Minot State University
Special Staff Senate Meeting
Nov. 19, 2012

Present: Vicki Troftgruben, Darla Weigel, Linda Benson, Emily Rodacker, Cheryl Merck, Karla Bredahl, Beth Odahlen, Donna Harvey, Wes Matthews, Mindy Rudnick, Brandon Neiss, Tyler Schmaltz, Derek Van Dyke, Lindsey Benson, Scott Peterson, and Johnny Johnson

Guests: Dr. David Fuller, Brian Foisy

Recording: Darla Weigel

Dr. David Fuller, Minot State University president, and Brian Foisy, vice president for administration and finance, were present at this special meeting to provide information on proposed budget reductions to address our $1.85 million budget deficit. This number is based on a flat enrollment. If enrollment is down, further reductions will need to be made.

The original Finance and Budget Review Committee that was established to identify and recommend budget cuts, has now become the University Program Prioritization Committee. This committee has been charged with researching how programs are performing, how they can be improved, and how they are funded. Warren Gamas, associate education professor, is chairing that committee.

The initial need was to be able to identify ways to cut the budget by Feb. 15. Dr. Fuller worked with President’s Staff to view all lines of the budget, with three key principles in mind:

1. Cuts will have no impact on benefitted employees.
2. Make sure that adjustments made will still allow us to fulfill our mission.
3. Adjustments will not jeopardize the quality of what we do.

A list of proposed cuts was shared with Staff Senate members. Dr. Fuller stated that some of what has been proposed will not work. One area of uncertainty is with adjunct faculty. He also said that all of the listed proposals are preliminary. He has met with Faculty Senate, and he will also meet with Student Government Association for their thoughts and input. He also noted that all reductions in staff come from vacant positions or from shifting people into other positions. All budget cuts have to come from appropriated funding. Dr. Fuller assured staff members that we do not want to eliminate any academic or athletic programs that bring students to campus.

He shared that in conjunction with our centennial next year, we had planned to reopen 11th Avenue. In light of the budget deficit, that will not happen. A bronze beaver statue was also planned but was put on hold because of budget issues. (6/21/2013 - That project will now move ahead with funding from Alumni donations.) Also, the campus holiday party is being scaled way back, and he will not be sending out paper Christmas cards this year. The holiday greeting will be electronic. Any way we can eliminate spending will help.

He asked staff members to share any ideas they might have about ways to cut the budget. A couple of ideas were:

1. Voluntary time off. Wes reminded us that that would result in a reduced FTE for those positions.
2. Cutting some services. None were specified

Vicki will share this information with the full Staff Senate Nov. 20, at its regular meeting, and ask for input.