

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to University Cabinet and Campus*
February 22, 2006**

Greetings to all. As done in previous reports, I have included below the list of current activities since the last meeting of the University Cabinet on January 18. A number of major topics and issues and a list of key future events are included as well.

Report of Current Activities (since January 18, 2006)

- January 23: Two all-campus open forums were held, one at 8:00 A.M., and the other at 10:00 A.M. to discuss the “vision white paper” distributed to all faculty and staff the previous week. Participants at both sessions asked questions and made comments about the proposed components of the vision statement described in the paper. Plans to meet with each of the senates and to visit any campus meeting to discuss the paper described.
- January 24: The MSU Centers of Excellence proposal on the Artspace project was presented to the Centers of Excellence Commission in Bismarck. Jerry Stai, Kelly Lindquist from Artspace, and I made the presentation and responded to questions by the commission.
- January 26: Meeting with Faculty Senate to discuss the white paper and to respond to questions.
- January 30: Meeting with Student Association to discuss the white paper and respond to questions.
- January 31: Meeting with Staff Senate to discuss the white paper and respond to questions.
- January 31: Notification that Artspace proposal was not funded.
- February 1: MSU Foundation purchased the Barlow property on Broadway.
- February 1: Chancellor’s Cabinet meeting in Bismarck. Discussion included the difficulties encountered with the ConnectND system, the International Recruitment Initiative, and the four-year program Stage 1 proposal from Bismarck State College.
- February 2-3: Traveled to Phoenix to participate in the North Central Association’s Board of Director’s meeting.
- February 10: Meeting with Academic Affairs Council (deans and other direct reports to the VPAA) to discuss the white paper and respond to questions.
- February 11-19: Trip to China to visit with SIAS International University officials and faculty and staff. Stephanie Witwer, Yueh-Ting Lee, Mayor Curt Zimbelman, and Jerry Chavez from the Minot Area Development Corporation accompanied me on this trip. The trip was productive both for potential educational cooperation between our institutions and economic development opportunities between Minot, North Dakota, and the Henan Province and its major cities.
- February 16: State Board of Higher Education meeting in Valley City. Dr. Rabe and Mr. Dorn represented MSU at the meeting. This meeting included discussion and eventual approval of the BSC four-year program, the International Student Recruitment Initiative, a report by the MGT consultant studying the peer funding model for the state institutions, and the ConnectND system.

* This report includes selected University activities. It is distributed to the University Cabinet at its regular monthly meeting, and it is also forwarded to faculty, staff, and student leaders, members of the Board of Regents, and Alumni Board for their information. If anyone wishes to learn more about any of these items, he/she should contact the president at 858-3301 or in the President’s Office in the Administration Building.

Other Topics and Issues

- A task force is being formed to examine a proposal and the feasibility of a first-year residence hall requirement.
- With Crane Hall coming on line at the start of the fall 2006 semester, residence hall planning, capacities, policies, and fees are being studied. Proposed fees are due to the State Board of Higher Education on March 23.
- President's Staff is currently working to review the residence hall fees and other fees needing to be identified for the SBHE.
- The International Student Recruitment plan proposed and supported by the SBHE has been put on hold. The SBHE voted at its meeting in Valley City to divert the funds originally earmarked for the international program to working on improvements on the ConnectND system.
- The MGT consulting group has recommended a list of 15 institutions that will serve as the peer group for institutional funding and the NDUS long-term finance plan. The 15 institutions' characteristics are currently being examined. MSU will need to make any recommendations for changes in the list by Friday, February 23.
- The Planning and Budgeting Council met on February 8 to review the comments, the senate presentations and feedback, and other information generated at the open forums in response to the white paper. The first two components of the proposed vision were clear to all; the final component dealing with the sense of place needed further clarification and examples showing the implications to the university. At present drafts of the vision statement are under consideration for a meeting on February 22. Further, key components of a revised mission will be discussed at that meeting. The plan is to develop a draft of the vision and mission statements, a list of core values, and a draft of the strategic goals, objectives, and action plans before the end of the spring semester. Open forums in April will be held to present those drafts and seek final input. The new vision, mission, and strategic plan will then be developed and shared with the campus at the opening-day meeting in August.
- Searches: An offer and a verbal acceptance has been received to College of Business dean candidate has been made. An official announcement will be forthcoming soon. Finalists interviews for the VPAA and the library director have been identified. Campus interviews are being arranged.
- Transcript fee: Due to the inordinate number of transcript requests processed through our Records Office, President's Staff has recommended and I have approved the assessment of a transcript fee of \$5.00. Before the decision was made, we gathered information on other schools assessing a fee. We are also arranging for people to use their credit cards to pay the fee. Our public information office is preparing information to announce the fee and processing.
- Tuition: The State Board of Higher Education has asked that each institution provide preliminary proposals for tuition increases. We are hoping to hold to our original plan to assess a 9.5% increase for the following year. That increase will cover parity increases (i.e., medical insurance, 3% salary average increases, and other costs). Parity increases are expected to be 6%. The remaining 3.5% of our proposed increase will cover the projected increase in utilities in the amount of \$330,000 and an additional 1% salary average increase.
- Exit procedures: MSU will begin implementing the current NDUS procedure for conducting exit interviews and processes for faculty and staff who leave employment at the university. Our human resource office is working to implement those procedures.

- ConnectND: At the last SBHE meeting considerable attention was devoted to the on-going problems the system is facing with the PeopleSoft program. Our University Cabinet's outline of advantages and disadvantages of the system were reflected in the report provided to the North Dakota University System. Wes Matthews and Gary Rabe have prepared a plan, too, to begin addressing some of the more serious issues we identified at cabinet, including the need for training and improved communications. Plans are underway to begin offering workshops and sessions for all faculty and staff.

Future Plans for Spring Semester

- Community visit to Garrison on March 6.
- JoAnne Kissel from the master planning architectural firm will return on March 20-21 (tentatively) to present the unified proposal to campus.
- Campus-wide open forums on April 24.
- The next SBHE meeting will be held on our campus on April 6.
- Community visit to Rugby on April 26.
- Community visit to Kenmare on May 1.
- Legislative Council meeting morning of May 10 on MSU campus.

Final Comments

Thanks to all of you and the faculty and staff in your areas for your participation in the forums and meetings to discuss the white paper and the proposed vision. The new vision has significant implications for the future of the university, and your thoughtful comments and suggestions have been most important in our effort to make sure that our vision is **our** collective vision. All of us, through these efforts, are setting some exciting goals for the high qualities of our students, their learning, and the pervasive campus focus on student success. I am also encouraged by your comments and suggestions regarding a proposed focus on engagement of place, from our local place in North Dakota to far away, global places, such as China. Our recent visit to SIAS International University in China provided significant opportunities for our students and for exchanges between our respective institutions. I look forward to our continued conversations about these topics and many more. And again, thanks to all of you for your outstanding work and your notable devotion to our students' successes.

David Fuller
President
February 22, 2006