

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to University Cabinet and Campus
October 19, 2005**

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 for their information. If anyone wishes to learn more about any of these items, he/she should contact the president.

Report of Current Activities (since September 21, 2005)

- On September 22, I traveled to Washington DC to meet individually with Senators Dorgan, Conrad, and Representative Pomeroy. The purposes of the meetings were to discuss current projects at MSU and to seek information regarding sources of federal support. I also met with Rachel Emmons and Edward Long, representatives of the Greystone Group, the lobbyist firm representing our university.
- The Minot State University Alumni Gala was held on September 23. Many MSU supporters, alums, faculty, and staff attended this event. The Alumni Association raised nearly \$40,000 for their scholarships and programs.
- Members of the President's Staff met with Wayne Whitty, from the architectural firm of Anderson Wade Whitty and Larson, to discuss the Student Union. Wayne Whitty will be studying the Student Union and Administration layout in view of the changes in office spaces outlined last spring semester. He will be looking at current layout, room signage, space needs, informal student spaces, and other potential improvements.
- The Homecoming events included reunions, Hall of Fame presentations, a successful parade, a series of fun events hosted by the Student Association, a great tailgate event prior to the game, and football game. The excitement, the good weather, and the school spirit added a great deal to the weekend.
- Clark Enerson, the architectural firm contracted to conduct the review and to develop a campus master plan, completed its first series of focus-group meetings with our constituents on and off campus. The firm conducted more than 20 separate meetings with hundreds of participants to seek input regarding our campus infrastructure, building needs, landscaping, signage, and future growth. The firm will be returning in November to make public presentations of their initial findings and plans.
- The snow storm on October 5 caught many of us off guard. The storm led us to decide to cancel classes that morning, and the continued forecast for additional accumulation in the afternoon prompted us to close the campus at noon. The heavy snow caused a great deal of damage to trees across town and on our campus. Jared and his staff have spent considerable time cutting broken limbs and branches and cleaning up after the storm.
- Assessment Day on October 10 began with a presentation to the faculty and a general discussion about our plans for academic assessment and how those plans meet the expectations for the Higher Learning Commission. Departments spent time in the morning reviewing their plans. The afternoon included an open discussion of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results and the viewing of the film Declining by Degrees.
- The president of Sias International University, Dr. Chen, visited campus on October 10. He met with faculty and administrators concerning a potential cooperative partnership between Minot State and Sias International.

- On October 11 Jerry Stai, Orlin Backes, and I traveled to Bismarck to make a formal presentation to the Governor's Centers of Excellence Commission. The presentation supported our application for funding for the Artspace project.
- The Norsk Hostfest was again a successful community event. A special dinner hosted by Mayor Zimbelman was held to honor the visitors from Skein, Norway, Minot's sister city. I am currently discussing possible cooperative agreements with Norwegian institutions, and the Skein delegation is assisting us in identifying potential Scandinavian universities.
- On October 14 Dr. Lee and I attended and welcomed the participants at the Peace Garden Conference at the International Peace Garden. The Peace Garden Conference is a joint conference involving Minot State University and Brandon University. The conference includes presentations by students. Faculty from our history department and Brandon's political science department assist the students in the coordination of the details. The Minot State University student papers I heard were well prepared and provoked considerable discussion. This conference has been held jointly for a number of years.

Other Projects, Activities, and Issues

- Cornerstone and Campus Alignment Plan. MSU submitted its required Cornerstone Campus Alignment Plan for 2005-2006 on October 17. Ideas for the Cornerstone Goals were solicited from the University Cabinet, President's Staff, and others across campus. The ten goals included: targeted economic development projects facilitated by the Prairie Community Development Center; a campus-wide program to increase knowledge and skill in seeking grant funds for campus projects; a review of current graduate programs and study of the feasibility of new offerings using variable delivery methods; a program to foster a better understanding of conflict resolution, tolerance, diversity, and acceptance; a project to use technology and to create new informal learning spaces; a plan to study and propose ways to improve support of first-year students; a continuance of the pilot recruitment project in Minnesota and in the state of Washington; a second phase study of our tuition waiver programs; and the plan to integrate the Cornerstone projects and the current strategic plan.
- Centers of Excellence and Artspace. MSU's application seeking \$5 million to support the collaboration with Artspace, Inc., was not approved. The Commission voted to approve the projects from UND, NDSU, Lake Region, and Bismarck State College. No further information has been received from the Commission regarding the reasons for their decision.
- VPAA Search. The continuance of the search for the Vice President of Academic Affairs will begin soon. The committee, with a few membership changes, from last year will be reconvened to review the position description, assess the processes followed last year, and to identify a schedule for completing the search.
- Veteran's Upward Bound Program. The VUB on the Minot campus is an NDSU program, supported by Title IV monies. NDSU is considering the possibility of discontinuing the program on the Minot State campus because of a declining number of eligible veterans in the Minot area. There has also been discussions on campus about relocating VUB. Last April I met with Ron Garcia, the director of the program on campus, and talked to him about our need to renovate both the first floor of Dakota and Crane Hall. I asked him to explore other potential sites and locations. By the summer he had not yet located another location, so temporarily Jared moved his offices to Crane, but with the understanding that this solution was temporary. With Crane requiring asbestos abatement prior to the renovation, I sent a letter to Ron Garcia explaining that his

program would need to vacate Crane, a future move he had understood in April and when he was moved to Crane. To assist him and VUB, we asked Eric Claussen in the Midcontinent Building if VUB could renovate and use the basement of that building. Eric said they could but that a small rental fee would need to be charged. Understanding that the grant provides indirect support for overhead costs, I assumed that this solution would be an excellent one for VUB and NDSU. Ron Garcia was also assured that VUB could schedule and use our classrooms and computer labs as needed at no cost to his program. Recently I sent a note to President Chapman at NDSU reiterating our support in working with them on our campus. I don't know where NDSU is in its state-wide evaluation of their Title IV program, but from my vantage point Minot State University has some time ago identified a solution for their spacing needs and has expressed to NDSU and to Ron Garcia and his staff our support of keeping the program on our campus. As of today, we have not heard from NDSU as to their decision.

- Strategic Planning and the Planning and Budgeting Council. The Planning and Budgeting Council has reviewed institutional information and compiled the results of the focus-groups. The Council members were asked to work in teams to summarize the results for each focus-group question and to develop preliminary goals and objectives stemming from the focus-group comments. The Council will be sharing the preliminary goals and objectives at an open meeting with the campus on October 24.
- Open Forums on October 24. Open forums for faculty, staff, and student leaders will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the conference center in the Student Union. These forums provide an overview of preliminary goals and objectives for the strategic plan. The meetings will include an overview of the progress to date and the preliminary goals. Campus members are encouraged to attend to provide their input.
- Vision 2013 Open House. On October 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union Atrium all the poster board sheets containing the responses from all focus groups will be hung in the Student Union Atrium for public viewing and comment. All faculty, staff, students, and greater area community members from Minot and the surrounding area are invited to come during this time to view the comments and to offer their own comments and suggestions about the future direction of MSU. Hotdogs and other refreshments will be served. MSU faculty and staff will be asked to park north of the Dome on that day to accommodate visitors from off campus.
- Campus Open House. In conjunction with the Vision 2013 Atrium event, MSU will be hosting a community open house. We will provide 15-minute tours to visitors from the community. We will also encourage our visitors to walk around campus and visit our buildings. All faculty and staff are encouraged to greet our visitors and offer them assistance during that time. Announcements of this event and the Vision 2013 viewing will be made in the Minot Daily News and the Red and Green.
- Compensation Task Force. Faculty Senate and Staff Senate have identified individuals to serve on this task force. The task force membership includes John Girard, Robert Kibler, Dave Rochholz, Tom Seymour, Mike Sivertson, Merri Jo Connole, Pat Hubel, Bill Klimpel, Susie Mack, Lou Whitmer, and Ron Dorn. Wes Matthews will serve as the chair. The task force has been charged with examining our current salaries, comparing those to peer institutions, studying the compensation packages, and the current processes for making decisions on salary increases and communicating those decisions. Further, the task force has been asked to come forward with a five-year plan and salary goals.
- MSU Board of Regents. At its September 30 meeting, the BOR voted to approve a new subcommittee structure, communication plan, expanded meeting schedule, and contribution plan. In addition to the existing executive committee, new subcommittees will include committees on membership, strategic planning, public relations and

communications, advancement and promotion, and campus life and development. The BOR requested more involvement and opportunities to support Minot State, and these approved changes will provide the Regents new avenues to offer their support.

- Director of Alumni and Annual Giving. Advancement has announced the appointment of our new director of alumni and annual giving, Ms. Tawnya Bernsdorf. Tawnya is a graduate of MSU and a strong supporter of our programs. Tawnya will be working to increase the low percentage of giving by our alumni and to support various initiatives to increase annual giving in support of our programs.
- Payroll Deduction Solicitation. Recently I sent a letter out to all faculty and staff to announce our new payroll deduction plan for faculty and staff. This program is offered through our Advancement Office. On nearly all university and college campuses, a payroll deduction plan is provided to solicit support from faculty and staff and to provide a convenient way to donate to their institution. Of course any such donation is voluntary. A similar note, request, and deduction plan and form will be provided at the start of each academic year.

Final Comments

This past month has been full of many activities and events. I am particularly grateful to the faculty for their dedication and devotion to our students in our classes, and to our staff members for all they do to make our institution truly a “students first” university. The Student Association and many other students who have been working to engage other students in our campus life need a note of appreciation. I would encourage any of you to attend one of our Student Association meetings to witness first-hand these student leaders and their work for the good of Minot State. I am looking forward to our Vision 2013 event in the atrium and to working with you to identify a new vision and strategic goals.

Again, thank you for all you do for Minot State University and for our students.

David Fuller
President
October 19, 2005