

**<sup>1</sup>President's Monthly Report**  
**Minot State University**  
**August 25, 2008**

The summer months went by quickly but allowed time for planning and preparation for the start of a new academic year. The first annual reports describing the achievements and accomplishments for the Vision 2013 action plans were compiled and published and provided to all faculty and staff at the annual Fall Convocation. Our efforts to study and compile research on the public regional universities in the Great Plains allowed us to identify all regional universities. We were also able to determine which schools enjoyed higher levels of success in retention rates, graduation rates, and other performance indicators. Minot State University's goal to become one of the premier, regional universities in the "great" Great Plains depends on our ability to identify those institutions that can be categorized as premier based on a number of performance standards and then setting our objectives to reach and exceed those standards. It is encouraging to know that we already meet and exceed a good number of performance indicators at our peer institutions and the aspiration universities.

Eight universities have been identified initially as the premier universities of the Great Plains, and additional research is now being conducted on each of the schools. Further, our institutional researcher and academic coordinator have been compiling all data from the state reports on the Roundtable's Cornerstone performance measures. Those reports identify a host of similar performance indicators for each of the universities and colleges in North Dakota since 2001. We have encoded those data and graphed the performances of each university and Minot State University to provide us with additional performance benchmarks. With the definition of those benchmarks, the analysis of Great Plains institutions, and our continued alignment of our areas and practices with Vision 2013 goals and strategies, we are confident that we are making significant progress toward meeting our goal in 2013. Our work to reach our 2013 goal and to meet our objectives to raise our performance standards exceptionally high continues at a good pace. One notable improvement has occurred in our five-year Compensation Task Force efforts to increase salaries and reach 100% of market rates.

The Fall Convocation offered us a good opportunity to welcome our new faculty and staff, hear reports from our senate presidents and vice presidents, assess the previous year, and to identify new goals and directions for the new academic year. We are excited about the new year and the promise it brings for our students, our faculty and staff, and our university.

## **Current**

### New Dean of Admissions joins campus

Mr. Kevin Harmon, the former superintendent of the Minot Catholic Schools, accepted our offer to serve as the new dean of admissions. Mr. Harmon brings years of experience in education, an in-depth knowledge of our community and region, and a new perspective on the critical areas of recruitment and admissions. We look forward to his leadership and contributions to MSU.

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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, deans, 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.

### New Public Information Director

Mr. Mark Lyman, the former news anchor for KMOT Television, has joined us as our new public information director. Mark's knowledge of media, communications, and Minot State University will provide us with strong leadership in public information on campus. He has already taken remarkable steps to strengthen our communications with the media.

### Withdrawal of MSU Center of Excellence grant award

In August of 2007, Minot State University received initial approval of its Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center proposal submitted to the ND Department of Commerce. By October MSU received final approval from the ND legislature for a \$2.1 million dollar award pending submission of the required 2:1 match and a letter of commitment from the private partner. Minot State University was proud to partner with InfoTech in this project and looked forward to an effective means of supporting economic development for the community and region and for a cutting-edge curriculum at MSU. A complication over the ownership of \$800,000 of data equipment arose at the outset nearly one full year ago. The primary complication came from the question of ownership of the data equipment. The state of North Dakota does not issue grants or direct awards of revenues or equipment to a private sector partner according to ND Century Code and a variety of state agency policies.

For most of the year Minot State and its partner have attempted to address this problem about ownership but without success. The many solutions that we discussed were not satisfactory in the end nor were they allowable by state law and policy. The Department of Commerce informed MSU that it must receive the required private sector match information, the letter of commitment from InfoTech, and the verification that the project will start before August 20—a date on which the COE Commission planned to distribute funds to new projects. It was apparent immediately before that deadline that MSU would not be able to find a solution and complete those details by that deadline.

On August 18, MSU notified the Department of Commerce that it could not resolve the issues regarding the equipment and intended at that point to withdraw its application. Everyone involved, from the private partner, to Minot State, and the Department of Commerce, worked exceptionally hard and cooperatively to find a solution. All of us at Minot State University were disappointed that we were unable to consummate this worthy and promising project.

### Move-In Day

Faculty, staff, administrators and their families and spouses, football players, and even Board of Regent members spent a full day helping new students and their parents move their possessions into the residence halls a few days prior to the start of classes. A barbecue, music, and a lot of helping hands greeted and welcomed the new students. Parents and students appreciated the help and enjoyed the friendly welcome to campus.

### Preliminary Enrollment projections

The first full-day of classes on August 26 will yield some preliminary and unofficial indications of fall enrollment. All universities and colleges in the NDUS provide official reports on the fourth week following the start of school. Specific information regarding enrollments by categories will be compiled by MSU on that fourth-week report. Preliminary indications are that MSU's headcount will decline slightly, although there are many positive signs about increases in first-year applications, enrollments from Ward County, and Canadian enrollments.

#### Delay in the construction of Monument sign on Broadway

The call for construction bids for the new monument sign resulted in only one bid. The amount of the bid significantly exceeded the architects' projections on costs. A new call for bids will be made in October, with the projected completion of the monument sign slated to occur in the spring.

#### Vision 2013 Annual Achievement Reports

Two reports have been completed which identify the specific institutional and departmental accomplishments and achievements for each of the strategies for Vision 2013. The reports were distributed at Fall Convocation and are available on the MSU web site on the following page <http://www.minotstateu.edu/2013/>. Annual reports will be generated each year through 2013 to show the extent to which the university has realized the vision and goal.

#### Swain Hall vacated and asbestos abatement begins

The MSU maintenance staff has completed the move out of Swain Hall. Most of the facilities and functions in Swain have been relocated into the Dome. The maintenance staff under the leadership of Roger Kluck has done an outstanding job with this difficult activity.

#### Renovation of the MSU Dome

A new football locker room, new football coach offices, a weight-lifting room for athletes, and the full wellness center and equipment have been placed in the Dome. The new facilities for each of these functions are now nearly complete and ready for the start of the new academic year. Again, the maintenance staff and many others deserve a special note of appreciation for this work.

#### Registrar's Office Renovated

The Records and Registrar's office has been newly remodeled and renovated. The new facility provides students with an open and inviting support center to assist them with their registrations and enrollments.

#### Title III application notice

The \$1.5 million dollar proposal submitted to the Department of Education's Title III program was not approved. On a scale with 100 being the most points generated, the MSU proposal garnered 91 points. Work is now underway to revise and resubmit.

#### Planning for renovation of old post office as Public Information Offices

The Public Information Offices will be relocated from the third floor of the Student Center to a renovated space in the administration building (formerly the MSU post office). This space should provide better access to faculty, staff, and students.

#### Preparations for the start of the ND Legislative session

The North Dakota University System, the State Board of Higher Education, and the individual presidents and campuses are now preparing for the new legislative session. Plans are underway to support the NDUS budget request and individual requests from MSU. We are looking forward to a good session and support for higher education.

## List of Selected Activities and Events (since June 18, 2008)

### June

- State Board of Higher Education meeting at NDSU in Fargo
- Chief Information Officer Interviews in Fargo
- Meeting with prospective donor
- Presentation to Deans Council regarding Regional Stewardship Symposium
- Board of Regents social/picnic, and summer meeting
- Full-day one-on-one meetings with each member of President's Staff to discuss next year activities.

### July

- Continued full-day meetings with President's Staff members
- Chancellor's Cabinet retreat in Bismarck
- Meeting with Staff Senate president
- Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting
- Trinity Board meeting
- MSU Foundation Board meeting to discuss Center of Excellence proposal
- President's Staff full-day retreat
- George Mellon's Beaver Booster dinner and awards presentations at Country Club
- Conference call with architects from Clark Enersen regarding landscaping plan
- Conference call with Center of Excellence Commission to seek approval for revised application
- Wellness Center architect meetings
- Farewell event for Jim Eykyn at Holiday Inn
- NDCPD's press conference to announce new grant awards
- Meeting with new publisher of Minot Daily News
- Luncheon meeting with member of Board of Regents
- Vacation

### August

- Meeting with Odney Advertising
- Lunch with Superintendent of Minot Public Schools
- Meeting regarding art proposal
- Review of institutional research data
- Staff Senate meeting
- Welcome to Minot Public School administrators at workshop on MSU campus
- Participated in the MSU-Bottineau presentation to the Center of Excellence Commission
- Visited Senator Dorgan's office in Bismarck; met with staff members
- Dakota Athletic Conference Board meeting in Bismarck; elected president of the Board of Directors of the Conference
- Update meeting on ESL Institute agreement and plans
- Welcomed new faculty at orientation
- News media interviews regarding decision to withdraw COE proposal
- Picnic hosted at home for new faculty, spouses and members of President's Staff
- Chamber Board meeting
- MSU Fall Kickoff at Zoo
- Fall Convocation
- Attended individual meetings of MSU colleges
- Hosted ice cream sundae and float social on quad for faculty and staff
- Participate in freshman move-in day; helping students and parents move into residence halls.
- Welcomed JCEMP students on campus
- Meeting with the President of the Board of Regents

David Fuller  
August 25, 2008