

**Office of the President  
Minot State University  
Report to University Cabinet and Campus  
September 20, 2006**

At the start of this new academic year, I wanted to remind everyone that I will write a report such as this one to distribute to the University Cabinet, the campus, and our Board of Regents. This report highlights activities and dates since the time of the last report and describes key topics and issues. The purpose of this report is basically to provide updates to the campus about key activities and issues. If there are any questions, please contact the President's Office.

**Report of Current Activities**

- July 12-13: Minot State University's Board of Regents met for its new summer meeting, starting with a dinner and reception at David and Nancy Fuller's home on July 12 and ending with a general meeting the following day. This was a new meeting date added to the schedule for the Board.
- August 10: Ribbon cutting at the Food Court at the Dakota Square Mall. The ribbon cutting by the Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors was done to recognize the new marketing campaign developed in the mall.
- August 16: The annual start-of-the year Convocation was held. Reports from administrators, senate presidents, and introductions of new faculty and staff were given. The draft of the new strategic plan was distributed and explained by the president.
- August 17: Many faculty and staff participated in the annual move-in day to help students and their families moving into the residence halls.
- August 19-26: Minot State University faculty and staff donated money and time to the Extreme Makeover Project in Minot.
- August 30: The State Board of Higher Education held its summer retreat for board members, presidents, and system office administrators. One focus of the retreat was on the issues involving the resignation of Chancellor Potts. A consultant led the full-day retreat in Bismarck.
- September 5: Attended the United Tribes Native American Summit in Bismarck, and visited with Bill Goetz from the Governor's Office, Dr. David Gipp, president of United Technical Community College, Dr. Jim Davis, president of Turtle Mountain Community College, and Cynthia Lindquist-Mala, president of Cankdeska Cikana Community College, and Congressman Earl Pomeroy. Congressman Pomeroy was invited to visit the MSU campus.
- September 7-12: Attended many of the outstanding events scheduled during MSU Diversity Week.
- September 7: Held two open forums to discuss the final draft of the strategic plan. Many excellent suggestions and comments were shared at the forums.
- September 11: Congressman Earl Pomeroy visited campus and met with administrators, faculty, staff, and students to discuss rising costs and increasing debt of college students.
- September 13: The third-week enrollment figures were released to the news media. The head-count enrollment was down by 86 students. Transfers, Ward County numbers, correspondence, Bismarck and MAFB enrollments showed a decline. First-year students, graduate students, Canadian students, Native American students, and international students showed increases. The online enrollments continued to climb and showed a 14% increase over the figures from last year.
- September 13: The campus welcomed its dual-credit students on campus, with an event in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall and other events scheduled throughout the day.
- September 14: A special social was held for local legislators and candidates to explain Minot State University's initiatives and to introduce vice presidents, deans, and senate presidents to the legislators.

## **Other Topics and Issues:**

- Strategic Plan and Vision  
Guided by the responses received at the open forums this month, the complete version of the plan and an executive version will be published and distributed.
- Request for Proposals for the MSU Bookstore operation  
President's Staff decided to seek proposals from national bookstores to run the MSU bookstore. The decision was based on the rapidly-changing and demanding college bookstore operations. One primary reason was that the MSU bookstore has recorded a drop in the last two years in the amount of net revenue generated for the university.
- Building Projects  
Crane Hall, the new Beaver Dam, and the first floor of Dakota have been nearly completed. The Beaver Dam has held its initial opening despite the fact that the carpet has not yet arrived or been installed. A formal opening event will be scheduled in late October.
- Multicultural Center  
The new multicultural center in the south side of Buckshot's held its grand opening during Diversity Week.
- Enrollment and Finances  
The third-week enrollment numbers were close to the university's projected enrollments. The university budgeted based on a predicted 2% FTE decline. Currently, Vice President Dorn and the President's Staff are reviewing the final figures needed for operational support.
- Swain Hall  
A committee charged with examining the current functions and future needs of Swain Hall has been formed. Swain Hall was designated as the sixth project on the State Board of Higher Education capital projects. Minot State University will look at the campus master plan and future academic needs to develop a plan for Swain. All faculty and staff are welcome to provide their input and suggestions.
- Artspace  
Work is still underway to see if an Artspace building and project is still feasible. The Artspace staff accompanied an architect to Minot last week to meet with university and community members.
- Marketing Director  
The University is completing the search for a new position to direct the university marketing efforts. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the open meetings with the candidates in the near future.
- International Program Director  
The search for a new position to oversee all aspects of a university international program is now underway. Finalists have been identified and are being invited to campus for interviews. Again, all faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in these on-campus visits.

## **Concluding Remarks**

Our new academic year has started off on a good foot—a new mentoring program, a comprehensive orientation for all first-year students, the completion of a number of major building projects including an exciting new student activity center, and a presentation of our new vision and strategic goal for 2013. This promises to be a very good year at Minot State University.

David Fuller  
September 20, 2006