

January 28, 2009

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current Topics, Issues, and Proposals

Presentation to the ND Senate Appropriations Committee

Minot State appeared before the Senate Appropriation Committee to support the higher education bill and to address specific university issues within the SBHE budget. We reiterated our support for the revised SBHE budget requests. We supported the SBHE's call for the increase in affordability dollars, which were not included in the executive recommendation. Minot State emphasized the need for the affordability dollars to allow us to hold tuition increases to 4%, as the Governor has requested. Currently, because of parity allocation formulas, MSU would need to increase its tuition by 6.5% to cover its portion of the salary increases. We also covered the revised estimates needed to replace the main coal boiler with a new boiler and the revised architectural costs required to meet the construction cost shortage and to complete the Swain renovation. A formal booklet was distributed to the senators.

Convocation Cancellation

A snowstorm forced the delay in opening the campus on the day on which the spring convocation was scheduled to be held. The convocation was to include reports from the presidents of Faculty Senate and Staff Senate, an explanation of the results of the study of the premier regional universities in the Great Plains and a review of specific benchmarks, a legislative report, and a summary of the approved Vision 2013 action plans. Because of the cancellation, separate email reports covering two of those topics will be distributed for review prior to open forums scheduled for February 10. The campus will be receiving information on the ten aspiration peers in the Great Plains to review before the open forums. Benchmark performance indicators for each of the ten schools as well as the average scores for each indicator will be shared, and a process explained in which departments will discuss the benchmarks and recommend objectives.

See the following report on our web site:

<http://www.minotstateu.edu/instplan/pdf/greatplainspeerinstitutions-revisions-5.pdf>

Meetings with Senator Dorgan, Conrad, and Representative Pomeroy in Washington DC

I met with each member of our Washington delegation and their staff to discuss Minot State University's current and proposed projects. The current autism program through NDCPD, the

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.

meth education program in RCJC, and the Job Corp Executive Management Program were discussed. Another concept detailing a Center for Community Research and Service was presented to the delegation and the staff. This signature center will provide MSU the ability to facilitate and support the work anticipated by Vision 2013 to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of our community, the environment, and the Great Plains.

The support we receive from our delegation is outstanding. We are very fortunate to have these outstanding public servants representing us in Washington DC. In my experience, they work tirelessly for the good of our state and higher education. Their support of Minot State University has been exceptional, and we are grateful for their support of our university and our vision.

Summit at MSU-Bottineau regarding name change proposal

A full-day summit with faculty, students, community members, and alumni at Bottineau was conducted to review survey results and other information regarding a possible name change. Our own Dr. Linrud made the presentation and led the discussion. At the end of the day, a vote of 20 in favor and 6 against the proposal to change the name represented a strong majority for the change. The name options were reviewed and eventually the name Dakota College of Bottineau was endorsed to submit to the SBHE. A presentation to the SBHE was made and the Board voted to support the name change. The ND legislature will need to entertain a bill for the name change and consider it during the session. In consideration of the data and the recommendation by the campus, I have expressed my support of this change, noting that a change in name will have no effect on the current relationship between our institutions and that the existing name, as the data reveal, creates confusion for prospective students and others.

Health and Wellness Center

The architectural firm of EAPC has made preliminary design plans for the new center. The center will be roughly 75,000 square feet and include a new child care center, our Student Health Center, a future space for expanded nursing program, intramural courts, and an exercise facility. The SBHE approved our request to proceed with the planning with an estimated cost of \$15 million, which will be supported by a combination of student fees, funds garnered through private fundraising, and other funds if the nursing center is authorized.

Premier Regional Universities and Benchmarks

Minot State University's Vision 2013 goal to become one of the premier regional universities in the Great Plains depends on our abilities to reach and exceed the average performance indicators of premier universities in the Great Plains. The indicators and the average scores show that in some we meet and exceed the indicators, and in others they are well within our reach before 2013. The ten aspiration peers in the Great Plains are: University of Nebraska-Kearney; Minnesota State University- Mankato; Pittsburg State University; St. Cloud State University; Chadron State University; Winona State University; Wayne State College; Bemidji State University; Northern State University, and Emporia State University. At the open forums on February 10 we'll share the specific performance indicators. We are looking forward to the exciting challenge to meet and exceed those indicators, so that we can indeed become one of the premier universities in the Great Plains.

Community Bowl

We are calling together a group of community leaders to pursue the idea of a community bowl. Such a community facility continues to make a great deal of economic and practical sense for our region, our university, and our city.

Stimulus Package

The North Dakota University System and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities have forwarded to our campus the key priorities for an economic stimulus program proposed by President Obama. Representative Pomeroy and his staff advised me to begin work identifying eligible projects for infrastructure upgrades, science facilities, alternative energy options, and other imminent building projects. The President's Staff met on Monday to identify eligible projects and to begin describing them in detail when the call for the proposals arrives. We have a good list of eligible projects for consideration.

Centers of Excellence

The North Dakota Legislature appears to be moving toward continued funding of the COE program. Minot State University has identified preliminary and eligible partnerships to pursue and to begin the process of developing proposals. We look forward to submitting at least two competitive proposals during the next round.

Vision 2013 Action Plans

The final list of action plans and the associated costs and oversight have been approved. These include a faculty sabbatical program, support for the Foundations of Excellence First-Year project, CASCLS, a large scale renovation and upgrading of classrooms as requested by departments, the Center for Experiential Teaching and Learning, travel support for field-based learning, professional development support, diversity activities, and others that carry out goals and objectives of Vision 2013.

Next phase of Strategic Planning

According to the schedule for strategic planning outlined in Vision 2013, this spring will see a new focus on the second phase of planning to meet the new vision and goal. All departments will be asked to participate in this inclusive process of setting new objectives.

A Brief but Timely Diversion

Nancy and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the presidential inauguration in Washington DC last week. Participating in an historic event with nearly 2 million people on the mall was memorable and exciting to say the least. To witness the transfer of power and government in such a constructive and non-violent way was a strong testament to the strength of our country, its values, and its people. I mentioned to Jill Schram from the Minot Daily News when she called me the night of the inauguration that the experience reaffirmed in our minds that it is great to be Americans, regardless of one's party affiliation and politics. The mall was filled with literally millions of people of all colors, ages, and backgrounds who were waving American flags, cheering, and singing. The chances of witnessing something as extraordinary and peaceful as this in most places of our world would be slim. Pardon this diversion, but the experience was well worth sharing proudly with others.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since December 17, 2008)

December

- Wellness Center architect meeting
- Trinity Board meeting
- SBHE Conference call
- Hosted Board of Regents holiday social
- Trinity holiday reception and dinner
- President's Staff meetings
- Vacation
- Norsk Hostfest annual meeting
- Hosted meeting with local legislators

January

- Meeting with KXMC
- All-day MSU-Bottineau name change summit in Bottineau
- Chaired Dakota Athletic Conference Presidents Board of Directors meeting
- Meeting with EAPC architects
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting
- Presentation at the ND Senate Appropriations Hearing in Bismarck
- SBHE meeting
- Chinese recruitment planning meeting
- Attended geography class awards presentation

- Conference call with Dr. Davis with Turtle Mountain Community College
- Meeting to discuss Centennial planning
- Chamber legislative Saturday morning forums
- Vacation
- Attended Inauguration in Washington DC
- Meetings with Senator Dorgan, Senator Conrad, and Representative Pomeroy in DC to discuss MSU support and projects
- Trinity Board meeting with CEO candidate
- Basketball games
- Meeting with Student Government Association President
- Meeting with Staff Senate President
- Led three open forums at MSU-Bottineau regarding the HLC self-study and accreditation visit
- Participated in presentation to SBHE regarding MSU-Bottineau's name change proposal.

Concluding Remarks

The snow has fallen and has continued to fall and pile up causing us to have many challenges with our schedules and with campus accessibility. We have had to close campus on two days and to delay the campus opening on another day because of snow storms. Roger and his staff have done an exceptionally fine job in clearing the campus and dealing with the large amounts of snow in the lots and walkways. We thank him and his staff and all employees for their assistance and understanding while the weather has been persistently difficult for travelling to and from work and getting around campus. Besides the weather, much of the work in my office is focused on our legislative session, the aspiration peer analysis, the action plan support, the SBHE and MSU budget, and a few of our critical projects, such as the boiler, the funding for Swain, the proposed health and wellness center, keeping tuition low, and working to seek support for the SBHE and executive recommendations for faculty and staff salary increases. We remain optimistic about the prospect of our requests and our continued work on reaching our goal set in Vision 2013.

As always, I invite any and all to call me directly about any of the items in this monthly report or any other issue or topic on campus. If there are any questions or concerns, I am always available to talk to individuals and to groups about these initiatives, their rationale, and the processes we have followed to set directions. I always welcome anyone to seek clarification about the impetus and the justification for any initiative we undertake to strengthen the university and to ensure that we continue to focus on our mission and vision. In the spirit of complete transparency, honest and open debate, and shared governance, I am confident that the strategic directions we are carrying out represent the interests and wishes of our campus. Thank you for your continued support of our students and our university.

David Fuller
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