

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,
University Cabinet and the MSU Board of Regents
January 24, 2007**

Current Issues and Topics

- Higher Learning Commission Self-Study
Dr. Ron Royer presented a timeline to the campus at the Convocation showing the progress and continued plans for completing the self-study.
- Legislative Bills and Work
A variety of amendments have been presented impacting higher education. The Chancellor's Cabinet and the presidents are monitoring and discussing those amendments weekly.
- Vision 2013 and Convocation
At the faculty-staff convocation, the Vision 2013 strategies and implementation plan were discussed. Faculty and staff worked in small groups to identify three action plans and to enter those plans on a worksheet specifying the plan, resources needed, people in charge, assessment methods, and timeline. Each team was asked to identify the most significant action plan of the three and to enter it on an enlarged worksheet on the wall. Volunteers described plans under each strategy. The Planning and Budgeting Council will review the lists and identify teams for each strategy to compile the action plans.
- House Appropriations Presentation on the MSU Budget
Campus representatives presented the MSU Budget to the committee, pointing to the notable positives in the executive budget recommendation and focusing considerable time on the capital projects (Swain and the Dome floor). Photographs and detailed explanations of the two projects were presented to seek the committee's support of funding for those two projects.
- Connect ND Recommendations
The Oracle representatives, Bonnie Neas, and Randall Thursby presented to the Oversight Committee their careful review of the needs for upgrades to CND. The recommendations include hardware upgrades, software changes, and personnel increases. The total amount required for these upgrades is \$9.5 million. The State Board of Higher Education at its recent meeting supported those recommendations. Two persistent questions remain: will the upgrades require us to continue or increase the student fees? And, will these upgrades result in a significantly improved system?
- Spring Enrollment
We are, as always, carefully watching our enrollment numbers. With the conversion to PeopleSoft, the most reliable comparison between spring term last year and this year will be available when third-week numbers are available and become official. This will occur next week. We have been anticipating a slight decline and have been budgeting accordingly this entire year. We have also begun to track credit hour production which provides additional insight as to how our institution is doing and the revenue that is being generated.

*The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. It is distributed widely to keep the community up to date on current initiatives and decisions. The report is provided at the monthly meeting of the University Cabinet, an advisory council comprised of all directors, vice presidents, and senate presidents. This report is also distributed electronically to all faculty and staff, student leaders, the Board of Regents, Foundation Board of Directors, and Alumni Board. The report is also posted on the university's web site. Anyone interested in learning more about this information may contact the President's Office or the president directly.

- Earmark Projects
On January 31, the MSU Washington lobby firm will be on campus to discuss what campus projects will be advanced for congressional earmark support, if that support is available. The meth project through RCJC, the Job Corp Executive Management Program (JCEMP), the Prairie Community Development Center (PCDC), and the rural health initiative through NDCPD have received support in the past. MSU has been asked to develop a prioritized list of five projects to present to our legislative delegation. Another priority for the university is to identify and support a major project that will advance the new strategic plan and vision.
- Master Plan
The architectural firm working with MSU to develop a campus master plan has submitted a recommended list of deadlines on a three-phase schedule. The master plan steering committee will review these plans in preparation for the return of the architects. If the phase-in plan is approved, the master plan will be completed and the first stages of its implementation will begin. Campus signage is identified as the first major initiative to be completed.
- Student Union Design
The interior designer who handled the design of the Beaver Dam has been asked to develop a plan to improve the layout and appearance of the Student Union. The SU atrium, the transition to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, the move of the Post Office to the east side of the atrium, further refinements to Buckshot's, and enhancements to hallways will be considered by the design firm.
- Centers of Excellence
A meeting is scheduled on January 24 with the Minot Area Development Corporation (MADC) president and chair, the mayor, a number of campus representatives, and other community members. The focus of the meeting is to identify potential projects and to discuss the next steps in the preparation of a proposal. It is anticipated that a call for new proposals will be made in March.
- Vice President for Advancement Search
A search has begun for this position. An advertisement has been posted in the Minot Daily News and North Dakota job postings, with a date to begin a review of applications set for January 31. A search committee has been appointed, to include faculty, staff, students, administrative, BOR, alumni, and Foundation Board members. Dr. Dick Jenkins will serve as the chair.
- Advancement Reorganization
The President's Staff has been examining the current staffing, the budget, and the strategic directions of the advancement area. John McConnell, a consultant from an advancement firm in Minneapolis, has been reviewing the Advancement Office and staffing and determining the extent to which the office has met the objectives of the pre-campaign audit prepared and presented two years ago. Three critical needs have been identified: 1) the need to improve the donor relations function of the office; 2) the need to significantly improve the use of the software system (Razor's Edge) and use of the data; and 3) the need to improve communications with alumni and other friends of the university. Clearly, the major need at this point is to find a replacement for Mr. Botz. Interviews of the advancement staff, members of President's Staff, and the leadership of the alumni association, the MSU Foundation Board, and the Board of Regents has provided important information about the search process and a reorganization of the Advancement Office.
- After Cabinet Discussion
We will resume our "After Cabinet Discussions on Thursday, January 25th at 7:30 a.m. in the Multicultural Center. Everyone is welcome to attend to discuss items contained in this report or any other topics of interest to our campus.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since December 21, 2006)

- Luncheons hosted for MSU donors
- Interviews of MSU football coach candidates
- Attended Annual Norsk Hostfest meeting
- Participated in regular Chancellor's Cabinet meetings
- Led full-day President's Staff Retreat, with visiting advancement consultant
- Met with advancement consultant to review search for new Vice President for Advancement
- Hosted lunch with Greater Expectations for Minot (GEM) to discuss collaborations
- Met with legislators, architects, and campus representatives to discuss Dome floor
- Spring Faculty-Staff Convocation to identify new action plans for vision
- Hosted luncheon for retired faculty and staff
- Presentation to House Appropriations Committee
- Participated in Trinity Board meeting
- Meetings to make plans for Scandinavian trip as a part of the Skein-Minot Sister City relationship
- Chaired full-day meeting in Bismarck of the Connect ND Oversight Committee
- Participated in the search committee deliberations held in Bismarck to narrow the list of candidates for the new Chancellor
- Met with Governor Hoeven to present and discuss MSU's Vision 2013
- Went to coffee with an alumna and past Board of Regents member in Bismarck
- Attended each of the Saturday Chamber of Commerce Legislative Forums
- Welcomed 900 teachers to teacher education conference on MSU campus
- Provided welcome and introductory remarks to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall
- Attended Xcel Advisory Board meeting in Fargo
- Attended the Marketplace for Entrepreneurs Conference in Fargo
- Attended the State Board of Higher Education meeting in Bismarck; presented and received approval for new MSU mission statement-
- Traveled to Ray, Williston, and Stanley to continue community visits in northwest North Dakota; met with superintendents and other community members-
- Attended the open community meeting in Bottineau to discuss MSU-Bottineau's interest in a name change.

Concluding Remarks

The spring Convocation provided a good opportunity for all faculty and staff to become engaged in defining new action plans for Vision 2013. The enthusiasm for the new plan was obvious at the meeting, as was the active participation in defining specific projects that will help us advance the vision and plan. There is as well a general understanding that all of our departments and areas will be working to identify directions and goals that are aligned with the institutional plan. With such an alignment, the entire campus can proceed together to effectively meet the strategies and priorities of the plan and to achieve the vision the entire campus has defined over the past two years. I thank everyone for the support of our institutional vision and for the continued support of Minot State University and our students.

We still are challenged by the declining population in our general area and in the small towns that have traditionally supported us. It is evermore imperative now that we embrace the idea of our expanded territory, explore new and responsive programming, seek other markets, and work hard to secure resources to support improved salaries and operations. All of these efforts are made more powerful by our understanding and commitment to the idea that all students can succeed, that we work together for the common good of university, and that we create a distinctive identity for our university. We're making significant progress on all fronts due to your good efforts and support. Thank you. I'm looking forward to a successful spring semester and new calendar year.

David Fuller
January 24, 2007