

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to University Cabinet and Campus*
January 18, 2006**

Happy New Year! Below is the list of current activities since the last meeting of the University Cabinet on December 21, 2005. A number of major topics and issues and a list of key future events are included as well.

Report of Current Activities (since December 21, 2005)

- December 28: Minot Area Development Foundation conducted its annual awards presentation and issued to Minot State University a variety of checks to support university programs.
- December 29: Meeting with Records Staff to discuss search for a Registrar (Lisa Johnson's replacement) and the review of current positions and potential new position as an associate registrar.
- January 4: Chancellor's Cabinet meeting was cancelled.
- January 5: The President's Staff participated in a full-day retreat. The agenda included a discussion of an AASCU report on student success, the development of a long-term schedule through 2015 with identified key events, an examination of a proposal to require first-year students to reside in the residence halls, a discussion of residence hall fees, and a discussion of revenue and expense projections.
- January 6: Deadline to submit final proposals for the Centers of Excellence projects. MSU submitted two proposals: 1) a revised Artspace project, and 2) a project developed in collaboration with the Minot Area Development Corporation.
- January 9: The campus-wide convocation was held in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. It included a report from Ron Royer on the Higher Learning Commission self-study work, an overview by Wes Matthews of the work of the compensation task force, and a review by Ron Dorn of the new budget hearings and the building projects. I reported on the progress of the Planning and Budgeting Council strategic planning work, the results from the "student qualities" survey distributed and compiled in December, and a description of the characteristics of 12 institutions described in an AASCU report showing a high level of student success. A quick survey was distributed to ask attendees to rate the extent to which they agreed if MSU possessed the characteristics of the institutions in the AASCU report. Based on the results of the focus-group work and the work of the Planning and Budgeting Council, three components of a new vision for MSU were outlined. Those three values or standards were: 1) the high expectations or qualities we expect from our students, 2) the nature of the learning and culture we will provide them, and 3) a meaningful and engaged connection to and sense of place.

* This report includes selected University activities. It is distributed to the University Cabinet at its regular monthly meeting, and it is also forwarded to faculty, staff, and student leaders, members of the Board of Regents, and Alumni Board for their information. If anyone wishes to learn more about any of these items, he/she should contact the president at 858-3301 or in the President's Office in the Administration Building.

- January 9: A white paper will be distributed to all campus members describing those key components of the proposed vision, including the focus on a sense of place. I explained at the meeting that I will be attending a meeting of all three senates to discuss this vision and to seek their input. I have also invited all academic and non-academic units on campus to invite me to a meeting of their respective units, if they wish, to discuss the proposal.
- January 12: The MGT consultant visited campus and met with a variety of on-campus and off-campus people. His purpose was to discuss the criteria for the new peer model for the long-term finance plan.
- January 13: The steering committee overseeing the work of the campus master planning met to review the input gathered during the workshops held on campus in December. The detailed lists of the “likes” and “dislikes” of the three plans were reviewed and discussed. Upon the consideration of the input, the steering committee made recommendations, which will be sent to the architects. It was agreed that a variation of Plan C should be recommended.

Other Topics and Issues

- A revised plan for the new Registrar’s Office was developed in consultation with the Records Office, the staff, and others. Admissions will be moved to Enrollment Management, the title of the Director of Records will be changed to Registrar, and a new associate registrar will be hired. The responsibilities of the current staff will be changed to align with the new positions.
- President’s Staff is currently working to review the residence hall fees and other fees needing to be identified for the SBHE.
- Opening day enrollment was 3,450, which compared to 3,442 in spring of 2005 and 3566 in spring 2004. The official spring enrollment reported in the third week in 2005 was 3,500.
- A task force coordinated by Gary Rabe and Wes Matthews will begin work to review the information about ConnectND collected at the last University Cabinet meeting. The charge to the task force is to review the results, identify short-term and long-term solutions, and to return with an initial report on February 1.
- The Public Information Office has been restructured in response to the results of the campus-wide opinion survey distributed in the fall. The office will be moved to the office space previously held by the TRIO program on the third floor of the Student Union. The Director’s position responsibilities have been revised to respond to the campus’ suggestions, a new assistant writer appointed, and a part-time data and records position hired. Three work-study positions and two interns will be added to the office. The focus of the revised office will be to improve external and internal communications. Linda Benson will assume the new position of the assistant writer, and Karen Holmen will serve in a part-time capacity to oversee data collection and records for the office.
- The trip to SIAS International University in China will take place from February 11-19. Mayor Curt Zimbelman, Jerry Chavez from MADC, Stephanie Witwer, Yueh-Ting Lee, and I will spend the week visiting with campus officials about student and faculty exchanges and other cooperative ventures. Mr. Zimbelman and Mr. Chavez will meet with city and regional officials to discuss economic development opportunities.
- The changes to the student union discussed last year and this year are planned to be completed this summer before the start of the fall semester.

- The survey results from the “quick” survey distributed and collected on January 9 have been compiled. The results will be distributed in the near future.
- Dr. Royer is currently compiling the list of on-campus and off-campus individuals to serve on the Self Study Steering Committee. Invitations and announcements will be sent out this week.
- As a first step in developing projects and initiatives to support a focus on place and civic engagement, I have notified the American Association of State Colleges and Universities of our interest in joining the American Democracy Project (ADP). The ADP is an initiative to support and improve activities at AASCU member institutions related to civic engagement.

Future Plans for Spring Semester

- The next SBHE meeting will be held by conference call on January 19. The agenda is available on the SBHE web site.
- Two open forums to discuss the strategic planning vision will be held on January 23 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the conference center.
- Dr. Carlos Cortez will visit campus and conduct diversity workshops on campus on January 31.

Final Comments

The spring semester has gotten off to a good start with comfortable weather, early indications of a slightly increased enrollment, and plans for many good initiatives at Minot State University. As always, I welcome your input at our open meetings, and I encourage any of you to contact me if you would like to talk individually. Again, I appreciate all of your outstanding contributions to our students and to our campus. Thank you.

David Fuller
President
January 18, 2006