

**¹Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,
University Cabinet, Alumni, the Foundation Board, and the MSU Board of Regents
May 16, 2007**

Current Issues and Topics

HB 1003 Final Legislative Actions

The North Dakota legislature completed its work. HB 1003, which was signed officially by the Governor on the MSU campus, included average increases of 5%/5% for higher education faculty and staff, \$6.3 million for Swain Hall, \$387,000 for the Dome floor, and one-time increased amounts for deferred maintenance needs.

MSU Salary Distribution

A week following the final approvals on salaries from the State Board of Higher Education and the ND legislature, a letter was sent to all faculty and staff regarding salary distribution for 2007-2008. The MSU Compensation Task Force (CTF) recommendations were used as a basis for salary distributions. The CTF goals were met to address salary disparities for selected classifications, comp-ratio adjustments, the use of discretionary pools for market and merit adjustments, and an across the board 4% increase. These distributions will keep us on line to meet our five-year CTF goals.

Swain Hall Planning

The ND legislature authorized MSU to proceed with the renovation of Swain at a cost of approximately \$7 million, with \$6.3 million coming from the state, with MSU funding the remaining portion through other sources. At present, MSU is identifying an architect to oversee the project. A task force has been working throughout the year to make plans for the renovation of the building into an academic facility.

Dome Floor Plans

Bids were recently opened by contractors interested in this project. The state authorized \$387,000 for the replacement of the floor. Work on the floor will begin soon.

Commencement

The commencement ceremony was held in the Dome on May 11, with more than 700 graduates receiving degrees. This year's ceremony was organized to reflect MSU's new strategic plan and its emphasis on engagement and place. Orlin Backes, a distinguished alumnus of MSU, gave an address; and Kelsey Broschat, delivered the student address. Two honorary degrees were given in honor of Nathan Goodiron and Craig Bauer. Ms. Ila Selzler, who graduated from the State Normal School in Minot in 1932, was

¹ 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.

recognized during the ceremony. To honor the tradition of presenting the diplomas in rolled scrolls in much the same way that Ila received her diploma in 1932, this year's graduates received rolled diplomas tied with a red ribbon. Faculty also reinstated the tradition of forming a double line for the graduates to walk through at the completion of the ceremony.

Centers of Excellence Preliminary Proposal

Minot State University is working with Info-Tech and the Minot Area Development Corporation to prepare a Centers of Excellence proposal to submit during the next round. A proposal is being developed to present in August.

Higher Learning Commission Self-Study Progress

The university and many of its faculty, staff, and students are working hard to prepare the draft of the Self-Study Report. A delegation from the steering committee attended the Higher Learning Commission Annual meeting in Chicago, participated in workshops, and met with the HLC staff liaison assigned to MSU. The drafts of the various chapters are now taking shape. The plan is to complete the penultimate draft of the Self-Study in time to present to the campus prior to the start of school in August. The university convocation in August will be focused on the self-study and the preparation for the HLC evaluation team that is scheduled to visit campus in April 2008.

North Broadway Construction

North Broadway construction has begun. Access to the campus has been affected by this construction. The university has been kept informed about the construction schedule and has provided regular updates to the campus. The traffic for the commencement ceremony had to be diverted, but with the help of our maintenance staff and the Minot Police Department, there were no serious problems for traffic and access to the Dome.

Budget Preparation

Guided by the approvals from the ND legislature and the State Board of Higher Education, the university is now working to prepare its budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008. That budget is due in early June to the SBHE.

Vision 2013 Teams and Action Plans

Seven teams charged with developing action plans for each of the seven strategies of Vision 2013 completed their work and submitted recommended action steps for the review by the Planning and Budget Council. The budget and the prioritized action steps will be reviewed to provide support for identified priorities in the plan.

Crises Management and Emergency Operation Procedure Review

Following the Virginia Tech tragedy and an open forum with the campus, the university has charged two committees with the responsibility of developing procedures for responding to crises and emergencies. Procedures will be reviewed, updated, and published.

Master Plan Completion and Architecture Visit

On May 30 and 31, the master plan architects will return to campus to present the final plan. They will work with the Master Plan Steering Committee and other groups to identify processes to follow on the development of signage, a landscaping plan, and continued enhancements to the Student Union.

Board of Regents Spring Meeting

The Board held its spring meeting, welcomed 17 new members, and heard reports from students, faculty, and staff. They also met this year's BOR Achievement Award winners. The Board convened in their subcommittees to address how MSU can continue to remain viable and vital in the future. Reports from each committee were made.

Diversity Climate Survey and Action Steps

A consultant visited campus recently to discuss the results of the Diversity Climate Survey that was administered in the fall. The consultant made public presentations to the faculty and staff at open meetings and discussed the results. Issues related to how MSU can improve the climate for diversity were considered. Action steps will be identified to address those issues.

Preliminary Summer and Fall Applications and Enrollments

Applications are running ahead of the number received at this time last year. The number of students signed up to live in the residence halls is also ahead of the number reported at this time last year—due in part to new first-year residence hall requirement.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since April 11, 2007)

- Welcomed MSU Retirees Reception
- Foundation Investment Committee Meeting
- Met with editor of Red and Green
- Minot Area Development Corporation Meeting
- Two "Student chats" in the Beaver Dam
- Lunch with President Gordon Olson and tour of Beaver Dam
- Chaired Higher Learning Commission consultant-evaluator team to an institution in Nebraska
- Meeting to discuss the Young Professional group
- Attended North Broadway construction meeting in city auditorium
- Meetings with Enrollment Director candidates
- Artspace meeting
- Attended Chamber's Business After Hours at Taube Museum
- Breakfast meeting with Housing Consultant
- Attended and welcomed participants at the annual MSU-Bottineau Recognition luncheon
- Attended presidents' workshops at the Higher Learning Commission meeting in Chicago; participated with the MSU team in a meeting with our staff liaison for HLC
- Attended one-day workshop on experiential learning sponsored by the National Society for Experiential Learning
- Breakfast meeting with General David Jones in Virginia; dinner with alumni Wally and Marlys Rustad in Washington DC
- Met with Senator Conrad, Senator Dorgan, and Representative Pomeroy in Washington DC
- Attended the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) state representative meeting in Washington DC
- Visited exhibits and booths at the MSU at the Mall Saturday event
- Went to see the performance of The Glass Menagerie
- Welcomed Governor Hoeven, local legislators, board members and campus members to the governor's signing of the HB 1003 bill on the MSU campus.
- Attended the Norway trip planning meeting
- Attended and gave president's report at Foundation Board meeting
- Attended Honors students project presentations
- Luncheon meeting with custodians
- State Board of Higher Education meeting in Wahpeton
- Attended and reported at the MSU Board of Regents meeting
- Held a meeting with MADC board members, city officials, Info-Tech representatives and MSU faculty to discuss proposal for an MSU Centers of Excellence project
- Presented gift to the Goodiron family in honor of Nathan at the special Honors Dance at the Pow Wow
- Attended Dianna Anderson's piano recital

- Presentation by consultant regarding the MSU Diversity Climate survey results
- Visited Sitting Bull College at Ft Yates and met with President Laurel Vermillion to discuss potential cooperative activities.
- Visited United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck and met with President David Gipp to discuss articulation interests and the signing of a future partnership agreement in June
- Met with nursing chair candidates; science candidates.
- Welcomed participants at the Honors Program Graduation Ceremony event
- Hosted a pre-commencement brunch
- MSU Commencement Ceremonies
- Welcomed graduates and other participants at the MSU-Bottineau Commencement Ceremonies in Bottineau
- Participated in an Economic Development meeting with Xcel Energy representatives, the chair of the Centers of Excellence Commission, and other community members.
- Attended Chamber of Commerce Board meeting.
- Attended Trinity Board meeting.

Concluding Remarks

With the on-going work on the Higher Learning Commission self-study, on the strategic plan and its action steps, the legislative work, and the myriad of other demands on campus, our faculty and staff are performing in extraordinary ways to address these needs and to provide their daily service and support to the students and to the campus. This year has been exceptionally challenging and stressful. I am most appreciative of the way that our campus has stepped up to meet these challenges. We are definitely over the hump on our self-study work and in the work to implement the strategic plan. Both projects, while demanding, will give us the direction and impetus for improvement and for reaching our strategic goal through meaningful change.

The Commencement ceremony was, as expected, a wonderful event to honor and recognize our graduates, their families, our faculty and staff, and Minot State University. Thanks to all for your continued support of our students and for your obvious commitment to their success.

David Fuller
May 14, 2007