

August 25, 2010

TO: MSU Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders, and Board Members

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

First-Day Enrollment

As of the first day of classes, enrollment shows an increase of 6%. Our full-time-equivalent numbers increased 6.7%. Other key areas recorded increases, such as Ward County, e-learning, new first-year students, international, and graduate students. Native Americans numbers dropped slightly. Transfer numbers increased only slightly at 1.3%. The census date for official enrollments is in the fourth week.

Convocation

New faculty and staff were introduced and welcomed. Remarks from Cheryl Nilson, Linda Benson, Chase Lee, and Selmer Moen provided an overview of the plans for our senates for the new academic year.

Chronicle of Higher Education article

The Chronicle interviewed a number of people on campus to learn more about our work on faculty and staff compensation. The article appeared in the Chronicle this summer.

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Visit to MSU

The NSIC Board of Directors in June voted to send a team of conference representatives to Minot State to tour and discuss conference membership with the campus. The visit is scheduled for October 19-20. Following the visit, the NSIC will vote to determine if MSU will be invited to join the conference. The decision will probably be made and communicated in January 2011.

Trinity-MSU Center of Excellence Proposal to the Budget Section in June

The geriatrics centers project we presented to the Budget Section of the legislature failed on a vote of 19-19.

Landscaping

The landscaping committee met with a landscape architect to discuss the next phase of the plan. Plans for extending the landscaping from the cemetery to Dakota and for landscaping around Swain were reviewed.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. The report 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 supervisory directors, vice presidents, and senate presidents. This report is 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.

Retention Task Force

The task force has met three times this summer to continue to identify strategies to improve first-year retention. Specific plans were agreed upon to pursue this coming year.

Title IV Trio Program

We received great news that our Trio Proposal was funded. This will allow us to establish a center to support outreach to populations particularly prone to dropping out of college.

FIPSE Veterans Grant proposal

A Minot State team worked to prepare a grant proposal to seek support of a veterans' assistance center on campus. The proposal looks very competitive. We should receive word in the next month if we are funded.

Bid Opening for Wellness Center in June

The construction bids came in about \$1 million over our authority and projected budget. We rejected the bids and have asked our architects to complete a redesign to reduce the cost of the building. We are hoping to solicit bids in October, with construction commencing as late as March, and completion in spring or summer of 2012.

President's Staff Retreat

The members of Presidents Staff participated in a full-day retreat in July. Performance indicators, building projects, athletic funding and the NCAA, and other special projects and needs were discussed.

YWCA and Child Care

The fund we were going to use to support the construction of the new maintenance facility on the north end of campus was reduced considerably to support equipment purchases in Swain. We will need to consider long-term plans for funding of the facility before proceeding with the collaborative effort to work with the YWCA on the adjoining child-care facility. At this point the project is on hold until we seek approval from the SBHE and then determine how we can finance the project.

Swain Hall Opening and Dedication

Many dignitaries, including ND Governor Hoeven, US Congressman Pomeroy, ND Senator Karen Krebsbach and ND Representative Matt Klein, to name but a few, gathered to commemorate the opening of Swain Hall recently. The Chamber's Ambassadors were on hand to hold a ribbon cutting. A large crowd gathered to witness the event.

Athletic Field

The new Herb Parker Field Turf athletic field was dedicated recently by a ribbon cutting and honoring of Marge Parker and family. The first official game will be played on the field on August 26.

Interim Higher Education Meetings

A number of meetings have been held by the committee to discuss plans for higher education support in the upcoming legislative session. The committee has requested considerable information about the NDUS operations and budgets, and have raised a number of critical questions about higher education's effectiveness.

Fall Kick-Off Faculty and Staff Event at the Zoo

The Staff Senate organized and hosted another successful faculty-staff event to start off the new academic year. The food, prizes, and entertainment were well received by those who joined us.

Move-In Day

A number of faculty, staff, friends, and athletes pitched in to help students move into their residence hall rooms. A barbecue was held, music was played by KMSU, and faculty and staff came dressed in their red shirts to show their support of our students.

SBHE Strategic Goals

The Board has distributed specific performance indicators that the campuses are to use in setting goals this year. Minot State has shared the objectives campus wide and will continue to monitor our success in reaching those goals.

SBHE Capital Projects

The SBHE approved the list of 12 capital projects that will be proposed to the legislature. Our geothermal project, in the amount of \$5 million is listed as sixth on the list.

Preliminary Plan on Athletic Field Bleachers and Competition Track

A bleacher company has been contacted about the possible construction of metal bleachers for our stadium seating. The company is putting together preliminary plans for our review. Our architects will be proceeding to investigate the potential for a competition track north of the current athletic field. As soon as the final designs for the wellness center are completed, the architects will turn their attention to this complex and track.

Collaborative Discussion with MADC and EID for a Computer Science Partnership and COE

The Minot Area Development Corporation has been working with us to investigate a potential COE project involving our computer science program and a technology company considering Minot. We hosted meetings with company officials, and participated in hosting a reception for community leaders and company officials.

National Economics University in Hanoi

We will proceed with plans to realize a number of the strategies identified in our articulation agreement signed with NEU. Faculty and student exchanges, study tours there and here, and collaborative degree programs will be under consideration.

Geothermal project

The M.E.P. associates have presented a design for the quadrant serving the new Wellness Center, Swain Hall, and the Gordon B. Olson Library. We will be seeking authority to proceed with the drilling of the wells on Allen Field. The \$3.5 million will be utilized to support this project.

Wellness Center expanded authority granted

In June we went before the Budget Section of the Legislature to seek expanded authority for the wellness center at \$12.8 million. The proposed expanded authority included the increase in projected cost from \$10 million, the addition of a skywalk between the center and Swain, the construction of a climbing wall, and the purchase of additional equipment. The Budget Section vote was 21-19 in favor.

Office and Program Planned Moves and Schedule

The Division of Social Science has completed its move to Old Main, and our teacher education program has moved into Swain. The use of the third floor of Administration is now under consideration for the new Trio program and other offices.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since June 16, 2010)

June

- SBHE meeting in Fargo at NDSU
- NCAA Presidents' Summit in Indianapolis
- Hosted meeting with legislators regarding our COE proposals
- Golden Awards selection committee
- NDUS Chancellor's Cabinet Retreat in Bismarck
- Presentation to the North Dakota Legislative Budget Section on our Wellness Center and our Trinity Center of Excellence proposals
- SBHE meeting in Valley City to finalize budget priorities
- NDCPD meeting to discuss Think College project
- AAC&U Presidents' Trust meeting in Washington D.C.
- Meeting to review and discuss recommendation in NACDA report for athletic fundraising.

July

- Bentz Whaley Conference Call to discuss capital campaign
- Landscaping planning meeting
- Follow-up meeting regarding partnership with National Economics University partnership in Vietnam
- Hosted Board of Regents summer social on campus
- Accompanied BOR members to summer theatre's "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels"
- Interim Higher Education legislative meeting at Bismarck State College
- Foundation Board meeting regarding Beaver Ridge Plaza plans
- Retention Task Force meeting
- Hosted luncheon meeting with new publisher at Minot Daily News
- Bid opening and review for Wellness Center
- Interviewed by Chronicle of Higher Education writer regarding faculty and staff compensation
- Presidents' Staff full-day retreat
- Wellness Center meeting to discuss bids and plans for redesign
- Campus walk-around with Roger Kluck

- Faculty candidate interviews
- Meeting with Kluck, Jenkins, and Foisy to discuss YWCA funding
- Hobson's International Conference call
- Follow-up meeting on Retention
- Great Plains Energy Park dedication ceremony
- Meeting to discuss Swain offices
- Vacation

August

- Great Plains Community Research and Service Center planning meeting
- Center of Excellence meeting
- Landscape Committee
- Beaver Ridge Plaza meeting
- Center of Excellence campus meeting with Computer Science faculty and representatives from prospective business to Minot
- Hosted reception for prospective business
- Meeting with EAPC regarding Wellness Center redesign plans
- Visit by Metal Bleachers company representative
- Passport Program press conference
- Meeting with Library Director
- Follow-up meeting with Retention Task Force
- Marching Band meeting
- Mattson Construction meeting to discuss Swain
- Feasibility Task Force meeting for capital campaign
- Senator Dorgan's staff member visit to campus
- Luncheon meeting with Bentz Whaley consultant
- Fundraising workshop for deans and directors
- Minot Area Development Corporation Board meeting
- Media-video shoot for marketing project
- Meeting to discuss North Dakota Geographic Alliance
- Chamber Ribbon Cutting Event at new football field
- Geothermal meeting
- Discussion regarding Swain equipment

- Interim Higher Education meeting in Bismarck
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- Ribbon cutting celebration for Swain
- Fall semester convocation
- Noon show interview with Carla Burbidge
- Attended three college meetings
- Faculty and Staff fall kick-off party at the Zoo
- Chancellor's Cabinet call
- Convocation week mini-sessions and workshops
- Helped students move into the residence halls during annual move-in day
- Discussion about CTF plans for year
- Welcome at JCEMP breakfast
- Hosted luncheon for new international students; and welcome.
- Ice cream social and welcome for Canadian students
- Nancy and I hosted new faculty and staff barbecue at our home
- Attended Growing Rural Community Conference
- Meeting to review first-day enrollment numbers.

Concluding Remarks

Our new academic year has started out exceptionally well, with increased enrollments, full residence halls, the return of our faculty, new faculty and staff, and a general sense of excitement for the new year. The faculty-staff picnic at the Zoo was a great way to renew friendships and greet new faculty and staff and their families. All across campus, from the move-in support to our students and to the various programs and service, there is a clear commitment to our students and to Minot State University.

David Fuller
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