

*** Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,
University Cabinet, Alumni, the Foundation Board, and the MSU Board of Regents
March 21, 2007**

Current Issues and Topics

Senate Appropriation Committee Presentation

Minot State University and the other 10 campuses made presentations to the Senate Appropriations Committee at the end of February. Minot State University's presentation included a published booklet and an oral report from the president. The presentation highlighted selected accomplishments, such as the new mission, the strategic plan, the institutional vision and strategies, the Roundtable and Cornerstone projects, the economic impact study showing the \$136 million dollar impact MSU has on its community and region, and the Roundtable accountability measures indicating high licensure test rates, student satisfaction levels, alumni and employer satisfaction reports, and employee satisfaction.

The enrollment trends over the past ten years and the projections for the future were presented and displayed in a variety of graphs and reports. Enrollments have dipped slightly but over the ten-year period have remained relatively stable. It was emphasized that enrollment will continue to be a challenge for the university and that new recruitment efforts have been undertaken. Budget schedules were discussed for the prospect of a 4% or 5% salary increases, with a cap on tuition at 5%, and a projected 2% enrollment decrease. Escalating costs, especially the high utility expenses, continue to be a concern. Increased base funding and support for salary increases were emphasized. The Swain Hall renovation and the Dome floor project were discussed and questions answered. In response to the request from the committee, MSU described four critical priorities for the future. Those were the need for increased base funding, increased funding for faculty and staff salaries, keeping tuition increases low, and addressing the serious needs of the ConnectND system. Minot State University continues to appreciate the support from the Governor and from the North Dakota Legislature, and requests continued support. Electronic copies of the presentation are available upon request.

Arizona Alumni Events

President Fuller, Vice President Marv Semrau, Tawnya Bernsdorf, alumni director, Chad McNally, Beaver Boosters director, Darwin Langseth, president of the MSU Alumni Association, and Don Hummel, chairman of the MSU Board of Regents, participated in a number of events and visitations in the Phoenix area. Those included individual meetings with area alumni and friends, an alumni reception for approximately 50 attendees in Surprise, Arizona, and a special golf tournament in Chandler. A highlight was an individual meeting held with the mayor of Scottsdale, Mary Manross, who is an MSU alum.

Admissions and Recruitment Director Position

Due to a committee recommendation to call the search for the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services and Admissions a failed search, it was decided to reconfigure the position and reopen it to seek a director of admissions and recruitment. It was concluded that the position as originally configured could not be filled at this late time in the year, but we did believe that a restructured position with a focus exclusively on recruitment and admissions would attract candidates and allow the university to move ahead

* 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 also 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.

on this important position and responsibility. The revised position profile was developed and advertised. Currently the committee is reviewing the applications.

Business After Hours at Minot State University and the Beaver Dam

The university hosted a Chamber Business After Hours event and welcomed a large number of community members. The Beaver Dam was crowded with visitors and refreshments were served. Faculty, staff, and students from many of our programs set up tables and displays to highlight our achievements and initiatives. The event concluded with remarks and drawings for MSU clothing and gifts. The opportunity to show off our new facility and the many outstanding programs on campus was welcomed.

Swain Hall Planning

The prospect of receiving funds from the state to renovate Swain Hall is hopeful according to the House's bill and the current Senate committee deliberations and the support from the Governor. A committee of faculty, staff, and community members has been working for most of this academic year to decide on how to program the building. The recent meeting of the committee revealed that the committee and others are interested in establishing new interdisciplinary programs and enhanced academic offerings to serve as niche programs and to attract new and additional students to MSU. Collaborations between departments, potential collaborations with athletics, and other initiatives are being discussed. Faculty, staff, students, and others who are interested in offering their ideas to the committee should contact Ron Dorn, the chair of the committee.

Vision 2013 Action Plans and Teams

Teams have been invited to review the action plans proposed by faculty and staff at this year's convocations. A team for each of the seven strategies has been asked to review, revise, and propose plans to the Planning and Budgeting Council and President's Staff. The plans will be completed by the end of the spring semester.

Artspace

Our art faculty and others continue to show strong interest in partnering with Artspace to create a national and distinguished art center to house art faculty and art programs and the visiting artists in an Artspace facility. The A.J. Automotive property owned by the university has been identified as a potential site. Representatives from Artspace met with the president and others to discuss possible funding sources. It is understood that such a project would be developed in collaboration with the city of Minot, Minot State University, and Artspace.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since February 21, 2007)

- Planning and Budgeting Council meeting to discuss implementation plans for Vision 2013
- Grand Opening of the Beaver Dam
- Met with faculty and staff at an "after cabinet" open forum
- Welcomed prospective students from Dunseith and Turtle Mountain
- Attended Business After Hours at the new View
- Went to the performance of the Cripple of Inishman
- Participated in the formal event and signing of a partnership with Turtle Mountain Community College
- Met with Artspace representatives to discuss project
- Attended African American week event in Beaver Dam
- Presented to the Senate Appropriations Committee in Bismarck
- Held regular "chat with the students" in the Beaver Dam
- Met with president of Minot Area Development Corporation to discuss collaborative projects
- Attended meeting to discuss campus recycling
- Presented Senate Appropriations booklet to Faculty Senate and discussed

- the presentation and details with the senators
- Meeting with the B.A. committee to discuss suggestions for the proposed curriculum
- Participated in a meeting in Bismarck with Governor Hoeven, the Chancellor and vice chancellors, legislative leaders, and Connect ND CIO and director to discuss funding for Connect ND
- Participated in finalist interviews in Bismarck for the Executive Director of ConnectND candidates
- Traveled to Arizona to participate in a variety of alumni events
- Held regular meetings with President's Staff
- Met with editor of the Red and Green to discuss campus events and issues
- Attended monthly Trinity Board meeting
- Participated in weekly Chancellor Cabinet meetings to discuss legislative bills
- Welcomed and hosted luncheon for retired faculty and staff
- Participated in the well attended Business After Hours event hosted at Minot State University and held in the new Beaver Dam
- Discussed the Swain Hall renovation and plans with the Swain Committee.
- Presented at an all-campus event at Velva High School
- Held two faculty and staff open forums to discuss current topics and issues
- Met with representatives of Wells Fargo

Concluding Remarks

The legislative work and the continued efforts to distribute and implement Vision 2013 have taken the larger share of my time this month. The visit to Arizona was most heartening in that it showed me the extraordinary support for and interest in our university from our alumni and other friends. Our Higher Learning Commission self study continues to take a large amount of time by our steering committee members and many others across campus. While the demands for that important responsibility are many, the campus remains focused on the essential benefits of a self study and reflection into the ways we can improve ourselves and to remain strong. On top of the demands of our classroom and the support we provide to our students, reaccreditation, strategic planning, master planning, and other activities remain important for us to ensure that we can continue to offer high quality teaching and learning in support of our students. Again, I want to thank all faculty and staff for their extraordinary work and their devotion to our students' success.

David Fuller
March 21, 2007