

October 13, 2010

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

Official Fall Enrollment

The final headcount enrollment was the second highest in our university's history at 3,866, which showed a 6% increase over this time last year. New freshman students increased by 10%, transfers by 4%, full-time undergraduates by 6.35%, Canadian enrollments by 5.46%, and other international student numbers (non-Canadian) increased from 58 to 91 students (57%). Total graduate students increased by 3.62%. Distance education numbers increased as well, with a 7% increase in face-to-face off campus and nearly 4% increase in on-line and IVN deliveries. Native American enrollments decreased by 3%. In-state enrollments increased by 4%, with Bottineau, Burke, Burleigh Grand Forks, Morton, Towner, Wells and Williams counties showing increases. Ward county enrollments increased by 7%. Our out-state enrollments increased by 5%, with a 4% increase in Minnesota students, 3% from Montana, 41% from Florida, and a sizable increase from Texas. South Dakota numbers showed a sizable drop from 20 students last year to 14 this year.

Enrollment Increases and analysis

Enrollment increases in most of our key strategic areas reveal that our recruiting efforts and improved efforts to retain existing students are paying off. Obviously our new sports have brought increased numbers. National research shows that athletes will bring on the average of 2 additional students to a campus per athlete. Our Grow North Dakota tuition plan and recruiting efforts are attracting students from abroad and from other states, and it is encouraging to see our in-state numbers growing in key areas. A word of caution, however, is necessary. Our own contiguous states and other states across the nation are generally seeing enrollments climbing in higher education, so we'll need to assess this year's success to see how much of our increases can be attributed to the national wave of increased enrollments in higher education. We are currently studying our enrollments and our residence hall figures to determine the impact of GND and other strategies.

Strategic Planning Performance Indicators

Cari Olson met with President's Staff to provide an update on the university's performance indicators and the U.S. News and World Report ranking criteria. The university is making notable progress toward our Vision 2013 objectives on the average indicators, and while we perform well on select key indicators of academic quality (e.g., ratio, class sizes), we continue to perform poorly on the annual graduation rates. Retention rates are increasing as are graduation rates, but

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. Since no University Cabinet meeting was held in September, this report covers two months instead of one. 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 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.

we are still significantly lower than peers on our graduation rates. Our recent initiatives for retention, admission standards, student success, and others will have an impact in the next few years.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Committee

The national advertisement will run in the Chronicle for two consecutive weeks starting October 22. Nominations have been sought for membership on the committee. The first committee meeting will be held on October 18 to review the charge, the position profile, and the search protocol guidelines. It is anticipated that finalists will be brought on campus in February and offers extended in early March, with a starting date of July 1, 2011.

Discussions regarding changes in VPAA reports

Meetings with the FS president, President's Staff, and others have been focused on reconfiguring the reporting requirements to the VPAA. Considerations of a faculty fellow, a possible associate vice president for academic affairs, and reassigned positions have been ongoing.

Registrar Search

Six candidates are under consideration for the position of Registrar. The committee is currently reviewing the records to identify a short list for campus interviews.

Institutional Research position

Rod Hair decided to move back full time to his original position as director of the Rural Crime and Justice Center. At present we are planning on moving ahead to begin a search for a full-time institutional researcher to handle the increased need for data analysis and research on campus. This position will be aligned with the academic project coordinator position and the new Registrar.

Retention and graduation initiatives

The work of our Student Success Center and Coordinator of Academic Advising is focused on strategies to identify students who are prone to not complete their degree programs. The early alert program, the good efforts of faculty and others to provide information to the center regarding CSI, attendance, academic performance and other characteristics will have a significant impact on our effort to retain more students and to help them succeed at Minot State. Thanks to everyone for their hard work on this critical effort.

Noel-Levitz consulting visit

A consultant from Noel-Levitz visited campus last week and met with deans, chairs, administrators, Faculty Senate members, and President's Staff to review our campus and to identify key areas requiring our focused attention to improve our retention and graduation rates. A report will be forthcoming. A follow-up visit will occur in the spring semester.

Hobson's International consulting visit

This international firm will be visiting our campus this month to review our international program and to advise the campus on our current international support services. The consultant will visit our ESL center (the Language Company), and review our study abroad program, recruitment, partnership efforts, faculty study tours, and international student support services.

Larry Isaak's presentations to Cabinet and the Board of Regents

Larry Isaak, the former chancellor for the North Dakota University System and president of MHEC, visited campus to make a presentation to the University Cabinet and to the full Board of Regents regarding the future of higher education. Mr. Isaak spoke about demographic changes,

political perspectives, impact of economic declines, online delivery, assessment, and the growing concern about graduation rates and completion. Mr. Isaak met with President's Staff to advise us as to the current climate in North Dakota and the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Isaak's PowerPoint presentation is available to share with campus and BOR members unable to attend the meeting.

Faculty Workloads

A discussion at a Faculty Senate meeting recently revealed a number of concerns regarding loads. I have scheduled a meeting with Dr. Moen, Dr. Nilson, and Professor Fedji to discuss a list of potential solutions to address some of the key pressure points causing concerns. The list will also be shared with the campus at the open forum on November 4 for campus discussion and input.

Doris Slaaten

The campus will be honoring Professor Slaaten for her support and many contributions to Minot State University this week. We are most fortunate to have such a devoted friend of the university.

State Board of Higher Education meeting in Bottineau

The SBHE meeting in Bottineau included MSU's presentation to seek support of the expanded authority for our geothermal system upgrade. The board unanimously approved the request and authorized us to seek approval from the legislature at the Budget Section meeting.

North Dakota Roundtable meeting in Bismarck

A two-day meeting involving higher education representatives, legislators, and the private sector focused on performance-based funding for higher education and other issues facing our colleges and universities. There is an interest to reduce financial support for higher education and to seek stronger accountability measures.

Open Forums on November 2

Two forums will be held on November 2: one at 8:00 a.m. and the other at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Center. Updates on current activities and general discussion about the campus will take the majority of the time. Attention will be devoted to potential solutions for load problems.

Visit by Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Team on October 19-20

The final step in MSU's application for membership in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference will take place during a visit by a team from the conference. The team will be made up of a president/chancellor, an athletic director, a faculty athletic representative, athletic women's representative, the NSIC commissioner and the associate commissioner. The two-day schedule includes meetings with faculty, staff, the athletic staff, community members, and students, and tours of the campus and the city of Minot. Please help us welcome this team and greet them if possible. Based on this visit, the NSIC will decide whether to invite Minot State to join the conference during the annual meeting in January 2011.

Geothermal system approvals by SBHE and Budget Section of Legislature

Brian Foisy and Roger Kluck presented our proposal for expanded authority to the Budget Section. Following discussion and many questions, the Budget Section voted to approve our request on a vote of 14 in favor to 7 against. With this approval, we are now able to proceed with drilling test wells on Allen Field in preparation for drilling the 450 wells in the spring.

Competition track and use of High School facility

Our football/soccer field renovation did not include a competition track because of the interest to place spectators closer to the field of play and because of the large price tag to install a new track. The decision involved proceeding with the field, utilizing the high school track temporarily, and then putting in a competition track north of the football field when funds could be raised for this project. Minot Public Schools agreed to let us use the track until which time we could build our own.

Steeple Chase

Along with the use of the Minot Public track complex, we had to authorize the installation of a steeple-chase pit at Duane Carlson field to accommodate the university competition.

Field Logo

The logo that was installed on our football/soccer was not installed properly. Currently, a new logo is being installed at the company's expense.

Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity resolution at Homecoming

At Homecoming, alumni from the Sig Tau Gamma fraternity, which previously existed on our campus, met and decided to move forward with planning to bring back the fraternity to campus. There was a considerable amount of interest and support for this resolution.

Sigma, Sigma, Sigma sorority consideration

A sorority, which also was on our campus years ago, has for the second year in a row sent a representative from the national office to review the potential for restarting this sorority on campus. The representative participated in many of our Homecoming Events, including the Golden Awards Presentations, and expressed interest in our campus as a potential site.

Internal Planning and Moves

Following the move of Teacher Education to their new offices in Swain Hall and after the completion of a move of our Social Science faculty from Administration to Old Main, the next phase of relocations have been planned and discussed with those programs impacted by these changes. To accommodate the expansion of our Student Success Center in the Student Center (resulting from student services offices and the new TRIO SSS program) and to allow for the expansion of food services as proposed by Sodexo's proposal, we will need to relocate the food services administrative offices and move the Jones Room. The administrative offices will be relocated to the current offices used by our international program and the Jones Room will be relocated to the third floor of Administration. The increased business in food services and the full dormitories have necessitated the expansion of the Beaver Creek Café into the area now used as a lounge for international students. The international offices and lounge will be relocated to the Multicultural Center next to Buckshot's. Current plans are now underway to move the full CEL operation from the first floor to the third floor of Administration, and to develop an open center for student registration and admission on the first floor.

Great Plains Community Research and Service Center Funding

The Community Research and Service Center just recently received the \$950,000 award from the Department of Education, which was made available through the good work and efforts of our congressional delegation, most notably Senator Dorgan. This center, as has been reported earlier, will provide an outreach service for rural communities.

New Admission Standards Press Conference

After two years of reviews and campus discussions and forums, the new admission standards approved by our senates and endorsed by the campus will be used for incoming freshman next fall. This week a news conference and “Be in the Know” sessions on campus were held to announce this great initiative to provide for our students’ success. The new Passport Program, a collaboration with Dakota College at Bottineau, will also be implemented along with these new standards.

Studies in the Community and Environment Director Search

The SCE committee met to define the responsibilities and to develop the advertisement for a search for the new director of this interdisciplinary program approved last year by Faculty Senate and by the State Board of Higher Education. The search will commence immediately and the new director should be on staff by July 1.

Childcare Facility

The plan outlined last year to collaborate with the YWCA had to be delayed when the university had to use the majority of the funds to purchase equipment for Swain Hall. The YWCA is moving forward to conduct a capital campaign for the dollars needed to support the facility and the service. Minot State is currently looking at raising funds and seeking additional resources to complete the maintenance facility on the north end of the campus. The maintenance facility and the childcare facility will be adjoined in one complex. No projected dates for securing the funds or completing the project are available.

Archive Task Force

The task force has been continuing to meet to discuss the parameters of the needs for document archiving. Definitions have been developed to guide the plans. A software program is now under consideration as a means to archive important institutional documents. A demonstration of the program is scheduled for next week.

Centennial Steering Committee

A task force led by Mr. Mark Timbrook and made up of faculty, staff, students, and alumni completed a review last year and prepared a proposal to establish a steering committee and subcommittees to complete a number of related projects for our Centennial celebration. Requests for nominations for the Steering Committee will be made soon.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President’s Office (since August 25, 2010)

August

- Attended Governor’s Summit: Revival of the Great Plains
- Club Fair in Quad
- Discussion with Lisa Johnson, NDUS transfer coordinator regarding LEAP
- City Master Planning steering committee
- Trinity Board meeting
- Meeting to discuss NDUS modifications of Foundation policies
- Football and soccer debut games
- Meeting with CETL and President’s Staff
- Regents executive committee meeting
- Alumni Association board meeting
- SGA meeting
- Foundation Board meeting
- AASHE meeting
- Internal master planning meeting with President’s Staff
- Strategic planning benchmark reviews and performance indicator review
- Studies in the Community and Environment meeting to discuss search for new director

September

- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Vacation
- Higher Education two-day Roundtable meeting in Bismarck
- Meeting with Honors Director
- NDCPD 20th year keynote speaker in Beaver Dam
- Regional legislative meeting with Chancellor and local legislators
- Human Resources director to discuss CTF plans
- Faculty Athletic Representative meeting
- Reception for SBHE meeting in Bottineau
- SBHE meeting in Bottineau
- President of SGA
- Retention updates and plans
- Boosters' Luncheon
- Meeting with the editor of *Red and Green*
- President's Staff meeting to review institutional research and data
- Meeting with distinguished alumnus, Dr. Jack Wilson
- NCAA Division II consultants
- Chamber Board of Directors' meeting
- Special President's Staff meeting
- Official fall enrollment review and news release
- Discussion with CJ regarding potential partnership in India
- Homecoming Coronation
- News interview by KMOT
- President's Club Luncheon
- Meeting with Title III evaluators
- Community Block party held in Dome
- Presentation to Sunrise Rotary Club at Grand International
- Visit by Catherine Ruch, the NDUS grants officer
- Visit by Joe and Jackie Hegstad
- Hosted lunch with alumnus
- Special meeting of Cabinet with Larry Isaak
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Golden Awards presentation dinner
- Fall Board of Regents meeting
- Beaver Boosters' luncheon
- Special meeting between President's Staff and Larry Isaak to discuss demographic challenges
- Alumni and friends Homecoming Reunion

- Homecoming Parade
- Presentation of awards to Homecoming Inductees at half time of football game
- Young Professionals and MSU fundraising event at Barley Pop
- Visited MSU golf tournament at Souris Valley
- Meeting to discuss implementation of Great Plains Community Research and Service Center
- Studies in the Community and the Environment review of advertisement plans
- Discussion with faculty regarding VPAA position
- Hosted barbecue for Student Government Association officers at home
- Hosted the Norwegian Consul and his wife during Høstfest week
- Joint service club event
- Accompanied dignitaries to Scandinavian Heritage Center for a tour
- Governor's Reception at Holiday Inn
- Opening night concert and accompanied Consul and his wife
- Norwegian Buffet with Consul, his wife, and other dignitaries
- Banquet for Scandinavian American Hall of Fame; accompanied Consul and his wife
- Luncheon with Clint Severson and Connie Ahart; give them a tour of the campus
- Met with Skien Delegation and gave them a tour of the campus.
- Archive task force meeting
- Attended Mayor's dinner in honor of the Skien Delegation

October

- Welcomed the Danish Consul; gave her a tour of the campus.
- Nancy and I greeted attendees at the Høstfest main entrance
- Attended the student theatre performance "Doubt" in the MSU Black Box
- Met with Stephen Banister, the MSU library director
- Visit by Jasper Schneider from the USDA to discuss grants and shared projects
- Meeting with Jerry Boatz, the distinguished MSU alumnus

- Attended Dr. Boatz presentation at Aleshire
- Meeting with Cari Olson to discuss institutional research
- Joint Faculty/Staff senate social
- Welcome to 300 visiting high school students at Ann Nicole
- Meeting with Noel-Levitz visiting consultant
- Meeting to discuss Landscaping Plan
- Great Plains Community Research and Service Center meeting
- Attended Chamber's Business After Hours event at State Fair
- Volleyball game
- Special Foundation Board meeting
- MSU Notstock event session
- Enrollment management discussion with Dean Harmon
- Meeting with SGA president
- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Pictures at Swain
- Faculty Senate discussion meeting on workloads
- Meeting to discuss First Lutheran Cemetery plans
- Dean of the College of Business
- Briercrest University partnership luncheon; welcome
- Meeting with Neil Scharpe to discuss GPCRSC
- Minot Symphony Orchestra
- Press Conference regarding new admission standards
- Meeting to discuss internal master planning moves
- Doris Slaaten Celebration in Old Main
- Doris Slaaten Special Recognition Dinner

Concluding Remarks

Anyone who works on our campus and visits and participates in any of our events and activities will know that there is a lot going on these days. The campus is buzzing with activities and students: the residence halls are virtually full, our enrollment is the second highest in our history, there is a full slate of support services made available through major federal grants, a new geothermal system has been approved to proceed with Phase I, our new athletic field has received great praise from athletes and our community at large, the completion of the beautiful Swain Hall renovation is a gem, our move into NCAA Division II and the progress we are making, our application to the prestigious Northern Sun Conference, bids for our new wellness center will be going out soon and construction will begin on that exciting project, our new marching band performed in their spectacular uniforms in our Homecoming parade and at our football games, and the Greeks are back on campus and more are coming.

The Homecoming was exceptional, including a community block party, our student coronation, the Golden Awards presentations, the parade and thousands of attendees, an exciting tailgater, winning football game, a party at the Barley Pop to raise money for the United Way, alumni gatherings and parties, and an athletic Hall of Fame banquet. Whew!!

So many great people on our campus and other friends have made all of this possible. We have been monitoring closely our efforts and successes to raise and exceed the average performance indicators of those schools in the Great Plains who are "premier" regional universities. That analysis is one good way of determining if we are reaching our Vision 2013 goal to be known as one of the premier, regional public universities in the "great" Great Plains. But let me tell you, a walk around campus during our Homecoming week and a visit with many of our faculty, staff, students and alumni is a pretty darn good indication we are already there.

David Fuller
October 13, 2010