

**<sup>1</sup>President's Monthly Report  
Minot State University  
June 18, 2008**

Summer school and other activities on our campus are keeping us busy. Plans for the next academic year are well underway as well. There is good news that our number of applications for the fall semester is up significantly above the number last year, but with our large graduating class in the spring, we are remaining particularly focused on recruitment and the retention of our current students. The initiatives we have undertaken in the past few years to support our first-year students are a few of many that we are pursuing to increase our retention rates. Our Connect sessions, orientation and enrollment sessions for new students, are well attended and well received by new students and their parents. The summer months are providing all of us time to focus on key projects and initiatives and prepare for the fall semester. The mild and wet spring have finally given way to warmer temperatures, which allows us time to spruce up the campus, plant flowers, and attend to a variety of campus needs.

**Current**

Safety and Security Initiatives and Plans

The Emergency Operations Plan and Report has been completed. Currently, the chair of the EOP committee and the Facilities Management Director are working with the committee to identify building contacts, provide special training, and prepare for mock safety drills in the fall. An emergency notification system is now installed and a number of other campus safety enhancements are being implemented to strengthen the safety and security of campus.

Research on the Great Plains Regional Public Universities

To accomplish our Vision 2013 goal to become one of the premier, public regional universities in the “great” Great Plains, our institutional researcher has compiled a complete list of all regional public universities in the Great Plains, from Texas to the Canadian provinces in the Great Plains. He is studying the institutions in that region with premier reputations and identifying key indicators for us to set performance standards and objectives. Moreover, our academic program coordinator has been encoding all performance measures for each North Dakota institution reported for the ND Roundtable, which will allow us to track these measures and our improvements. These performance measures will also be studied and used for additional standards with which to compare MSU's performance in state as well as out of state.

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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.

### Steering Committee Report from the Foundations of Excellence for First-Year Students

The FoE steering committee is completing the campus self study and receiving feedback from the FoE consulting firm. Specific actions to improve first-year experiences on campus will be identified and proposed to the campus by the committee.

### American Humanics Spring Meeting

In May I travelled to Indianapolis to participate in the spring meeting of the American Humanics Association. The AHA is a national organization focused on non-profit professional training and activities that support civic training, engagement, and volunteerism--key components of Vision 2013. A membership in AHA provides the professional guidance and support necessary to pursue these directions.

### Community Bowl

The proposed community bowl did not receive the needed simple majority vote in the June 10 Minot election. Our alumni association, Board of Regents, and many university and city leaders worked hard to publicize the advantages of the new bowl. Opponents maintained that the project should not be supported by the surplus Northwest Area Water Supply project, despite information showing that it would not affect the NAWS project and not raise taxes. The vote was a disappointment, but there are many in the community and the city of Minot who plan to make a new proposal in the future to support the exiting and much-needed project.

### Search for Public Information Director and the Dean of Admissions

Committees have been appointed and job announcements placed regionally for each of these key positions. The committees are seeking to conduct the full searches and make recommendations for an appointment of the final candidates before the end of the summer.

### Recruitment and Search Processes

A few faculty and staff will be nominated and appointed to serve this summer on a team to investigate best practices for conducting faculty and staff searches. A specific process will be defined for recruitment and a standard format for advertisements, position profiles, and interviews in order to ensure more consistency, professionalism in our materials, a focus on departmental and program priorities, and an alignment with the institution's mission, values, vision, and core purposes.

### Retention and Graduation Rate Research

Our institutional researcher is studying the retention and graduation rates for each of our programs and areas to determine if there are specific areas showing higher retention and graduation rates than other areas. It is also the intention to review various practices on campus and to study the existing literature to understand the factors that contribute to high retention rates on our campus. When these base-line data are compiled, we will seek nominations from the senate and appoint a committee to review the information and to prepare a report regarding what MSU can do to improve retention and graduation rates.

## Academic Proposals

Recently MSU submitted and received the Chancellor's approval of a Stage II proposal for a new Health Management Science minor. MSU also received approval to proceed with planning and development of Stage II proposals for a new Athletic Training major, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing major, and an Energy Economics and Finance Major.

### **List of Selected Activities and Events (since May 21, 2008)**

#### **May**

- NDUS Chief Information Officer Search Committee meeting
- Greeting to on-campus Blackboard Training workshop
- Chaired the Connect North Dakota (CND) Oversight and joint meeting with the Campus Advisory Council
- Attended dinner and received acknowledgement as new Old Main Society member
- Evaluation meeting with Chancellor in Bismarck
- Attended the spring meeting of the American Humanics Association in Indianapolis

#### **June**

- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting
- Board of Regents Campus Life and Development Committee
- GALA dinner hosted by Nancy and me at our home
- Participated in telephone calls to support community bowl project
- Rotary
- Meeting with Dennis Scheer from Clark Enerson regarding landscape plan and new monument sign construction documents
- Interview with Rick Killian from Prairie Business magazine
- Interviews with the candidates for the Public Information Director position
- Attended two-day retreat for the Trinity Board
- Meeting in Bismarck with Shane Goettle, the director of the ND Department of Commerce, and Matti Kon, the CEO of InfoTech to discuss the Center of Excellence project
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- Interview with a representative of the American Executive magazine.

David Fuller  
June 18, 2008