

February 23, 2011

TO: MSU Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders, and Board Members

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

Spring Enrollment

We recorded a 4.67% increase in official enrollment compared to the same time last year. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana enrollments increased, as did our transfers, online, Ward County, and off-campus centers (Bismarck, MAFB). Canadian enrollments increased, and the non-Canadian international enrollments increased substantially. With the exception of Dickinson State and Williston State College, all North Dakota colleges and universities showed increases in spring enrollments. We continue to monitor the impact of our flat-rate tuition model as we investigate two major strategies: contracting with Noel-Levitz to help us develop a data-based strategic enrollment management plan, and working with Hobson's International to define initiatives for international recruitments and exchanges.

Briercrest Partnership

Through the initiative of our College of Education and Health Sciences and Dr. Nordquist, Minot State University recently signed a partnership with Briercrest College to support a 3+2 program in teacher education. Students from Briercrest will complete three years toward their B.A. and then come to Minot State to complete two years toward their B.S.Ed on the Minot State campus. We were welcomed warmly by the administration, faculty, and students during our visit to their campus. Students and college officials and staff expressed their strong interest in this cooperation.

Turtle Mountain meeting

Dr. Jim Davis and his senior staff met with me at the Turtle Mountain Community College campus to discuss potential collaborative initiatives with Minot State University, including the Fish and Wildlife program, a joint effort with the Foundations of Excellence program, criminal justice programs, and cultural activities. Minot State University enjoys a positive relationship with Turtle Mountain Community College.

TMCC/DCB/MSU partnership

The president of TMCC, the dean of Dakota College at Bottineau, faculty from Minot State and DCB, and I met on the Bottineau campus for an official signing to consummate a joint Fish and Wildlife Management program involving our three institutions. This unique program builds on the strengths of our respective institutions and shows potential for other related academic initiatives.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. Since no University Cabinet meeting was held in December, this report covers two months instead of one. The report 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.

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Invitation

Recently we received official notification that the NSIC Board of Directors voted to extend an invitation for our membership to their conference. NSIC is one of the premier Division II conferences in the country. Minot State University has accepted the invitation and will become an official member in 2012-2013.

AAC&U meeting

I attended recently the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Minot State University is an institutional member of AAC&U and an active member of the LEAP initiative. As a member of the AAC&U's President's Trust, I participated in a series of meetings focused on making a strong case for liberal education in higher education. International education and retention were two of many major topics of the conference and meetings. I was asked to lead a breakfast group discussion focusing on the economic case for liberal education.

House Appropriations Committee Presentation

Brian Foisy and I presented to the House Appropriations subcommittee our formal budget request. The presentation emphasized our efforts for student success. Committee members sought specific information about our budget and financing. With some legislative concerns about the cost of higher education, the committee expressed their strong interest in our need to justify our budget and any funding increases.

University Cabinet Retreat

In early January, the University Cabinet met at the Grand International Inn for a ½ day retreat. The retreat involved conversations about potential directions and visions beyond Vision 2013. A report on higher education in the year 2020 included details regarding the impact of technology, on-line instruction, adult education, weekend and evening programming, the growing racial diversification, faculty development, hybrid deliveries, and other initiatives focused on new forms of learning and delivery. These topics and others will be shared with the campus for campus conversations about planning beyond 2013. If anyone wishes to see a copy of the 2020 report, please contact your respect college dean or vice president.

President's Staff retreat

The members of president's staff met for a full-day retreat in early January. Topics of discussion focused on an article dealing with executive turnover, reorganization of the VPAA reports, the plans for the new capital campaign, and the legislative session and issues.

Great Plains Community Research and Service Center

Weekly meetings with the two co-directors (Paul Markel and Neil Sharpe) have been held to identify action steps for full implementation of the center. Many exciting programs are being pursued as we move to establish this center fully on our campus.

Hobson's and International recruitment

Meetings with the Hobson's International consultant have been held to discuss the expansion of international recruitment. The consultant has met with many at the university and has provided suggestions about steps necessary to improve recruitment and support for our international students. Currently, those proposals are under consideration by our international program director and dean of admissions.

Noel-Levitz consultation visit

A consultant from the Noel-Levitz organization visited campus and held open forums with faculty and staff. The campus is considering engaging with this enrollment management firm to

assist us in the development of an enrollment management plan and strategic enrollment initiatives. The Higher Learning Commission required MSU to develop a strategic management plan by October 2011.

North Dakota Legislative activities

Following the completion of the universities and colleges budget presentations to the House Appropriations Education committee, the House committee essentially eliminated most State Board of Higher Education budget requests. The recommendation to eliminate those line items will now go to the Senate Appropriations committee. Despite the information provided about the jobs our campuses are doing for our students and the state, the committee proceeded to recommend those cuts in our proposals. Campus presentations to the Senate committee are scheduled to be made in early March.

Federal Legislative activities

The House of Representatives has voted to recommend that significant cuts are made to higher education's discretionary funding pools. That recommendation includes, among many, reducing Pell awards and eliminating special title funding support, such as Student Support Services and Gear Up.

Public Information Director Search

A search committee, chaired by Marv Semrau, has been established to review and identify recommended finalists for the replacement of Mark Lyman, who has resigned to take a position with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Fargo. Mark served Minot State well for two years and took many initiatives to raise the awareness of our university. Our goal will be to find an individual capable of continuing the good work in that office.

Participation in a Roundtable to advise the U.S. Department of Education

I was honored to be asked to participate with 16 other presidents from colleges and universities across the nation to meet to discuss civic engagement and democracy and to provide suggestions to the DOE about highlighting this critical need for higher education. U. S. Department of Education Under Secretary, Martha Kanter, participated in a part of the meeting to present the DOE's perspective and to hear from the presidents. The Roundtable participants will be contributing to a report that will eventually be submitted to the Department of Education and others.

Geothermal test wells and progress

Test wells have been drilled on Allen Field, the Cook parking lot, and the Crane parking lot. Test wells provide the engineers important information about the drilling of the actual geothermal wells for the system. Dr. John Webster has been involved in these discussions to advise the engineers about potential technology for student and faculty assessment of the geothermal system.

Herb Parker Stadium construction

The bid to tear down Herb Parker stadium has been accepted. The demolition of the stadium and bleachers/press boxes will occur in the near future. Designs and plans for new seating are now under consideration, with the plan to have those installed prior to August 2011.

Business Office consolidation

An analysis of the staffing and positions in our business office has been completed. This analysis has resulted in our ability to identify means to reallocate funds to support other positions. A full description of those changes will be forthcoming from Vice President Foisy.

Online Federal requirement

A bill to regulate the delivery of online courses to other states has been introduced and is now under consideration by the North Dakota University System. This initiative will require each institution delivering courses and programs in other states to seek approval from that respective state.

Faculty Senate Task Force on Learning Communities

The Faculty Senate assigned a task to a committee, chaired by Dr. Ringrose, to study the staffing and implementation of the learning communities program on our campus. The task force endorsed the learning communities' concept and has requested additional staffing to support the program. A report has been submitted to Faculty Senate.

Beaver Creek Café remodeling

Sodexo Corporation and Minot State University have agreed to support the remodeling of the Beaver Creek Café. The architectural plans include new service options and increased capacity to accommodate the increased number of students in our residence halls.

Advising plan

In December, following up on a commitment I made at the beginning of the year, I forwarded a memorandum to the Faculty Senate describing new initiatives we need to take to make our academic advising more responsive to students, more consistent across disciplines, and more directly focused on proactive support of individual students. Dr. Moen is working with the chairs to incorporate these plans on the department and college levels.

Workload strategies

A detailed list of strategies has been submitted to the executive Faculty Senate committee to address perceived issues regarding workload and inconsistencies in workload across campus. These strategies were developed in concert with Dr. Moen and Faculty Senate officers. These strategies are being reviewed by Faculty Senate in preparation for implementation on the college level. Each of these strategies will help us distribute workloads more evenly.

Planning for student service center in Administration

A "one-stop" service center is under development for the first floor of the administration building. This floor will include an expanded recruitment and admission function, the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, housing, parking, student IDs, food plans, and our student affairs office. An entrance is planned for the east end of the hallway, and wide openings in the office for easy access for students.

MSU Board of Regents Legislative Social in Bismarck

A special social was held at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck for all legislators recently. Members of the Board of Regents, Alumni Board, and the administrative staff travelled to Bismarck to meet with the legislators attending the social. It was a good time to highlight Minot State University and remind the legislators about the work we are doing on behalf of our students and the state.

Local legislative meetings hosted by the Chamber

The Chamber of Commerce is again hosting legislative meetings every Saturday morning at the City Auditorium. These meetings provide those of us at Minot State the opportunity to hear the legislative perspectives and to meet with the legislators after the meeting to highlight issues important to our university.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Candidate interviews

The VPAA search committee has narrowed the list of applicants and invited a number of candidates to campus for on-campus interviews. Interviews are taking place this week and next. Please try to make it to the open forums to hear from the candidates for this important position.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since December 15, 2010)

January

- Chamber Board meeting
- University Cabinet Retreat
- President's Staff Retreat
- Great Plains Center for Community Research and Service meeting
- Meeting to discuss library
- Meetings with each member of President's Staff to review initiatives and plans
- Presented MSU's and DCB's plan to the House Appropriations Education Committee
- Visited Student Club Fair
- Presentation to Retired Faculty and Staff
- Press Conference regarding MSU's acceptance into the NSIC
- CETL meeting to discuss long-term sustainability
- Faculty Senate
- Chamber legislative meeting
- Centennial Subcommittee meeting
- Hobson's International presentation to campus
- Presentation to the Ft. Berthold Energy Summit
- Attended AAC&U's national meeting in San Francisco
- Participated in the President's Trust meetings
- Welcomed Verendrye's Board of Directors to campus and hosted a special luncheon
- Retention and Graduation Task Force meeting
- Sodexo Remodeling meeting
- Discussion of relocation of plant services building
- Meeting with Morelli Distributors
- Engagement Fair
- Meeting with Minot City Manager
- Faculty Senate
- GPCCRS planning meeting
- Meeting with Staff Senate President
- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Meeting with SGA president
- Visit to Turtle Mountain Community College for meetings with president and officers
- Local legislative meeting; visits with local legislators
- Press conference in Bottineau to cover signing of the TMCC/DCB/MSU new Fish and Wildlife Management cooperative program
- Travelled to Briercrest, SK, to sign a partnership agreement for an exchange with our education program
- Foundation Board meeting
- Meeting with Chancellor
- Meeting with geothermal engineers to review test wells and plans
- Attended NAC lecture
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- Studies in the Community and Environment candidates
- Interview on KX noon show
- MSU Regents' Legislative social in Bismarck
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting
- Meeting to discuss budget analysis for campus
- Office hours held for student in President's Office
- Invited to participate in Roundtable meeting with Department of Education in Washington DC
- Presentation of certificates to hockey players from DCB
- Dinner meeting with MADC president and EDI Passport executives.
- VPAA candidate interviews
- President's Staff meeting with VPAA candidate.

February

- Welcomed Women in Higher Education meeting on campus
- Formal greeting to Carlotta LeNier after her presentation in Ann Nicole Hall
- Noel-Levitz meeting with consultant

Concluding Remarks

The legislative session and meetings are taking a considerable amount of our time this spring. We continue to emphasize the fine work all of you are doing on behalf of our students, as we continue to seek support from the legislature and others. With the concerns expressed by some legislators about the role higher education plays in the state, it is very important for all of us to continue to advocate for Minot State University and our students.

David Fuller
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