

**Office of the President  
Minot State University  
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,  
University Cabinet, and the MSU Board of Regents  
October 18, 2006**

In the past, this monthly report was provided to the University Cabinet, a general advisory council comprised of all university supervisors, directors, and senate presidents. The report will continue to be provided to the Cabinet with the encouragement to discuss the items with their respective constituencies. To ensure that all campus members, student leaders, our Regents, and members of our Foundation Board and Alumni Board members are apprised of monthly topics, we will also be distributing the report directly those individuals. My intention is to make sure that campus constituencies receive timely and current updates on campus topics and issues.

Moreover, I am going to be scheduling monthly breakfast meetings with any or all members of our campus the morning following the Wednesday meeting of the University Cabinet. On the day of the Cabinet meeting, which is usually held on the third Wednesday of the month, a copy of the President's Report will be distributed by e-mail. The following morning at 7:30, I will hold a general forum to discuss and respond to questions about items on the report or any other topics of interest to our campus. The regular open forums held at least once each semester will continue to be scheduled as well. My purpose in all of this is to make sure that communication is enhanced, clear, and two-way.

**Current**

- First-Year Student Residency Requirement  
Specific expectations for the residency requirement have been outlined. This requirement will be instituted in the fall of 2007 for first-year students. Marketing materials are being developed to provide to the MSU recruiters the rationale and advantages of living on campus and the policies and procedures for the requirement. There are a variety of justifiable exemptions that students may present. The First-Year Residency Task Force, made up of faculty, staff, students, and administrators, studied and proposed this requirement. The task force presented the proposal to the Student Association, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate. Each of senates reviewed the proposal and recommended approval to the President's Staff. The proposal was approved by President's Staff in June. The policies and procedures will be presented to University Cabinet for its review.
- Chinese Delegation  
In November Dr. Rabe and the college deans will travel to Sias International University in China to discuss the partnership and specific articulation arrangements for student and faculty exchanges. Plans for additional exchanges, study tours to China, and cohorts of students attending Minot State University will be discussed and formalized.
- Chancellor's Search Committee  
A search committee has been formed to identify and recommend candidates for the North Dakota University System chancellor's position. I was asked to serve on this committee. The tentative plan is to recommend to the State Board of Higher Education names of finalists, with a new chancellor appointed to begin by July 1.

- Chair of ConnectND Oversight Committee  
I have been asked to chair the ConnectND Oversight Committee. This committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation progress and other issues and then reporting regularly to the State Board of Higher Education.
- Skein Norway and Scandinavian visit  
During the Minot-Skein Sister City meeting last week, the Skein delegation's expressed its interest in having a Minot delegation visit Norway. To build on our local heritage and place with attention to our new strategic plan, I am very interested in developing university partnerships with Scandinavian countries, particularly Norway and Denmark. There are initial discussions about sending a delegation to Norway in May. If I were to visit Norway with the delegation, I would want to meet with university officials in both countries to discuss partnerships and exchanges. The tentative dates are from May 14 to May 23, a few days after our May 11 commencement.
- Visit by the Rector of Kadir Has Univeristy in Istanbul to discuss a partnership  
The Rector (president) of Kadir Has University in Istanbul has contacted me to explore a possible partnership with his university in Istanbul. Prior to coming to Minot State University, I worked with others to develop a partnership between my previous institution and Kadir Has. I also visited Kadir Has during that time. The Rector is planning to visit Minot State University in the next couple of weeks. The exact date and times have not been finalized. During his visit, I want to invite many of our faculty and staff to meet with the Rector.
- Cornerstone Goals for 2006-2007  
The alignment plans for Minot State University's Roundtable goals will be reviewed by Cabinet and submitted to the State Board of Higher Education this week. The plans and objectives will be shared with Cabinet and faculty and staff throughout the year.
- Strategic Plan  
The new strategic plan will be published in the next two weeks and distributed to faculty, staff, student leaders, members of the Board of Regents, and members of our Alumni Board. The unabridged version will be available at that time. An abbreviated version (circa 30 pages) will be published and shared with local legislators, our legislative delegation in Washington DC, state officials, and city officials. The new vision and goal will be discussed with many constituencies. Following the convocation in August and the open-forum discussions in mid-September, all comments and suggestions were recorded, considered, and most incorporated into the revised draft. The final draft will be representative of the interests, concerns, and recommendation of faculty, staff, students, and other external constituencies. The implementation plan in the final section of both versions will provide the guidance for aligning the plan with academic and non-academic areas on campus and establishing means by which we identify action plans to realize the strategies and major goal. Funding possibilities will be explored.
- State Board of Higher Education meeting in Devil's Lake  
The meeting covered standard academic recommendations and SBHE policies. Special topics included a discussion about the current search for the chancellor, ConnectND, and an extensive discussion with the director of the Alcohol Consortium about the challenges with alcohol problems on our campuses.
- Local Media meetings  
A series of meetings with local media has been scheduled this month and next month. The purposes of these meetings are to introduce our staff to the media management

and writers/announcers, explain the new objectives of the MSU Public Information Office, and to seek feedback from these media about how MSU can improve its dissemination of information to the community and region. The two meetings that have been completed have been very productive and informative.

- Presentation to OMB in Bismarck

The presidents of each college and university made budget and financial presentations to OMB. I voiced my support for the SBHE budget proposal and request for 21% of the state budget. I also reiterated my concern about salaries, deferred maintenance issues on campus, the funding of the two capital projects (Swain and the Dome indoor track), and the high cost of energy. I urged OMB members and attending members from the Governor's Office to allocate dollars from the surplus to support these special needs of higher education and Minot State University.

- Family Weekend

The campus decided to schedule this event during our Homecoming Weekend. Last year it was scheduled in October. This event and last year's event had a low and disappointing turnout. While the planning committee scheduled a number of very interesting and important events for the parents and students, the schedule did not attract more than a handful of parents. We will continue to work to make Family Weekend a success. Last night I asked the Student Association for their ideas about how to make it a success, and asked that they provide these ideas to me later.

- International Director

The search committee recommended a candidate and an offer was extended. Dr. Rabe has informed me that the offer was accepted. The new director is scheduled to start work at the end of December. She is also scheduled to visit China with our delegation in November.

- Beaver Dam Grand Opening

The carpet is tentatively scheduled to be installed at the end of October. A grand opening will be scheduled shortly after.

- Campus Master Plan

The recently presented master plan is serving as the guide for future campus projects and planning. The Broadway road project, for instance, will incorporate ideas for landscaping, lighting, cross-walks, and a walkway over Broadway to highlight the university and to provide access to students and visitors. The next step is to contract with a landscape architect to identify specific dimensions of the campus master plan, such as the opening of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, walking paths across campus, improved signage, and other building recommendations.

- Library Kiosk

The installation of the kiosk in the library has encountered unexpected delays. The latest word is that the construction of the kiosk is completed and will be shipped shortly. Time will tell.

- Vandalism

There have been a number of cases of vandalism and petty theft on our campus. We are taking appropriate steps to report these incidents and attempt to identify those responsible. The recent Red and Green reported on some insidious cases in our newly renovated Crane Hall. We are taking aggressive steps to identify those people responsible for this senseless destruction of our property. If you are aware of any vandalism or other such cases on campus, please notify Jared Edwards or your immediate supervisor. It is important that we do everything we can to keep our campus beautiful.

- Student Safety  
The Student Association is responding to some concerns from students about safety and security. The Student Association committee and Dr. Jenkins toured the campus at night recently and identified specific areas needing improvement. Other suggestions are being considered.
- Buckshot's Area and future planning for faculty and staff lounge  
In addition to the renovation of the new multicultural center on the south side of Buckshot's, a faculty and staff eating area and lounge is being designed for the area to the west of the serving lines in Buckshot's. Quite a few faculty and staff already eat in that particular area. The plan is to hang permanent artwork, provide newspapers, and place soft chairs, coffee tables, and reading lamps in the area to the far west of that section near the translucent windows. As in other areas on campus, the goal is to enhance engagement on campus and provide a variety of informal gathering spaces for faculty, staff, and students.

### **Schedule of Activities (since last University Cabinet meeting on September 20)**

- September 20: Visited with WGO & ZOO Radio owners and managers to discuss ways to improve our dissemination of MSU public information. This meeting was the first in a series of meetings scheduled with local media. Kim Thompson, Linda Benson, and I are participating in these meetings to introduce our new public information goals and processes.
- September 21: Attended the State Board of Higher Education at Lake Region in Devil's Lake.
- September 22: MSU Homecoming Weekend; welcomed participants who attended the Ken Becker Reunion; attended MSU Greek Reunion; start of Family Weekend
- September 23: Participated in the MSU Homecoming Parade and attended tailgate functions and the football game; in the evening drove to Bottineau to attend the MSU-Bottineau Evergreen fundraising event.
- September 24: Attended the faculty recital of Erik Anderson's and Dianna Anderson's piano and cello performance.
- September 25: Hosted a welcome luncheon for Professor Li, the visiting professor from Sias International University; his visit and stay this semester is a part of our partnership agreement with Sias University.
- September 26: Attended the Xcel Energy Advisory Board meeting in Minneapolis.
- September 29: The MSU Board of Regents meeting was held on campus (unable to attend because of illness).
- October 4: Held the regular "Chat with the President" for students in the new multicultural center; later met with the athletic department to discuss waivers, recruitment, and planning.
- October 5: Welcomed the Chamber Community Leadership Institute on campus; later presented the MSU's budget and financial needs to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Bismarck.
- October 6: Attended MSU's successful alumni GALA event at the Holiday Inn.
- October 7: Attended the Minot Symphony Orchestra and the special performance by Arve Tollefson, a reputable Norwegian violinist visiting Minot as a part of the Hostfest events.
- October 9: Accompanied Arve Tollefson to the noon Rotary Club for a special violin performance as a start of the Hostfest week; meeting with Minot Daily News publisher, editor, and feature writer as a part of our series of meetings with local

media (see first meeting explanation on September 20); bi-monthly meeting with the Faculty Senate president, Alex Deufel; attended the Northwest Arts Center presentation by the visiting photographer and alumna Roseanne Olson.

- October 10: Hosted a breakfast on campus for a visiting Hostfest dignitary, the Icelandic Consul, Magnus Gustaffson; accompanied the Danish Consul, Anelise Sawkins, to the Joint Service Club meeting and later to the Governor's Reception in honor of the start of the Norsk Hostfest.
- October 11: Accompanied the Danish Consul to a Diplomats breakfast at Hostfest; attended the Minot Area Development Corporation news conference involving Senator Dorgan who announced federal funding for the new Info-Tech project coming to Minot; this project will involve MSU students and faculty; attended the College of Education's luncheon to discuss NCATE and assessment; visited with the University of North Dakota's deans' and provosts' as a part of their visit to MSU; attended the Norsk Hostfest Hall of Fame Banquet.
- October 12: Attended the Minot Area Development Corporation Board meeting; attended one of the performances of Jeanne Boe, a visiting dramatist, who performed Peer Gynt: With Troll in Heart in the MSU Blackbox theatre (this performance was a collaborative event supported by MSU as a part of the Hostfest week); met with project engineers to discuss the Broadway renovation and the impact on MSU; attended the Skein-Minot Sister City Dinner hosted by Mayor Zimbelman.
- October 13: Met with other city officials and the Skein-Norway delegation to discuss cooperative opportunities between our respective cities; met with the Swain Hall Committee to discuss the committee charge and project; my wife and I volunteered as a greeters at the Norsk Hostfest entrance in the afternoon.
- October 16: Attended breakfast meeting with representatives of the First Nations and MSU faculty and staff to discuss a special education master's degree program; participated in a meeting to discuss Title III and Title IV grant proposals for MSU; meeting with the Staff Senate president, Julie Drum; attended ribbon cutting for the new Minot High School Technical Center; hosted the entire MSU Student Association at our house in the evening.
- October 17: Attended the monthly Chamber of Commerce Board meeting.

### **Concluding Remarks**

I continue to be so impressed by what happens daily in our classrooms, our research laboratories, and in so many areas across campus. So much of what is in this President's Report includes activities at the margins of the central activities promoting and supporting student learning, growth, and welfare. Through much of what I'm engaged in throughout the week, I become ever-more appreciative of the excellent work our faculty and staff are doing on behalf of our students and our university. Thanks to all of you who demonstrate your devotion to our students and your dedication to ensuring the welfare of Minot State University.

David Fuller  
October 18, 2006