

**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
December 19, 2007**

The last few months have been busy and very productive for faculty, staff, and students at Minot State. We were unable to schedule a University Cabinet meeting in November, so this report covers events and topics for two months instead of just one.

Current Issues and Topics

Open forums

On November 1 I held two open forums with faculty and staff to seek input and hold a discussion concerning (1) the planning for the renovation of Swain Hall, (2) the draft version (originally distributed for review at the August convocation) of the action plans developed by the seven teams last spring, and (3) enrollment and recruitment. There were many questions and suggestions about Swain, and many good suggestions about MSU enrollment and recruitment. All comments and suggestions were recorded and distributed to campus after the meeting. The Vision 2013 action plan report has been, following the meeting, completed to guide work on the implementation of the Vision 2013 plan.

Swain Hall

As mentioned above, the open forum discussion about the Swain renovation led to a number of suggestions. An architect has been hired to facilitate the planning and design of the building. Use of the building by physical education, education, a mind-brain institute, collaboration with athletics, and laboratory sharing with sciences were mentioned. The question of the use of a gymnasium was posed. Intramurals, physical education activities, and other uses for demonstrations have been suggested.

Final draft of the Master Plan

The final version of the master plan was presented to the campus. The architects also held forums with the campus to present their plans for a landscape architecture plan for campus, including the opening of 11th Avenue and the establishment of pathways, signage, and courtyards. The landscape plan has been placed on the Web site for review and input.

Preparations for the legislative session

A note to all members of the University Cabinet was sent out last month asking that the members meet with their constituencies and seek ideas for major projects and direction for the campus, particularly capital improvements. The University Cabinet will share suggestions at its December 19 meeting. Suggested projects and initiatives will be discussed with our local legislative delegation in early January.

Rising energy costs

Xcel Energy met with Ron Dorn and me to discuss its proposal to increase rates by nearly 13%. The rationale for these increases was presented and discussed. The increase, if approved, will add an additional \$130,000 dollars to our already high utilities costs. Our campus will need to look at a number of solutions to cover this additional cost.

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 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.

Completion of the Student Center renovation

The Student Center is continuing to undergo its renovation. The new post office and welcome center on the east side of the atrium, new furniture, carpet and tile, a new coffee service in the atrium, and murals will be included in the renovation. The bookstore, as well, is going through a major renovation. Hopefully, all of these changes will be completed by the start of the spring semester.

Center of Excellence project: Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center

MSU has secured the services of a local attorney to draw up a contract to govern the partnership between the involved parties. At present there is continued discussion about the purchase and ownership of the data equipment. It appears, though, that the contract will be signed soon and the implementation will begin in early January.

Facilities director search

We were pleased to have received a large number of applications from qualified candidates for this position. The finalists were all highly qualified. The committee reviewed all materials, conducted reference checks, handled full-day interviews with each finalist, and recommended that the university offer the position to Roger Kluck. Roger has formally accepted and will begin in January. We are all pleased that Roger will be joining us as the new facilities director.

Broadway monument sign

An artistic rendering of a Broadway MSU sign has been proposed by Walter Piehl. Recently, I sent out a note to campus encouraging all faculty, staff, and students to come by the office to look at the drawing. The reviews of the design have been very favorable. The University Cabinet will discuss the design at its December 19 meeting. A copy of this design has been forwarded to the landscape architects for their review, too.

Emergency Operations Plan draft completed

A draft of the EOP plan has been completed and submitted for review. President’s Staff and University Cabinet will be reviewing the draft and discussing the next steps in its development and distribution.

Higher Learning Commission Self Study

The self study and the executive summary have been submitted in preparation for publication. The work of the Steering Committee has been very effective and has led to an inclusive and responsible self study.

Meeting with Interim Higher Education Committee

The Interim Higher Education Committee held a special meeting with the State Board of Higher Education. All presidents were invited. I attended the meeting and listened to the discussions regarding access, accountability, costs, and productivity measures. The Board repeated its strong support of the Roundtable, and the legislators and board members all acknowledged the need to reinvigorate the Roundtable and to inform others about its principles and purposes. There was an obvious interest expressed by some of the legislators to examine higher education and to improve its accountability measures and processes.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since October 17, 2007)

October

- Trinity Board meeting
- Chat with students
- Center of Excellence preparation meeting
- State Board of Higher Education meeting
- MSU-Bottineau and MSU joint planning meeting
- Presentation of Center of Excellence proposal to the Emergency Committee in Bismarck.
- Recruitment demonstration by math faculty
- MSU Foundation Board meeting
- Community visit to Velva, Harvey, and Drake; presentation to Harvey Kiwanis Club; meetings with school administrators
- Assessment Day and meeting with Richard Hirsch
- Wellness Center planning meeting
- Center of Excellence presentation to

- legislature in Bismarck.
- Minot Community Foundation Appreciation event
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting

November

- Held two campus open forums with faculty and staff
- Swain Hall planning meeting
- Mayville's new president inauguration
- Native American Awareness week events
- Chaired Connect ND Oversight Committee meeting
- Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting
- Meetings with master planning architects from Clark Enersen
- KMSU interview
- Presentation on Thoreau to American Lit I class
- Higher Learning Commission team visit to university in Wisconsin
- State Board of Higher Education

- meeting in Devil's Lake
- Faculty Senate
- Meeting with mayor
- Meeting with president of Chamber Board
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities meeting in San Francisco; served as North Dakota AASCU state representative
- Chamber Board meeting
- Compensation Task Force meeting
- IACBE meeting with visiting evaluators
- Honors students luncheon
- Attended senior science major presentation
- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Meeting with Staff Senate president
- Meeting with Student Government Association President

December

- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting
- Interim Higher Education meeting with SBHE in Bismarck
- Planning and Budgeting Council meeting
- Dakota Athletic Conference presidents meeting in Bismarck
- Campus Sustainability meeting
- Hosted special meeting of the Chamber Board of Directors to discuss future directions of MSU
- Visit with officials from Pai Chai University from North Korea
- Campus Holiday Party
- Turtle Mountain Community College meeting
- Trinity Board meeting

Concluding Remarks

The holiday party on campus that my wife, Nancy, and I hosted was festive and well attended. We were pleased to see that most of our faculty and staff were able to attend. Former President Gordon Olson and his wife, Carley, attended and greeted many in attendance. It was nice to see Gordon and Carley and many of our retired faculty and staff. Students played Christmas music on the piano, and we were pleased to have a choir, made up of faculty, staff, and friends of the university, to share their talents and sing Christmas songs for us.

I want to wish all of our faculty and staff, students, and friends of the university a very merry Christmas and holiday season.

David Fuller
December 19, 2007