

**<sup>1</sup>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  
April 11, 2007**

## **Current Issues and Topics**

### Senate Appropriation Committee Presentation

The North Dakota Senate voted to forward a revised higher education bill to conference committees. The amendments included salary increases of 5%/5% for higher education faculty and staff, and for MSU, the support for Swain Hall at \$6.5 million, the support for the Dome floor at \$387,000, and one-time increased amounts for deferred maintenance needs.

### Vision 2013 Action Plans and Teams

Teams have been established 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 appointed 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

A meeting with the city of Minot officials and MSU representatives focused on the potential for funding the Artspace building and MSU's portion of the proposed building. The city continues to be committed to an Artspace project in Minot. Artspace representatives are working to seek federal, state, and privately raised dollars secured from MSU. Although there was no new news about additional dollars from those sources, the participants at the meeting attempted to outline a number of options, including a lease to Artspace, building MSU's space at a future date, or constructing Artspace at a location downtown.

### Master Planning

The master planning architects, including the lead architect, the landscape designer, and the interior designer who designed the Beaver Dam, visited campus for two days to meet with the steering committee, representatives from athletics and the community bowl project, engineers and city officials involved in the North Broadway project, and a group of faculty, staff, and students to discuss renovation plans for the Student Union, Swain, and the general landscaping and signage for the campus. Based on the feedback and additional suggestions from the steering committee, the architects intend to finish the master plan and prepare proposals for signage and landscaping to present to the campus in May.

### The Great Plains Conference on Service Learning and Civic Engagement

Minot State University hosted the first annual Great Plains Conference. The conference included presentations by three nationally known keynote speakers on service learning and civic engagement and a

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

variety of concurrent presentations and discussion groups. The conference provided participants and faculty, staff, and students overviews of workable projects and ideas for projects for the university.

#### Centers of Excellence Preliminary Plans

Minot State University, the Minot Area Development Corporation, and Info-Tech are discussing a possible COE project to submit for the next round of proposals. The preliminary plans are to involve faculty and students and Info-Tech in a collaborative technology project.

#### Consideration of New Tuition and Scholarship Models

Members of the President's Staff have participated in a number of full-day discussions about new models for assessing tuition and awarding scholarships and waivers. In light of the new strategic plan and the goal to recruit students from a wider area of the Great Plains and internationally, the staff has been considering options for strengthening recruitment and retention of students from these new areas. The staff is also investigating other options for new forms of revenue generation to support campus operations and new strategic directions. A per-credit charge, a consistent out-of-state tuition percentage, waivers and awards connected to on-campus living, and scholarships tied to specific initiatives in the strategic plan are under consideration. Discussions with the campus and other constituencies will be held.

#### Studies of the Community and the Environment

Recent conversations and plans for adding distinctive majors and programs have identified a potential program focused on community and the environment. Attentive to Vision 2013's focus on place and engagement, this preliminary plan for this program will incorporate features of civic engagement, service learning, environmental and sustainability studies, field-based learning, and internships.

#### Commencement on May 11

The Commencement ceremony this year will incorporate new and distinctive features to highlight the university's past, sense of place, the role of faculty and learning, and diversity. The ceremony will include the awarding of honorary degrees, the recognition of a 1930 graduate, a student and alumni speaker, a new faculty line of march, a double-line processional of faculty to congratulate graduates, and a reception at the front of the Dome.

#### Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Ron Royer, Dr. Johnny Coomansingh, and Ms. Libby Claerbout, MSU's new director of international programming, traveled to Trinidad and Tobago over spring break to investigate possible collaborations with the university in Trinidad. Upon their return, they reported on the trip and suggested possibilities for student and faculty travel and partnerships in selected programs.

#### New Board of Regents Members

Minot State University is holding an orientation to welcome 17 new members to the Board of Regents. The orientation will include reports from campus officials, a tour, and a welcoming luncheon. We all welcome our new Regents and look forward to their service of the university.

#### **List of Selected Activities and Events (since March 21, 2007)**

- Guest lecturer on Thoreau for an honor's course, and met with honor's consultant to discuss MSU's program.
- Met with faculty and staff for "After-Cabinet" coffee.
- Welcomed campus at Employee Recognition Luncheon and helped hand out awards.
- Attended two-day Great Plains Regional Service Learning Conference hosted by MSU.

- Attended Chamber’s legislative forums.
- Attended grand opening event for Info-Tech.
- Full-day President’s Staff meeting to consider new tuition and finance models for campus.
- Performance evaluation meetings completed with President’s Staff.
- Attended English Department meeting.
- Two-day visit by master planning architects to meet with the steering committee, and other groups to discuss athletics, Swain, signage and streetscapes; master planning implementation processes, plans for the Student Union; met with engineers and city to discuss North Broadway project; and discussed plans for landscape design with campus.
- Met with the president of Minot Area Development Corporation regarding a centers of excellence project.
- Welcomed Representative Pomeroy to campus for a luncheon meeting.
- Met with city officials regarding Artspace project.
- Welcomed elementary students and other participants to the Marketplace for Kids conference at MSU.
- Participated as a panel presenter at the MSU assessment day discussion with faculty.
- Held the regular “chats with the president” at the Beaver Dam.
- Met to discuss strategies for Connections magazine.
- Welcomed students, parents, and faculty and staff to the annual Who’s Who luncheon and award event.
- Welcomed participants to the MSU hosted Communications Disorders Conference.
- Participated in the committee meeting for the search for ConnectND executive director.
- Met with MSU faculty Promotion Committee to discuss alignment with new strategic plan.
- Attended NAC Student Art Show and selected and presented the President’s Choice award.
- Attended the Beaver Booster’s Spring party.
- Attended a presentation of the report on the Trinidad and Tobago trip and potential partnership.
- Met with campus representatives to discuss the plans for the HUD proposal and grant.
- Participated in a luncheon discussion with faculty and administrators regarding a proposal for the Studies in Community and the Environment program.
- Attended and presented an administrative report to Faculty Senate
- Welcomed and made presentation to the new Board of Regents members during orientation.
- Meeting with the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents.

## Concluding Remarks

Our faculty, staff, and students are hard at work with classes, special projects, and responding to a number of unique demands and needs. The Higher Learning Commission Steering Committee and the many task forces have been working hard to complete the reviews and the drafts of the self-study report. While this work of the self-study is time consuming and challenging, the result will be a positive one as we learn how we’re doing as an institution in meeting our mission and maintaining our accreditation as a quality institution of higher learning.

The special Vision 2013 teams, which are assigned to review and refine action plans for each of the seven strategies in the strategic plan, are calling meetings with the campus to solicit input and ideas about the preliminary plans proposed by the campus in January. These specific plans will provide guidance for making significant steps toward meeting our goals and achieving our vision.

The Employee Recognition Luncheon held recently was a great success. Nearly all of our faculty and staff attended and enjoyed a wonderful luncheon prepared by Chartwells. The event honored our faculty and staff Board of Regents Achievement Award winners, and we recognized the faculty and staff who have served the institution for many years.

Near the end of the spring semester, we're looking forward to warmer weather and our celebration of our graduates at the May 11 Commencement Ceremony. The Commencement honor of our graduates is a fine way to culminate a successful year, because it honors and recognizes the success of our students and the contributions and support of our faculty and staff to our students.

David Fuller  
April 11, 2007