

July 20, 2011

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

FLOOD EMERGENCY

The majority of this report focuses on the event that has taken most of our time since the first warning of a flood on June 1 to the major crest that hit Minot on June 22 and beyond. During that time and up to the present our campus has worked hard to support the city's recovery efforts and to handle our commitments and plans for the start of school in August. Fortunately and due to Roger Kluck's foresight to request that we construct a dike along University Avenue, our campus avoided direct damage from the flood. While there were cases in which water rose in the basement of Model, the Power Plant, and a few other buildings, we were able to avoid damage to those buildings by pumping the rising river water out of our septic and drainage system. We acquired pumps to move the water from those lines across the dike into the flow of water on the south side of the dike. Had we not pumped that water, it is likely that the first floor of Model, Crane, and Lura Manor, as well as Pioneer and Old Main, would have experienced extensive water damage. Thanks to Roger, his maintenance staff, and many other faculty and staff who worked hard during the days and through the nights to monitor the pumps and assist with the coordination of many of our agencies and visitors on campus.

The conclusion to all of this is that we were able to avoid direct damage and be in the position right now to prepare our full campus for our returning students and the start of our academic year. There are, as you might expect, issues that need our attention. Housing for faculty, staff, students, the removal of our dike, and the general facility cleaning and other preparations are a few immediate issues on our mind, but we should count ourselves fortunate, particularly in view of the many people in our community who have suffered great personal losses.

Emergency Planning

Throughout this period, we relied on an emergency response team comprised of individuals from across campus. All critical areas of the campus, from the physical plant, enrollment, financial aid, housing, human resources, student affairs, and others participated in these regular and sometimes daily meetings to review the current status of the flood, issues of great concern for the campus, campus operations, and general communications. We used the Notifind system to announce closures and major changes to campus operations, posted information on our web site, sent out direct messages by email to faculty, staff, and students, and held a number of all-campus

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 May, 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.

meetings to discuss developments and to seek input from our campus members. During this recovery period, too, we met with this team to identify key issues needing our attention and to begin considering longer-term steps to take regarding the agencies and people on our campus, preparing our campus for the start of the fall semester, and identifying critical issues that might impact our general operations this coming year. At the same time we have been conducting research into how other campuses affected by flooding have addressed similar issues, such as LSU and Tulane during the Katrina emergency. We have also contacted Valley City State University and UND to seek their guidance about their responses during their respective floods. All of these sources have provided invaluable information about short-term and long-term actions.

Responding to Community Needs and Accommodating Agencies and Others on Campus

The university has opened its doors wide to accommodate agencies and displaced people. Our stance has been to say yes to all who called to ask for help and the use of our facilities. As a result, we have accommodated the National Guard, Red Cross volunteers, truck drivers, XCEL and MDU workers, emergency operations workers, FEMA volunteers and officials, Homeland Security individuals, emergency contractors, and hundreds of evacuees, and many others. We have provided housing in all of our residence halls, space for housing and offices in Swain, the entire Dome, spaces in our parking lots for trucks and temporary housing, and most recently a good portion of the first floor of the administration building for the FEMA Assistance Center. All of this took a considerable amount of coordination and support from our staff. Wes Matthews, Roger Kluck, Leon Perzinski, and other staff have worked seven days a week and many hours of the days to welcome and assist these agencies and people on our campus. Sodexo has also stepped up to serve hundreds of meals to the Red Cross and the evacuees.

Summer School

The campus was closed for a few days when we learned that Broadway had closed during the height of the emergency. With the closing of Broadway and the directive to boil water, we also decided to suspend summer school for a week to support students on campus and to recognize the many challenges our faculty and staff were experiencing. In that week of suspended classes, we did not close campus but devoted our time to handle a number of emergency needs on campus, accommodate our growing number of visitors and residents, and to make preparations for the start of summer classes after the July 4 weekend. All supervisors were required to come to campus and to determine what people in their respective areas who should be asked to come to campus. The plan was to provide service in all of our major areas on campus. Other employees who were not expressly required to come to campus were asked instead to devote their MSU work time to volunteer in the community and to assist others needing support throughout the community. At that time, too, Dr. Koczon and Dr. Moen worked with deans and chairs to assist faculty in modifying classes where possible to incorporate online options and other delivery approaches for those students impacted directly by the flood. Faculty, chairs, and deans worked hard to make those changes and communicate those plans to their respective students before the re-start of the classes on July 5.

Meeting with UND visiting staff

I have been contacted by many of our sister institutions and presidents from other universities nationally offering their help. Some have shared reports and others have offered their assistance. President Kelly from UND asked me how they could help, and I asked if it would be possible for UND to send some members of his staff who were involved in their flood emergency on their campus. As a result, we have held a four-hour meeting on campus on Monday, July 18. UND sent staff members from major areas on campus to meet with their counterparts on our campus and to discuss approaches they took to their emergency and to offer advice and suggestions.

Campus operations

We've been able to maintain our general campus operations while providing support to our many visitors and residents. One concern was that the many visitors would put considerable stress on our septic system, and we continue to urge people to limit usage as much as possible. The system appears to have worked well enough. Parking has been impacted. We decided to suspend all parking enforcement temporarily while these agencies were on campus and to urge people to remain attentive to our visitors' needs, particularly those visiting the FEMA center.

Faculty and Staff flood issues

We asked the deans and vice presidents to prepare lists of faculty and staff in their respective areas who have been displaced and impacted directly by this flood. The compiled list of names and many volunteered stories have been distributed to the members of President's Staff. Wes Matthews has been working with people on campus to follow up as best we can to assist faculty and staff who have requested special help. There are still people who are seeking assistance. We continue to be in need of volunteers to address these special needs. Coordination of assistance efforts has been ongoing. The large number of faculty and staff impacted by this emergency will continue to be monitored regarding housing pressures, personal needs to address home recovery, and other flood issues.

Transition plans

The emergency response team has met recently to identify current and long-term issues needing our attention. Plans to help make the transition of our campus in preparation for the return of students were discussed with city officials and agency directors. Recommended timelines for our use of Swain Hall, the residence halls, the Dome, and the Student Center were communicated to the city and to the agency directors. We have been working with the agencies and others to assist in this transition. The National Guard members staying on campus had already begun the transition. Plans are underway for the Red Cross evacuation center to be relocated to the tennis and recreation center, and alternative sites have been arranged for housing Red Cross volunteers who were staying in Swain. With athletic camps and participants arriving last week, arrangements were made to move the camps into Swain and Bishop Ryan, since the Dome was accommodating the Red Cross evacuation center. By the end of the month, athletes and others will be returning and needing to use the Dome. The FEMA emergency assistance center is operating fully and using a large portion of the first floor of the administration building. Plans are underway for the center to merge with the other assistance center in the community by the end of the month. As our residence halls have been virtually full housing National Guard members, agency representatives, and a host of emergency workers, it is necessary for us to begin cleaning the halls in preparation for the return of students in less than a month.

Anticipated Impact on Enrollment

This past week we hosted two Connect sessions for prospective students and their parents. This week we are hosting additional sessions. We did everything possible to welcome and assist these students and parents despite the full parking lots and activities ongoing for emergency flood relief on campus. The students and parents were well treated and supported, and detailed information was provided about the impact of the flood on the campus. Admitting that many of our faculty and staff have been personally impacted by this emergency, we assured the students and parents that MSU was in good shape to start the fall semester. We also explained the adjustments we made to our housing plans in order to accommodate students.

Institutions that are impacted by emergencies such as community flooding report that enrollment will decline. UND reported that its enrollment declined by 10% as a result of the flood in Grand Forks. It appears that our application numbers remain strong. We continue to monitor actual enrollments. Enrollment numbers appear to have decreased compared to this time last year, but part of that decrease can be attributed to the fact that we did not have a spring Connect session this year. With the housing pressures in the community, we are doing everything possible to respond to student requests. At this point it is too early to understand the full impact of the loss of homes and apartments on enrollment, and the subsequent impact of the losses incurred by our faculty and staff. It is reasonable to assume that the housing shortage in town will impact enrollment and will continue to affect our campus operations this coming year.

Housing initiatives

We are adding beds in our residence halls and making plans for Olympic-style housing units we purchased through a low-interest loan at the Bank of North Dakota to accommodate 100 additional students. At this point, we have been able to create more than 160 additional spaces for our students. For this year, we have suspended our requirement that first-year students reside on campus. We are also reaching out to the Minot community to ask people to contact us about available and affordable apartments and rooms for displaced students, faculty, and staff.

Long-term planning and objectives

Following the UND visit and this meeting of University Cabinet, the emergency response team will be meeting to discuss long-term planning and objectives. It is anticipated that there will be a need for campus response teams/committees established to oversee initiatives for human resource support for our faculty and staff, enrollment oversight, seeking support for cost recoveries, and on-going monitoring and planning for housing and accommodations. A plan will be developed and discussed with the campus during the fall convocation.

Budget transitions

It is anticipated that with a projected decline in enrollment will come a decline in our revenue for campus operations. We have to monitor our financial situation closely as we monitor enrollment and other changes resulting from the flood recovery. We understand that other institutions that have undergone flood emergencies take preventative steps, such as freezing hiring, reducing budgets, and taking other steps to limit expenditures. We do not know if these measures will be necessary at this time, but it is important to keep in mind the potential for the impact on our finances.

Communications

Throughout this emergency, we have worked hard to keep everyone informed of immediate decisions and anticipated issues related to the flood. Three general meetings with the campus, a meeting with all supervisors following the July 4 weekend, regular President's Staff meetings and emergency operations team meetings have provided opportunities for input from campus and discussions about the emergency and the recovery. We will continue to provide updates through the MSU Inside, special email announcements, information on our web site, and periodic forums.

OTHER TOPICS

State Board of Higher Education meeting

Minot State University hosted the SBHE meeting in June. In addition to the regular agenda of the board, the meeting included our hosted reception for NDUS and SBHE members in the Swain Hall second floor lounge, a breakfast meeting highlighting campus activities and the plans for the new geothermal system, and a luncheon meeting that included a presentation by representatives of our Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning. The reception included as well a special recognition of Mr. Jon Backes, who is retiring from the Board effective with that meeting. Mr. Backes was the outgoing president of the SBHE; he is a graduate of MSU and a current member of our Foundation Board of Directors.

NCAA approval to move into third provisional year

We received official word recently that the NCAA has given their approval for MSU to move from the second year of candidacy to the third year of provisional status. This comes as a result of a positive review conducted by the visiting evaluation team and the team's recommendation to the NCAA. As a provisional member, we are now allowed to display the NCAA logo. Additionally, we are now required to put in force the required compliance measures.

Visit by the Non-Profit Leadership Alliance representative

Marcia Cross, one of the leaders of the NPLA, visited campus and met with deans and others to discuss our potential membership in this organization. This organization provides for professional training and support of institutions for students' potential non-profit careers and activities. As members of the alliance, an institution is qualified to provide students professional certification. The NPLA will also work with institutions to provide guidance on the development of curricula in non-profit leadership training. Ms. Cross was favorably impressed with MSU and expressed her eagerness to work with us to assist in seeking membership.

EID Passport meetings

EID Passport is a technology company that has recently opened a site in Minot. Working closely with the Minot Area Development Corporation and the ND Department of Commerce, EID will bring to Minot high-end technology services. This company has expressed interest in working with MSU to collaborate on a software engineering program in our computer science department. Dr. Moen had worked closely with them in the planning for a proposed concentration. The recent meetings with MSU officials were focused on considering a Homeland Security training operation, criminal justice research, and a partnership with a national security consortium. Dr. Achambeault from CJ, Britney Welk from RCJC, Kris Warmoth, Brian Foisy, and Lenore Koczon, and I participated in this four-hour meeting. Steve Larson, the CEO of EID Passport, Jim Robell, the Chief Operating Officer, and two visitors, Dr. Kiernan and Mr. Mark Johnson, accompanied them and participated in the meeting.

Meeting with Model Alumni to discuss displays

We met with two representatives of the Model Alumni organization to discuss the displays of their trophies, memorabilia, and photographs of their graduates. With the need to move those displays from the Dome because of the reorganization of the Dome, we agreed to move the major display of the photographs of the graduates to the first floor of Model Hall. That display now takes up the full north side of the first floor aisle. Because of a limitation on space in Model, we discussed our inability to display all other items and trophies, but suggested that they could use the two glass enclosed cases at the south entrance of the building to display selected items. We suggested that those displays could be rotated to highlight special themes, years, and events for the Model Alumni. One proposal that they offered was to also put additional displays, mostly for their trophies, on one of the walls in the second floor lounge in Swain Hall. I did not support this proposal because of the potential for this to conflict with the architectural designs and appearance in that newly renovated Swain Hall, but I expressed by continued support to display selected

items in honor of the graduates in Model Hall. We are pleased to be able to provide the space on the first floor of Model to honor the graduates and to highlight special events in the display cases.

Meeting with Dakota College at Bottineau to review and discuss Passport program

We had a good meeting with DCB staff to discuss the Passport program, review the anticipated number of participants, and to hear about DCB's plans for providing special remedial training to these students who are less likely to succeed and persist to graduation. DCB is planning on hiring a coordinator of Passport, who will be housed on the MSU campus.

George Kuh scheduled to visit during convocation week

Beth Odahlen and the CETL staff have arranged for a special return visit to campus by George Kuh, the scholar who has studied the impact of student engagement on their success and persistence. He visited MSU three years ago when we were first identifying the theme of engagement as central to MSU's mission and vision. At that time he discussed the National Survey of Student Engagement, an instrument he has been responsible for developing, and reviewed our scores and emphasized the value of student engagement as a means to ensure student success. He will make a presentation to campus during convocation and work with smaller groups in his two-day visit.

Plans to change the Fall Kickoff event location

Due to the flood and the resulting temporary closure of the Minot Zoo, our Staff Senate has begun making alternative plans for the fall kick-off event. More details will be forthcoming from Staff Senate, but the general plan is to hold the barbecue and event in front of Old Main the evening of our convocation day for our faculty and staff and their families and for all students living on campus at that time. Staff Senate will be providing specific details to the campus.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since June 15, 2011):

June

- Luncheon meeting with Trinity CEO
- Public information meeting
- Meeting with NDUS auditor
- Hosted State Board of Higher Education reception prior to board meeting on campus
- Hosted the State Board of Higher Education full-day meeting on our campus
- Meeting to discuss VPAA transition
- Staff Senate president meeting
- Luncheon with Dr. Koczon
- Native American Cultural Center director candidate meetings and open forums
- Attended Summer Theater "The Drowsy Chaperone."
- Attended the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Board meeting in Minneapolis
- Meeting with Non-Profit Leadership Alliance representative who visited campus to discuss the alliance
- One-one-one meetings with President's Staff members
- President's Staff Monday meetings
- Unable to attend the Chancellor Cabinet retreat in Medora due to advent of the flood emergency on June 22
- Various emergency meetings and open campus forums to address flood emergency

July

- Native American Cultural Center Director interview and forums
- Emergency team meetings
- Homeland Security update meeting
- Meeting with representatives from EID Passport to discuss collaborative ideas.
- President's Staff meeting to focus on flooding issues.

- Welcomed Connect session and students and parents in Ann Nicole
- Luncheon to discuss capital campaign leadership plans
- Meeting with Bottineau administrators regarding the Passport Program
- Met with Model alumni to discuss displays of memorabilia in Model Hall
- Meeting with Sodexo management
- Security Director open forum
- Luncheon with Board of Regents president
- Public Information director meeting
- Follow up meeting regarding EID Passport initiatives
- Nursing candidate meeting
- MADC Board of Directors meeting
- Interview with KMOT regarding MSU's flood responses
- Interview with KXMC regarding flood responses
- Interview of candidate for athletic marketing position
- Full-day meeting with UND representatives regarding flood response
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- President's Staff meetings
- Attended Summer Theater's production of My Fair Lady.

Concluding Remarks

How can anyone ever anticipate and prepare adequately for the emergency that hit Minot and our surrounding area? While there was a notice, the speed and force of the flood was unpredictable. While we had an emergency response plan and process defined for addressing an emergency and means of communicating major announcements through Notifind to our campus members, there was very little substantively that one could do to be ready for such a catastrophic event. We were able to make some major changes, such as the construction of a dike along University Avenue. The incredible devastation we have witnessed during the first few days of the crest and even through today has had an immense impact on the people in our area, and most immediately to many of our faculty, staff, and students. What is most apparent right now is that we have to do everything possible to help our people make it through the loss of their homes and the huge impact this has had on their lives. At the same time, we must keep focused on the needs of our students and the start of our academic year in less than a month. Our priorities, obviously, are to help our faculty and staff through this, and to make preparations for the return of students and for classes to start. The recovery in Minot will take a long time, and Minot State University needs to be prepared to continue to support the community and the people in every way it can. Fortunately, our campus was not damaged, and our facilities are in good shape to start the year. At the same time, we'll need to lend our support to our own people to assist them as they prepare to begin the year.

I'll end these remarks acknowledging some of the many MSU people who went way beyond the call of duty to work to protect the university and to work tirelessly on behalf of the evacuees and the agency personnel on our campus. This is not an all-inclusive list but here are some of the people who deserve our thanks: Wes Matthews for helping the Red Cross and working with emergency personnel until late in the evenings and on weekends; Roger Kluck, Terry Wald, and the rest of the maintenance and security staff for their 24-hour, seven-days a week vigilance to monitor the campus and take bold steps to protect our facilities and people; Lisa Eriksmoen and her staff for a nearly impossible and endless job coordinating placement and assignments in our residence halls for literally thousands of visitors; Cathy Horvath and her entire ITC staff for their behind the scenes work to keep our technology infrastructure working and protected; Lynda Bertsch and Kevin Harmon on their support and their persistent focus on preparing for Connect sessions and to welcoming incoming students; members of my President's Staff who have all devoted long hours and seven days a week to working behind the scenes to coordinate and

support our flood response efforts; all members of our emergency response team; and the countless others on our campus who have volunteered (and continue to volunteer) to help displaced colleagues and families and to assist the agencies on campus.

I know that all of these people have gone far beyond the demands of their jobs because they are devoted to helping so many who have suffered in this emergency and because they are committed to MSU and its core purposes and values. When you get a chance, please share with them your sense of appreciation for the work they have done on our behalf.

David Fuller
July 20, 2011