

**¹President's Monthly Report
Minot State University
November 19, 2008**

This month the campus continued to remain active and engaged in multiple initiatives and activities. The NotStock event on campus attracted many local school students and MSU faculty, staff, and students to the Beaver Dam for demonstrations of art, musical performances, and discussions. The November elections also engaged many on our campus in our democratic processes. The MSU Student Government Association and other students were active in encouraging and supporting others to vote. Led by President Ken Story, the students sponsored a reception for local legislators and provided students on campus rides to the polls. Dr. Bethany Andreasen from our history department joined the KMOT anchor team on election night, to report on election results. The day following the elections, Dr. Andreasen and Dr. Jonathan Wagner were interviewed by KMOT regarding the election results. Our Social Work Club and faculty again sponsored a successful event in support of homeless people in the annual "Freezin' for a Reason." Countless other activities on campus, from athletics to cultural events, engaged many on campus and from the community in Minot State University. The commitment to engagement and our local place was obvious on a daily basis in October and November.

Current Topics, Issues, and Proposals

Growing North Dakota Program Approval

The Minot State University proposal to modify its tuition structure to a "flat-rate" charge was approved by the State Board of Higher Education at its recent meeting. The "flat-rate" model allows us to charge one rate to in-state and out-of-state students. This new rate will become effective in fall 2009. Currently, many individuals are participating in planning meetings to discuss marketing of this new plan and other preparations on campus to accommodate the new plan.

Open Forum Discussions

On November 13 two open forums were held to discuss with faculty and staff proposed new Vision 2013 initiatives, the Growing North Dakota plan, the proposal for a new coal boiler, and other topics of interest. Feedback was solicited in response to plans to proceed with the start-up of a number of Vision 2013 action plans proposed by the seven action teams. Local and one-time funds were designated to proceed with a new faculty sabbatical program, a competitive grant program for faculty and staff to support Vision 2013, diversity initiatives, a significant upgrade for teaching and learning to classrooms and technology, international initiatives, the start-up of initiatives defined by the Foundations of Excellence self-study last year, support for a student success center and a coordinator for civic engagement and experiential learning, two new recruiters and an enhanced marketing budget, a first-year coordinator for the Studies in the Community and the Environment program, start-up one-time funds for the Center for the Applied Study of Cognition and Learning Science (CASCLS), and continued support of master planning

¹ 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.

initiatives. The Growing North Dakota Program was discussed and questions answered. Other topics discussed were: the proposal for the new main coal boiler to the State Board of Higher Education, parking, and the recent decision to cancel classes and close the campus due to the snow storm. Questions and discussions included but not limited to: plans for a childcare facility, identification of spruce trees to move north of the Summer Theatre, the status of the landscape plan, and the efforts to remove snow from the football field.

Parking

At the open forum, there were questions about the current parking policies and recent closure of lots to accommodate designated visitors and groups. Concerns were expressed that certain lots have been closed temporarily (e.g., to accommodate legislators invited by the NDUS Chancellor), forcing students and faculty and staff to move to other lots. Others expressed concern that some people were not aware that these lots were going to be closed, despite the public notices. Some explained that not everyone was aware of the closures. The Student Government Association has expressed an interest to review proposals to close student lots. Some faculty who were not aware of the two temporary closures expressed concerns that they needed to move to other lots and thus risk getting a fine. Roger Kluck explained that any person needing to park in another lot (that is not designated as their lot on their permit) as a result of a lot closure will have their tickets waived. It is obvious that better notification and review of closures are necessary to avoid issues like these. Another related parking concern deals with fines administered for not displaying the required permit. Apparently there are incidents in which the permits are not displayed, tickets are administered for not displaying the permits, and when appealed, the parking subcommittee does not waive all tickets when appealed. These incidents are being reviewed to see how the processes may be improved.

Snow Closure Procedures

On Friday November 7 the initial decision at 6:00 a.m. to hold classes was eventually changed at 7:15 a.m. due to deteriorating conditions. Notification of the cancellation and campus closure, as a result of the review after 7:00 a.m., was given shortly before 8:00 a.m. Concerns were expressed about the late notice. A discussion of the procedures at the open forums and a letter to the campus recently explained the published procedures and the reasons for the late notice.

Main Coal Boiler

At the recent State Board of Higher Education meeting, Minot State presented new information regarding the costs of renovating or replacing the coal boiler. Currently, MSU's boiler is ranked fifth on the Chancellor's capital projects lists. The original plan to replace the boiler with a new one for \$3.75 million was modified when we were informed by Prairie Engineering that the costs for a new boiler project is estimated to be \$10 million. The SBHE considered the various options facing Minot State, and reconfirmed its commitment to the fifth ranked project at \$3.75 million. We are currently looking at funding options to cover the additional costs of the project for installing a new boiler at \$10 million.

Campus Master Plan and Landscape Plan Approval

The master planning steering committee reviewed the final draft of the landscape plan submitted by Clark-Enersen Partners architectural firm. The full landscape plan and the major initiatives were reviewed and discussed. The steering committee voted unanimously to recommend its support of the plan on the condition that the number of spaces available for parking is studied to accommodate current parking and future parking needs.

Meeting with Senates to Review HLC Team Recommendations

The Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association, and the University Cabinet were presented a list of recommendations and directions included in the recent Higher Learning Commission team report. The progress report on enrollment management due in 2011 was discussed, as were other specific team recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed and pursued between now and the time the progress report is submitted in 2011. I emphasized to each of the senates that the HLC team praised the campus and decided that each of the five Criteria for Accreditation were met.

Reception with Local Legislators

A reception for local legislators is scheduled this month to meet and greet the legislators and to share with them university initiatives, plans, and special projects. MSU highly values the support and guidance given to the university by our local legislators.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since October 15, 2008)

October

- MSU Foundation Board Meeting
- Trinity Board and Corporate Meeting
- Community Visits to Stanley and Williston
- Chamber Government Affairs Committee presentation with Chancellor Goetz
- Meeting with Chancellor Goetz and Ken Grosz to discuss MSU-Bottineau
- Discussion with Williston State College and MSU-Bottineau to discuss gen ed classes in Minot
- Visit with NASM accreditation team
- Discussion with local radio station
- Student Government Association meeting to discuss HLC results
- Chamber Board meeting
- Staff Senate meeting to discuss HLC results and other topics
- Attended Rock the Vote with local legislators
- Participated in meeting with local legislators and Chancellor Goetz
- Retention and Graduation Rate meeting with deans
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Marching band meeting
- Visit to local radio station to discuss MSU
- Meeting with Staff Senate President
- Meeting with Faculty Senate President
- Lunch with former mentee
- Meeting with former mentee
- Studies in the Community and Environment meeting
- Faculty Senate meeting to discuss HLC results and other topics
- Theater performance
- Athletic events
- Concert Band performance
- Broadway Ribbon cutting
- Concert Choir performance
- Planning and Budgeting Council meeting
- NotStock events and reception
- NotStock Panel presentation
- NAC lecture

- Interviewed by nationally syndicated cable TV program
- Ackerman-Estevold Engineering Dinner
- Weekly President's Staff meetings

November

- Joint Faculty Senate and Staff Senate meeting to discuss potential collaboration
- Athletic events
- Discussion with community individuals interested in wrestling at MSU
- Meeting with Senator Dorgan, Senator Conrad, and Rep Pomeroy to discuss Vision 2013 initiatives
- Centennial meeting with historians
- Red and Green editor meeting
- SGA president meeting
- SBHE meeting in Williston (by conference call due to the weather); Growing North Dakota and Coal Boiler topics on agenda.
- Luminous Faculty Recital
- Visit to "Freezin' for a Reason event
- Lunch with State Senator
- Meeting to discuss Community Bowl
- Hosted dinner at home for GALA donation
- Campus open forums on Nov 13 Master Plan and Landscape Plan Steering Committee to review and approve final drafts.
- Growing North Dakota Planning meeting.
- Basketball game
- Minot Symphony
- MAFB meeting
- Native American Awareness week events
- Tribal College action plan meeting
- Studies in the Community and Environment meeting.
- Weekly President's Staff meetings.

David Fuller
November 19, 2008