

December 17, 2008

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly Report

Current Topics, Issues, and Proposals

Growing North Dakota Tuition Plan

Information about the new flat-rate tuition plan, approved by the State Board of Higher Education and scheduled to be effective at the start of the fall 2009 academic year, has been distributed widely and advertised in a number of national media. Information is being distributed locally, to other states, Canada, and our international partners. In the coming months, a marketing team will continue to study of adjustments that need to be made on campus to accommodate additional students and to continue to identify potential sites for focused marketing of this plan.

Per-credit charge above 18 credits

A proposal to charge a per-credit charge for any credits above 18 has been presented to the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, and Staff Senate. In a vote of 14 against and 12 in favor, the Student Government Association did not endorse the proposal. The students pointed to the difficulty students would have in completing some programs within four years. The Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate voted to support the proposal. Both the Faculty and Staff Senates based their support on the fact that a load of 16 credits per semester for four years will garner enough credits to complete most programs with 128 credits. Eighteen credits per semester would generate 144 credits in four years. The Budget and Finance Committee of the State Board of Higher Education voted to recommend approval to the full Board, which will meet to consider the proposal on December 18. If approved, MSU will assess the per credit charge starting in the fall semester of 2009.

Planning and Budgeting Council Review and Endorsement of Priority Action Plans

Recently the Planning and Budgeting Council reviewed and endorsed the proposed priority action plans. The full list of approved action plans, budgets, and timeline will be distributed at the January convocation.

Sabbatical Plan and Application Packet Distributed

One of the priority action plans was to support the start-up of a new faculty sabbatical program. The plan, which was developed by a committee of faculty, aims to support nine sabbaticals per year (either a full semester leave at full pay or a full year sabbatical leave at ½ pay) beginning with the 2009-2010 academic year. Due to the need to notify faculty about the opportunity in time to apply for a sabbatical for the next academic year, the application packet was distributed to all faculty in November, with applications due in January.

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.

Governor's Budget Recommendations

Governor Hoeven recently released his executive state budget outlining his recommendations for state funding. The Governor recommendations included an average pay increase for faculty and staff at 5% for each year of the biennium (the SBHE had requested 7%). The SBHE equity requests for MSU were reduced under the Governor's recommendation by \$231,879. The amount of dollars requested for emergency preparedness and security remained the same at \$84,000 under the executive recommendation. The two- and four-year affordability request by the SBHE in the amount of \$986,640 was not supported by the Governor. One time-budget requests were recommended for deferred maintenance (\$595,111) and the capital project for the coal boiler and maintenance facility in the amount of \$3,750,000. The STEM initiative was not recommended in the executive budget. According to our analysis and the report from the SBHE, MSU will need to increase its tuition by 6.5% to cover its portion of the costs for parity.

Visit to Garrison and Max

Recently we travelled to Garrison and Max, visited and toured the local schools, met with students and administrators, and attended and presented at the Chamber Board meeting in Garrison. Dean Harmon presented scholarships to students at both schools.

Local legislator meetings

Last month we invited all local legislators to campus for a reception, a welcome to all new legislators, and presentations covering special initiatives on campus and details of the SBHE budget. Another meeting with local legislators serving on the appropriation committees is scheduled to discuss the SBHE budget recommendations and special projects on the MSU campus.

Chancellor's Cabinet meeting with Native American College Presidents

The Chancellor's Cabinet, all presidents, and vice chancellors met in a joint meeting with the presidents of the North Dakota Native American Colleges. The meeting was very productive and led to a common understanding about the need for the public universities to collaborate and cooperate with our Native American partner institutions. The meeting was held in Bismarck on the United Tribes College campus. Minot State University's partnerships and cooperation were mentioned by our partner institutions during the meeting.

Wrestling and Women's Soccer

A campaign to raise start-up funds for wrestling and women's soccer is commencing this week. Brochures outlining the goals and schedules have been printed and distributed.

Wellness Center Planning

The EAPC architectural firm, which has been hired to develop initial plans for the new Health and Wellness Center, has provided preliminary designs for the new facility. The designs show a 75,000 square foot facility to include space for Student Health, child-care facilities, intramural courts, sports offices and boxes overlooking a new football field, and an exercise equipment facility for students. The center will be connected with Swain Hall in a walkway over 11th Avenue, which will be opened to through traffic. A proposed community bowl, the health and wellness center adjoined to the Dome, exercise facilities, with the completion of Swain Hall will offer our students and campus an exciting new complex for their wellness and education.

Title IV

At present we are making plans to write a Title IV grant proposal to seek funding for a new Student Support Services for Title IV program students. Dr. Jenkins and his staff in student affairs are investigating the possibility and identifying potential projects.

Tobacco-Free Campus

Effective January 1, Minot State University will become a tobacco-free campus. Two years ago, MSU became a smoke-free campus. This designation is a part of Minot State University's plan to seek the CEO Cancer Gold Standard designation for colleges and universities.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since November 19, 2008)

November

- Social and campus presentations to local legislators
- Native American Cultural Appreciation presentations
- Meeting to discuss and plan for Growing North Dakota tuition model
- Presentation to Faculty Senate regarding 18 plus credit charge and Grow North Dakota plan
- Luncheon with local legislator
- Meeting with University Diversity Council chair
- Attended AASCU meeting for presidents in Williamsburg, VA
- Luncheon with Chet Reiten
- Attended MSU Concern Band and Choir concert
- Attended athletic events
- Meeting with Odney Advertising regarding Vision 2013 marketing
- Planning and Budgeting Council meeting to focus on Vision 2013 funding priorities
- Conrad Davidson's presentation
- Chancellor's Cabinet Conference call
- KMSU Inside Out Interview
- Campus Players Christmas Production
- Meeting to discuss Northern Plains Writing Project coordination and support
- Staff Senate president meeting
- Meeting with Honor's Director
- Conference call with NDUS committee regarding tuition

December

- Visit to Garrison and Max communities and schools.
- Presentation to Garrison Chamber Board
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting with Native American College presidents in Bismarck
- Meeting with music division chair and self-study coordinator to discuss NASM self study report
- Meeting with Red and Green editor
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- Trinity Quality Committee meeting
- Staff Senate meeting
- Campus Holiday party
- Weekly President's Staff meetings.

Concluding Remarks

On Monday of this week the vice presidents and I served free breakfasts to about 150 students from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Beaver Creek Café. This event was sponsored by Chartwells and the Student Government Association to support our students who are putting in extra hours to prepare for their examinations this week. Yesterday Nancy and I hosted the annual holiday party on campus. Faculty, staff, and retired faculty and staff, joined us for a festive holiday celebration. Our food service prepared a selection of delicious food and holiday treats, Eric Furuseth and a number of faculty and staff colleagues sang holiday songs, two of our music students played Christmas selections on the piano, and all enjoyed the time together during this joyous holiday season. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and joyous holiday season.

David Fuller
December 17, 2008