Slow, reduced payments by state put universities in jeopardy: Letter to State

Plan needed to sustain orderly operations on campuses

Presidents and chancellors of the public universities in Illinois on Feb. 9 jointly urged the governor and comptroller to agree on a plan to provide state funding that was committed to higher education and to reduce a payment backlog that threatens the universities’ operations.

A letter to Gov. Pat Quinn and Comptroller Dan Hynes signed by the presidents and chancellors of the 13 four-year public university campuses in Illinois called upon the state to “honor its commitments” of support and set a payment schedule to enable the universities to “manage our respective cash flows...and sustain orderly operations.”

It was noted that midway through the fiscal year, as of Jan. 25, the taxpayer-supported public universities collectively remained more than $735 million behind in state payments of their total appropriation.

The result has been austerity measures such as spending down cash reserves, reducing budgets, salary and hiring freezes, employee furloughs and reductions in days of campus operations.

“We have done what we can to forestall this crisis by enacting countless measures to save resources and postpone payments until the last possible moment. We have drawn down our available resources, and we are now counting on tuition dollars to keep our doors open for students beginning in the new spring semester,” the public university leaders explained.

“Still, no amount of cutting and sacrifice can make up for the absence of hundreds of millions of dollars in state

Summer Music Theatre announces hiatus

Western Illinois University’s Summer Music Theatre (SMT) will undergo a transformation within the next 12 months, which includes a hiatus of SMT productions in Summer 2010, according to David Patrick, chair of Western’s department of theatre and dance and coordinator of the Summer Music Theatre program. SMT began in 1972.

“A after much discussion, we felt it was in the best interest of the program, given the University’s current cash flow situation and the state of the economy in general, to take a break from this summer’s program,” Patrick said. “Summer Music Theatre has provided entertainment to the region for more than 38 years; however, in the past few years, the recession has impacted ticket sales, and then the state’s budget worsened. We made the decision to use this as a time to reflect on the program successes—and not-so-successful performances—to revamp SMT so we can come back better than ever in Summer 2011.”

Patrick said while this was an “extremely hard decision” to make given the longevity of the program, the timing couldn’t have been better to re-evaluate and revise the program.

“Summer Music Theatre provides an excellent teaching tool for our students. They put together these productions from start to finish, with the assistance of our outstanding faculty and staff. This re-evaluation of the program will also provide our students with a new learning experience,” he added. “The department, the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the University is committed to bringing back an improved version next summer.”

The department will be forming a SMT task force within the next few months, Patrick added. Community members who have suggestions or are interested in participating in the SMT task force should contact Patrick at (309) 298-1543 or DE-Patrick@wiu.edu.

“I look forward to working with my colleagues, students and members of the community to revise Summer Music Theatre. It’s going to be an exciting, invigorating challenge,” Patrick said. “And we look forward to announcing the 2011 lineup.”
37th annual Jazz Fest to feature John Clayton Feb. 18-20

Internationally known bassist, composer, arranger and educator John Clayton and Western Illinois University’s in-residence Hopper Jazztet will headline the 37th annual WIU Jazz Festival, Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 18-20 in Macomb.

Beginning at noon Friday (Feb. 19), Western’s College of Fine Arts and Communication (COFAC) Recital Hall will be the venue for open rehearsals and two concerts. Western’s premier Jazz Studio Orchestra (JSO), conducted by John Cooper, professor and director of jazz studies and jazz trumpet in Western’s School of Music, will offer open rehearsals at noon and 5 p.m. WIU’s Jazz Band, directed by jazz pianist Michael Stryker, will host an open rehearsal at 2 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. concert, in conjunction with Western’s Bureau of Cultural Affairs, will feature the JSO, with headliner Clayton.

Clayton has been nominated for multiple Grammy awards. He has written and arranged music for Diana Krall, Natalie Cole, Quincy Jones, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah and many others. He has been commissioned by many ensembles, including the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Big Band and the Amsterdam Philharmonic. He also was awarded a platinum record for his arrangement of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which was performed by Whitney Houston at the 1990 Super Bowl.

Saturday (Feb. 20) morning will showcase junior and senior high school bands from across Illinois and Iowa.

An encore presentation with Clayton and Western’s JSO will be presented at 3 p.m. in the COFAC Recital Hall. A set by the Hopper Jazztet will precede the bands awards presentation in the Recital Hall. Formed in 2003, the Hopper Jazztet honors the late Professor Emeritus Dale Hopper, who began the School of Music’s jazz program in 1978. Members are Cooper, horn; Stryker, piano; Marlene Rosenberg, double bass; and Kevin Nichols, percussion.

Admission to the Friday 7:30 p.m. concert with the JSO and Clayton is $15 for the public and $8 for seniors 62 years old and older. WIU students will be admitted free with a valid school ID. Call the Hainline Box Office from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays, (309) 298-2900, or go to wiu.edu/BCA to order tickets online.

Saturday’s all-day admission is $7 for the public and $5 for seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The Jazz Festival is co-sponsored by COFAC, School of Music, Visiting Lecturer Committee and the Council on Student Activities Funds.

For more information, contact the WIU Bands Office, (309) 298-1505.

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer nominations

The Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Selection Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2011 prestigious award from the faculty, staff and students. Self-nominations are welcome.

The award is open to tenured full professors who have distinguished themselves in all areas of professional life—teaching, scholarly/creative activity and service, but most notably in the area of scholarly/creative activity. The nominee, who must be fulltime faculty at the time the lecture is presented, should be able to deliver a stimulating presentation on a topic of interest to a general audience. The person selected will deliver the Distinguished Faculty Lecture in Spring 2011, and will be recognized as part of the stage party at the Spring and Fall Commencement ceremonies, Spring and Fall Honors Convocation and the New Student Convocation. The award recipient will present the lecture to the University and surrounding communities at the WIU-Macomb campus and at the WIU-Quad Cities campus.

For full details on deadlines and completing a nomination, see the Feb. 10 news release at wiu.edu/news.

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appropriation payments. Without full funding of our appropriations in a timely manner, we will be forced to take even more drastic actions that will diminish the educational opportunities of our students and our service to the people of Illinois,” they stated.

The state legislature approved and Quinn signed a general revenue budget for the current fiscal year that provided a total of $1.39 billion in state funding for the universities to use as the core revenue source in support of their instructional budgets—faculty and staff salaries, libraries, utilities, infrastructure maintenance, equipment and supplies. As of Jan. 25, the universities had billed $1.07 billion against their total 2010 appropriations, but they had only received $335 million, or 24% of the total billed. Hynes’ office disburses state appropriation dollars.

The university leaders noted that the public university campuses spread across the state are valuable assets for the economic prosperity of Illinois. Together they enroll about 233,000 students, employ 43,000 faculty and staff, and award 49,000 degrees annually.

“For more than a century our public universities have been engines of economic growth, raising the standard of living for countless Illinois citizens, and at no time has that capacity been more crucial,” the presidents and chancellors observed.

“Every dollar spent on higher education is repaid many times over in job-creation at every level…The people of Illinois and the state as a whole need the Illinois public universities to help shape our state’s future, including our economic recovery, and drive the next generation of technology and opportunity.”

Acknowledging the state’s fiscal crisis will be difficult to solve and offering to assist in the effort, the presidents and chancellors urged the state in the meantime to honor its commitment and fully fund the public universities’ appropriations.

“We request a reliable appropriations payment schedule be set and agreed to that will allow us to manage our respective cash flows for fiscal 2010 and thereafter, and sustain orderly operations,” they said.

To read the letter in full, see the Feb. 9 news release at wiu.edu/news.
professional activities

J.Q. Adams, Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies (EIS), and Janice Welsch, English emerita, published “Multiculturalism: The Manifest Destiny of the U.S.A.: An Interview with Ronald Takaki” (part four of the Personal Perspectives series) in Multicultural Perspectives, Vol. 11, No. 4.

Dean Alexander, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, (LEJA), gave an invited presentation on terrorism Jan. 20 in Turkey.


Maria Dunstan, Center for the Preparation of Education Professionals (CPEP), presented a School Improvement Workshop on raising student achievement to all staff of the Lena-Winslow (IL) school district.

James Cohen, EIS, presented two papers, “High School English Learners and the Research Literature Devoted to Them: A Review,” and “Perspectives of Adolescent Mexican Immigrants” at the National Association for Bilingual Education Annual Meeting in Denver, (CO).

Pamela Godt, Curriculum and Instruction, (C&I), and Leaunda Hemphill, Instructional Design and Technology (IDT), presented the workshop “C.H.A.T - Strategies for Encouraging Students to Read” at Western Illinois University’s Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR).

Michael Godard, Kinesiology, and Jill Marshall, Office of Sponsored Projects, (OSP), presented the workshop “What Are the Best Search Engines to Use When Looking for External Grant Opportunities?” at a CITR workshop.

Diane Hamilton-Hancock, Health Sciences, and Leaunda Hemphill, IDT, presented the paper “Information Seeking and Sharing through Social Networks to Promote Health in the Net Generation” Jan. 9-11 at the World Universities Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Bruce Harris, IDT, and Reinhard Lindner, EIS, presented the CITR workshop “Beyond Study Skills - Helping Your Students Use Self-Regulated Learning Strategies.”

Mike Hazlett, LEJA, presented findings of the research study, “An Analysis of the Patterns of Traffic Stops,” to the Springfield (IL) Police Department and city administrators.

Andrea Hyde, EIS, delivered the CITR workshop “Yoga Tools for the College Classroom.”

Christopher Lantz, IDT, presented “Video Composites and Special Effects: Photoshop Effects for Video” at the National and Mid-Pacific ICT Centers Winter 2010 Information and Communications Technologies Center Educator Conference in San Francisco.

Debbe Rigney-Hays, Adult Education, received national STudent Achievement in Reading (STAR) training certification through the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, a subdivision of the U.S. Department of Education.

Jill Myers, LEJA, provided training to federal agents in Baltimore on the legal issues and using technology in law enforcement.


Darrell Ross, LEJA, provided administrative training for law enforcement command personnel in Illinois on “The Use of Force and the Violent Prone Officer” in Peoria.

Vladimir Sergevvin, LEJA, presented at two conferences in Russia: “Critical Aspects of Use of Force, Special Remedies, and Firearms by Law Enforcement Agencies in the USA” at the International Conference on Ensuring the Human Rights in the Modern State, and “Ethical and Anti-Corruption Training Strategies for the State Employees in the USA: The Illinois State Case,” at the National Conference for Strategies of the Development: Stages of Implementation and Correction held by the Russian Academy of State Service under the President of the Russian Federation. Sergevvin also published an article “Use of Firearms by Russian Law Enforcement and Correctional Agencies” in the Law Enforcement Executive Forum.


Francis Steward and Diana Goff, C&I, along with WIU students, participated in an international literacy project by donating children’s books to help create a school in Cambodia for children rescued from slave trafficking.

Sara Simonson, C&I, held inservices on “Engaging Readers in Active Reading Processes” at Havana (IL) High School and presented “Determining Importance in Text: The Nonfiction Connection” in January. She also held four inservices for Abingdon (IL) School District K-12 faculty and hosted “Questioning: The Strategy That Propels Readers Forward.”

Mike McGowan, RPTA, was featured in the American Canoe Association (ACA) e-newsletter in the article “The Year of Inclusive Paddling.”

Retirement reception for Terry Feb. 26

A retirement reception will be held for Pamela Terry, professor of health sciences, from 1-3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 in Stipes Hall 201.

Terry has been a member of the health sciences faculty since 1999. She has also served as a consultant for Terry and Associates, a private business providing health education to individuals and corporate wellness programs since 1988. Terry is a nationally recognized trainer and consultant in the field of bullying prevention/intervention. She has been invited to provide bullying prevention programming in a variety of settings throughout the U.S.

Prior to teaching at Western, Terry was an instructor at Lincoln College, and also served as director and assistant director of instruction and curriculum coordinator for Hult Health Education, Inc. in Peoria. Terry also worked at Western from 1982-1987 as a counselor and academic adviser in what was then the College of Applied Sciences.

She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western, and her doctorate from Southern Illinois University. Terry received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of Health Sciences in 1995 and was named the community health and health services management teacher of the year in 2001.
Professor gets glitter from Martha Stewart

‘Exploring Media’ art show Feb. 23-March 11

Tim Waldrop is a living example of the old saying, “Ask, and you shall receive.” The Western Illinois University associate professor of art recently asked for, and received, a substantial donation (more than $3,100) of glitter and glitter-related craft materials from Martha Stewart Crafts.

The sparkling decorations are being used by students and faculty to create their one-of-a-kind artwork for display in the next University Art Gallery show, “Exploring Media: Glitter,” which will run from Tuesday, Feb. 23 through Thursday, March 11. A kickoff reception, open free to the public, will be held from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Art Gallery.

“This generous donation from Martha Stewart Crafts directly impacts our students’ artwork,” Waldrop said. “’Martha Stewart Living’ asked me to document the students and faculty working, and the exhibit as well,” Waldrop said. “They said they would like to include the show information and images on their blog. This is really exciting for our students and for our department participating in the show.”

He started preparing for this spring exhibition in Fall 2009, thanks to a Western Illinois University-Macomb community Performing Arts Society (PAS) grant, which, in part, helped him schedule visiting artists for the glitter exhibition.

Grants & Contracts


Gisele Hamm, IIRA—$155,200 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for “MAPPING the Future of Your Community FY10.”

Susan Romano and Michael Romano, Biological Sciences—$4,000 in supplemental funding from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for “Genetic Relationships of Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens) Populations of the Illinois and Mississippi River Floodplain.”

Dorie Vallillo, WIUM/WIUW—$17,990 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for “Fiscal Stabilization Grant.”

Spring 2010 internal grant competition

Each fall and spring semester, the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) sponsors the University Research Council grant competition. Seed grants of up to $5,000 are awarded to tenure-track faculty on a competitive basis.

Application materials may be found on the OSP website at wiu.edu/SponsoredProjects/council/council_guidelines.html.

Technical Assistance Workshops for the Spring 2010 internal grant competition will be held:

noon-1 p.m. Monday, March 8 in the University Union Capitol Rooms; broadcast to WIU-QC Room 106 and

3-4 p.m. Thursday, March 11 in the University Union Capitol Rooms; broadcast to WIU-QC Room B17.

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Soul Food Fest

The Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center (GBCC) will host the 24th Annual Soul Food Festival as part of Black History Month on Saturday, Feb. 20 in the University Union Lamoine Room. The event will begin with a social at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Advanced tickets are required. Admission is $20 for non-students. Tickets are available at the Multicultural Center or by calling the GBCC.

The theme for this year’s event is “Everyday Soul: Southern Cooking with Style.” The menu includes barbecue beef short ribs, barbecue chicken, spaghetti, cole slaw; rolls; blackberry cobbler; lemon meringue pie; vanilla ice cream; punch; and coffee, tea, and water. For more information, contact the GBCC at (309) 298-2220.

Ag Ed Club, CFFA pancake breakfast

The Collegiate FFA and the Ag Ed Club will sponsor their annual pancake and sausage breakfast from 7-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 in Knoblauch Hall 239. The event helps raise money for the School of Agriculture’s CFFA chapter and Agriculture Education (Ag Ed) Club. In addition to pancakes and sausages, biscuits and gravy will be served. The money raised will help pay for workshops and other event expenses, such as travel.

Tickets are $5 prior to the event and $6 at the door. For more information, contact the School of Agriculture at (309) 298-1080.

Honor society seeks nominations

Phi Kappa Phi, the largest all-discipline national scholastic honor society at WIU, is seeking nominations from faculty for 2010 faculty initiatives.

A letter of nomination and a copy of the nominee’s current detailed résumé – containing a list of outstanding scholarly, teaching and service accomplishments – must accompany the nomination. Self-nominations are appropriate. Phi Kappa Phi members are especially encouraged to nominate colleagues who they believe are deserving of the honor.

Send nominations to Dale Adkins, chair of the Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Initiates Committee, Currens Hall 400. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 5.

Switchback in concert Saturday, March 6

For the next performance in the Celebration Concert Series, Switchback will perform two shows on Saturday, March 6 in the Tri States Public Radio Performance Studio, 320 W. University Drive. The duo will present a special children’s show at 2 p.m. and a second show for the general public at 7 p.m.

Seating is limited and tickets can be purchased by calling (800) 895-2912. Tickets are $5 for children (12 and under), $10 for Tri States Public Radio members and $15 for the general public.

For more than 20 years, Switchback, the duo of Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, has been entertaining audiences around the world with their unique American roots music blended with Celtic soul. They have opened for The Moody Blues, Leon Russell, and Lee Greenwood, among others.

Everyone attending is encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or personal care item for donation to Macomb Loaves and Fishes.

Health events sponsored by Campus Rec

Dialogue About Diabetes
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, Knoblauch Hall 239 Corporate Dining Room

Cooking tips for diabetics; chair exercises; Health tips, food samples, recipes and a resistance band, provided by Bella Hearst Diabetes Institute

Employee and student cost is $7; checks payable to Bella Hearst Diabetes Institute. Registration deadline: Friday, Feb. 19. Register at the Campus Recreation Office, open Monday-Friday 8-4:30 p.m. or by calling (309) 298-1228.

Total Cholesterol Screening
7:30 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, Stipes Hall 111

Provided by the Department of Kinesiology

Finger-stick blood work measures cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides and glucose levels. A 12-hour fast is required (No food or beverage; water is okay). Employee cost is $25; make checks payable to Kinesiology Public Services. Free blood pressure screenings also available.

Indoor Kayaking Workshop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, SRC Aquatics Center

Learn to kayak or improve your current strokes. Employee and student cost is $10; make checks payable to Campus Recreation. Registration is due Thursday, Feb. 25 at the Campus Recreation Office Monday–Friday 8-4:30 or by calling (309) 298-1228.

Harry Mussatto Golf Course Opens
Monday, March 1

- Early Bird rate deadline for season pass is Thursday, April 1
- Book your tee time online at golf.wiu.edu or (309) 298-3676.

Healthy Back Presentation and Demonstration
3:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, Stipes Hall 121

Karen Walters, physical therapist, Advanced Rehab Services and Sports Medicine, will present “My Healthy Back and Keeping it Healthy.”

Eating Wellness Screening Day Feb. 25

The WIU Counseling Center will offer an Eating Wellness Screening Day for students, faculty and staff interested in learning more about nutrition and healthy eating habits from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25 in the University Counseling Center, located on the second floor of Olson Hall. It is open free to Western students and personnel on a walk-in basis.

For more information, contact the University Counseling Center at (309) 298-2453 or go to ucc.wiu.edu.