

**¹Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,
University Cabinet, Alumni, the Foundation Board, and the MSU Board of Regents
October 17, 2007**

Current Issues and Topics

Higher Learning Commission Self Study

The Steering Committee and the core group working on the revisions of the self-study are reporting that they are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Under Dr. Royer's able leadership and the tireless work expended by many on campus, we are close to developing the final draft of a report that culminates an inclusive, critical, and reflective process. According to Dr. Royer and the HLC campus newsletter, the deadline for printing is December 14, with the report being sent to the evaluation team by February 1, 2008. We can be very proud of the work of our campus and the anticipated results of the evaluation.

Hosting SBHE Meeting on Campus

In September MSU hosted the State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System meeting on campus. Prior to the Board meeting on Thursday, a special reception was held for the Board members on Wednesday evening. On Thursday morning, a special breakfast meeting was held with campus representatives and Board members. At that meeting, MSU made a presentation to the Board and provided an overview of current activities and new initiatives associated with Vision 2013. Each Board member received a copy of the Vision 2013 document and given an overview of our new goal, values, mission, and strategies. Dr. Rabe and Dr. Jenkins provided a report on the university's membership in the Foundation of Excellence for First Year Students, and Debra Chandler and a student made a fine presentation on the second year of the mentoring program.

University Avenue

Two lights have been installed on Broadway. These are the same decorative lights that will be used along University. As we understand, the lights on University will be installed by the city soon. In the spring, grass-sod will be laid in the median between the sidewalk and the street to complete the project.

Building signage

Most of the building signs have been installed but not permanently seated. There is still some consideration about the permanent location of certain signs. When the final locations are agreed upon, the signs will be installed permanently in the near future. Directional signage will be installed in the spring.

Clark Enersen Associates' visit

The architects overseeing our campus master plan will be on campus in early November to hold a series of open meetings to present their recommendations for the landscape design. Notices will be coming out soon about the times and places for these meetings. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to offer input on the recommendations.

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.

Student Center renovation

The Student Center is undergoing continued renovation. The MSU Post Office will be relocated to the east end of the Atrium in a new welcome center. Painting, new flooring, furniture and fixtures, and new designs are part of this renovation. If anyone wishes to see the architectural plans for these changes, please contact Ron Dorn. It is anticipated that the renovation will be completed in the spring semester.

Monument Sign on the Corner of University and Broadway

The firm of Clark Enersen and Associates has recommended a design and landscape plan for the main sign on Broadway. Currently, a local sign company is preparing a proposal for consideration. There are also others who are suggesting designs for this sign. These plans will be presented to the architects for consideration during their November visit to campus. According to this plan and an earlier published announcement, a majority of the spruce trees along Broadway will be transplanted to another location on campus. None of the trees will be destroyed in this process. The area around Campus Heights Apartments will probably be the location to which they will be moved. Moving the spruce trees, designing the landscape along Broadway, and opening up the view into campus will improve the visibility and the appearance of the campus. At present, the tall spruce trees block most of the view into campus.

Swain Hall

An architectural firm contracted to oversee the renovation of Swain Hall has begun initial reviews of the building structure and spaces. The Swain Hall Task Force, which is made up of faculty, staff, and administration, will be meeting with the architect next week to discuss programming and the renovation. The legislature awarded the funds and designated them to be used for an academic facility. A number of departments has expressed interest in Swain. The task force will be scheduling open forums to solicit thoughts about the use of Swain. Questions about the plans and processes should be directed to Ron Dorn, chair of the task force.

Jared Edwards' resignation

Jared Edwards, MSU's director of physical plant since the late 80s, has tendered his resignation effective October 31, 2007. A search has commenced to find his replacement. Dr. Dick Jenkins will serve as the chair of the search committee. Mr. Ron Dorn is working with Dr. Jenkins to seek nominations from the three senates for membership on the committee. As this position affects all areas on campus, there will be representatives from Physical Plant and other major areas. It will be hard to replace Jared. Jared has worked at the university for many years and has accomplished much in making our campus beautiful and functional. We wish Jared only the best in his future career.

Herb Parker

Minot State University has experienced a great loss in the recent passing of Herb Parker. He devoted many years to MSU as a coach, athletic director, and dean of men. Since his retirement, he continued to support MSU through his contributions to the Beaver Boosters and the Board of Regents and in his participation in many university events. The fact that so many people attended his funeral this past Monday attests to the high regard and respect people held for Herb. He will be missed.

Telemark University College

Representatives from Telemark University College (TUC), the university with which MSU signed a partnership agreement in June, visited our campus and participated in meetings with a variety of departments regarding the partnership. Specific plans for student and faculty exchanges, study tours, and cultural exchanges were developed. The TUC officials visited campus during the Norsk Hostfest and accompanied others from the Skien, Norway, delegation. MSU and TUC are both enthusiastic about this partnership.

Vision 2013 and Action Plans Distributed at Convocation

The full draft outline of all action plans for Vision 2013 was distributed to faculty and staff at the convocation in August. All faculty and staff were asked to review the draft and to offer their suggestions, comments, and thoughts. A review of the process and a request to review the action plans for an open forum that will be held in October. The final draft of the action plans will be prepared and distributed shortly thereafter.

Wellness Center preliminary plans

Preliminary steps to design a wellness center, recommended by the campus master plan architects and envisioned by students and others on campus, have been undertaken. The architects recommended and proposed that the wellness center be constructed on the east side of the Student Center, adjoining the swimming pool and student activity center. Only the initial idea is being pursued at this point. We are seeking assistance from an architectural firm. At this point, the funding, location, and schedule for such a facility have not been determined. Meetings with the campus, the students, and others will need to be held to consider how we proceed on an idea for a wellness center.

MSU-Bottineau

On Thursday, members of President's Staff and deans will be meeting with administrators from MSU-Bottineau to consider ways that the two institutions can collaborate further. The agenda includes: 2+2 articulations, faculty exchanges, transfer articulations, course equivalencies, courses on the Bottineau campus, and remedial instruction.

Center of Excellence Proposal

Minot State University proposed to the Centers of Excellence Commission and the Department of Commerce a plan titled "The Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center." The proposal sought \$3.5 million dollars for a five-year project. The proposal described a Center in which SRT, Info-Tech, and the Minot Area Development Corporation would collaborate with MSU to house data, provide support to businesses, involve interns from MSU, and train students. The Commission approved the proposal and awarded \$2.1 million. MSU revised the proposal to a 2 ½ year project and resubmitted it to the Commission. The Commission has subsequently approved the revised project. The Center will require approval from the State Board of Higher Education and legislative committees.

Board of Regents Meeting

On October 5, the MSU Board of Regents met on campus for its fall meeting. The agenda included presentations by campus representatives, an engaging presentation by Larry Goodman and Selmer Moen in our math department, and an address by the new chancellor for the North Dakota University System, Mr. William Goetz. The Regents also approved funds to support partially a position in Advancement and to provide \$22,000 in partial support of the new monument sign on the corner of Broadway and University. The Board also voted to approve a one-time award in support of start-up costs for a marching band.

MSU Marching Band

Faculty from the division of music met with David Fuller, Gary Rabe, Rick Hedberg, and Marv Semrau to discuss a proposal to reinstate a marching band. Mr. Mark Boren presented a proposal describing the immediate needs for this year and long-term needs and plans for a marching band. The group agreed to identify funds to support the immediate needs and to begin to identify means to support long-term plans and the establishment of an MSU marching band.

List of Selected Activities and Events (since September 19, 2007)

September

- Attended Chancellor's Cabinet
- Hosted social at Vegas for State Board of Higher Education and North Dakota University System members
- Presentation on MSU to SBHE for breakfast meeting
- SBHE meeting held on campus on September 20
- Campus presentation of MSU proposal to Center of Excellence Commission in Bismarck
- Participated in Homecoming events: alumni gatherings and Baseball Reunion, and parade
- Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
- Hosted Student Government Association members for dinner at home
- Hosted faculty from the College of Education and Health Sciences for dinner at home
- Chat with students in the Beaver Dam
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Alumni Association's Golden Awards Banquet
- Presentation to the Scandinavian Heritage Society meeting
- Lunch in cafeteria with students
- Meeting with Wellness Committee
- Welcomed Young Professionals Kick-Off meeting on campus
- Alumni Association's GALA in the Dome
- Board of Regents meeting
- Beaver Booster luncheon
- Introduced and welcomed Telemark's Suomi Wind Orchestra Concert in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall
- Hosted reception for Skien, Norway, and Telemark University College delegation at home
- Telemark University College meeting on campus
- Hosted Danish consul and two visitors taking part in the Scandinavian Hall of Fame event for the Norsk Hostfest
- Governor Hoeven's reception to welcome the start of the Norsk Hostfest
- Participated in the Xcel Advisory Board meeting
- Attended special luncheon with Norway delegation and the Princess
- Scandinavian Hall of Fame banquet
- Meeting with Odney representatives to discuss marketing proposal
- Phone conference with Diana Oblinger to discuss book and concept for Swain Hall
- Greeted visitors at the Hostfest
- Welcomed Congressman Pomeroy to campus for a discussion about college costs
- Herb Parker funeral
- Participated in search committee meeting for a new CIO for ConnectND
- Hosted community leaders on campus for luncheon.

October

- One-on-one meetings with Faculty Senate and Staff Senate presidents; and Student Government Association president.
- Meeting regarding an MSU marching band
- Lunch and meetings with mentees
- Business After Hours
- Hosted breakfast for MSU staff
- Welcome to College of Business Advisory Board meeting
- Attended Studies in the Community and Environment meeting

Concluding Remarks

Our beautiful autumn weather and many activities, from Homecoming, the Gala, athletic events, many academic and student activities, the State Board of Higher Education meeting on campus, and Minot's Norsk Hostfest, continue to make our campus and our city and region a great place to work and live. It is wonderful to see our students involved and active on campus and in our community. The kick-off of MSU's participation in the Foundations of Excellence for First Year Students has been a great success and continues to confirm our university's commitment to our students, their learning, and their success. Our full-campus commitment to the Higher Learning Commission re-accreditation has been rewarding and successful. We continue to focus on strengthening what we are doing well and looking at ways we can improve what we are doing. The campus is also stepping up in a big way to respond to the strategies defined in Vision 2013. Many achievements and accomplishments have been recognized as we move toward our goal to become one of the premier regional universities in the "great" Great Plains. Again, I want to say how much I appreciate the great work everyone is doing for the good of our students and our fine university.

David Fuller
October 17, 2007