

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to University Cabinet and Campus*
March 15, 2006**

It is surprising and gratifying that our Spring Break is here already. It seems only a short time ago that we were greeting everyone in August and wishing them well in the start of another year. Below I've included a list of current activities since the last meeting of the University Cabinet held on February 22, 2006. I have also included brief descriptions of a number of major topics and issues, as well as a list of key future events.

Report of Current Activities (since February 22, 2006)

- February 22: Senator Kent Conrad visited campus to hold a news conference regarding future reductions in federal aid and support for higher education. He addressed the audience and spoke of the excellent work our Rural Crime and Justice Center is doing to educate the public about methamphetamine abuse. He also pointed out the fine work being done by the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. The senator highlighted our delegation's efforts in securing funds to support these MSU projects and other initiatives.
- February 22: The MSU Planning and Budgeting Council met to discuss the current mission statement.
- February 23: Brad Botz, Verla Rostad (our Alumni Association president), and I traveled to Phoenix and Tucson to host alumni gatherings and meet with friends of the university.
- February 28-March 6: Four finalists for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs visited campus and met with many groups, made formal presentations to the campus, and toured the campus and Minot. The interviews have been completed. Currently, I am meeting with the search committee and direct reports to the VPAA.
- March 6: Brad Botz, Tawyna Bernsdorf, and I traveled to Garrison to meet with the Garrison Chamber of Commerce for their noon meeting. I spoke to those in attendance about current activities at MSU and about our university's interest in continuing our strong relationship with communities in our region.
- March 3-10: Two finalists for the library director position visited campus for on-campus interviews and presentations.
- March 4: My wife, Nancy, and I traveled to Sioux City, Iowa, to attend the national tournament of the women's NAIA championships and watched our basketball team play St. Francis. Although we did not win, our team and coaches can be very proud of their outstanding play and their accomplishment of making it to the national tournament.

* 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.

Other Topics and Issues

- MSU submitted our recommended tuition increase to the State Board of Higher Education. Our recommendation of 9.5% will be acted upon at the next SBHE meeting in April.
- The President's Staff has been examining our finances and examining our current short-term obligations and future needs. In light of the tuition increases, the escalating costs for energy, and the goal to reach a 4% average salary increase, President's Staff is developing a plan to respond to needs and objectives set by our strategic plan.
- The Compensation Task Force continues to develop a plan to address short-term compensation objectives and long-term goals. The task force, under the leadership of Wes Matthews, plans to share plans with the President's Staff and the campus.
- The campus has been full of a flurry of activities, as one might expect at this time of the year. Athletic events, theater, art, music, and a host of other activities have kept our campus busy and active.
- The Steering Committee for the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study has been working to develop a plan for the study.

Future Plans for Spring Semester

- The Chancellor's Cabinet will meet in Bismarck on March 22.
- The MSU Employee Recognition Luncheon will be held in the Dome on March 23.
- The Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago from April 1-4. Representatives from our Steering Committee will be attending.
- The next SBHE meeting will be held on our campus on April 6.

Final Comments

This report has been distributed to all members of the University Cabinet. The Cabinet members have been asked to share this report with the members of their respective departments and areas. I have decided to also send out an email with the attached report to all faculty and staff, and to include a brief summary in the email to all campus members. If any of you have questions about any of these topics, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I believe that it is very important to keep all of you posted on key events and topics. This report is one way to provide such information. I appreciate the time you take to review these reports and to keep posted on these monthly topics. You also may find copies of each monthly report on the MSU web site on the President's page under "President's Report."

Thank you so much for all you do for our campus, our students, and for higher education. As a president, I am most appreciative of all of your good efforts and hard work. I wish you all a pleasant start to our spring weather.

David Fuller
President
March 15, 2006