Report of the tri-senate ad hoc committee for child care
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The Three Senates Child Care Committee continues to exist, and members remain committed. We hope for better financial and local circumstances so that Minot State University can realize its goal of becoming a focal point of early childhood education that will attract child and day care providers in the region.

This academic year, Governor Jack Dalrymple stressed the need for child care and early childhood education. Unfortunately during this legislative session, no real funding mechanism materialized. If anything, given the budgetary restrictions imposed by the legislature and plans for reforms in higher education, all initiatives were put on hold.

At the same time, MSU will lose Clarine Sandstrom in elementary education, whose Bachelor of Science in early childhood education proposal has now been put on hold. It is unclear if she will be replaced by someone with a similar background. Furthermore, the YWCA dropped out with its plans for a child care facility on campus after the YWCA was hard hit by the 2011 Souris River Flood and Deb Kunkel ceased to be its executive director. Lutheran Social Services also continues to be of support.

Yet on campus, the interest in a child care facility continues, partly by the Student Government Association, as well as by various student club and organizations (for instance, the Honors Society). A campus child care facility would aid in the effort to increase retention and graduation rates; it would also give real-life experience to students in many fields, such as business, education, nursing and communication disorders.

This committee retains a child care facility on the agenda, and it will continue to do so in the next academic year.