

**¹President's Monthly Report
Minot State University
February 27, 2008**

A topic we usually don't avoid in our conversations is the weather, particularly in January and February. We have experienced temperatures in the upper 40s and in the minus range of the 20s in just a few weeks. Some might think I have lost my perspective on this topic after they heard me say that the minus 8 degrees after a few days of minus 25 seemed comfortable and "not too bad." Perhaps when we begin talking like that we have truly become a North Dakotan. I do know, however, that the plus five degrees in Chicago in early February seemed a lot more uncomfortable than our own stretches of minus-zero temperatures. Whatever the temperatures, I remain convinced that North Dakota is a great place to live. The low temperatures certainly have not kept our faculty, staff, and students from their many accomplishments. Our own [Red and Green](#), our [MSU Inside](#), [Connections](#), and other publications, make it abundantly clear that there are many notable things going on at Minot State University.

Current Issues and Topics

Planning for Higher Learning Commission Team Visit

Our self-study report is printed and the materials delivered to the HLC team. Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Royer and the self-study committee, we are now preparing for the team visit on March 31 and April 1-2.

Community Bowl

The community bowl committee secured more than 3300 signatures and delivered the petitions to the city. This project will now be placed on the early June ballot to determine if the voters approve this project. Please urge your colleagues and associates to support the community bowl and advocate for this project. It will be good for the city and for Minot State in many ways.

Swain Hall

A preliminary plan for the space in Swain has been prepared by the architects. The plan is currently under review by the committee and others interested in making Swain a first-class academic facility.

Maintenance Building Relocation

According to the master plan and the recommendation to move the maintenance buildings from their current locations near the power plant to a location on the north end of the campus, we are proceeding to identify a location, the costs, and the schedule for a potential relocation. This plan was shared recently with the local legislators who serve on the House and Senate appropriation committees. We are currently investigating the possibility of purchasing and moving the building recently occupied by True Value on 16th Street to a location on the north end of campus. Discussions with the owner and the NDUS have begun.

Legislative Preliminary Project Ideas

A list of preliminary projects was presented to local legislators, who serve on the appropriation committees, to seek their feedback and suggestions. Some of the ideas included: improved faculty and staff salaries, initiatives to support student recruitment, a new wellness and health center, an energy and sustainability center, the maintenance facility, a replacement for our main campus utilities boiler, safety and security initiatives, international programming support, deferred maintenance (e.g., retrofitting of windows on Old Main), a new program for applied study and learning sciences, a strengthened internship program, enhanced support for career and advising services, and an alumni center.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. It 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.

Open Meetings with Campus

On February 5, two campus-wide open forums were held to seek feedback on proposed campus initiatives MSU is envisioning as a part of Vision 2013. Funding sources and options were discussed. Most of the projects discussed came from action teams of faculty, staff, and students in the spring of 2007. Priority action steps and projected costs were explained and discussed.

Northern Illinois University and MSU's Emergency Preparations

The day following the tragic shootings on the Northern Illinois University campus, we held an all-campus open forum to express our condolences to the victims, families, and the NIU campus. At that forum, we also reviewed our own Emergency Operations Procedures manual development and reviewed the precautions and action steps we have in place to respond to a similar emergency. Our emergency operations notification system, called Connect Ed, was discussed. Roger Kluck and Cathy Horvath discussed features of the EOP. Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Open House for Student Center

On March 4, MSU will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours to highlight our newly renovated Student Center and Atrium. This is one of many programs we are planning to introduce our campus and its facilities to the greater community of Minot and the region.

Shared Governance White paper

Recently I distributed a "white paper" on the practice of "shared governance" to the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Government Association. I will be attending meetings of each of those governance groups to talk about the paper and the notion of shared governance. We will be looking at arriving at a common definition and set of practices.

Alumni meetings in Arizona

From March 5-9 MSU representatives and I will be travelling to Arizona to hold a number of alumni and friends events. One of the events will be an alumni gathering in Scottsdale, which will be hosted by us and by the Mayor of Scottsdale, Ms. Mary Manross. Mayor Manross is a graduate of Minot State University. We have many individual meetings and general events scheduled to promote MSU and connect with many of its alumni and friends in Arizona.

Spring Enrollment

While our initial "opening day" enrollments showed that our enrollments increased by forty students, the third-week official numbers indicated that we were down 63 students from last spring. The Spring 2007 official number of 3,386 compares to the Spring 2008 official number of 3,323. Fifty three of the 63 enrollment drop was attributed to a decline in part-time students. Positive signs showed that the number of Ward County students increased, as did the numbers of graduate students, international students, and students from North Dakota.

Appointment of Dr. John Girard

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a new dean of enrollment management. Dr. John Girard brings many skills to this very important area of recruitment, enrollment, and retention.

Vision 2013 Action Steps and meetings with campus groups

I am planning to meet with each of the major units on our campus to seek their feedback on our proposals for Vision 2013 action steps and to solicit ideas about other areas on campus needing support and attention. These meetings will be scheduled following the HLC team visit in early April.

Broadway monument sign

Final touches are being put on the design of the Broadway sign. A meeting with the architects, Walter Piehl, and others will be held soon to complete the design and to proceed with the development and installation. It is our hope to have the new sign installed before summer or no later than before the start of the Fall 2008 semester.

Center of Excellence proposal: Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center

At this point, we have not yet reached final agreement on the funding of the equipment for our primary partner, InfoTech. We are exploring the possibility of resubmitting a revised application to the Center of Excellence Commission to allow the MSU Foundation to serve as a co-applicant. If this option is pursued and the Foundation is amenable, the Foundation would receive the \$800,000 designated for equipment, and would then be able to lease the equipment and sell it at fair-market-value to InfoTech at the completion of the 2 ½ year project. A proposal is currently under consideration by InfoTech.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since January 16, 2008)

January

- Art Department meeting to discuss space
- Ghana collaboration meeting
- State Board of Higher Education conference call
- Faculty Senate
- Hostfest planning and MSU involvement
- Football recruiting breakfast weekend
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- Planning for alumni meeting in Arizona
- Meeting to identify Great Plains peers and key indicators
- Young Professionals to discuss MSU advocacy
- Student Chat in Beaver Dam
- Follow up meeting to discuss Ft. Berthold CC articulation
- Reference calls for NDUS CIO search
- Travelled across campus in a wheel chair, with the council of Exceptional Children
- NDUS legislative agenda task force meeting
- Pool renovation meeting
- Meeting with local legislators to discuss appropriation projects
- Foundation Board meeting
- NDUS CIO search committee meeting
- Chaired ConnectND Oversight Committee
- Visit with Greystone Group regarding Washington DC federal projects
- Focus the Nation campus event
- Xcel Board meeting in Fargo; Red River Economic Development Meeting
- Meeting with president of staff senate

February

- Presentation of Nursing department students
- Center of Excellence meeting
- Faculty and Staff Campus Open forums
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- North Central Association Board of Director's meeting in Chicago
- SBHE Budget, Audit, and Finance Committee to discuss proposed increase in nursing fee, the international fee, and MSU-Bottineau finances
- Work Force Development conference
- Meeting with Student Government Association president
- Student Chat in Beaver Dam
- Meeting with North Dakota legislator
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Minot Area Development Corporation Board meeting
- All-campus meeting in response to NIU tragedy; discussing emergency preparedness
- Trinity Board meeting
- Visit MSU-Bottineau campus to meet with all faculty and staff, the HLC steering committee, and administrative council; attended and spoke to the Bottineau Chamber of Commerce meeting
- NDUS Search Committee meetings in Fargo
- SBHE meeting in Mayville
- Studies in the Community and Environment task force
- Breakfast with invited faculty
- Honors class visitation and discussion about Thoreau

David Fuller
February 27, 2008