Board of Trustees to meet today

The WMU Board of Trustees will meet at 11:15 a.m. today in 157-159 Bernhard Center. On the agenda will be a recommendation to exchange one parcel of main campus land for another, a resolution to establish a public safety oversight committee and a recommendation to approve a list of priorities for state capital outlay funds.

A number of other items round out the agenda, including recommendations on academic program changes and a resolution authorizing the University to secure a line of credit for campus construction projects, as well as acceptance of reports covering gifts, grants and personnel changes.

Parking permits not to be shared

Faculty and staff are reminded that the parking permits (hanging tags and stickers) issued to them are for their personal use only, and are not to be used by family members or others. Violations may result in fines, loss of parking privileges and vehicle impoundment. Visit www.parking.wmich.edu/regulations.html for details about parking regulations.

Student fairs set for this, next month

The Engineering and Applied Sciences and Study and Intern Abroad fairs are coming up. The EAS event is set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, at the Parkview Campus. Visit www.wmich.edu/career/events/career_fairs.html for more information. The study abroad event is set for 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the Bernhard Center’s South Ballroom. Visit www.wmich.edu/studyabroad for more information.

Expect redesigned home page soon

WMU will soon launch a new Web home page designed primarily to meet the needs of prospective undergraduate students. One of the most noticeable changes to the page will be the disappearance of the featured news and events section. Visitors will need to go to www.wmich.edu/news for the latest news, events, and arts and entertainment.

Mail-related resources updated

University Mail Stop codes and the Pony Express Tips and Tricks have been updated. These and other forms and publications are available at www.obf.wmich.edu/logistical-services/portal on the WMU Mail Services website.

Publication shares custodial news

The summer issue of "Custodial Corner," the newsletter of Facilities Management—custodial and support services, is available at www.fm.wmich.edu/op-erations/custodial as a PDF file. The issue provides information about how the unit operates, including a recent change in cleaning methods, and how it reached campus buildings for fall semester.

Fall enrollment surpasses 25,000 students

Increases in the number of new students at all levels of instruction have sent enrollment surging past the 25,000 mark. The official tally of students enrolled stands at 25,045—469 students or 1.91 percent more than last year.

The increase seen in the annual fall census, completed Sept. 14, is reflected across the University in more beginning undergraduates, more students at the master’s level and more doctoral students.

The raw numbers also indicate a significant increase in the retention rate—the percentage of students who return following their freshman year.

Retention has been a major focus of campuswide efforts in recent years, with a number of initiatives launched to identify and provide additional support for students who have difficulty transitioning from high school to college.

WMU President John M. Dunn announced the enrollment figures during his annual State of the University address Sept. 16, thanking members of the campus community for their work in establishing a welcoming and supportive environment in which students can be successful.

“We have significant growth in the number of new students at all levels,” Dunn told those attending. “As important as that growth is, I find myself even more encouraged by the fact that we have achieved a major increase in our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate...due to your efforts to reach out to help students during those all-important first months on campus.”


Dunn address focuses on achievement, discovery

WMU kicked off its academic year Sept. 16 with a convocation that honored achievement campuswide and outlined the University’s challenges, goals and aspirations in an address by President John M. Dunn.

The event featured Dunn’s annual State of the University address, as well as a series of awards honoring faculty and staff achievements. Dunn began his address, titled “Focus on Discovery,” by announcing that WMU had exceeded expectations for enrollment (see related story on this page).

WMUK 102.1-FM, the University’s public radio station, recorded the entire address. To listen to the recording, visit www.wmuk.org to and click Newsroom.

The text of the president’s remarks are posted at www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2010/09/038.shtml. Included are links to related articles spotlighting the 12 faculty and staff members who received awards during the convocation.

Campus gears up for Homecoming week

The end of this month marks two of WMU’s most festive three-day occasions—Homecoming and Family Weekend.

This will be the second time the University’s Homecoming and Family Weekend, set for Friday through Sunday, Oct. 2-3, have been combined to create a rich array of on-campus activities.

The 2010 Homecoming theme is “Unmasque your Bronco Spirit.” The festivities will actually begin Monday, Sept. 27, with the student-oriented Qdoba Homecoming Kickoff at 4 p.m. at Goldsworthy Valley Pond. Other free student events include the Western Games at 11 a.m. Friday at the pond followed by the Soapbox Derby at 2 p.m. on Gilkison Ave.

The highlight of Homecoming will be the 2 p.m. football game Saturday, Oct. 2, against the University of Idaho. Bronco alumni and their families are invited to start revving up for the game at 11:30 a.m. by attending the Alumni Association PepFest being staged off of Oakland Drive Campus by the Health and Human Services Building. This tailgate event will feature food and music and is the official Homecoming celebration for alumni of all ages. The deadline to purchase tickets is Saturday, Sept. 25.

Other Homecoming events of note are:

• The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner Friday, Oct. 1. The 2010 award recipients are...
WMU gearing up for 2010 United Way campaign

WMU has set a goal of $275,000 for this year's campus United Way campaign, which began Sept. 16. Campaign organizers hope to surpass last year's giving record and increase WMU's community impact. But, to accomplish that ambitious feat, campuswide participation will be necessary.

WMU's United Way Advisory Board began distributing pledge cards to all faculty, staff and retirees last week. Gifts can be made as one-time donations by cash, check or credit card, or as pledges, payable by payroll deduction, credit card or direct billing from United Way. Office directors and department chairs are urged to schedule United Way meetings in their areas as soon as possible. Representatives are available to talk briefly about United Way, distribute pledge cards and answer questions about contributions. Materials also are available for those who prefer to lead their own meeting.

Contact wmui-united-way@wmich.edu with questions or to schedule a meeting.

Retirement receptions
Beth den Hartigh, Disability Services for Students, will be honored for her 32 years of service during a retirement reception from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in the Woodlawn Place, 2210 Wilbur Ave., near Rood. A reception will precede the talk from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the building's main lobby.

Event features Arabic music, dance
The Arabesque Trio will present a concert of traditional Arabic music and dance at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance through Miller Auditorium.

Lecture focuses on border issues
One of the nation's foremost border-control authorities will discuss immigration and U.S.-Mexico border enforcement issues during a lecture from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in 1205 Brown, Timothy J. Dunn from Salisbury University will present the talk.

Southeast Asia expert to give talk
Donald E. Weatherbee, emeritus at the University of South Carolina, will talk on "China-Southeast Asia Relations Through Two Millennia," at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Fetzer Center's Kirsch Auditorium. He is one of America's best known Southeast Asia scholars.

Kalamazoo Matters event slated
The Kalamazoo Matters Discussion Series will continue Tuesday, Oct. 5, with a series of events focusing on out-of-school factors that influence educational achievement and outcomes. Among the events will be a 2:30 p.m. presentation in the Fetzer Center by David C. Berliner from Arizona State University. His presentation will include relevant information about Kalamazoo community factors that affect achievement and outcomes.

Geographer earns top teaching award
Lisa DeChano-Cook, geography, is the first person from WMU to receive the Higher Education Distinguished Teaching Award, an honor given annually by the National Council for Geographic Education for those who have made extraordinary commitments to the teaching and learning of geography at the post-secondary level.

The 2010 award will be presented during the National Conference on Geographic Education, Saturday, Oct. 2, in Savannah, Ga.

A faculty member since 2001, DeChano-Cook came to WMU as an assistant professor and became associate professor in 2006. For the past three years, she has coordinated Michigan's National Geographic Bee.

Biologist picked for national project
John R. Geiser, biological sciences, has been picked for a yearlong national scholars program to find out if popular media can help students better relate to course subjects.

As a 2010 resident in the American Society for Microbiology/National Science Foundation/Cell Biology Scholars Program, Geiser and 22 other U.S. biology educators will research their theories on student learning.

He will conduct his research at WMU and present his findings in May at the national ASM conference, and ASM will track the research results for five years. Geiser's study is an offshoot of discussions held previously on campus by an interdisciplinary WMU team investigating possible options for improving student motivation and performance.

It will establish whether student outcomes can be improved by providing students with examples of popular media, such as YouTube videos and Scientific American articles, which present the content material in such a way as to provide relevance to student lives.
Transformation of Bernhard Center takes next step

Much of the main floor of the Bernhard Center was completely renovated this summer as part of ongoing efforts to create a building that can better serve as a welcoming center for visitors and the hub of student activities and campus life.

“The University is committed to transforming the Bernhard Center into a ‘true’ student union, one that serves as the living room of WMU, and we continue to welcome the involvement of students in the entire process,” says Diane Anderson, vice president for student affairs.

New entryways, updated decor and restrooms, comfortable seating areas and an LCD information display are the latest visible improvements. The improved student lounge has varied functional and comfortable furnishings, including TVs, to accommodate many uses.

Less than one year ago, offices for Student Activities and Leadership Programs moved from Faunce Student Services Building to the Bernhard Center, and the new Student Organization Center opened on the building’s main floor.

The Bernhard Center is located at the center of West Campus and serves as WMU’s student union, as well as a key site for holding major public events.

Higher education focus of forum

“Higher Education: A Solution to the Michigan Crisis” is the topic of a 1 p.m. forum Thursday, Sept. 30, in 210 Bernhard Center.

Speakers at the free, public event include Michael Boulas, executive director of the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan; David Hecker, president of the Michigan affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers; and Howard Bunis, chair of the Collective Bargaining Congress of the American Association of University Professors.

WMU participants will include commentators Ron Kramer, sociology, and C. Dennis Simpson, physician’s assistant. Introductions will be made by President John M. Dunn; Peter Kurilla, Faculty Senate president; and Paul Wilson, WMU-AAUP president.

Get vaccinated before influenza season arrives

Vaccination against flu and meningitis will be offered at campus clinics and on a walk-in basis at the Sindecuse Health Center.

The seasonal flu and meningitis vaccines are available to WMU students, faculty and staff members and their eligible dependents, and WMU retirees. “HINI is one of three strains of flu viruses in the seasonal vaccine this year,” says Kristine Hanson, Sindecuse. “So, only one vaccination is needed.”

Beginning Monday, Oct. 4, vaccinations will be administered in Sindecuse on Mondays, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The planned clinic schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lawson Ice Arena, and Iverne E. Thompson, WMUK.
- Monday, Oct. 4, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., College of Education field placements; and Bonnie K. Larhlida, admissions; Lynn I. Lee, early childhood education, physical education and recreation; and Sheryl A. Todd, computer science.
- October 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., indoor tennis courts, Student Recreation Center.

For cost, insurance and other details, go to www.wmich.edu/wmunews/2010/09/346.shtml or call (269) 387-3287.

Obituaries

Milton J. Brawer, professor emeritus of sociology, died Sept. 8 in Kalamazoo. He was 84.

Brawer joined the faculty in 1960 and retired in 1995 after 35 years of service. He served as acting director of the Center for Social Research in 1968-69 and as University ombudsman from 1970 to 1974. Active in several campus organizations, Brawer also served as president of WMU’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors and secretary of the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Alan H. Jacobs, professor emeritus of anthropology, died Sept. 13. He was 80.

Jacobs, one of the world’s foremost experts on the Maasai people of Africa, retired in 1996 after 22-1/2 years of service. He came to WMU in 1974 as chair of anthropology and stepped down from that post in 1978.

Among his many other administrative posts were African Studies Program chair from 1976 to 1979 and resident director of WMU’swinning program at Sunway College in Malaysia from 1990 to 1992.
Students sought to lead RACE exhibit-related discussions

Up to 40 WMU students are being recruited to help facilitate discussions regarding race, coinciding with a national touring exhibit coming to Kalamazoo Oct. 2.

Prospective participants must attend a two-part training session from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 9, at the exhibit, “RACE: Why Are We So Different?” in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

Exhibit organizers are looking for dynamic, social justice-minded students with diverse socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to facilitate discussions on campus with other students about the exhibit. Those chosen must be able to facilitate at least two conversations throughout the fall.

Through film, still photography, interactive components and programming, the exhibit invites people to explore race as well as the impact of race as an economic, political and cultural construct. It will be hosted by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum downtown through Jan. 2.

Visit www.raceexhibit.org/wmich for more information about becoming a student facilitator or to apply. For more information about the RACE exhibit and related events, contact Zarinah El-Amin Naceem at zarinah.el-amin@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6324.

WMU trustees OK creation of two academic centers

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the creation of two academic centers July 23.

The College of Health and Human Services Center for Gerontology will advance research, education and service as well as the University’s longstanding gerontology services Center for Gerontology will advance research in aging and will actively pursue external funding.

The Haworth College of Business Center for Sustainable Business Practices will promote global sustainable business practices and be led by Andrew Targowski, business information systems.

It will promote those concepts and practices as businesses across the world face the challenges of a lack of resources, declining business ethics and globalization issues.

Students, faculty, staff, business partners, non-profit organizations and community representatives will examine current business practices and policies to help achieve sustainable alternatives.

Homecoming

Leadership coach to give talk

A nationally recognized leadership coach, business consultant, author and speaker will kick off the 2010-11 Haworth College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series. Leslie Wilk Brakskick will talk on “Leadership in a Changing World: Stand Tall or Tap Dance?” at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, in Schneider.

To attend, register by today at shawna.cassada@wmich.edu or (269) 387-6059.