

COUNCIL
114th session
Agenda item 14(a)

C 114/14(a)
5 June 2015
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WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

(a) Report of the Board of Governors

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the University's operations in 2014

Strategic direction: 3

High-level action: 3.1.3

Planned output: 3.1.3.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related documents: C 114/14(b) and C 114/14(c)

1 Article 16(h) of the Charter of the World Maritime University (the Charter) requires the Board to report annually through the Secretary-General to the Council on the work of the University.

2 So far, each year, the World Maritime University (WMU or the University), in cooperation with the Secretariat, has prepared a draft report which, after being reviewed by the WMU Executive Board, was finalized by the WMU Board of Governors for submission to the Council. Until now, the Council, following the introduction of the report by the Secretary-General, and, with extremely few and mostly welcoming and congratulatory comments from Council Members, has been simply noting the report of the WMU Board of Governors and urging Member States to respond to any actions which the Secretary-General may have suggested. As a result, the annual report has been and is only accessible and available to very few, namely, the members of the WMU Board of Governors and those who have access to IMO's restricted website containing IMO meeting documents.

3 During the preparation of the Study on the financial sustainability of the University and, in particular, during the discussions in relation to the Endowment Fund, it became apparent that the University will need to expand the already available communications tools and information material and, amongst others, it needs to publish, each year, an annual report on its work which can be made available to likely donors or others who may be interested in the educational and research services it offers.

4 As a result, the WMU Board of Governors, at its thirty-third session, decided that the University should produce, each year, an integrated annual report covering the activities of the University during the preceding calendar year in a format similar to that used across the academic community. This should be printed as a brochure and thus act as a useful communications tool, as well as a replacement of the existing annual report of the WMU Board of Governors to the Council on the work of the University. The WMU Board of Governors was of the view that producing two separate, yet substantially identical in substance reports, will be unnecessary. In addition, the WMU Board of Governors requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council of the change in the current practice and the reasons thereof.

5 The University's Annual Report for 2014, which has been prepared following consultations with the WMU Chancellor and the Secretariat, was considered and approved by the WMU Board of Governors, at its thirty-third session, and is available on the WMU website at the following address:

<http://issuu.com/worldmaritimeuniversity/docs/annual-report-2014?e=2597467/13429203>

6 The report covers developments in governance and management; the new academic premises; the enrolment in the core M.Sc. programmes; the Ph.D. and Postgraduate Diploma programmes; the Executive and Professional Development courses; and the financial affairs of the University. It also reports on the 2014 Graduation and the honorary awards and distinctions conferred in 2014.

Financial matters

7 WMU reported total revenues of some \$15.6 million in 2014 against which \$14.5 million was expended. The resulting balance of \$1.07 million was the outcome, primarily, of the higher-than-forecast number of students in the Class of 2014 which brought in an additional \$1.3 million in fellowship fees; the active cost-saving efforts by the WMU Administration; and currency exchange rate savings due to the strengthening of the US Dollar against the Swedish Krona.

8 Mindful of the fluctuations in the global economic environment, and the direct impact that a downturn can, and indeed did make in 2008, the WMU's management has continued to work, in line with the instructions of both Governing Bodies, to rebuild the University's financial reserves, as a priority, to a level which would enable WMU to cover its operating costs for one full year.

9 To this end, by December 2014, the reserve and fund balances amounted to \$5.9 million, corresponding to 38% of the annual operational expenses in 2014. The Board recognizes that there is still some way to go in this regard and that the University requires additional contributions if it is to build up a viable Reserve Fund.

10 The Secretary-General wishes to express appreciation to all members of the Board of Governors and to the Executive Board for their contribution to the work of the University during the period under review.

11 As the Council is aware, the University is, to a great extent, financed by contributions from a relatively small number of countries and organizations, and, in this regard, the Secretary-General, in addition to recognizing the contribution of them all, wishes to reiterate the Organization's particular gratitude to the Government of Sweden and the City of Malmö for their generous support of the University and the hospitality its students enjoy throughout their stay in Malmö.

12 All donors contributing to the operational budget, student fellowships, visiting professors and field study opportunities are greatly appreciated. Financial and in-kind contributions from the international community in support of WMU are always a welcome support to the University's mission and achievements.

13 The Secretary-General appreciates the efforts of the Acting President and his management team to develop and expand new revenue-generating activities, including, in particular, the Professional Development Courses, which have greatly contributed towards the University's increased reserves.

Independent accreditation

14 The Secretary-General informed the Council, at its 112th session, that the University had commenced the process of independent accreditation by the Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency of Hannover¹ (ZEvA), as a higher education provider, and that ZEvA is an accredited and registered quality assurance body for higher education. The ZEvA Commission of International Affairs carried out the relating examinations and, on 8 May 2015, issued to the University unconditional Certificates of Accreditation of the Master of Science programme in Maritime Affairs and of the Doctor of Philosophy programme in Maritime Affairs, valid until 30 November 2020. The Council, at its 112th session, urged Member States to take action so as to recognize, under their national laws, the degrees conferred by the University and to inform, to this end, the Organization. WMU will provide those interested with copies of the Certificates of Accreditation and salient information.

Inauguration of the new academic premises

15 On 19 May 2015, the Secretary-General and WMU Chancellor inaugurated the new expanded and state-of-the-art academic premises of the University which the City of Malmö is providing under the same terms as before. The new premises are centred on the refurbished historic Malmö Harbour Master's Building, with dramatic additions designed by the renowned Danish architect Kim Utzon in collaboration with Australian architect Tyrone James Cobcroft of Cobcroft Architects. The new academic facility is nearly double the floor size of the previous ones. It provides a new auditorium, multiple research laboratories, seminar rooms, and video-conferencing capabilities for hosting international conferences. An integrated information system embracing unified communications, broadcast media and information management systems for teaching, video-conferencing, research and management is a central feature of the new site. There is no doubt that these will enable the University to grow to the next stage in its life and the higher education and professional services it provides to the IMO membership, the shipping industry and the maritime and seafaring community. The Secretary-General thanked all donors and supporters of WMU, past and present, and paid particular tribute to its founder, former IMO Secretary-General, Dr. C.P. Srivastava. Looking ahead, the Secretary-General said the University's growth over the coming decades would be shaped by the evolving context of the shipping industry, in correlation with IMO's technical cooperation programme, while eight new strategic directions, outlined in a study for the financial sustainability of the University, would be key to its growth.

¹ The Zentrale Evaluations und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and of the European Consortium for Accreditation. The agency is also listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education.

16 The United Nations Secretary-General was represented during the inauguration ceremony by Mr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Assistant Director General of UNESCO and Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, who delivered a message on his behalf. The other speakers during the inauguration event were: Mr. Erik Bromander, State Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure in Sweden's Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation; Ms. Katrin Stjernfeldt-Jammeh, Chairman of the Malmö City Executive Board; Ms. Ida Skard, Director General, Maritime Department, Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghaffar, President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, who spoke on behalf of H.E. Mr. Hany Dahy, Minister of Transport of Egypt. Sweden and the City of Malmö took the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the University and Norway announced their intention to resume their financial support to the University, initially, by providing fellowships during 2015 and 2016.

17 After the Government of Sweden and the City of Malmö, the Nippon Foundation (the Foundation) is the next largest and staunchest benefactor of the University and one in every seven graduates has completed his or her studies due to the financial support the Foundation provides to the University. During the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, announced the Foundation's willingness to establish a \$100 million endowment fund to support expansive and innovative activities at the University.

18 The Council, at its 112th session and in response to the recommendations of the Secretary-General, strongly urged Member States and shipping industry stakeholders to contact WMU to establish what they can offer, in terms of equipment and facilities, to support the transition to a new academic campus in Malmö in early 2015. The WMU Board of Governors, during its May 2015 session, expressed its thanks and appreciations to those who have, thus far, done so. However, the donations and contributions received, thus far, do not cover all the needs of the University and the Council may wish to consider reiterating its request.

Appointment of the new President

19 The Secretary-General informed the Council, at its 112th session, of the resignation of Dr. Björn Kjerfve from the post of President of the University. Following a selection process the Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as WMU Chancellor, appointed Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (Dominica) as the new President of the University and she will be entering service before the end of June 2015.

20 Following the departure of the previous President, the WMU Chancellor designated the Vice President (Academic), Professor Neil Bellefontaine (Canada), as Acting President and the University has continued, under the stewardship of the Acting President, to operate smoothly and it has not been necessary for the WMU Chancellor either to intervene or to resort to any of the contingencies which the WMU Board of Governors had put in place.

Action requested of the Council

21 The Council is invited to:

- .1 note the Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the World Maritime University for the calendar year 2014 and to comment as it deems appropriate;
- .2 note the new method which the WMU Board of Governors has adopted in reporting to the Council on the work of the University, through a published Annual Report which will also be used as a communications tool;

- .3 strongly urged Member States to take action so as to enable recognition, under their national legislation, of the degrees conferred by the University and, to that end, keep the Organization informed of developments;
 - .4 also strongly urged Member States and shipping industry stakeholders to contact WMU to establish what they can offer, in terms of equipment and facilities, to support the transition to new academic facilities; and
 - .5 note the appointment of Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (Dominica) as the new President of the University.
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