

January 27, 2010

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

First Day Spring Headcount

Headcount enrollment on the first day showed an increase of 7.6% or 239 students over this same time at the beginning of the spring semester last year. The FTE increase was 6.5%. Specific changes included: an increase of 10.3% in international enrollments, 4.2% in Canadian students, 19.2% in new freshman students, and 31.3% increase in new transfer students. The graduate enrollment increased by 22%. There was recorded a 4.5% increase in full time undergraduate students, and 10.1% in part-time undergraduate students. Off campus face-to-face enrollments grew by 24.7%, and e-learning/online/IVN enrollments grew by 9.5%. Ward county enrollments increased by 8.5%. Minnesota numbers continued to climb, while Montana enrollments dropped slightly. Overall North Dakota enrollments dropped by 18 students. These numbers are first-day enrollments and will change before the official enrollments recorded in the fourth week.

Centers of Excellence

The North Dakota Department of Commerce recently distributed a call for applications for the next round of Centers of Excellence projects. The legislature has authorized \$10 million dollars in this round to support new projects, with applications due in March. Minot State is planning on submitting one project to support an entrepreneurial program utilizing social networking for regional businesses. Another potential project is one involving collaboration between Trinity Health and MSU's nursing program. A small group of faculty and staff has been meeting throughout this year to consider potential projects. A recent telephone conference with the director of the North Dakota Department of Commerce and the chair of the CoE Commission provided guidance and encouragement about the projects we are considering. We are beginning immediately to prepare applications to submit prior to the deadline.

Admission and Enrollment Criteria Task Force

Dr. Rabe convened a working group including the entire Faculty Policy Committee and the Enrollment Management Steering Committee to examine the proposal in the recent white paper, the feedback received from the campus in the open forums, and to refine a proposal for campus review and approval. The proposed criteria and a proposal for an electronic catalogue and schedule will be coming forward to the senates for review and approval before May. New criteria, if approved, will be utilized in admission reviews starting with the fall of 2011.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. 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 supervisory 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.

NCAA Division II

Melanie DeBoer (assistant athletic director for compliance), Dean Frantsvog (faculty advisor representative), Rick Hedberg (athletic director), and I travelled to Atlanta to participate in workshops, forums, and special meetings regarding our candidacy status in Division II. The meetings provided us with good information and direction regarding all phases of candidacy and MSU's requirements to move into the second year of candidacy. A meeting with the consulting firm guiding our transition to Division II was helpful as we continue to learn about the full scope of the expectations and requirements for our participation in Division II.

Swain Hall

The renovation is proceeding on pace. The building will be completed in July, and move-in scheduled to begin as early as June. During the full-day President's Staff retreat, we devoted a great amount of time considering the logistics of the move into Swain and the related changes occurring as a result of this move.

Internal Planning and Expansion

With the Teacher Education program moving into Swain and the considerable new demands for space in Administration and the Student Center, we have contracted with a local architect to examine current space needs across campus. We are facing the immediate need for student success center expansion as a result of the Foundations of Excellence plan, a potential space for a Title IV Trio program, a space to accommodate the newly funded Community Research and Service Center, and the needs for more space in financial aid, enrollment management, and the business office. Expanded food services space required by increased dorm residency and growing food-service subscriptions will also require additional changes in the Student Center. International program expansion will necessitate additional space as well. As a result, the university must undertake short- and long-term planning for the campus. Discussions with various departments potentially impacted by these moves and additions will be held.

Geothermal Update

My meeting with the U.S. Department of Energy Geothermal staff in Washington DC last week was encouraging. The Department of Energy staff continued to be impressed with our project and encouraged us to look for additional sources from grants and other sources. At this point we are attempting to develop a two-phase project for implementation and funding, although these plans are still preliminary and not definite. These plans were also shared with our congressional delegation. Inner Earth, a company that provides guidance on alternative energy funding sources, has been consulted about our design.

Attendance at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) meeting

In addition to meeting with our congressional delegation and the Department of Energy's geothermal staff while in Washington DC, I participated in the AAC&U preconference all-day workshop on assessment and e-portfolios, attended a wide range of conference sessions on the liberal arts, civic engagement, and assessment, and joined fellow presidents of the AAC&U President's Trust to review and discuss the LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) project and the research showing the connections between liberal education and careers.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since December 16, 2009)

December

- Attended presentation by vendors for artificial turf
- Meeting with EAPC architects regarding turf and field designs

- Conference call with finance company regarding geothermal project.
- Vacation
- Nancy and I hosted holiday reception for MSU boards

January

- Meeting with capital campaign consultant
- Conference call with Department of Commerce director and chair of the Centers of Excellence commission to discuss MSU potential projects and proposals
- Heritage Singers check presentation
- Meeting with architects to discuss Phase I of the stadium renovation
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting via IVN
- Radio interview on Joel Heitkamp's show to discuss Grow North Dakota tuition plan
- President's Staff all-day retreat at Sleep Inn.
- Campaign Feasibility Task Force meeting
- Meeting with human resources to discuss officer classification at MSU
- NCAA annual meeting in Atlanta and candidacy meetings; meeting with MSU consultants.
- Visit to Washington and ND's congressional delegation
- Meeting with geothermal officers with the U.S. Department of Energy in D.C.
- Attended preconference workshop on e-portfolios at the AAC&U meeting in D.C., and the annual meeting; participated in the President's Trust all-day meeting at AAC&U.
- Hosted new international student luncheon.
- Meeting with Dr. Rabe and college deans to discuss planning and academic initiatives in colleges
- Math education candidate
- Meeting with Drs. Rabe and Jenkins to discuss FoE and CETL assignments.
- Student Government Association meeting
- Student Government Association president meeting.

Concluding Remarks

The early enrollment reports are encouraging for the spring. It appears from these first-day records that we continue to see increases in enrollments from other states, countries, and from Ward County. Our undergraduate and graduate enrollments continue to rise according to these early reports, but we'll need to look closely at the official results on the fourth week. With our new CETL director on board and the program starting, our new advising coordinator now on board to establish a strong system-wide advising process, plans for the development of a strong campus-wide internship program, and a host of other exciting academic initiatives underway this semester, our university continues to stay focused on its goal to be a premier university of place and engagement in the Great Plains. Credit for that notable progress is due to the outstanding work of our faculty and staff, the engagement of our students, and the fine support we receive from our alumni and our community.

David Fuller
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