Board approves moving forward on much-needed chemistry instructional building

The WMU Board of Trustees, acting during its Sept. 17 meeting, gave the University administration a green light to continue moving toward construction of a new $28.5 million chemistry building.

In June, the board authorized a fast-track approach to planning the instructional laboratory facility, because of the extreme need for such a building to replace the aging McCracken Hall as a site for student instruction. Trustees set the Sept. 17 meeting as a time to review detailed plans for the proposed building.

The plans presented to the board by representatives from architectural firm Holabird & Root and the construction management firm Miller-Davis Co., included a detailed floor plan for the 83,300-square-foot building as well as a timeline that calls for construction to begin in spring 2005 and an occupancy date of August 2006.

As outlined in the preliminary plans laid out in June, the building will be attached to Wood Hall and bordered on two sides by Waldo Library and the Dalton Center. The facility, which will be used only for student instruction, includes three large auditoriums that can be used both for chemistry and general education purposes, as well as smaller classrooms, instructional labs and spaces dedicated for use by student groups. No faculty offices will be part of the new facility, which will be easily accessed through the connector to Wood Hall, where chemistry faculty have their offices. To preserve campus green space around the building site, a tunnel will connect the new building to the Dalton Center, providing access for shipping and utility maintenance.

A detailed funding plan for the new building will be presented to the board closer to the start of construction.

Trustees approve $273 million budget for 2004-05 year

Acting at its Sept. 17 meeting, WMU trustees approved an operating budget of $273.9 million for fiscal year 2004-05.

The board-approved budget of $273,932,314 is a revision of a preliminary budget trustees approved in April.

The new budget includes two major ingredients—a base state appropriation of $110,847,100 and tuition revenue amounting to $149,860,471. The budget also includes a one-time additional state appropriation of $3,393,300, which represents a return by the state of base funding cut during the 2003-04 fiscal year. The return of funds is scheduled to come as part of Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm’s tuition restraint agreement that called for the state to return 60 percent of last year’s funding cut to those universities that limited tuition increases for 2004-05 to 2.4 percent.

Front view of the new chemistry building showing canopy walkway on the west side of the facility
Campus welcomes new faculty members

Rebekah Farrugia, communication, comes to WMU from the University of Iowa, where she had been a doctoral student and a graduate instructor in communication since 2001. Her research interests include new media technologies, digital media production, popular music studies, women's studies and ethnography. Farrugia earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Windsor, a master's degree from Wayne State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Iowa.

Lixin Shen, mathematics, comes to WMU from West Virginia University, where he had served as a research assistant professor since 2002. His research interests include applied and computational harmonic analysis, computational mathematics and their applications to imaging science and information processing. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in his native China at Peking University, and a doctoral degree at Sun Yat-Sen University, where he also taught.

Claudia Howard Queen, dance, comes to WMU from Chicago, where she had held composer-in-residence positions with the Field Museum's Music Theatre Workshop since 2001 and was music director of the Chicago Dance Center. Composer of more than 15 musicals, the 1978 graduate of Oberlin College also studied music composition at the University of Michigan and State University, and she earned an MFA at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Maarten J. Vonhof, biological sciences and environmental studies, comes to WMU from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where he had been a post-doctoral fellow and teaching assistant since 2002. His areas of research are evolutionary ecology and vertebrate biology. He focuses specifically on environmental and biological factors that influence the development of genetic structure in natural populations of bats and their parasites. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Calgary and a doctoral degree from York University.

Smith wins Fulbright in social work for fall trip to England

Andrea Smith, teaching, learning and leadership, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture and work with community groups at three universities in England. Smith has received a Fulbright Senior Specialist award in social work at Northumbria University and, under a partnership agreement, also will work at the University of Warwick and Oxford University. Smith's visit will build on her recent work in kinship care, especially as it pertains to children living with their grandparents. In addition to lecturing on kinship care at the three universities, she will conduct workshops with community professionals to help them develop programming for high-risk parent populations.

Smith will be in England Nov. 6-20. Her trip builds on previous lecture tours to Liverpool, England, and Dublin, Ireland, five years ago, and Latvia two years ago.

Geographer completes trip as guest of Chinese academy

Chunsheng He, geography, completed a six-week trip to China recently, returning to campus just in time for the start of the fall semester. He was invited by and his July 22-Aug. 22 trip was funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Qinghai provincial government to visit several scientific and hydrologic installations across the country. His trip included visits to the CAS' Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources, and the Qinghai province's Institute for Water Resources and Hydro-power, where he delivered lectures on large watershed modeling and water resources management.

He also visited Jiangxi Normal University and Lanzhou University and took field trips to the headwater of China's Yellow River, the Kunglun Mountain Pass, Xiangride Desert and Qinghai Lake. He is involved in collaborative projects involving hydrologic systems with colleagues in southern China.

Gullickson is D.C. keynoter

Evaluation Center Director Arlen Gullickson was the main speaker at a Sept. 24 forum in Washington, D.C., that was designed to highlight new national standards for student evaluations published late last year by the Joint Committee for Standards for Educational Evaluation.

Federal agency and national foundation representatives attended the event, which was sponsored by the Educational Policy Leadership Institute of ETS. Following Gullickson's presentation, a panel added its comments. Panel members included Grover Whalen, director of the Department of Education, Barbara Olds of the National Science Foundation and William Kelly of the American National Standards Institute.

Gullickson is the chairperson of the committee, which completed the standards with support from the Kellogg Foundation.
the largest and one of the most prestigious medieval studies events in the world.

Grundler was educated in Nordhorn, Germany, and first came to Michigan to attend Western Theological Seminary in Holland, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1950. He went on to study theology at the University of Gottingen in Germany and earn a doctoral degree in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1961. He served as a pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, N.J., for six years while he began his academic career as an instructor of German language and literature at Westminster Choir College and a Princeton teaching fellow in history and Christian thought.

Four clinics have been scheduled in October to provide flu and meningitis vaccinations. The clinics will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2004, in the faculty/staff lounge (Room 3230 and 3240 Sindecuse. The remaining clinics will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, on the second floor of the Student Recreation Center; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in 157-58 Bernhard Center; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the faculty/staff lounge (Room D120) of the engineering building on the Parkview Campus.

No appointments are needed to visit the clinics. Flu shots cost $15 and meningitis shots cost $82. These fees may be charged to an individual's University account or paid at the time of service in cash or by credit card. More information is available by calling Sindecuse at 7-3287 or visiting <www.sindecuse.com>.

Jobs

While a campuswide job freeze remains in effect, the following vacancies have been approved for posting as positions that are essential for the continued operation of the University. Applicants must have the approval of a WMU vice president to be posted during the hiring freeze.

Vacancies are posted through the Job Opportunity Program by human resources. Interested benefits-eligible employees should submit a job-opportunity transfer application during the posting period.

Employers may call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3669 to hear the weekly job postings.

(R) Assistant Manager, Books, 15, WMU Bookstore, 04/05-4492, 9/27-10/4/04
(R) Office Coordinator, 14, Office of the Dean, Haworth College of Business, 04/05-4525, 9/27-10/4/04
(R) Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, 22, Office of the Provost, 04/05-4526, 9/27-10/4/04
(R) Aviation Maintenance Technician (term appointment ending 6/30/05), 16, College of Aviation, 04/05-4527, 9/27-10/4/04
(N) Assistant/Associate Professor (tenure-track, academic year), 130/140, Biological Sciences, 04/05-4528, 9/27-10/4/04
(N) Assistant/Associate Professor (tenure-track, academic year), 130/140, Statistics, 04/05-4529, 9/27-10/4/04
(N) Medical Assistant, 11, Sindecuse Health Center, 04/05-4530, 9/27-10/4/04
N= New • R= Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Flu, meningitis vaccination clinics scheduled for October

Four clinics have been scheduled in October to provide flu and meningitis vaccinations to faculty, staff, emeriti/retirees and students, as well as their eligible family members. Flu and meningitis shots also will be available during regular walk-in hours at the Student Health Center each weekday beginning Oct. 1.

The first clinic is especially geared to accommodate emeriti/retirees and will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, in 3230 and 3240 Sindecuse. The remaining clinics will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, on the second floor of the Student Recreation Center; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in 157-58 Bernhard Center; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the faculty/staff lounge (Room D120) of the engineering building on the Parkview Campus.

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Exchange

FOR SALE—Home near WMU. Four-bedroom, two-bath ranch walkout with 2,000 square feet on deep 1.18-acre lot with separate 24' x 32' workshop building. Home in like-new condition with new mechanics, kitchen, bathrooms, central air, doors and windows. Must be seen to be appreciated. Fantastic location, easy walk to campus. $209,899. Call Randy at 362-9056 or visit <www.randyparker.com>.
Campus Classic offers special team rates for faculty, staff

Race organizers are offering faculty and staff members special incentives to form teams and compete in the Campus Classic 5K race on Homecoming Saturday.

The annual race, which in past years has drawn as many as 2,000 runners and volunteers, is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct 16, following an 8:15 1K walk and kids fun run. The 5K certified course takes competitors on a cross-campus tour and attracts adult and student teams and individual runners.

Now in its sixth year, the Campus Classic offers challenge trophies in a variety of team categories. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to form departmental teams with colleagues or with students to challenge teams from other departments. Race organizers are looking for a minimum of five faculty/staff teams competing this year in order to add another challenge trophy to the mix.

Any faculty or staff member can form a team that can enter the race at student rates—$30 per team for a three- to five-person team completing registration by Wednesday, Oct. 14. The rate after that date is $35. To qualify for the discount, a three-person team needs only one faculty or staff member. A five-person team can enter with just two employees. Each registered team member will receive a T-shirt, and complimentary refreshments. All competitors also have a chance to win a $500 AAA travel voucher and other raffle prizes. In addition, each WMU student participant has a chance to win one of 10 WMU parking passes.

For more information about the race or to register to compete, visit the race Web site at <www.wmich.edu/race>, or call 7-8402. Volunteers also are needed for the race and those wishing to volunteer can register at www.wmich.edu/race/volunteer.

Visiting scholars

Award-winning poet Terrance Hayes, author of “Hip Logic,” will read from his work at 8 p.m. today—Sept. 30—in the Little Theatre on the WMU campus.

Hayes' presentation is the second in the Fall 2004 Gwen Frostic Reading Series, which is free and open to the public. Hayes, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon University, explores imagination, desire and race in his poems and looks at the intersections and tensions of autobiography and culture.

Hayes' most recent work “Hip Logic” was a National Poetry Series/ Open Competition selection and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award. For more information about Hayes’ visit, call Dr. Arnie Johnston, chairperson of English, at 7-2571.