

**March 17, 2010**

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

**FROM: David Fuller**

**SUBJECT: <sup>1</sup>Monthly President's Report**

## **Current**

### Centers of Excellence Proposals

Minot State has submitted two grant proposals to the Department of Commerce. The first is the Center of Excellence in Entrepreneurship Networking (E-Net), at a total of \$801,937, with a request for \$267,312; and matching funds of \$534,625. The number of new private sector jobs to be created is projected to be 20. The Center of Excellence for Entrepreneurship Networking (E-Net) will address the needs of entrepreneurs and small business owners in northwest North Dakota and throughout the state by (1) helping existing businesses identify, assess, and develop strategies to overcome barriers to growth and (2) providing information for aspiring entrepreneurs to start new businesses, both with emphasis on networking using technological marketing and promotions.

The second proposal is the Minot State University/Trinity Health Geriatric Research Center, a total project of \$1.5 million, with a request for \$500,000 and a total match of \$1 million. The number of private sector jobs is projected to be 50-75 by the end of the third year. Minot State University and Trinity Health will establish a Geriatric Research Center of Excellence. Through this Center, teams of MSU faculty/students and Trinity Health professionals will investigate geriatric health-related issues, seeking solutions to problems and identifying best practices in health care for this growing population in our region. Innovations developed from this research will spawn employment opportunities and possible business ventures. Center research will be multidisciplinary, studying geriatric health care from a holistic approach. Cognitive, behavioral (including communication and social welfare), and physical health will be investigated. Current geriatric health related services provided through both MSU and Trinity Health will serve as the venues for many of the research projects

### Sabbatical Awards

We are pleased to support four sabbatical projects for the next academic year: Dr. ShaunAnne Tangney's project to compile essays for publication about poet Robinson Jeffers, Dr. Stewart Kelly to complete an in-depth study of post-modernism with the aim to publish a book on the topic; Dr. Robert Kibler to continue his study of the Naxi Tribe in Tibet to reveal a link to a theme in Ezra Pound's works; and Dr. Patricia Lomire to complete a literature study of the trends of women in crime.

### State Board of Higher Education

The Board has been working to prepare its budget proposal for the 2011-13 Biennium. The budget review and preparation has involved the 11 institutions. Key topics are salary increases, equity funding,

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<sup>1</sup> 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 supervisory 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.

STEM support, capital projects, and other details connected to the Board's strategic plan. A special SBHE evening meeting in Bismarck was held to review preliminary details.

#### Interim Higher Education meeting

The North Dakota University System and the presidents appeared recently in a full-day hearing before the Interim Committee to respond to questions regarding appropriations spending, such as personnel, deferred maintenance, long-term finance model, tuition models, and other topics. The NDUS and institutions provided in-depth and clear responses to these legislative questions about spending.

#### Compensation Task Force recommendations

CTF's recommendations were discussed with President's Staff last week. The recommendations included an across the board cost-of-living increase, \$100 per month or 2.7% increase, whichever is greater. These recommendations will be discussed further with CTF and the Faculty Salary and Budget Committee prior to holding a campus-wide open forum on April 6, 2010.

#### Community Service Honor Roll Award

Minot State was honored to be a recipient of the recently announced President's Honor Roll for Community Service Award. Minot State is the only institution in the state of North Dakota to be recognized with this award. This recognition is important for our university as we continue to work to meet our vision, which is to become an institution of engagement and community service.

#### Dakota Northwestern Consortium

Recently Minot State University received word that it has been awarded a \$950,000 federal grant to establish the Community Research and Service Center. Senator Dorgan and our Washington Delegation supported this proposal in recognition of our university's vision and commitment to community support. As a part of this project, we will be holding the first meeting of what will be called the Dakota Northwestern Consortium, a consortium of communities and their leaders within our region. The focus of the first meeting with these community leaders will be to identify projects, issues, and problems about which the communities and the university can work in concert.

#### Athletic Strategic Planning

The transition into NCAA Division II requires that candidates for membership must complete a detailed strategic plan. Minot State has begun the work on our plan by conducting focus groups with internal and external constituencies. These focus groups have completed their work and examination of strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and future directions. Detailed information has been generated and recorded. The Athletic Advisory Council will be working to compile the results and to identify key details and strategies for a plan. This information will provide useful information about our current athletic program and the prospects of our moving into the NCAA Division II.

#### Resolutions to the Board

At the recent SBHE meeting held at Lake Region Community College, Minot State sought approval of three resolutions. One resolution sought approval for the expansion of the scope of the Wellness Center to include equipment, a walking bridge to Swain, and two basement rooms for athletic weight training. This resolution, which was approved by the SBHE, did not require additional state funds but would be handled with donations and local funds. The second resolution sought approval for football field renovations and safety improvements to the stadium. Funds to support this project will be secured through a low-interest loan from the Bank of North Dakota. The third resolution sought approval to request federal funds to support in part our geothermal project in the amount of \$8.5 million. Since this proposal for federal funds involved construction support, a new SBHE policy requires preliminary approval before submitting a federal grant. All three resolutions were approved.

### Football Field and Stadium project

Since the community bowl project was dissolved following the withdrawal of the Minot Public Schools from the collaboration, Minot State has been working with architects to refurbish the field and renovate the stadium. Due to the projected building start of the Wellness Center, the field project needs to be started (the center location overlaps slightly with the field). The architectural plans identify the need to move the field slightly, complete dirt moving and the building of a berm around the field, install all-weather surface for the football and soccer field, remove the running track, complete minor electrical upgrades, the construction of a base for an eventual all-weather bubble, and the shoring up of the stadium to address structural defects in the stadium. This project will be supported by a low-interest loan from the Bank of North Dakota. The university will continue to seek funds through donations to partially support this work.

### Wellness Center

The new wellness center design now includes two basement rooms made possible by the new location and configuration of the center. One room will be used for athletic training and not be associated directly with the center nor supported by any of the student fees designated for the center. The new design for the center required approval from the Budget Committee of the legislature, because of the addition of the two rooms, projected needs for equipment, and a plan for a walkway between the center and Swain Hall. The request to expand the scope of the Wellness Center is explained below.

### Request to Budget Committee of Legislature to expand scope of Wellness Center

The resolution to expand the scope of the center was approved by the State Board of Higher Education and required final approval from the legislature. Approvals of building expansions are now required because of the expansions of the presidents' houses at UND and NDSU. Our request was made in recognition of the need to seek approval for the expansion of the scope of our project. The expansion of the scope involved the athletic rooms in the basement (see above), projected needs for exercise equipment, and a plan to construct a walkway between the center and Swain. None of these items required any additional state dollars. Yet during the Budget Hearing, questions about our cooperation with the YMCA, the nature of the student vote to approve the fee support, and specific questions about a need for a "climbing wall," which would be used for exercise and training in classes. The Budget Committee voted not to allow us to expand our project (add the rooms, allow for expansion for needed equipment, and the walkway), even though there were not state funds requested for this expansion. A motion to reconsider the vote was introduced to include a review of the addition of the two training rooms in the basement. A vote was taken on that second motion and approved, allowing us to proceed with the plan for the two basement facilities. The legislature did not allow us to expand our project for equipment and the walkway.

### Geothermal project update

I met with the governor and members of the North Dakota Department of Commerce to clarify the amount of funds that might be available from stimulus funds for alternative energy projects, such as our geothermal project. A long-term funding plan was presented at that time, to include the amount authorized for our boiler, stimulus funds, a municipal bond, dollars from federal sources, and requests for support from the legislature. Since that meeting, we have looked at a reduced budget for the geothermal system. An architectural plan will be solicited to prepare a specific design of the project.

### Clint Severson and Connie Ahart Donation to MSU

Minot State and the College of Business were most fortunate to receive word that Clint Severson and Connie Ahart had decided to donate \$1 million to establish the Severson Entrepreneurship Center. This is a huge accomplishment for us and will lead to additional opportunities for students, our college of business, and the university. We appreciate so much the generous donation from our 1973 alumnus, Clint Severson.

#### Vice President for Finance and Administration Search Update

The committee has completed its review of applicants and two finalists. The committee has decided to reopen the search with changes to the search profile. Advertisements have been published in a variety of sources. Our aim is still to find and hire a qualified candidate before the start of the next fiscal year.

#### Beaver Ridge Apartment Complex Proposal

The design and plans for a proposed apartment and retail complex on the site of the A.J. Automotive property have been discussed and reviewed by the MSU Foundation Board of Directors. The preliminary plan was endorsed by the Board.

#### Assessment of Grow North Dakota Tuition Model

When we submitted the proposal for the GND tuition plan, we anticipated that our enrollment would increase to a specified level over the next three years, our residence halls capacity would increase, our food-service subscriptions would increase, and the diversity of the campus would increase with additional international students and students from other states. The Grow North Dakota plan was started at the beginning of this academic year. The projected increases have been realized in all categories. Since the plan was approved late last year, the full impact of the increases will be more fully recognized this coming academic year. We are pleased with the preliminary information showing increases in these categories.

#### Meeting to Discuss YWCA Child-Care proposal

Roger Kluck, Dick Jenkins, and I met with representatives from the YWCA to discuss their plans and proposal to build a child-care facility on our campus. The representatives explained their interest to build a child-care facility on our campus adjoining our new maintenance facility planned for construction on the north end of our campus (below the Grand International Hotel). They would support all building costs, utility costs, and programming support of the facility after construction. Minot State would issue a lease for the land and provide general outside maintenance support (e.g., snow removal). The potential for this collaboration appeared feasible to all parties, and we agreed to continue to research the plan. The potential for Minot State's collaboration between the child-care facility and a new early childhood program seemed strong.

#### Articulation with DCB on nursing

Minot State and Dakota College at Bottineau signed a partnership agreement to support a cooperative articulation between DCB's associate program and our BSN program.

#### Discussion with DCB on new Pathway program

As a part of the proposal to revamp the admission criteria and to develop a system to assist students in completing their programs, a new pathway cooperative program with DCB would provide for a seamless step to provide remedial training to students who do not meet our admission standards. The focus of this program will be allowing these students to complete a 24-hour program and a certificate program prior to a matriculation into an MSU degree program. DCB representatives presented their plans to the Admission Criteria Task Force recently and responded to questions.

#### Energy Symposium

The first symposium of the Western North Dakota Energy Impact Symposia is being held this week on the MSU campus. The symposium at Minot State University is the first in a four part series coordinated through collaboration between Minot State and Dickinson State University. These symposia are sponsored by the Great Plains Energy Corridor and made possible with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. These symposia are made possible through the most valued guidance and support from Senator Byron Dorgan. This first symposium is focused on Energy Independence and Security

### NAIA Women's Basketball Tournament

Nancy and I and enthusiastic supporters travelled to Sioux City to attend the first-round game between Minot State and Grandview College. While the game did not end in our favor, the entire season and the fact that we made it to the national tournament speaks volumes for our athletic program and the coaches and student athletes in our women's basketball program. The women played well and our cheerleaders and Buckshot added strong support and representation of our students and fine university.

### **List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since January 27, 2010)**

#### **January**

- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Discussion with Trinity regarding Center of Excellence proposal
- Trinity Board meeting
- MEP Associate's engineer meeting to discuss financing
- Meeting with Dean: Warmoth/Rabe
- Meeting with Dean: Davidson/Rabe
- Meeting with Dean: Nordquist/Rabe
- Faculty Athletic Representative
- Meeting to discuss and review institutional finances
- Meeting with Dean: Linrud/Rabe
- Weekly President's Staff meetings

#### **February**

- Meeting to discuss Beaver Ridge Apartment Complex proposal
- Marching band meeting with music faculty
- Phone conference with Chancellor
- MSU History Presentation by Mark Timbrook
- MSU Foundation Board meeting
- Meeting with Linda Olson regarding Sustainability
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Accompanied MSU representatives to University of Minnesota—Moorhead campus regarding Division II transition
- Center of Excellence planning meeting
- Wellness Center meeting with architects
- Beaver Booster luncheon
- Meeting to discuss collaboration with Tribal institutions
- Weekly President's Staff meetings
- Attended MSU Engagement Fair
- Parking Open Forum
- Press Conference for Severson's donation and new center
- Meeting to review official spring enrollment
- College of Business Reception

- Diversity presentation: Connection for Non-Local Students
- Indian Taco sale
- Meeting to discuss community service grant project
- Meeting to discuss potential Center of Excellence project for nursing
- Meeting with YWCA rep's to discuss child-care facility
- Diversity presentation: I'm Not Broken—Don't Fix me
- Meeting with Governor Hoeven to discuss Geothermal proposal
- Conference call with Director of Department of Commerce regarding Center of Excellence proposals
- Darwin Live Concert
- Staff Senate meeting
- Division II transition meeting with members of President's Staff
- Athletic Advisory Council meeting
- Black Student Soul Food Celebration
- Calypso Presentation by Coomansingh and Anderson
- Hosted MADC meeting on campus
- Hosted reception for MADC and the Governor on campus
- SBHE meeting in Devil's Lake
- Staff Senate president meeting
- Heritage Singers Variety Show and Dinner
- Speak at noon Kiwanis meeting
- Interview with KXMC regarding Vision 2013
- Faculty Senate president
- Meeting with Promotion Committee
- Interview with *Minot Daily News*
- Vice President for Finance and Administration interview
- Trinity Board meeting
- Dakota Athletic Conference Board of Director's meeting
- Dinner meeting with Board of Regent member
- Attended production of *Hay Fever* in Aleshire

## March

- SBHE Meeting in Bismarck
- Interim Higher Education meeting in Bismarck
- Meeting to review proposal for Center of Excellence proposal with Trinity
- Heather Martin, new advising coordinator
- Meeting with student mentee
- MSU Board of Regents liaisons meeting
- Theater/music student meeting to discuss concerns
- I-care presentation
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Read Dr. Suss book to children at YWCA
- Meeting with Trinity CEO to discuss Center of Excellence proposal
- Meeting to discuss emergency preparedness
- News media interviews regarding Community Service Honor Roll award
- Meeting to review results and impact of Grow North Dakota tuition model
- Vice President for Finance and Administration interview
- NDCPD Associate Director interview
- Meeting with Scott Louser
- Conference call with Chancellor
- Articulation signing ceremony and news conference for nursing collaboration with DCB
- Alumni Board meeting
- Meeting to hear presentation on Compensation Task Force proposals
- Women's basketball national tournament in Sioux City
- Energy Symposium Dinner
- Welcome and introduction of keynote speaker at Energy Symposium opening event
- Welcome and introduction of Senator Dorgan at Energy Symposium
- Meeting with capital campaign consultant regarding feasibility interview

## Concluding Remarks

Our spring semester has been busy and exceptionally productive and fun. Students, faculty, and our staff continue to be engaged in our campus and focused on making sure that the quality of our teaching, learning, and student experiences is second to none. All of us remain focused on our responsible mission and powerful vision. We are also looking forward to the snow melting and warmer weather returning!

David Fuller  
March 17, 2010