



Public Information Office

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU goes on holiday schedule Dec. 18-29

The University will go on a holiday schedule for all employees from Dec. 18 through Dec. 29, according to Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance. Offices will be allowed to close at noon on the Fridays of Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. Employees will be able to make that time up with approval of their supervisors through one of the following methods: annual leave, flex time, or not taking the time off.

The following offices—Business Office, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Center for Extended Learning, Enrollment Management, and Advancement—will have at least one person available on afternoons of Dec. 22 and Dec. 29 to answer the phone and respond to customers. These departments are not expected to provide a full range of services but to be available and provide personal contact to potential customers and their inquiries.

MSU and FBCC sign partnership agreement

David Fuller, president of Minot State University, and Russell Mason Jr., president of Fort Berthold Community College, signed a three-year partnership agreement Monday at



FBCC in New Town. This accord was also endorsed by Judy Brugh, a representative of the Four Bears Tribal Council.

"This agreement represents a significant priority for us in our new strategic plan and our growing focus on strengthening relationships with the Native American community and community colleges," said Fuller.

FBCC, which was founded in 1973, is the tribal college of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. It typically has an enrollment of about 300 students.

Under the partnership agreement:

- Courses students complete at FBCC, a two-year institution, will be recognized and accepted by MSU, a four-year institution. This means that courses of a FBCC student will be accepted by MSU and will apply toward a four-year degree at MSU.
- If other joint academic projects are beneficial to the two institutions, both parties will be willing to explore opportunities for academic collaboration.

December 13, 2006

Spring Convocation slated Jan. 8

President David Fuller will convene Spring Convocation Jan. 8 at 8 a.m. in the Conference Center. This session will mark the start of implementation of MSU's new strategic plan. Copies of *Vision 2013: A Vision for the Future of Minot State University* are being distributed this week. Please read the printed document carefully, bring your copy with you to convocation and keep it as a personal reference. Our goal is for Minot State University to become one of the premier public, regional universities in the "great" Great Plains, and this bold goal will require each of us to contribute to the implementation of this plan. At the Jan. 8 meeting action teams will be formed, specific strategies for study will be assigned, and actions to accomplish the vision's priorities will be identified. President Fuller looks forward to working with all of us to achieve our new vision.

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www.minotstateu.edu/inside/

- With pre-arrangement and permission from academic chairs or department directors at a host institution, students, faculty and staff with valid IDs from either institution, will be allowed to use the facilities, such as the library, at a guest institution.
- The two institutions will inform each other of certain relevant projects, programs, activities or conferences and invite students and faculty members of each other to participate in them in advance. If relevant or of interest to both institutions, certain events or projects may be planned or co-sponsored together.
- Both institutions will promote and support service learning and civic engagement. MSU faculty and students will be encouraged to learn and serve on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation or in New Town, while FBCC faculty and students will be invited to work with the faculty, staff and students at MSU in Minot.
- To seek external grants or other related resources, the two entities will work together on projects of benefit to both institutions.
- Both institutions will work together to enhance their Native American Studies Programs. Faculty, staff, technology or other resources will be made available for each other's programs where appropriate. For instance, Native American courses offered through FBCC may be made available to MSU students via IVN or through online classes and vice versa.

Gary Rabe, vice president for academic affairs, said MSU is investigating the possibility of establishing partnerships with other tribal colleges in the state. The framework for a partnership with the Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt is currently being developed.

Mason said that this is the first time his college has signed a partnership agreement with a public institution. He feels it will be advantageous for the students at both schools.

Horizons Unlimited trip to China is planned

An informational meeting on a forthcoming Horizons Unlimited trip to China will be held Friday at Main Street Books, 6 South Main, 5:30-7 p.m. The trip will be sponsored by Minot State University.

Yueh-Ting Lee, dean of the college of arts and sciences, and Bin Wang, assistant professor of accounting and finance, said people from Minot and surrounding communities are welcome to make the trip as well as students, faculty and staff.

The two-week trip, scheduled from May 14-27, will feature stops in four major cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an and Zhengzhou. Travelers will have an opportunity to sample local cuisine, visit cultural and historical sites, talk with business leaders at American and Chinese-owned businesses and see a cross-section of the country.

The trip is being subsidized by SIAS University, MSU's partner institution in central China. Consequently, Wang and Lee said the trip's cost will be considerably less than that of a solo trip to China. Each person will pay \$2,300 for the two-week trip, which would cost approximately \$5,000 if it was planned by a single person. Students will be given an option to earn college credit if they sign up for a business or English class.

Lee said it is important for people to have an opportunity to learn about Chinese culture. "There are so many economic opportunities for them," he said.

Each city has a different flavor. Shanghai is a westernized city; Zhengzhou is an agricultural center; and Xi'an and Beijing are ancient cities with fascinating historical sites. Travelers will have a chance to see cultural sites such as the Great Wall of China, Qin Shihuang Ling, the terracotta warrior museum and a stone carving of the Dragon Gate. They will also see cultural presentations such as Tang Dynasty palace dancing.

There will be three orientation sessions for interested persons. These sessions will provide information on the culture of the country, safety precautions, basic Chinese phrases and other needed information. Participants will be accompanied by three faculty members who have traveled extensively and have lived in China or elsewhere overseas.

Lee and Wang said the types of food available should not be a problem. Individuals on this tour will have an opportunity to sample traditional Chinese cooking, but they can also purchase food from American-style, fast-food restaurants. Many residents in the larger cities will also speak English and a number of Westerners live in the country, particularly in Shanghai.

MSU officials visited China last month and finalized a partnership agreement between SIAS University and MSU that will enable MSU students to study abroad and for Chinese students and faculty members to study at MSU.

For more information, contact Wang at 858-4336 or Margaret Sherve at 858-4266. Information is also found on the Web site at (www.minotstate.edu/international).

Hoeven delivers 2007-2009 budget address

On Dec. 6, Governor John Hoeven presented his executive budget for the 2007-2009 biennium to a joint session of the North Dakota Legislature. He said that it is a balanced plan that achieves three important objectives for the state of North Dakota:

- First, the budget funds important priorities and invests in the future of our people and our state, especially education. It is essential that we make the kinds of investments that continue to produce quality jobs, enable us to take care of people, and continue to improve our quality of life.
- Second, the budget is sustainable. Ongoing revenues cover ongoing expenditures, and we increase our financial reserves for the future to more than \$400 million.

- And third, the budget contains no tax increases, no fee increases, and no borrowing or bonding. In fact, our budget provides \$116.7 million in real tax relief for the citizens of North Dakota.

“Working with the Legislature and others we are pursuing our strategic plan for aggressive economic development,” Hoeven said. “As a result, we’re growing and diversifying our economy, which enables us to fund our priorities; invest in the future; provide tax relief for our citizens; and build stronger reserves than ever before. Our budget is sustainable and prudent, but it is also dynamic and forward-looking.”

Concerning higher education, the proposed budget provides the North Dakota University System with an \$82.5 million general fund spending increase, or 21 percent. Hoeven said the increase should allow the State Board of Higher Education to hold tuition increases under five percent for the next two years. The sum includes a \$52 million increase for operating budgets, \$14.5 million for construction and renovation projects, as well as \$16 million for one-time expenses, such as deferred maintenance, ConnectND and other needs.

The governor unveiled his spending recommendations as the legislature’s three-day organizational session ended. Legislators will take them up when they begin their regular session Jan. 3.

SBHE president responds favorably to governor’s budget address

John Q. Paulsen, president of the State Board of Higher Education, expressed support for the 2007–2009 North Dakota University System budget outlined in Governor. Hoeven’s budget address on Dec. 6.

“The State Board of Higher Education is pleased Governor Hoeven again recognizes, and has demonstrated through his budget proposal, the importance of the University System to the students and citizens of North Dakota,” Paulsen said. “The budget provides an investment in the dual mission of the NDUS—continued educational excellence and enhancing the state’s economy. Past investments by the governor and the North Dakota Legislature in the University System have helped contribute dramatically to the state’s strong economy, and the University System looks forward to doing more.”

Paulsen also said he expects the board will suggest some changes as the budget process progresses. “As usual, there are some refinements I expect the board will hope the Legislature will make to the budget as it moves through the legislative process,” he said. “This is a strong and reasonable place to start. Hopefully, among the refinements could be the movement of one-time funding to permanent base funding, consistent with the budget submitted by the State Board of Higher Education.”

— *NDUS news release*

New mentors wanted for spring 2007

New students enrolled for spring 2007 will be invited to participate in the mentor program. Consequently, willing faculty, staff and administrators to serve as their mentors are needed.

The MSU Mentor Program was established last fall to help new Minot State University students make a smooth transition to university life. The MSU Mentor Program started with 147 students and 42 mentors. Students in the program, referred to as “mentees,” are asked to sign an agreement which lists program requirements. These requirements include:

- meeting with their mentor three times per semester
- meeting with their academic advisor once per semester
- attending one social event with mentor and other mentees each semester
- attending two life skills workshops per semester (workshops include topics such as time management, money management, financial aid, study skills and much more)

Mentors in the MSU Mentor Program:

- serve as a resource for new students (the number of students assigned to you is based on how many you feel you can handle given your schedule)
- meet with mentees at least three times per semester.
 - Some mentors/mentees found it helpful to meet weekly or every other week while others were satisfied with the three times per semester.
 - You must also be willing to have students stop in when they need help because not all situations can wait until the next meeting.
- help students identify campus and community resources to assist with problems that arise (tutoring, job searches, roommate problems and financial aid)
- be willing to listen to their problems and guide them in the right direction
- attend a social event with your mentees
 - Most mentors attend a campus event (lyrical lunch, concert or choir performance, book talks, sporting events) but some host a gathering for their mentees.
- encourage your mentees to complete other program requirements (attending workshops and meeting with advisor)
- communicate with mentor program coordinator regarding your students
- most importantly, be a friend to a new MSU student

To find out more about the mentor program, call Debra Chandler, mentor program coordinator, at 858-3144 or email her at debra.chandler@minotstateu.edu. You can also visit the program’s Web site at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/mentoring/>. In addition, for more information, feel free to ask

one of our current mentors. A list of mentors and their contact information can be found at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/mentoring/MeetourMentors.shtml>.

If you are willing to serve as a mentor in the program, please go to http://www.minotstateu.edu/mentoring/mentor_app.shtml and complete the online application. It is helpful if as much information as possible is included since this will be used to match mentors and mentees!

Finally, if you know of any students starting next semester or even next fall, encourage them to sign up for the program. They can do so by clicking on the application link on the MSU Mentor Program Web site (<http://www.minotstateu.edu/mentoring/>).

Barnes & Noble to take over operation of MSU Bookstore

Barnes & Noble College Bookstores is tentatively set to take over management of the Minot State University Bookstore Feb. 1, said Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance. Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc. is a privately held subsidiary which operates bookstores at more than 500 institutions of higher education. Founded in 1873, Barnes & Noble, Inc. is one of the nation's largest booksellers.

According to Dorn, MSU signed a five-year contract, with the option to renew for a second five-year period. Payment to the university is based on a sliding scale of sales, with the university provided a guaranteed minimum of return of \$175,000 annually, given certain criteria are met. For example, in a worse-case scenario, if university enrollment declined more than five percent in a year, then the terms of the contract would be renegotiated. The university, however, will likely take in more than \$175,000 per year. Then, MSU would receive an 11.5 percent commission from the first \$3 million in sales.

In addition, Barnes & Noble will remodel the bookstore according to their theme and colors. The retail area will be expanded, with more space taken from storage areas. All current bookstore employees will keep their jobs at the same salary and will have the option of remaining state employees or becoming Barnes & Noble College Bookstore employees, Dorn said.

The MSU Bookstore sees Barnes & Noble's corporate expertise and buying power as an advantage for them. Barnes & Noble will also be able to provide better support for online services, and through its access to wholesalers, a wider selection of books. "Hopefully, we get a better mix of new and used books," Dorn said.

The MSU Bookstore's entrance will be replaced with a roll-down entrance similar to those used by Barnes & Noble stores in shopping malls. Dorn said they will also look at a slimmed-down model of the seating and coffee shop offered in larger Barnes & Noble stores and attempt to provide more sidewalk seating outside the store. Dorn said he wants to encourage students to make greater use of the Student Union atrium.

Barnes & Noble had the best proposal among the outside vendors that submitted proposals for operating the campus bookstore, said Dorn. He and other members of the search committee held an open forum last month to solicit feedback from students, faculty and staff about the proposals.

The university bookstore will remain a separate entity from the Barnes & Noble bookstore that is planned for the Dakota Square Mall.

— *partially excerpted from Minot Daily News*

Symphony performs family concert Jan. 27

At the Minot Symphony Orchestra's family concert January 27, music by composer Keith Amos accompanies the Hans Christian Andersen story "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" as the main concert feature.

MSU faculty, staff and students are admitted free with a current ID. Additional tickets for adults are \$15 per concert or \$50 for a season ticket. The price for senior citizens is \$13 single, \$45 season; students 12-18, \$8 single, \$24 season; children, under 12, \$4 single, \$12 season. All concerts are held in the Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The remainder of "Five of Our Finest" include: "Winter's Passing (Spring Concert)," March 3 and "Pops Concert," April 14.

Announcements

Buy MSU clothing at Dakota Square

The university's retail merchandising unit (RMU) at the Dakota Square Mall opened Nov. 20 and will run through Dec. 27. Clothing is available in infant, toddler, youth and adult sizes. The RMU is located north of the clock court and is open during regular mall hours. Encourage people to buy red and green MSU apparel for holiday gift giving!

— *Marketing Committee*

Faculty must complete FERPA training

Faculty should log in to their PeopleSoft accounts and verify that they have access to their faculty roles. If they have not completed the FERPA training, they will not have access to enter grades at the end of the semester.

If a faculty member does not have access to their PeopleSoft account, they must contact Lisa Haman, Computer Center, at 858-3018, and she will send the link for the FERPA training.

— *Tania Balas, registrar*

2007 spring class schedule is available in additional locations

The 2007 spring schedule of classes is available in two new locations besides CampusConnection. A non-printable PDF of the schedule can be found on Minot State's home page and by selecting "What's Happening" and "2007 Spring Term Schedule" or by inserting the address http://www.minotstateu.edu/records/term_schedule_spring.shtml. A printed copy is also available for purchase in the bookstore. Schedule changes will be uploaded to the Web every two weeks. Keep in mind that the most accurate schedule information is located in CampusConnection. Students will still need to log in to CampusConnection to register for classes.

—Jennifer Sick, associate registrar

Flu shots are currently available

The Student Health Center still has flu vaccine available for faculty, staff and students with a current ID. We are open from 8 a.m.–noon and 1–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can stop by the Student Health Center in the lower level of Lura Manor during these hours and receive your flu shot. The administration fee is \$15 for students and \$25 for faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you.

—Caren Barnett, director of the Student Health Center

Food service hours affected by semester break

The operating hours for the various food service areas on campus from Dec. 15–Jan. 7 will be as follows:

- Beaver Creek Café (Student Union, second floor)—closed
- Beaver Dam (Student Center, Student Union, second floor)—closed
- Gnawed Log (Gordon B. Olson Library)—closed
- Buckshot's (Student Union, first floor)—7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Monday–Friday
- Symbols (convenience store, Student Union)—8 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday

Auditions for 'The Vagina Monologues' to be conducted

Auditions for the fourth annual "Vagina Monologues" will be held Jan. 10-11, 2007, from 6-7 p.m. in the Aleshire Theater. All MSU students, faculty and staff may audition. Men are welcome to be supporting crew.

This project is in conjunction with the International V-Day celebration with 90 percent of raised funds given to local women's organizations. Further information can be obtained by calling Paula Lindekugal-Willis, associate professor of communication arts, at 858-3178.

In the galleries

- Dec. 5-20—"Moving Color and New Light Drawings" by Adam Konczewski, MSU art student, Hartnett Hall Gallery.
Dec. 5-Jan. 3—Pottery by Sarah Dyer, senior exhibit, Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery.
Jan. 16-Feb. 23—Americas 2000: Paper Works, national juried show, Hartnett Hall Gallery.
Jan. 16-Feb. 23—"Adjustment," drawings by Jennifer Nelson of Grand Forks, best of show winner in the 2006 paper works competition, Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery.

The public reception for the Americas 2000 and Nelson exhibits will be Jan. 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

Calendar

Dec. 13, 2006-Jan. 31, 2007

December

- 13-14 Final exams in second 8-week classes.
16-17 "O Christmas Tree" performed by Rinat Studio of Ballet, Nelson Hall, Saturday 7 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.
15-Jan. 5 Winter recess from classes.
18 Grades must be entered by noon.
18 Men's Basketball at U. of North Dakota
19 Staff Senate, Jones Room, 9 a.m.
20 University Cabinet, Westlie Room, 9 a.m.
25 Holiday, Christmas, university closed.
28 Women's Basketball at Hope International College, Fullerton, Calif.
28-30 Men's Basketball at Winnipeg Christmas Tourney.
29 Women's Basketball at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, Calif.

January

- 5 Women's & Men's Basketball at Black Hills State U.
5-8 Men's Club Hockey at Desert Hockey Classic, Scottsdale, Ariz.
6 Financial Aid information session, Conference Center, 10 a.m.–noon.
6 Women's & Men's Basketball at South Dakota Mines.
6-7 Women's Club Hockey at Rainy River Community College.
8 President's Convocation, Conference Center, 8 a.m.
8 New student orientation.
8 Classes start at 4 p.m.
9 First full day of classes.
9 Nursing Department convocation, Conference Center, 1-3 p.m.
11 Last day to add a first eight-week class.
11 Faculty Senate, Westlie Room, 3:30 p.m.

12	Beaver Boosters luncheon, Grand International Inn, noon.	20	Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Dakota State U., Dome, 4 & 6 p.m.
12	Fall 2007 student teaching applications due to Field Placement Office by 4 p.m.	20	Indoor Track & Field at Bemidji State U.
12	Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Jamestown College, Dome, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Alumni Assoc./Beaver Boosters Appreciation Night.	21	International Artists Series: "Canadian Brass," Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
12-13	Men's Club Hockey at North Dakota State U.	22	Brown Bag Book Talk: Johnny Coomansingh, geography, on "Islamic Societies in Practice," Olson Library lower level, noon.
13	Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Valley City State U., Dome, 4 & 6 p.m.	22	Nursing Student Association, Memorial Hall 304, 12:15 p.m.
13-14	Women's Club Hockey at North Dakota State U.	22	Student Association, Westlie Room, 6 p.m.
15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, university closed.	23	NAC: reception for Americas 2000 and Best of Show, Hartnett Hall Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.
16	Staff Senate, Jones Room, 9 a.m.	23	Development Foundation Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Westlie Room.
16	If a graduate student who is graduating spring or summer semester, deadline for filing admission to candidacy and application for graduation with advisors.	23	Concert: Minot Junior High Honor Band, Grant Linsell, director, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
16	If a graduate student who is graduating spring or summer semester, noon deadline to file thesis proposal in Graduate School Office.	24	University Cabinet, Westlie Room, 9 a.m.
16	Curriculum Committee, Westlie Room, 12:30 p.m.	26	Students who have not paid their fees or have not made arrangements with the Business Office by 4:30 p.m. will be cancelled from school.
16-Feb.	23 NAC exhibit: "Americas 2000: Paper Works," Hartnett Hall Gallery.	26	Spring and summer semester applications for graduation due to advisors.
16-Feb.	23 NAC exhibit: "Americas 2000: Best of Show," Jennifer Nelson, Library Gallery.	26	Women's & Men's Basketball at Dakota State U.
18	Last day to add a 16-week class.	27	Minot Symphony Orchestra: "Family Concert," Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
18	State Board of Higher Education, Bismarck.	27	Indoor Track & Field at Concordia Cobber Open, Moorhead, Minn.
18	Mandatory orientation for student teaching fall 2007, Main 218, 12:30-1:30 p.m.	27	Women's & Men's Basketball at Mayville State U.
19	Beaver Boosters luncheon, Grand International Inn, noon.	27-28	Women's Club Hockey at Iowa State U.
19	Women's & Men's Basketball vs. Mayville State U., Dome, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.	29	Student Association, Westlie Room, 6 p.m.
19	Concert: Minot Community Band, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.	30	If a graduate student, admission to candidacy and application for graduation due in Graduate School Office.
19-20	Women's Club Hockey at South Dakota State U.		