

**May 16, 2012**

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

**FROM: David Fuller**

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

## **General Overview**

### **Current**

#### Commencement

Our graduation ceremony went very well. We honored 790 graduates and highlighted Amy Leonard as a distinguished alumnus speaker and Jacey Peterson as our student speaker. Thanks to the many people who work hard to coordinate, plan, and facilitate this event. This is one of the highlights of our year.

#### Capital Project proposals

Capital Projects will be presented at the June SBHE meeting. We plan on requesting funding to expand the geothermal system as well as funding for a new facilities management building.

#### Discussions regarding an art facility

I recently met with three art faculty and Dr. Koczon to continue our discussion about the use of the maintenance facility and boiler plant for a renovated art facility. We discussed the original plans drawn up a few years ago by an architectural firm. From the beginning this use of that facility has depended on completing the geothermal system and taking all utility boilers off line. With the changes in the plans for geothermal, we considered the potential for the remaining natural gas boilers to coexist with the art facility. The art faculty will discuss the original plans and consider the needed square feet available, the renovation of the supply building, and other uses of that facility. This move would depend on moving ahead with the plan to relocate the maintenance facility to the north of the campus.

#### Walter Piehl Art Gallery

Marv Semrau, Terry Jelsing, Walter Piehl and I met to discuss preliminary needs for the gallery, the space required, and potential locations. Mr. Jelsing, who has been involved in the development of other galleries, brought ideas and schematics of a gallery. We will continue to investigate the size of the gallery, the potential costs, fund raising, and locations.

#### Wellness Center

The Center is nearing completion. The climbing wall has been installed and the contractors are now in the final stage of finish work. It is anticipated that the facility will be open for public viewing in early

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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. Since no University Cabinet meeting was held in February, this report covers two months instead of one. The report is distributed widely to keep the community up to date on current initiatives, pending projects, 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 his/her respective senate or senate president, the President's Office, or the university president directly.

June and ready for the grand opening at the beginning of next academic year. Outside landscaping and entrances will be completed when the opening of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue is completed.

#### Board of Regents meeting

The spring meeting of the Board of Regents included the recognition of the Board of Regents Achievement Award recipients, reports from the faculty, staff, and student senate presidents, a university report, and a focused meeting to discuss the renovation of Herb Parker press box facility and the Dome renovation. The regents were asked to work in small committees to discuss the projects and potential solutions for completing the projects.

#### Employee Recognition Luncheon

Recently our campus held our annual appreciation luncheon and recognized employees for their years of service and the Board of Regents Achievement Award Recipients. The event included a good meal provided by Sodexo and an enjoyable time to recognize others for their work for Minot State University. The coordinating committee did a great job organizing and planning the event.

#### Powwow

Our Cultural Center and the Native American Student Club organized a wonderful celebration in the Dome recently. Dancing, drum songs, special events to honor Veterans and graduates, a special feast and other fun events made for another successful event on campus. Thanks to our students and Annette Mennem for a job well done.

#### Early Retirement

To meet our budget reduction goals this year, we decided to request that faculty consider an early retirement incentive. Approximately eight faculty and staff decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

#### Budget

Budget supervisors have been working with our Administration and Finance Office to meet the objectives to reduce our base budget by 3% this year and next year. The supervisors have been identifying areas that could be reduced, positions not to renew, and other cost saving steps. While the final details are not yet available, I have been told that we are well on the way to reach that objective this year. Thanks to all who worked hard to assist us in reducing our budgets.

#### Earth Day

Our campus and our Sustainability Committee hosted another successful event in honor of Earth Day. A campus clean-up was undertaken by faculty, staff, and student volunteers, and presentations were made in the Beaver Dam to the Earth Day participants on water quality and conservation. I also participated in the Dakota College at Bottineau Earth Day event. Will Weaver, a short story writer, spoke to the community and campus and the following day a conference was held including a number of concurrent sessions dealing with environmental issues. I introduced the writer and welcomed participants to the conference.

#### Developmental Leave

In June I will be taking a 30-calendar day leave to pursue professional development objectives. Under SBHE Policy 701.2, the State Board allows presidents to propose and take a leave every five years. My proposal identified scholarly texts and potential writing projects to begin during this leave. Dr. Jenkins will be working with the members of President's Staff to provide leadership in my absence.

### Interim Higher Education Committee meeting

The last Interim Higher Education Meeting was held for two days in Bismarck recently. The focus of this meeting was on the DSU audit report and other reports from the NDUS. I provided a report on waivers at the four-year schools and responded to questions.

### New Chancellor

Dr. Hamid Shirvani will begin his work as the new Chancellor on July 1. He has already attended State Board Meetings, and intends to participate in the SBHE retreat in May. He pledged during his candidacy to visit the campuses and work to improve communications with individual campuses.

### Strategic Enrollment Management Retreat

We recently held a full-day retreat to review enrollment patterns, examine the CRM program, look at the institutional research on enrollment and retention data, and consider various projection models. Scholarships, the Grow North Dakota initiative, the use of waivers, housing, and other related topics were considered to determine how we may improve enrollment and recruitment. The Noel-Levitz plan and other documents were reviewed. Based on that retreat, our institutional researcher is now working to develop more sophisticated projection models to include all the major areas impacting enrollments (e.g., on-campus, Bismarck, the MAFB, on-line, IVN, dual credit and others).

### Enrollments

Application numbers are reportedly strong. Transfer numbers are increasing, and other categories of enrollments appear to be showing growth. Last year's application numbers, too, were very strong, but did not yield a high rate of residents because of the flood and the uncertainties of housing. We are focusing our attention on this critical need for our students.

### Housing

Our residence life office and vice president for student affairs have been compiling data to look at trends of residency in each of our halls. The numbers in our halls remain strong. The Beaver Lodges, too, are now reporting strong numbers. Our residence life office is also compiling information on off-campus housing to provide to interested students. We are working very hard to make sure that all students needing housing will be accommodated either by on-campus housing or off-campus facilities.

## **List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since March 21, 2012):**

### **March**

- President's Staff weekly meetings and one-on-one meeting with staff each week
- Trinity Board meeting
- General Education Ad Hoc meeting
- Athletic meeting regarding NACDA Master Plan
- University Diversity Council meeting
- Received check on behalf of Dakota College at Bottineau from the St. Joe's Foundation
- Meeting with Clint Severson and Conni Ahart
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Tour of the Wellness Center
- Great Plains Community Research and Service meeting with director
- Affordable Housing Town Hall—hosted by Sociology Club
- Discussion with UND staff member regarding MSU's geothermal project
- Student-faculty recital
- Meeting regarding coffee shop at Beaver Ridge; with Chuck Barney and Dean Linrud
- Attended reception to welcome new Chamber members at Grand International
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Board of Regents Executive Committee
- Meeting with promotion committee
- Meeting with student athlete about issue
- Gave official welcome to participants at the NSSHLA conference
- Meeting with faculty member regarding promotion/tenure
- Attended the MSU at the Mall event at the Dakota Mall
- Trumpets showcase concert at Nelson Hall

## April

- Meeting to discuss tree replacements resulting from opening 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Green Zone workshop conducted by Veteran's Office director
- Reference call
- Welcomed Market Place for Kids event at Nelson Hall
- One-on-one meetings with Staff
- Meeting with editor of Red and Green
- Meeting with faculty member regarding early retirement
- Welcomed Who's Who Luncheon participants
- Athletics Spring Party
- Student Government Association president meeting
- Faculty Senate meetings
- Early Retirement application reviews
- Meeting with faculty member
- Advising meeting
- Interview with KXMC regarding current year
- MADC director meeting
- Hosted breakfast for MSU donor
- Meeting with potential clients from MADC
- MSU Jazz Combo Concert
- Strategic Enrollment Management all-day retreat
- State Board of Higher Education meeting in Williston
- Capital Campaign meeting
- Staff Senate President meeting
- Jonathon Wagner meeting to discuss centennial book
- Photo session for campaign
- Meeting with student regarding payment of bill
- Special meeting to select BOR achievement award winners
- Minot Area Development Corporation Board meeting
- Meeting with John Webster regarding geothermal system
- Meeting to discuss American Democracy Project
- Interim Higher Education two-day meeting and presentation on MSU waivers; in Bismarck
- Employee Recognition Committee meeting
- Meeting with Dean Nordquist
- New faculty luncheon
- Mini-concert on organ for Doris Slaaten
- Faculty Senate
- Dakota College at Bottineau Open House in Atrium
- Business After Hours at the Beaver Ridge Plaza
- Theater performance: A man from Nebraska in Aleshire
- Welcomed nursing conference: Civic Engagement in Disaster Recovery
- Athletics Business meeting and review
- Minot Symphony Orchestra performance and presentation to Dennis Simons in honor of his last concert
- Campus clean-up day in honor of Earth Day; campus presentations
- MEP geothermal conference call to review project and details
- Presentation on Thoreau to local PEO chapter
- Earth Day Event at Dakota College at Bottineau; introduction of Will Weaver at the Bottineau High School before the showing of the film Sweetland
- Welcome to conference participants at DCB's Earth Day; presentation of conservation award, and introduction of keynote speaker.
- Attended the MSU research poster session in the atrium.
- Attended and welcomed participants at the student organized event in honor of those affected by the flood.
- Attended the Digital Minot presentation in Aleshire
- Joint Senates meetings (Faculty, Staff, and Students, and President's Staff)
- Performance evaluations for staff
- Meeting with faculty member regarding promotion decision
- Attended CETL's FYE reception and award event
- Meeting with special education faculty and dean to discuss participation in Annie's House
- Attended the meeting of the Minot Symphony Orchestra Board to discuss conductor search
- University Diversity Council meeting
- Meeting with candidate for band position
- Employee Appreciation Luncheon and welcome
- City Planning Steering Committee meeting at the City Council Chambers
- Board of Regents spring meeting
- Attended MSU Gala
- Spring football scrimmage
- Attended and welcomed visitors at the MSU Pow Wow.

## May

- Meeting with Terry Jelsing, Walter Piehl, and Marv Semrau to discuss a new art gallery
- DCB dean evaluation
- Meeting with faculty member regarding promotion application
- Centennial Committee meeting
- Chancellor's Cabinet by IVN
- Luncheon with Admiral Miller
- MSU Concert Band recital and presentation to Joe Alme
- Partners in Heritage Preservation Committee plan

- Visit by Heidi Heitkamp
  - Meeting to discuss Centennial Book
  - Business faculty candidate
  - KMSU Live Show
  - MSU Jazz Ensemble concert in Nelson Hall
  - Staff Senate president
  - Red and Green editor
  - Band candidate interview
  - Faculty Senate president
  - Cinco de Mayo Celebration in the Beaver Dam
  - Office Hours for Students in my office
  - RCJC grant project
  - Meeting with faculty member regarding promotion and project
- President's Staff
  - Annual evaluation
  - Art Department meeting to discuss planning vision
  - Retirement Social
  - Campus Ministries Appreciation social
  - City Planning Meeting Open House
  - Nursing faculty member meeting
  - Centennial planning meeting
  - Commencement brunch
  - Commencement ceremony
  - Dakota College at Bottineau commencement

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