



Council Communique



PRESIDENTS COUNCIL, STATE UNIVERSITIES OF MICHIGAN

March 2011

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Upcoming Dates

Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2011

State Relations Officers Meeting

March 16, 2011

Career Service Directors Meeting

March 17, 2011

Business Affairs Officers Meeting

March 18, 2011

Analytical Studies Committee Meeting

March 28, 2011

Boulus Testifies to House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education

On Wednesday, February 23, PCSUM Executive Director Michael Boulus testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education. Boulus addressed the continuing cuts to higher education over the past decade, Governor Snyder's proposed price controls on tuition, and the importance of higher education institutions to Michigan's economic development.

Boulus also shared the *2010 Collaborating for Success: Advancing Public Higher Education Through Cooperation* report that the Presidents Council develops every year for the Legislature. The report includes the Michigan Universities Coalition on Health (MUCH) model for employing a coalition approach where employee enrollment is pooled, self-insured template contract with coalition pricing is negotiated and claims are not pooled. A table is included in the MUCH section illustrating the differences between Michigan public universities and State of Michigan employer and employee costs. Other sections of the report include Michigan Universities Self Insurance Corporation (M.U.S.I.C.), Michigan Higher Education Compact (MHEC), and university cost efficiencies. The entire report can be downloaded at <http://www.pcsun.org/Portals/0/docs/jan2011collaborationreportFINALFINAL.pdf>

Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee for Higher Education Meetings

The Presidents and Chancellors of the 15 public four-year universities will testify during March before the House and Senate Subcommittees for Higher Education Appropriations. The schedule is as follows:

The House Subcommittee will meet in Room 352 (House Appropriations Room) in the Capitol Building starting at 10:30 a.m.

- March 2: Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Oakland University
- March 9: Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Michigan-Flint
- March 16: Eastern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University
- March 23: Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, and Saginaw Valley State University
- March 30: Central Michigan University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University

Financial Aid Officers Meeting

March 29, 2011

The Senate Subcommittee will meet on the same day but in the afternoon in the Senate Appropriations Room, Capitol Building.

- March 2, 12:30 p.m.: Grand Valley State University, Ferris State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Oakland University
- March 9, 3:30 p.m.: Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Michigan-Flint
- March 16, 12:30 p.m.: Eastern Michigan University, Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University
- March 23, 12:30 p.m.: Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, and Saginaw Valley State University
- March 30, 12:30 p.m.: Central Michigan University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University

2011 Wade McCree Scholarship Recipients Inducted

On February 9, 166 of the 219 Detroit Public School (DPS) ninth-grade students inducted as Wade H. McCree Incentive Scholarship future recipients attended an induction ceremony at Wayne State University.

McCree, an internationally-known lawyer and former solicitor general of the United States, was the University of Michigan's Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law from 1981 until his death in 1987. McCree founded the Higher Education Opportunities Committee (HEOC) in 1963 and through HEOC, worked with the public four-year universities in offering scholarships to DPS students.

The Honorable Judge Wade McCree, Jr., stated, "At the 2005 Detroit NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner, then Illinois State Senator Barack Obama cited the following national statistic: Out of one hundred fourteen-year-olds currently enrolled in ninth grade, only 18 will achieve a four-year college degree within six years after their class graduates high school. This alarming statistic is a national one, with greater extremes in our inner cities. The McCree Incentive Scholarship Program is a commitment, of more than 25 years, to provide bonafide scholarship assistance, along with tutoring and performance monitoring to help public school students with an opportunity to be the 'right kind' of statistic."

The Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan (PCSUM) works jointly with DPS and the universities on the administration of this scholarship program. PCSUM Executive Director Michael Boulus said, "The support for this scholarship program is another dimension of a commitment by our Michigan universities to promote academic excellence, access to college, and support for completing a bachelor's degree. We wish the new 219 inductees the best in doing well academically in high school, and we look forward to meeting them on campus in the fall, 2014."

DASUM Promotes the 15 Public Universities

The Directors of Admissions at State Universities of Michigan (DASUM) created a [postcard](#) to be given to each high school student taking the Michigan Merit Exam. On one side of the postcard is the Michigan map showing the location of the 15 universities along with each institution's logo and ACT test code. The other side of the postcard includes tips for taking the ACT. The materials were sent out to each school's MME Coordinator for distribution prior to the exam. [Click here](#) to view the postcard.

Student Association of Michigan Update

The Student Association of Michigan (SAM) is preparing for its "Lansing Blitz" on Thursday, March 24 starting at noon on the Capitol front lawn. This "Lansing Blitz" is a rally to try and persuade Michigan's legislators to give Higher Education a priority and lobby for all Higher Education students' interests. To obtain media information, please contact SAM's Director of Public Relations, Kyle Korth, at kkorth@mistudents.org.

For further information about SAM including SAM meeting minutes, news, visit their website at: www.mistudents.org or on [Facebook](#).

Boulus Talks with Capital News Service

On February 7, Michael Boulus met with the Capital News Service (CNS) students from Michigan State University. CNS reporters cover state government stories of meaning to their member papers. In addition to weekly news stories, CNS students write in-depth articles on issues facing state government and their impact on taxpayers. To learn more about CNS, [click here](#).

PCSUM Committee Meeting Reviews

Academic Affairs Officers

The Academic Affairs Officers met on January 21 in the PCSUM offices. Agenda items included Academic Program Review, performance metrics, legislative news, and chair training. The staff from the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) also provided the Officers with an update on the Center. JCMU welcomed two new board members: Fritz Erickson, FSU, and Tim Greene, WMU.

Student Affairs Officers

The Student Affairs Officers met on February 11 at Michigan Technological University (MTU) during the university's annual Winter Carnival. VP for Student Affairs Les Cook graciously hosted the group. Over 30 agenda items were covered during the meeting including the budget, concealed weapons on campus, mental health issues, and university updates. Afterward, the officers took a tour of the campus including taking in the student built ice sculptures and concluded with attending the MTU hockey game.

Chief Information Officers Meeting The Chief Information Officers met on the campus of UofM-Ann Arbor on January 27. Joe Sawasky, WSU, and Laura Pattern, UofM-AA, gave presentations about their own institutional consolidation efforts before consultants from Gartner Consulting talked with the group about possible ways to collaborate. Other agenda items included learning management systems and network access control issues. The following day the officers attended the MERIT Board meeting in Ann Arbor.

State Relations Officers Retreat The State Relations Officers met over two days, January 27-28, to discuss and identify (1) threats and opportunities for universities in Lansing's new political environment, (2) how best to collaborate, and (3) a limited set of strategies for joint advocacy. On Thursday night, Steve Webster hosted the group at the MSU v. UofM-AA men's basketball game.

Public Information Officers Meeting The Public Information Officers met on

Friday, February 25 to discuss the budget and to share how each university's administration is handling the budget messaging to the students, staff, faculty, and community. Cindy Paavola, PIO at Northern Michigan University (NMU), also provided insight to the NMU closure on February 2 due to a serious threat it received of an intent to harm students, faculty, staff and administrators. She also shared their learnings on handling the situation. The PIOs will be meeting again in late May or early June.

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