

Higher Learning Commission Site Visit

October 30 – 31, 2017

MinotStateU.edu/accreditation/assurance.shtml

Criterion 5: Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

CORE COMPONENTS

- 5. A. The institution's resource base supports its current educational programs and its plans for maintaining and strengthening their quality in the future.
- 5. B. The institution's governance and administrative structures promote effective leadership and support collaborative processes that enable the institution to fulfill its mission.
- 5. C. The institution engages in systematic and integrated planning.
- 5.D. The institution works systematically to improve its performance.

Due to a downturn in North Dakota's economy, North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions were asked to make budget allotments. MSU's initial allotment was 6.55%. This reduction was followed by an over 18% reduction to the 2017-19 budget.

MSU responded to these reductions in ways that preserved as many programs and opportunities for students as possible. No academic or athletic programs and no student services were eliminated. Distance sites were preserved with some modifications in staffing, and dual credit is still offered at the same capacity.

MSU continues to operate on a sound financial basis with a balanced budget, required reserves in place, and a small debt load.

MSU's revenue sources include state appropriations, tuition and fees, grants and contracts, and auxiliary enterprises. The MSU Foundation also provides financial support in endowments.

An objective of the newly formed Strategic Planning and Budget Council is to implement MSU's strategic plan, *Empowering Generations*, and to advise in the budget development and required MSU budget modification processes. Thus, the strategic plan and the university's budget will be developed and implemented with each other in mind.

MSU's hiring practices ensure new employees meet necessary qualifications. Faculty and staff participate in professional development on and off campus through workshops and conferences

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), MSU Board of Regents, MSU administration, and the campus governing bodies (Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association) work together to provide leadership and support that allow MSU to fulfill its mission. Other state and institutional committees (e.g., Academic Affairs Council, ad hoc Budget Recommendation Committee, and University Chairs Council) also support effective and shared governance.

MSU follows the policies and procedures of the SBHE and has the freedom to set degree requirements within the SBHE policies.

Department and divisions chairs are responsible for aligning resources with student learning, the curriculum, and faculty scholarship and professional development. Directors of other areas, like the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL), determines where to allocate resources.

MSU works systematically to improve its performance. Evidence, data, and experience are used to drive decisions. Enrollment trends, student feedback, assessment results, and graduation and retention rates inform the campus, which prompts reflection, adjustments, and sometimes celebrations. This effort happens at all levels.

TEAM FIVE

Chair Vicki Michels, Chair and Professor of Addiction Studies, Psychology, and Social Work

Members Joe Engler, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Deb Olson, Associate Professor of Psychology Bryan Schmidt, Associate Professor of Science

Jerry Stai, Assistant Professor of Accounting and Finance

Jonelle Watson, Assistant Vice President of Administration and Finance Deb Wentz, Executive Assistant to the President, Evidence Coordinator

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE TEAM

Chair Rebecca Ringham, Registrar

Members Linda Cresap, HLC Chair; Professor, Business Information Technology

Margaret Sherve, Assistant Professor, English (retired)

Laurie Weber, Director of Financial Aid

