

**April 15, 2009**

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

**FROM: David Fuller**

**SUBJECT: <sup>1</sup>Monthly President's Report**

### **Current Topics, Issues, and Proposals**

#### Area Flooding

Minot State University has been kept informed about the flooding dangers and has solicited support from the campus to go to various sites to assist with sandbagging efforts. Regular campus updates have been published, with information about campus-arranged transportation for MSU volunteers. Many campus members have volunteered to offer their assistance filling sandbags, helping build dikes, and providing other support as needed.

#### Vision 2013 Performance Objectives

Each department and administrative unit on campus examined the preliminary objectives for the performance indicators and has offered comments, suggestions, and recommended objectives. The objectives and the comments have been compiled and will be discussed during the three open forums scheduled for Thursday, April 16.

#### Open Forums

On April 16 three open forums have been scheduled, from 8-9 a.m., 9:30-10:30, and 11:00-12:00 in Aleshire Theater. The agenda for each forum will include campus and legislative updates and review and discussion of performance indicator objectives.

#### Legislative update

The House Appropriations Committee has made preliminary changes to the Senate's higher education bill. The affordability line intended to hold two-year colleges tuition at the same levels as last year and four-year colleges at 4% was deleted originally from the bill and then reintroduced. The equity budget line was removed by the House and not reinstated. Some capital projects received support from the House and then later withdrawn. The Swain Hall renovation at this point remains at \$5 million from the Governor's stimulus discretionary funds and not from appropriated dollars. The amendment to transfer the \$2.5 million from the boiler project to a geothermal system was endorsed if the geothermal system proves feasible. MSU continues to monitor closely the bills and to work with the local legislators to seek guidance and support.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

### Special Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee

A week ago Monday we were asked to drive to Bismarck to provide testimony in support of the Swain renovation project. Based on the excellent guidance from our local legislators, we learned that the House committee was expressing strong concerns about the additional dollars needed to finish the Swain project. On that Monday, the weather service and Department of Transportation advised no travel because of the snow storm. A team from MSU nevertheless decided to brave the storm and attend the hearing. Our architect, the president of our student government association, a faculty member responsible for developing our new Athletic Training major, our facilities director, and I drove to the Capitol and made an hour presentation and responded to specific questions about the overruns. I believe that the trip was well worth the effort and that we provided the information that the committee sought.

### MSU at the Mall

Last week many faculty, staff, and students were on hand to show off their departments and programs at the Mall. Coordinated by Teresa Loftesnes, our marketing director, the MSU at the Mall event was a big hit and attracted many people. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated.

### Student Government Association Meeting

At the last SGA meeting the students discussed ways to encourage more participation in and support of the MSU athletic teams and games. The SGA expressed its strong support to work together to identify new strategies to engage students in the games and events.

### NCAA Division II

The task force assigned to study the possibility of joining an NCAA Division II Conference has voted to recommend that MSU enter into exploratory status with the NCAA. Two years ago the task force recommended that MSU pursue NCAA membership if a conference would be interested in inviting MSU to join. At that point, the Northern Sun Conference had already invited four additional schools to join and was not looking to add additional schools. It is possible that the Northern Sun Athletic Conference at this time might be interested in adding two additional schools and thus expand the conference into a north-south divisional structure. Following the original task force recommendation two years ago and recently, Minot State notified the Commissioner of the Northern Sun of its interest in being considered for exploratory status. We continue to stay in contact with the Commissioner and other schools of the conference, such as the University of Mary. A visit recently to the University of Mary provided us an opportunity to discuss Northern Sun membership. If invited to explore membership, MSU would undergo a two-year exploratory status before moving into a third year of candidacy. We have contracted with two consultants to visit campus in May to discuss the requirements for membership and the processes for making application for an exploratory status. At present, MSU remains supportive of the NAIA and our membership in the Dakota Athletic Conference. Applications for consideration are due by June 1, 2009.

## **List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since March 18, 2009)**

### **March**

- Trinity Board meeting
- Emergency Preparedness Training
- State Board of Higher Education meeting in Bismarck
- Chamber Legislative forums
- President's Staff
- Performance evaluations for each member of President's Staff
- Student Government Association meeting
- Meeting with Art Department faculty
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting
- Meeting at SRT
- Attended APEX presentation
- Symphony League reception

- Scandinavian Heritage Annual Banquet
- Dianna Anderson Piano recital
- Attended Clint Severson presentation
- Special testimony given to House Committee regarding Swain and Wellness Center
- Hosted dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Severson
- Conference call with president of Sias International University
- Meeting with EERC representative
- Welcome at Student Speech Language Hearing Annual Conference on campus.

## April

- Athletic staff meeting
- Meeting with partners regarding community bowl
- Contractors for Monument Sign
- Tour of Student Center
- Chancellor's Cabinet
- Visited NCAA Div II Task Force meeting
- Interviewed candidate for math position
- Women's Heritage Month Poster Session and Awards
- Sias International University and China meeting
- Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting
- President of Staff Senate

- MSU at the Mall
- Visited University of Mary; meetings with President Sister Thomas and athletic directors
- Welcome at the Market Place for Kids event on campus
- Senator Dorgan's community leader meeting at City Council chambers
- Hosted lunch for new SBHE member, Claus Lembke, Scott Louser, and Mr. Jon Backes
- Tour of Swain Hall
- Presented and led discussion on Thoreau's Walden at Honor's class
- Meeting with vice president of Faculty Senate regarding FS resolution
- Welcome at Who's Who Luncheon
- Interview on Sky Radio
- Center of Excellence meeting
- Discussion regarding potential art facility
- Attended new faculty luncheon
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting
- Workforce Consortium meeting
- Sustainability Committee meeting
- Foundations of Excellence luncheon meeting
- Meeting with staff member of Senator Dorgan

## Concluding Remarks

The flooding across the state has raised the concern of many. While I write this report, Minot and a number of locations in Ward County are in a flood warning. Minot State is working hard to assist people in whatever way we can who have been forced out of their homes in the state. Currently we are housing a Red Cross operation in the Dome. We were prepared to take in many displaced people from Fargo if the flooding emergency was realized. During the last two weeks we have organized efforts to send faculty, staff, and students to specified areas needing assistance. With rain in the forecast and the warmer temperatures melting the large amount of snow, we are prepared to offer our help where needed. Thanks to all of our staff and students for their willingness to assist and their outstanding efforts to help out during this difficult time.

David Fuller  
April 15, 2009