

December 16, 2009

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

Alignment Plans and SBHE performance indicators

The State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System have requested that each campus provide target measures showing projected indicators of institutional performance for each goal in the SBHE strategic plan. Minot State University's indicators were identified by deans and members of President's Staff. These system-wide indicators will be used to measure the extent to which the NDUS meets the specific goals.

Centers of Excellence

We are developing a plan to support a social networking consortium in partnership with Minot State. The concept is for the university to work with this consortium of small businesses to promote economic development and job creation. The guidelines for new COE grants have not been distributed, although they are to be sent out before the end of the year.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Committee and Case Statement

Minot State has contracted with Bentz Whaley Associates, a consulting firm out of Minneapolis, to guide and support us in our initial planning for a capital campaign and in a feasibility study. A feasibility task force, made up of people from the campus and the community, has been formed. Two meetings will be held, one in January and the other in May, to examine the feasibility of proceeding with a campaign.

Greek life update

There has been a number of meetings to present to students the proposals for the establishment of fraternities and sororities on campus. There is a considerable amount of interest expressed by students who have attended these meetings. Dr. Jenkins is helping to coordinate these meetings with students and fraternities.

Compensation Task Force

Wes Matthews has visited the Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate to solicit views about our compensation plans and the possibility of adding a merit component to the model. There have been many questions, reservations, suggestions about how a merit system does and/or should work. CTF has met to review the progress toward its five-year goals for market and to discuss the anticipated amount of dollars that will be available.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. The report 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.

Admission and Enrollment Criteria Task Force

The white paper distributed to all faculty and staff was discussed at length at two open forums in November. Following the forums, a committee will be formed to review the admission levels and support required for students. All comments recorded at the forums will be shared with the committee as it reviews the plan.

NCAA Division II

The vendor/evaluator from NCAA visited campus recently to examine our policies and our procedures to determine how well our current processes are in line with Division II expectations, especially in the area of compliance. The Athletic Advisory Committee is now formed and working to address the transition to Division II.

Title IV Student Support Services Grant proposal submitted

The Student Support Services program provides support to students who require special support to graduate from a college or university. Eligible students under Title IV are those students who are more likely not to graduate (economic background, disability, or first-generation college students). Minot State enrolls a larger than average number of eligible students and will be well suited to house a SSS project, which will provide intensive support to these students and increase our chances of improving their graduation rates. The proposal describes a five-year program and a budget of over \$1 million. The first year budget is \$220,000. The proposal was submitted last week, with word about funding to be received in the spring.

Swain Hall

The renovation is proceeding on pace. The building will be completed in July, and move-in to begin as early as June.

Rebidding Food Services Contract

The food service contract with Chartwell's will expire at the end of this year. We are now in the process of seeking bids from food service companies.

Health and Wellness Center

The architects anticipate that ground breaking will begin in late spring on the new wellness center. EAPC is completing the final designs in preparation for construction bid letting early next year.

Football Field

The same architectural firm overseeing the design and construction of the Wellness Center and the renovation of the Dome has been charged with developing the design of the field. With the start of the construction on the Wellness Center, there will be some required dirt moving on the field. Preliminary designs show the field formed in a bowl and located in the same area of the existing football field. Planning to accommodate the football field and a field wide enough for soccer, the architects have been looking at the installation of artificial turf in a first phase and then in later phases to add a renovated stadium.

Geothermal Update

The two major grant proposals we submitted to the Department of Energy (i.e., \$5 million and \$10 million) were not approved. We are still waiting to receive word about the reasons those were not approved. A \$7 million proposal was submitted to the North Dakota Department of Commerce. Stimulus funds have been made available for alternative energy projects. We already have been authorized by the state to use the \$2.5 million for the refurbishment of the coal boiler for a new geothermal system. At present we are working with Inner Earth, a financing

company, to explore the possibility of funding the \$17 million project through a performance contract. Representatives from Inner Earth will be meeting with us this week to discuss these options.

Maintenance Building

Part of the funding awarded for Swain was designated originally to support the construction and move of our maintenance facility. The \$1.25 million dollar appropriation can be used to support the construction of this facility. In anticipation of a new geothermal system, we would no longer need a central heating plant and a central maintenance facility. We are awaiting the word on the geothermal system before proceeding with this project.

Center for Creative Arts and Innovative Design

The art faculty have begun work to envision a potential move to the renovated heating and maintenance facilities. The art faculty have identified current space needs and new strategic directions. MSU intends to submit this project for consideration by the SBHE in the next round of capital projects.

Capital Project Initial Proposals for 2011-2013

Preliminary plans for projects to submit for SBHE consideration are: 1) Health Center (i.e., incorporate new nursing program, student health, and drop-in child care); 2) center for creative arts and design; 3) phase two of the geothermal system; 4) stadium renovation to address safety issues; and 5) security enhancements on campus.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since October 21, 2009)

October

- Attended Notstock event
- SGA president meeting
- Trinity Board Retreat at Lake Metigoshe
- Meeting with Department of Labor rep
- Admission Criteria Task Force meeting
- Foundation Board meeting
- NCAA Division II meeting in Indianapolis
- Chamber Annual meeting
- Dakota College at Bottineau collaboration meeting
- Meeting with VPAF direct reports regarding search for Ron's replacement
- Men's and women's basketball games
- Wellness Center meeting
- Meeting with Garnett Cox
- MSU football game in Fargo
- Midwest Higher Education Consortium meeting in Fargo
- CEL Open House
- Trinity Board of Directors meeting
- Chamber of Commerce Strategic Planning meeting
- Staff Senate president
- MADC Board of Directors meeting
- Hosted legislative luncheon and tour of Swain
- Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

November

- Day of the Dead celebration event
- Meeting with Department of Commerce regarding geothermal proposal in Bismarck
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Campus Open Forums to discuss admission criteria White Paper
- Wellness Fair in Student Center
- AASHE member webinar
- Faculty Senate
- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Address to North Dakota Student Association meeting on campus
- Freshman Alpha Particles Black Box performance
- SGA president meeting
- Missouri Drum Group performance and opening of Native American Appreciation Week
- Meeting with consultants for Division II fundraising
- Staff Senate meeting
- Chancellor's meeting with four-year presidents

- Hosted reception for State Board of Higher Education, NDUS, and campus and community representatives
 - Hosted breakfast meeting and made presentation to SBHE and NDUS on MSU strategic planning work
 - Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting
 - Phone contacts of Feasibility Task Force members
 - Attended NAIA football first-round tournament game in Sioux Falls
 - Vacation time
 - Speech to noon Rotary Club
 - Meeting with president of Bremer Bank
 - State Board of Higher Education meeting on campus
- December**
- Attended presentation by alumnus Roger Looyenga; hosted dinner meeting.
 - Luncheon meeting with all staff of NDCPD
 - Meeting with ITC staff regarding VPAF search
 - Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
 - Library book talk
 - Public History student presentations
 - Faculty Senate
 - Sports Information Director candidates
 - Meeting with John McConnell regarding capital campaign planning
 - Trinity Quality Committee meeting
 - History candidates
 - Psychology Student Poster presentations
 - Field Turf meeting
 - Athletic Advisory Committee meeting
 - Centennial Planning Committee meeting
 - Search Committee for VPAF
 - Trinity Board Meeting
 - Nursing faculty search candidates
 - NCAA Division II Evaluator/Vendor meeting on campus
 - President of Staff Senate
 - Learning Environment architectural open forums
 - Faculty, Student, and Staff senate social
 - Interviewed on KMSU
 - Meeting to discuss AJ Automotive facility and property
 - SGA president meeting
 - Staff Senate president
 - Nursing student poster presentations and tour of Simulation Lab
 - Compensation Task Force meeting
 - Meeting with Dr. Joe Wax from Model School
 - Alice in Wonderland theater performance
 - Chamber Board of Directors meeting
 - Hosted campus holiday party
 - Stadium planning meeting
 - China trip follow up.

Concluding Remarks

It's been a busy and very productive and rewarding semester. I appreciate so much everyone's devotion and many contributions in support of our students and our fine institution. It is a fine institution because of the great people across campus and our commitment to Minot State University.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone return safe and sound for the start of our new year and spring semester.

David Fuller
December 16, 2009