

October 21, 2009

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

FROM: David Fuller

SUBJECT: ¹Monthly President's Report

Current

Official Fall Enrollment

The official fall enrollment increased by 6.32% from the official count in 2008. Increases were recorded in a number of the key recruiting areas, including Canadian numbers, transfers, graduate students, online, international, and adjoining states. Ward County numbers and other counties showed increases as well. Our Grow North Dakota flat-rate program, our fine admissions and recruiting office, and aggressive marketing efforts contributed to these positive results.

NDUS Biennial Budget Request for 2011-2013

The North Dakota University System has distributed a document seeking "high-level budget needs" to be considered for the next biennial budget cycle. We are seeking proposals and high-level needs from our campus. The University Cabinet members will be providing suggestions and discussing potential projects for Minot State. The report is due to the NDUS office by December 15.

Alignment Plans (due October 22)

This was formerly referred to as the Roundtable Alignment Plans, which we have submitted over the years as a means to demonstrate our accountability to the Roundtable goals. Each vice president has consulted with respective areas to solicit suggestions about plans that align with the four NDUS goals. A draft will be reviewed at the University Cabinet meeting, and revisions made before submitting the report on October 22.

New State Board of Higher Education Strategic Goals

The new strategic plan and goals have been published and submitted to all the campuses. The goals are: 1) The North Dakota University System is accessible, a view held by all North Dakotans; 2) North Dakotans recognize that the North Dakota University System is affordable at a level that can be sustained; 3) The North Dakota University System increases the overall vitality of the state through exceptional education, research, training, and service; and 4) The eleven institutions comprising the North Dakota University System work together to achieve the vision effectively. The goals are being used as a basis for the alignment goals as well as the specific targets for each president's performance evaluations.

¹ The President's Report is a monthly summary of activities in the president's office and current issues affecting the campus. Since no University Cabinet meeting was held in September, this report covers two months instead of one. 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.

Centers of Excellence

Recently an audit of the Centers of Excellence program revealed questions and concerns about the effectiveness of the program. Those concerns have raised concerns and have solicited responses from the Department of Commerce that dispute those findings and suggest that the program has been effective and productive. We invited Shane Goettle, the director of the ND Department of Commerce, Kathy Gaddie, and Jon Backes, both of whom serve on the CoE Commission to come to campus to present and respond to questions posed at our fall meeting of the Board of Regents. The focus of the discussion was to review the guidelines and consider ways for Minot State University to secure a grant during the next round. At present, a committee of faculty and staff are meeting to identify potential grant projects to respond to the RFP when it is published.

Planning and Budgeting Council Meeting and Focus on Performance Indicators

The first Planning and Budgeting Council meeting was held recently. New members were welcomed, the history of the council's work was reviewed, and the plans for the future were discussed. The majority of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the Great Plains performance indicators of our aspiration peers. We spent a large part of the two-hour meeting discussing strategies to pursue to raise the MSU scores above the average scores of the aspiration peers. Two critical performance indicators—graduation and retention rates—have been studied carefully throughout the summer. A report will be forthcoming to campus and used as the basis for an open forum scheduled in early November.

Interest in restoring Greek life

The Mu Sig fraternity and the Sigma, Sigma, Sigma sorority have expressed interest in returning to Minot State. These groups are investigating the potential and we are examining the logistics and policies required to determine the feasibility of restoring Greek life to campus. Dick Jenkins is heading up a committee to investigate these possibilities.

Admission and Enrollment Criteria Task Force

The Admission criteria task force has been meeting for three months to study the impact of changes to our admission criteria. A white paper describing a proposal and providing research information will be completed and distributed to the senates in the near future. The open forum in early November will discuss this proposal at length.

Health and Wellness Center, MSU Dome, and Herb Parker Stadium and Field Designs

Three architectural firm finalists were interviewed and their proposals to create a design for the full sports complex, including the wellness center, the dome, and the football stadium and field, were reviewed. The EAPC firm was selected to begin work on investigating potential designs for this complex. This work will coordinate with the design and work on the wellness center, which incidentally EAPC is also the lead architect. This larger project will allow us to align these various sections of the larger complex.

Search and Recruitment Guidelines and Processes

A draft of these guidelines has been completed by Wes Matthews and Cari Olson. This draft will be available to be shared and discussed with the three senates and University Cabinet.

Cell Phone Usage

Upon the request of the Chancellor, the policies prohibiting the use of university cell phones for personal use were sent out to the campus recently. If you have questions about this policy, please contact Ron Dorn or Cathy Horvath.

NCAA Division II

We are proceeding to complete various requests from the NCAA required of our three-year candidacy status. Two consulting firms are guiding us in this work and in planning for budget development and fundraising. Preliminary information is showing that additional recruiting and scholarship dollars will be required for this membership. To meet those additional costs, we are developing a plan to include a modest increase in student fees, a percentage of net revenues generated from our self-sustaining CEL operation, an increase in revenue resulting from an increase in the number of new athletes, and new fundraising strategies. Our commitment is not to use appropriated dollars or to take away any funds used to support our academic programs and support services. A full disclosure of the source of funds and the costs will be made when this review is complete.

Geothermal Update

We are still awaiting word on the grant applications we submitted to support our geothermal upgrade. We submitted a request for \$7 million to the Department of Commerce for stimulus dollars assigned to the governor's discretionary uses, and a \$5 million and \$10 million grant proposal to the Department of Energy. We already have received authority to use \$2.5 million appropriated by the legislature for the renovation of our coal boiler. The notices about these grants should arrive in late October.

Fall Board of Regents Meeting

The meeting of the Board of Regents was held in September and included a forum on Centers of Excellence, presentations by Chris Beachy and his student Amanda Roise on the INBRE grant, a presentation by Walter Piehl on the monument sign, a tour of our new ESL facilities, and a ribbon cutting for the monument sign.

Capital Campaign

Marv Semrau has been meeting with an advancement consultant from Bentz Whaley to discuss the development of a case for a capital campaign and to conduct a feasibility study.

Comprehensive Phonathon

Minot State is currently investigating the purchase of a system to conduct telephone solicitations for annual giving. The technology, software, and a special phone lab will be required to support a calling campaign. This is one of other strategies that we are pursuing to improve the percentage of our alumni giving rate, which is significantly lower than our aspiration peers' rates. An annual giving campaign is essential for us to increase the number of scholarships and support for students and our advancement office.

Consideration of Additional Apartment Complex

We are contemplating building another apartment complex. Our apartment complexes fill up quickly, and the need for additional apartments appears strong.

H1N1 Influenza

The campus is well positioned and prepared to assist campus members in the event of an outbreak.

Discussions Regarding Expanded Computer Science Offerings

Two members of MADC have approached us about expanding the range of our offerings in computer science. These requests are a result of incoming business needs for computer training. We have met with our computer science faculty about these requests, and are arranging a meeting with representatives from these businesses to discuss specialized skills.

Monument Sign

The monument sign is completed. The landscaping project along Broadway and down 10th Avenue (the avenue between Cook Hall and the cemetery) has been delayed due to the cold weather. Grass seeds will be sprayed in, and some sod will be laid before winter if weather permits. The fencing around the cemetery has been installed. Plans are underway to develop, in collaboration with First Lutheran, walking paths and historical markers in the cemetery.

Centennial Planning

The history department faculty have been working on specific projects related to our centennial. We are also planning to establish a centennial committee in the near future to begin formal planning for the event, which will occur officially in September 2013.

Landscape Committee

A committee has been charged with assisting the campus with planning and approval of various features of our landscape plan. The committee consists of faculty, students, and staff.

President's Commitment to Sustainability Oversight Council

A committee will be charged to oversee the work on the president's commitment and identified priorities for the campus. A notice will be sent out soon to the members, who have been identified and recommended by our Sustainability Committee.

Collaboration discussions between MSU and Dakota College at Bottineau

Curriculum collaboration and articulation agreements are being discussed to increase the cooperation between our institutions. We are also discussing an on-site registration event in Bottineau, as well as a potential remediation program.

Luncheon with all MSU Administrative Assistants

Last week I had the great pleasure to host a luncheon for all MSU administrative assistants. I used this opportunity to thank them for the outstanding work they do for Minot State. Following our lunch and introductions of all assistants, we were given presentations on publications and design, calendar management, new features to our web site, and marketing initiatives.

List of Selected Activities and Events in President's Office (since August 24, 2009)

August

- Foundation Board meeting
- Noon show interview on KXMC
- Attended student club fair and visited all organization booths
- President's Staff meeting to discuss capital campaign.
- Centers of Excellence committee meeting
- Attended H1N1 Webinar
- Regents Executive Committee meeting
- Centers of Excellence meeting with Mark Nesbit, chair of commission
- Spoke at Alumni Board meeting
- Hosted picnic and reception for the full athletic staff at our home.
- Meeting with representatives from Dubai
- Meeting to discuss possible new Campus Heights facility
- Discussion about the institutional fees
- Meeting with Faculty Senate president
- Animal testing policy review with members of the biology department
- Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck
- Travelled with Rick Hedberg to meet with presidents and athletic directors of Northern Sun Conference institutions (Mary, Northern State, Augustana, Mankato State, Winona State, and Concordia-St. Paul)

September

- Conference call with John McConnell with Bentz Whaley

- Vacation
- NCAA Consultants' visit to campus
- Telephone conference with presidents of Wayne State and Upper Iowa.
- Admissions criteria task force meeting
- Quality Landscaping to select rocks for landscaping.
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting
- Staff Senate meeting
- Attended presentation by president of the National Council of International Visitors
- Conference call with president in NDUS
- Travel to Northern Sun institutions (Moorhead, Southwest State, St. Cloud, University of Minnesota—Duluth, Bemidji State, and Crookston)
- Conference call with Shane Goettle, Mark Nesbit, and Kathy Aas to discuss BOR meeting presentation on Centers of Excellence
- NDUS General Education Forum hosted on the MSU campus; welcomed; and participated in the full-day meeting.
- Dakota College at Bottineau Homecoming parade, alumni hall of fame luncheon, and football game.
- Student Government Association president one-on-one
- Admission criteria task force meeting
- Cemetery and service learning meeting
- Young Professional's speaker at Ann Nicole
- Meeting to discuss official fall enrollments and news release
- Signing of articulation agreement with Lake Region and news conference
- Graduation rate task force meeting
- President's Club Luncheon
- Red and Green interview
- MSU Block Party & bonfire
- Discussion of indirect allocations
- Meeting with Jon Backes and Karen Krebsbach regarding computer science needs in community
- Meeting with mentee
- Discussion regarding graduate office and sponsored programs
- New members of the Board of Regents orientation
- Conference call with Wayne State's advancement vice president
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Golden Awards Dinner
- Fall Board of Regents meeting
- Addressed Mu Sig Reunion at Holiday Inn
- Greeted Wes Luther's team reunion

- Welcome to Greeks, Student Government Association and Alumni Reunion
- Homecoming parade
- Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
- Tail gate and homecoming game
- Post game get together at Barley Pop as fund raiser for United Way
- Greetings and thank you to the members of the Marching Band after the game at Sammy's Pizza
- Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
- MSU Golf meet at Souris Valley Golf Course
- Andersons' Faculty recital at Ann Nicole
- MSU and DCB collaborating meeting
- Admission criteria task force meeting
- History faculty centennial project updates
- Presentation by Icelandic-American Sculptor at Aleshire
- Met with Vice Mayor for Tromso, Norway
- Attended Governor's Reception at Hostfest
- Nancy and I received recognition at Hostfest as new Guardian members.
- Retirement reception for Gerard Oie
- Hosted lunch with Clint Severson and Connie Ahart
- Interview architects for sports complex project (EAPC, JLG, and Strom)
- Hosted Norwegian Ambassador Strommen at Hostfest Hall of Fame Banquet

October

- SBHE Conference call
- Honduras student presentation in Multicultural Center
- Assistant athletic director candidates
- Provided campus tour to visitors from Skein, Norway
- Nancy and I volunteered as greeters at front door of Hostfest
- President's Staff
- Hosted Congressman Pomeroy Roundtable on campus
- Meeting with Pat Seaworth and new assistant attorney for the NDUS
- Admission criteria task force meeting
- NCAA Budget meeting
- Native American counselor candidate and open forum
- Meeting with SCE committee to discuss status of the proposal
- Hosted Canadian students for an ice cream sundae social in conference center
- Faculty Senate president

- National Wildlife representative
- Lunch with MSU Student Ambassadors
- Follow up meeting regarding computer science curriculum
- Business After Hours at State Fair Grounds
- MSU Volleyball match
- Red and Green editor meeting
- Etiquette Luncheon
- Meeting to discuss Faculty Athletic Representative position
- Faculty Senate meeting
- Meeting with SRT CEO
- Check presentation In honor of Gary Stenhjem to establish a scholarship in his name.
- CETL director candidates and open forum
- Minot Symphony Orchestra
- Advising coordination candidates and forums
- Bismarck marketing and advising director interview
- Minot Public School Board meeting to discuss architectural fees
- Hosted a luncheon for all MSU administrative assistants
- University Diversity Council chair meeting
- Attended Gravel Products open house
- Attended Market Place Breast Cancer Awareness cake auction
- Meeting with chair of SCE committee
- Presentation to the Retired Faculty Luncheon at the International Inn.
- Planning and Budgeting Council
- Addressed North Dakota Public Employee Association (NDPEA) 45th Assembly meeting at the Holiday Inn.
- Beaver Booster Luncheon
- Summer Task Force report review
- Men's and women's cross country meet
- Women's Volleyball match
- Hosted Russian visitor luncheon.

Concluding Remarks

This has been a very good start to our academic year, to our welcoming the new students and helping them get started and situated on our campus and to greeting our returning students and seeing to it that they are on track toward completion of their particular program and graduation. Our dormitories are showing a considerable increase in the number in residence, our food services are showing an increase as well, and our enrollments are growing across the board in key areas in North Dakota, out of state, international, transfers, and online. The campus itself is bustling with activity in our student groups, athletics, and class activities. The meaning of engagement—the key theme of our strategic plan—is clearly visible in our Student Center, the Beaver Dam, at athletic events, and across campus.

Homecoming was a great success in many ways, from our new marching band to the first MSU Block Party that attracted about 2,000 visitors to our campus. We've enjoyed a significant amount of success with major grants that have supported a large \$3 million research project for our scientists and their students, a \$2 million federal Title III grant to support innovative programs for first-year students and service learning programs for all students, and other significant grants to continue meth educational research, an autism program, and a new community research and service center. We have also taken a major step to raise the bar in athletics by having been accepted by the membership committee of the NCAA Division II. Our football team is now 5-0 in the Dakota Athletic Conference and leading the conference. And it is only fitting that the beautiful Minot State University monument sign is completed and the associated landscaping is nearly finished. Our faculty and staff continue to show why we are indeed a premier university in the Great Plains, and that is that they are devoted to providing an excellent education and second-to-none service to our students. It has indeed been a very good start to the new academic year.

David Fuller
October 21, 2009