

1. What are opportunities and needs for MSU to advance for the benefit of students and the community?

OPPORTUNITIES:

Community:

- Strong relationship with community – can build on relationship
- Relationship with Base – good but could be better

Student Services:

- Strong student services – better serve our students achieve academic goals
- Development of more mentorship/internships for students
- Enhance or define better student services – confusion where to go for tutoring, mentoring, advising, etc.
- Opportunities to enhance advising – have professional advisors like the College of Business has (Solberg) instead of faculty

Faculty/staff:

- Clarify rules/policy – seem to change or not applied consistently (ex. Overload classes)
- Have a system of departmental faculty mentors to help retain new faculty and give junior members someone who can help them explore research interests

Programs:

- Investigate new programs – work on a PhD program
- Expand master's programs
- Form more articulations with 2 year schools
- Move forward with the Gen Ed curriculum
- Need to find our niche/identity and be known for a program that draws students – students should be drawn here for programs not just because we are affordable

Other:

- Maintain strong marketing – look at new ways to market in light of losing Grow ND
- Available land and properties for expansion and future facilities
- Research open text books – explore other book purchase/rent options
- Advertise the great clubs we have to offer
- Pursue oil workers and their families
- Clarify the focus of “who we are” and how we accomplish our goals of serving students – feels like we are going in a million directions without a focus

NEEDS:

Community:

- Students need to be engaged in the community to feel they are a part of it – bridge gap between campus and community

Student Services:

- Need more diversity, but not just internationally. Need to expand and draw more students from the region and other areas of the US
- Need more scholarships to Canadian and International students
- More student scholarships
- More mentorships and internships for students
- Better faculty response time to students

Faculty/Staff:

- Need to attract and maintain faculty – fill the open FT tenure track faculty positions
- Hire appropriately – a PhD may not always be the best choice
- Need to have competitive salaries to recruit and maintain faculty
- Need a merit system that rewards faculty when they earn a PhD and/or tenure
- Campus needs to get back to academics and a strong academic culture
- Endowed professorships

Programs:

- Expand the nursing program
- Need fine arts facility
- Programming to meet growing needs (new energy careers, CJ, SPED, etc.)

Facilities:

- Visitors side of the football field needs improvement – make more inviting
- Need to update the swimming pool
- Need to replace the track
- Update the Dome

Other:

- Need to make MSU athletic events the place to be in Minot
- Need to market/recruit in more areas of the state – students outside of Minot never hear about MSU (comment included towns of Bismarck and Edgeley not knowing/hearing about MSU)
- Need childcare options for students
- Need more parking places
- Continue foundation's work with funding sources
- More Parking

- Open communication of what MSU is planning and what is happening so public knows rationale and benefits

2. What are the campus interests during this transition year?

Community:

- Maintain good relationships with community partners
- Continue building community relationships (symposium, block party, etc.)

Student Services:

- Work on an advising program for students
- Coordinate/clarify student services – confusing
- Need to keep Grow ND
- Develop more weekend activities to keep students here
- Work on connecting students with employers
- Work to keep students in ND after they graduate

Faculty/Staff:

- Seems that we are in a perpetual crisis mode that is driving decisions – faculty need a sense of “how long” the budget crisis will continue
- Bring back the staff and faculty recognition luncheon
- Stronger communication about the Centennial curriculum.
- Study and understand the need for new FT, tenured faculty and proceed in a way that is supported financially by the administration
- Clarify process for advising First Year students

Parking/Facilities:

- Look into parking issues
- Update buildings where possible (energy efficient measures)
- Study affordable housing option for students, faculty and staff
- Look at partnering with public transportation to help with parking issues
- Explore possibility of having the C-store open 24/7 so students can get late night snacks, etc. – also carry basic needs such as laundry soap, etc. – not all students have transportation to go get these things
- Look at expanding the C-store into neighboring lounge area
- Expand cafeteria
- Don't do construction during school year
- Get Blue Lights and improve campus safety
- Have Beaver Dam open until midnight. To address Sodexo's concern about students having access to the kitchen/bar area, install drop down gates to prevent access

Regents/Foundation:

- Lay groundwork/structure for Regents and foundation to support the new president's integration into the community and awareness of past/current issues and pending opportunities
- Communication/relationship building is critical during transition
- Continue to keep the 100th anniversary information in the public awareness
- Immediately have regents/foundation representatives take new president around to meet policy makers (Governor/legislators/City Council) and local community groups (service groups, Minot Daily, etc.) and/or invite civic groups to campus
- First impressions of the new president by community and policy makers are lasting – assist in helping him/her be well briefed for any meetings

Other:

- Frame MSU as an economic engine for the region
- The whole campus needs to be involved in the search for the new president
- With the next president, a “second coming of Fuller” is desired. Students want to know what will come in five to six years; students need to keep the level of student involvement that exists now. With a new president coming on board we would like to see another initiative like Vision 2013 in order of our plans to “Be Seen. Be Heard” throughout the university and community
- With new president move toward true faculty governance. Faculty want students to succeed but their suggestions for improvement to campus are overlooked or discounted. More should be done to use faculty as a resource to improve the campus

3. What are some focus areas that the university should consider in the next legislative year?

Facilities:

- Updated residence halls
- Sustainability options on campus
- Focus on future large projects
- Dakota, Cook and McCulloch should be priorities

Programs:

- Money to fund positions
- Expand the nursing program
- Promote majors in areas of need (teachers, geology, continuing education, etc.)

Value of Higher Ed

- Legislators need to know that there is value in an education – they don't understand what we do
- Be proactive in building positive image and relationship between MSU and all legislators – hold 2-3 meetings prior to the session and forge individual connections with aid of Regents, foundation, and alumni
- Form small advisory groups by the Regents and foundation to serve as immediate advisors to the new president leading into the session
- Work to build a relationship with legislators. Convince them that we are doing something valuable for students and the community. Bring them on campus and have faculty and students walk with them – take them to classes
- Educate legislators on purpose of higher education. More than train people to get a job – teach them to interact meaningfully in society

Other:

- Get our needs in the Governor's budget early on
- Think about local contributions that could partner/influence state and federal resources
- Think about the possibility of a state lobbyist

4. Miscellaneous Comments

- So many professors require students to purchase books but then they don't use them in class.
- Merit-based vs. needs-based scholarships – keep SGA informed
- Very difficult to lose Grow ND
- Hard to market and recruit when we don't know what to tell prospective students since Pathways is constantly changing.
- Spring 2015 is questionable after MSU loses the ability to use the Grow ND model

5. In what ways is MSU of benefit to the community/Region

- Beautiful campus with community enrichment – arts, athletics, theater, music
- Economic impact – be proactive in having this out in the public eye regularly
- Necessary programming to meet needs of area