, but John has agreed to look after this task if he has help. I think that someone mentioned that Theresa Ventimiglia in University Relations might be able to help in this regard.
MINUTES OF THE July 10, 2007 MEETING OF THE EMERITI COUNCIL

Nancy Falk called the meeting to order. In attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Woody Ehrle, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, Ruth Heinig, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer, and Molly Williams. (Other members had notified the secretary or the chair that they were unable to attend.)

Acceptance of the Agenda: The agenda had been distributed before the meeting. Falk wanted to add a report about activities of WARF to the agenda. The agenda was accepted as so modified.

Approval of Minutes of the May 8, 2007 Meeting: The minutes were approved as distributed.

Comments from the Chair: Falk had no comments.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Newsletter: Caruso reported that Heinig, Houdek, Williams (both Molly and Roger) and Virginia Caruso had joined him in folding, spindling and mutilating the newsletter and the reservation form for the August Break-Fest on June 28th.

Wednesdays II: All of the Wednesdays II have been scheduled through January 2008 and were printed in the Newsletter.

Textbook Scholarships: Houdek was absent. Ehrle agreed to check with Houdek on the status of the next letter requesting donations.
**Emeriti Theatre Matinee:** In an experiment, the Emeriti Theatre Night has been converted to a matinee for the Fall Semester and was announced in the Newsletter.

**On-Campus Tour for Fall:** Williams had arranged for a tour of the Chemistry Building at 3:30 on Friday, September 28. The tour is being combined with a tour the Department of Chemistry is staging for special friends and donors and they are providing light refreshments. The Council need make no other arrangements. The tour was announced in the Newsletter.

**The August Break-Fest:** The reservation form went out with the Newsletter. Falk agreed to introduce Beam. Kobrak offered to provide her with some information she could use for the introduction. Falk reported that WARF would like to present a certificate to Beam making him an honorary emeriti. The members of the Council approved, but this prompted a query whether he had already been granted emeriti status which raised the additional question as to what the formal requirements are. Ehrle thought that no formal, written requirements exist.

**Care/Nurturing of the Council’s website:** Williams had reported that the website has been updated and now even includes the current newsletter. She reported that WMU is working on an update of website procedures which may allow us to add material to the website directly. She also inquired whether WARF had a website and offered that if they did she would try to arrange for the adding of a link to that website on the Council’s website. A hope was expressed that WMU could compile and maintain a current email list
of retirees.

**Prism (newsletter from Provost office):** At this time, we do not know whether President Dunn will continue to have PRISM published. Falk volunteered to find out whether it will continue and what the deadlines are for submissions.

**A Possible 2007-2008 Forum:** Kobrak distributed a proposal titled “Developing the Information for Making WMU Strategic Decisions.”

It is well known that WMU must make some important decisions in the near future as to how it deals with reductions in funding from the state and declining enrollment numbers. Making such decisions wisely requires information. Kobrak proposed that the Council establish a task force...to develop the necessary information and options for the President and to create a decision-making process acknowledged as legitimate by the university community. After considerable discussion there appeared to be a consensus that, instead, Falk, the Presidents of the Faculty Senate and the AAUP and a representative of WARF should arrange a meeting with President Dunn to discuss issues confronting WMU. It was also suggested that the Council should consider meeting with President Dunn and offer its help including providing the institutional memories of the effectiveness of previous attempts to address such issues. The Forum Committee (Edwards and Kobrak along with Ehrle) will meet to talk about a possible Forum to deal with possible repositioning of the role of the University in response to the challenges presented by the prospective future reductions in revenue
from the State of Michigan.

**WARF:** Falk reported on the activities of WARF. The officers of WARF had met with Beam to discuss the possibility of changes in premium payments for medical insurance for retirees. Another meeting was held where the group was joined by a consultant analyst. During the meetings, it was discovered that Medicare Part D reimbursed Sindecuse over $500,000 last year. There has also been a proposal (by WMU) to phase in changes in the proportion of medical benefits paid by Western for future retirees. That proposal has been passed on to President Dunn for his consideration. The consultant made a PowerPoint presentation and the slides may be available by contacting WARF. Apparently, WMU is still trying to figure out the basis on which the now rescinded changes to health premiums for retirees were made last year.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Caruso
Ruth Heinig called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Rollin Douma, Ed Edwards, Woody Ehrle, Nancy Falk, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, John Houdek, Phil Kramer, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer and Molly Williams.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Heinig distributed an agenda and it was approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 10, 2007 MEETING: The minutes were approved as distributed.

EMERITI E-MAIL LIST: Falk had obtained two lists of email addresses which need to be combined. The hope is that the Council will be able to reduce the number of newsletters it mails out and the attendant amount of work this involves and be able to send out reminders and updates as necessary. For instance, a reminder of the flu shot dates could be sent out after the date becomes definite rather than the estimated date now published in the newsletter.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: Caruso reported that the next newsletter could be sent out as early as mid-November or just after the new year begins. (The first Wednesday II of 2008 was published in the July Newsletter.) In the next newsletter we will need to publish the remaining Wednesday IIs and for the programs in the spring of 2008.

EMERITI COUNCIL TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIPS: Houdek reported that the first letter requesting contributions for the Emeriti Council Textbook Scholarship raised enough for 11 scholarships of two semesters each of $250. This was less than in past years, but the letter requesting funds was sent out somewhat later than last year. The second letter will go out in October. It was agreed that thank you notes should be sent out by the officers of the Council.

EMERITI THEATRE MATINEE: The Emeriti Theatre Matinee event had been publicized in the July Newsletter. It was agreed that Falk should remind attendees of this event at the Wednesday II.

EMERITI MEDALLION SCHOLAR: Houdek reported that the Emeriti Medallion Scholar, Sarah Hurd, is willing to speak to the Emeriti if it is desired. She will be finishing her degree this academic year. As mentioned in the past, the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship Fund contains more than enough to fund the existing scholarship but not quite enough to fund a second one. The current Scholarship is not adequate to fund all expenses and last year, the Council agreed to provide an additional $2,000. Caruso moved that we should allocate $2,000 to Ms Hurd again this year. Gianakaris provided the second and the motion carried unanimously.

Kobrak suggested we consider a fund raising effort to allow the Council to award two Medallions Scholarships. Discussion ensued as to the role of the Council in choosing the Medallion recipients and when the next Western Michigan University Capital Campaign might start.
ON-CAMPUS TOUR OF THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING: Williams reminded those present of the tour of the Chemistry Building on Friday, September 28 and asked for a showing of hands of those who planned to attend. She also reported that we could schedule a tour of the Richmond Art Center and the revamped Kohrman Hall in the Spring. The dedication of revamped Brown Hall is scheduled for May and she suggested we might tour that in the Fall 2008 Semester.

OFF-CAMPUS EVENT: At the Break-Fest in August, Emeriti were asked if they were interested in having lunch again at Brook Lodge and there was considerable interest by those in attendance.

EMERITI WEBSITE: Williams reported that she has succeeded in getting Emeriti Council Newsletters and minutes on the website and will see that future minutes are added to the website as they are available.

FUTURE FORUM: Edwards, Ehrle and Kobrak had been talking with President Dunn and WARF about a future forum. The President is enthusiastic about a forum on Sharpening the Western Edge and is willing to participate. Edwards, Ehrle and Kobrak had tentatively scheduled a program at 3:00 on Thursday, November 8 in the Fetzer Center and had devised a list of other potential participants. WARF wants us to co-sponsor a program on Wednesday, November 7 in the Chemistry Building’s lecture hall at 3:00. The topic of the WARF program is not yet determined but it may deal with health benefit issues. Noone objected to the co-sponsoring of the WARF program but there was considerable concern that the proximity of these two programs raises a problem. Could we get an audience for both of these or would a back to back set of programs reduce attendance considerably? After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Edwards, Ehrle and Kobrak should talk with WARF about this problem. The three council members were given the authority to decide whether to go forward with one or more of these programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip Caruso
Minutes of the November 13, 2007 Meeting of the Emeriti Council.

Falk called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were: Phillip Caruso, Mary Cordier, Rollin Douma, Ed Edwards, Woody Ehrle, C. J. (Gus) Gianakaris, Ruth Heinig, Phil Kramer, Peter Kobrak, Ruth Ann Meyer, and Molly Williams. John Houdek, and John Petro had notified the secretary that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 11, 2007 Meeting: The minutes of the September 11, 2007 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Reports and Updates

Flu Clinic: Some of the members had attended the Sindecuse Flu Clinic and reported it appeared successful. Ehrle commented that emeriti might consider obtaining the vaccination for shingles.

Exploring Our Campus: Williams reported that she is waiting for the scheduling of the opening of the Richmond Center complex (including Kohrmann Hall) It appears that it will occur in January or February 2008. She added that few attended the open house of the Chemistry building. Caruso pointed out that many attended the initial grand opening. Discussion suggested that the tour of the Chemistry Building connected with the grand opening was more comprehensive than the recent one.

Theatre Special: In an attempt to get more emeriti involved with the WMU Theatre program, Houdek had arranged a Emeriti Theatre Matinee event with an optional meeting at a nearby restaurant after the performance. Apparently, it was not a success. Although there were a fair number of emeriti attending the performance that afternoon, very few attended the after performance part of the event. It was agreed that it was a nice try.

2007 Forum: Kobrak reported that although the program went well and was well received, he was somewhat disappointed in the attendance given the amount of publicity that was undertaken. There were about 2,000 emails sent out, 2,000 alumni were contacted and about 1,500 students. There were about 120 people in attendance, but a large portion were from the administrative staff.

Western Association of Retired Faculty (WARF): At the last meeting it was reported that WARF was scheduling a program for the day before our 2007 Forum which the Council had tentatively scheduled, but that potential conflict was worked out. There has been some change in the officers of WARF. Arthur Falk is no longer an officer and has a result Nancy Falk no longer has as direct of a line to the leadership for serving as the Council’s WARF liaison. It was agreed that the Council should offer to co-sponsor the Spring WARF Event.

Wednesday IIs and the Off-Campus Event: Our schedule for the Winter/Spring Semester is complete. President Dunn has been invited to attend our January Wednesday II (Nancy Falk’s presentation) if his schedule allows. It was pointed out that we should be sure to send him a Newsletter. Arrangements for the Cully Gage program were discussed. Cordier asked people to
arrive at about 1:15 for the December Christmas program along with the goodies they agreed to bring. A signup sheet for cookies, punch, etc. was circulated. Cordier reported on the status of arrangements for the Wednesday II lunch at Brook Lodge and requested opinion on the price. We will obviously pay for the lunch for Ms Sara Hurd and it is possible she may bring a guest. To cover the cost, the luncheon price would have to be about $23. In the past we have subsidized the event so as to have a lower price. Cordier asked whether the Council thought we should do that this time. It was agreed that there was no need to do that and the Council approved the price of $23.

Newsletter: The tentative Faculty Senate Retirement Date is Thursday, May 22nd. Caruso was asked to include that in the Newsletter with a note that, as usual, it is a tentative date which occasionally does get changed. Caruso indicated that his tentative plan is to get the material for the Newsletter to Shannon Landis by the end of the week and to get the Newsletter out in the first week of December. Then, in March we will need to send out the reservation forms for the Brook Lodge event along with the announcement of the August Break-Fest and the ballot. Timing may require that these are two separate mailings. The Summer Newsletter may be ready at about the time of the reservation form for the August Break-Fest.

Website: Williams will continue passing on material to those who can add material to our website. It seems to be working now.

Prism: The announcement of our Christmas event has been submitted to Prism.

New Business:
Absences from the Council meetings: Since the previous meeting there has been some concern that we should list those who have legitimate reasons for missing Council meetings as having excused absences. Caruso suggested that instead of “approving” absences we simply indicate the names of member(s) who have notified the secretary that they will not be attending. The suggestion was accepted.

Outside Attendance at Wednesdays II: At several Council meetings the issue of the extent to which the Council should invite attendance from outside the emeriti community to the Wednesday II programs has been discussed. Although the attendance would otherwise be welcome, the fact that we frequently fill the Heinig Emeriti Lounge raises the possibility that we could have insufficient room. Other places that we might use might entail a fee for use and might present more parking difficulty for emeriti. Furthermore, we would have to plan on more refreshments incurring additional costs as well. After discussion, it was agreed to make no special effort to invite outsiders except for special meetings.

Managing the New Emeriti Email List: Two issues were raised as to the managing of our new email list; upkeep and access to the list.
1: Maintaining the Email List: Falk reported that the email list contains a little over 300 names with about 100 of them addresses on other servers, that is, without an “edu” extension. The University will not support lists that contain email addresses with other than “edu” extensions. At this point Falk has an Excel spreadsheet with the all of the addresses and has been instructed
how to materials to that list using the WMU email server. She expressed hope that someone
would volunteer to help maintain it. Someone suggested that maybe John Petro could be
persuaded to help maintain that list.
2. Since the last meeting the Council had received a request for the use of our email list to
announce a program. There had been an exchange of emails and an agreement to allow that
request and then discuss the matter fully at the Council meeting. After discussion, it was agreed
that the Council Executive Committee would decide on individual outside requests for use of the
emeriti email list.

Provost Search Committee: Will Emmert (Vice President of Research) is on the Search
Committee for the new Provost. Gianakaris reported that Emmert is seeking suggestions from
emeriti. Someone suggested there an emeriti should actually be a member of the committee even
if without a vote. 

Topics for Wednesday II for 2007-2008: Cordier asked for suggestions for Wednesday II
presenters for the 2007-2008 year.

A New Coffee Pot: Cordier commented that the current coffee pot that the coffee pot the emeriti
used (donated by Moyra Ebling) takes a long time to brew coffee and suggested we might buy a
newer, faster one. She was given permission to purchase a new coffee pot.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Phillip Caruso, Secretary