

Planning & Budgeting Council

April 13, 2011

Present: Anthony Anderson, Brent Askvig, Conrad Davidson, David Fuller, Prit Kaur, Teresa Loftesnes, Vicki Michels, Cheryl Nilsen and Renae Yale

Minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

Dr. Fuller began the meeting by sharing that he had just finished reading the Minot State University centennial book written by our own Dr. Jonathan Wagner and Mark Timbrook. He enjoyed the fascinating account of North Dakota culture and Minot State's role in that history. He encouraged the committee members to take the time to enjoy the book as well.

Teresa Loftesnes gave a brief report on the Centennial Committee. That committee is busy planning activities for the 2013 celebration and will be meeting again on Thursday, April 14. The group will be branching out and inviting more faculty and staff to become involved and eventually will extend the invitation to community members.

Dr. Fuller reviewed the last item that was discussed at the May 5 meeting of the Planning and Budgeting Council – directions MSU should be looking at. MSU continues to be aware of issues such as graduate programs and pre-professional programs and how we can continue to accommodate those programs that are growing. MSU also needs to move to the next level in strategic enrollment planning and management and move forward with a new capital campaign.

Dr. Fuller reviewed the progress of the University Cabinet Retreat that was held January 10, 2011. The theme for that event was "Now, Then and Beyond 2013". Cabinet members created metaphoric visions of how MSU will be viewed in 2020.

The group assessed Vision 2013 priorities, initiatives and action plans. Dr. Fuller highlighted some of the achievements that have had a positive impact in advancing the Vision 2013 goal.

- Increased efforts and success in marketing MSU – enhanced visibility
- Developing more services for the students
- Establishing centers (CETL, CASL)
- Foundations of Excellence
- Positive results with the Compensation Task Force
- Open Forums – keeping campus informed and included
- Growth in International Programs

Dr. Fuller also shared a few of the areas where more attention is needed.

- MSU's academic focus – support solid programs and continue to evaluate less successful programs.
- Continue to foster more community involvement on campus

- Build a diverse and multicultural environment on campus by focusing on the Native American population prevalent in our area
- Developing campus-wide student engagement
- Clarify service learning and encourage relationship building

Discussion was held on the predicted institutional characteristics in 2013-2014, which included enrollment, freshman-to-sophomore retention rates, and six-year cohort graduation rates. Minot State University's current enrollment of 3,866 is predicted to reach 4,900 by 2013-2014. Is this a realistic goal? Can we support this enrollment with current housing, faculty and classrooms?

The cabinet also touched on the greatest immediate challenges for the university.

- Funding
- Housing – both on and off campus
- Faculty retention and recruitment
- Salaries

Most significant threats to the future of the university.

- Political fallout - current Legislature's opinion of Higher Ed
- Mission changes of sister institutions in ND – also our competitors
- How to support diversity on campus – recruiting international and Native American students
- How to support unprepared students – culturally challenged students, as well as academically challenged

Areas to focus on in 2020

- Being proactive with our delivery of classes – students want online, but is that best for them?
- Prioritize programs – evaluate and consider what employers need
- Collaborate with community colleges

Discussion was held on the infrastructure issues in the Minot area as they relate to the growing population

- Schools, roads, crime, housing
- Legislators are hesitant to act – will the trend continue or go away?
- How is MSU aligned with these issues? – Housing?

Considerable discussion was held on the housing issue – both on campus and off campus. Building dorms will be expensive and we cannot invest until enrollment is identified. Noel-Levitz will be helping MSU with these statistics and once the figures are reported, MSU can move in the right direction.

- Concern about students attending MSU and then discovering the housing issue – will they stay or move on?
- Develop “transitional housing” or temporary housing

- Establish a contact on campus where accurate information can be distributed concerning housing. Good marketing tool to have an office with reliable housing information and provide a service to students to help them find affordable housing
- Provide accurate housing information to faculty and staff to help with the housing “rumors”
- Will the increased oil activity and the rising cost of housing affect MSU students?

Dr. Fuller incorporated the help of the Planning and Budgeting Council to identify topics that should be addressed at the upcoming Campus-Wide Forums to be held Thursday, April 21.

- Summary of legislative outcomes concerning higher education and how they affect MSU
- Housing issues
- Update on the prioritization plans – soften the fear factor and make it a positive position
- Wes Matthews – update on Compensation Task Force
- International recruitment
- 2020 – key points under consideration

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Renae Yale (for Deb Wentz)