

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to Faculty, Staff, Student Leaders,
University Cabinet, and the MSU Board of Regents
December 20, 2006**

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. This year we have scheduled open meetings the day following the meeting of the University Cabinet to provide a forum for in-depth discussion about any of these topics. As this report is being distributed at the end of the fall semester, an open meeting will not be held on December 21.

Current

- Washington, D.C. trip and visit to North Dakota delegation
In November the president traveled to Washington DC to deliver a copy of the new strategic plan, Vision 2013, to Senators Dorgan and Conrad and Representative Pomeroy. The lobbyist firm representing Minot State University was also provided a copy of the plan along with an in-depth discussion of the university's vision statement and future priorities.
- Scandinavian trip in June 2007
A delegation of Minot representatives will be traveling to Skien, Norway, to participate in a sister-city visit. The delegation will meet with the Skien delegation and visit sites in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. The plan is to meet with university officials in each of those countries to consider future partnership agreements.
- Legislative luncheon meetings
Each of the local state legislators was invited to breakfast or luncheon meeting on campus to learn about Minot State University initiatives and issues. Each representative was presented a copy of the university's new strategic plan and given a general overview of the new goal, vision, and seven strategic initiatives.
- Commencement
Following a commencement meeting and a discussion of specific processes and protocols, the committee identified some new directions to enhance and improve the current ceremony. Those specific recommendations included: an enlarged and diverse platform party, a Native American elder address prior to the drum song, and the addition of flags from the countries representing our current international students. It was agreed that a theme will be identified for the ceremony that corresponds with the first strategic initiative in Vision 2013 related to a distinctive mission related to a sense of place and engagement. The theme will be addressed in the commencement program, in the speeches of a student and alumnus/a, and in other ways. The diplomas will be presented in the traditional rolled scrolls. Faculty will participate in the commencement and sit in a published line-up in descending order from the most senior and with the highest rank to the least senior. At the completion

of the ceremony, the faculty will form double lines out of the Dome and the students will proceed through the double line of faculty to be congratulated and recognized by their faculty mentors. An alumni reception will be held outside the Dome, weather permitting, for parents, faculty, staff, and guests. The president recommended to Faculty Senate these changes in the Commencement ceremony. Faculty Senate moved and seconded a motion and unanimously endorsed the recommended changes. These changes will go into effect in the May 2007 Commencement ceremony.

- Artspace
Representatives from Artspace visited campus last week and met with administrators, art faculty, community members and others to review preliminary architectural plans for the proposed 86,000 square foot MSU/Artspace facility. According to these plans, MSU will occupy 36,000 square feet and be adjoined with community arts facilities and live-in artists. MSU submitted two proposals to the Center of Excellence Commission to support Artspace. Both proposals were denied. There is strong interest on the part of Artspace, MSU faculty, and community members to see this facility built in Minot. The estimated cost for MSU's portion of the building would be \$8 million. As it is unlikely that MSU will request funds from the state again, other sources are under consideration, but raising that amount of money will be exceptionally challenging if not improbable at this time.
- Governor's budget
The Governor's recent budget recommendation provides \$53 million dollars of recurring funds to higher education, with another \$20 million in one-time funds. The State Board of Higher Education requested \$61 million in recurring funds. The Governor's recommendations address a number of important needs. One critical need is to provide enough support to help higher education keep tuition increases at 5% or below. There is also critical support for faculty and staff salary increases. One challenge for Minot State University is to address the reduction in requested funds in support of the indoor track in the Dome and the building renovation of Swain Hall. The track was listed as the number one project on the SBHE list at \$390,000; and Swain was sixth on the list at \$7 million. The Dome track received no recommended funds in the Governor's budget and Swain was reduced to \$2.5 million. Preliminary contacts with OMB officials indicated that the reductions were due to the fact that the state does not provide capital dollars to athletic facilities.
- Fort Berthold partnership agreement
Recently, Minot State University and Fort Berthold Community College in New Town signed a partnership agreement to express the intention to engage in cooperative ventures. Curriculum articulation agreements, student and faculty exchanges, cultural exchanges and other opportunities will be promoted through this partnership. Minot State University's new strategic plan emphasizes the importance of multiculturalism and diversity and cooperative partnerships with our Native American communities. There is an interest to sign a similar partnership with Turtle Mountain Community College in January.
- Meeting with tribal college presidents in Bismarck
On December 17, President Fuller and Dr. Y.T. Lee traveled to Bismarck to attend a meeting of all tribal college presidents from North Dakota. Dr. Fuller presented each president and visiting legislators copies of Minot State University's new strategic plan and discussed the strategic initiative to strengthen diversity on campus and to cooperate with Native American tribal colleges. The presidents appreciated the visit and the discussion.
- Marketing

Teresa Loftesnes has been appointed as the interim director of marketing. She will assume the position, which has been identified as a critical need in the strategic plan, and begin work to market Minot State University and to raise the visibility of the university in the region and in the Great Plains states. She will work closely with the marketing committee to set objectives.

- Strategic plan and convocation
On January 9, a general convocation for faculty and staff will be held from 8:00-11:00 a.m. in the Student Union Conference Center. The purpose of the convocation will be to review the plan, discuss implementation processes, and to begin the work to identify action plans for the seven strategic initiatives. Vision 2013 has been distributed to the campus, community groups, legislative officials, and many others.

Schedule of Activities (since last University Cabinet meeting on November 15, 2006)

- November 16: Visit to Washington, D.C. and Senators Conrad, Dorgan, and Representative Pomeroy to present strategic plan.
- November 23: Thanksgiving.
- November 29: Breakfast hosted on campus with local legislators to discuss campus initiatives, needs, and the strategic plan (Woody Thorpe, Tom Seymour, and Louis Pinkerton).
- November 29: Meeting of the Master Planning Steering Committee to review projects, set priorities, and timelines.
- November 30: Luncheon hosted for local legislators to discuss campus and strategic plan (Bob Horne, Kari Conrad, and Lisa Wolf).
- December 1: Luncheon hosted for local legislators (Clara Sue Price, Matt Klein, and Ben Tollefson).
- December 3-6: Participated in Higher Learning Commission accreditation team visit.
- December 7:
 - Participated in a community meeting and presentations to local legislators at the Holiday Inn.
 - Luncheon hosted for legislators (Karen Krebsbach, Larry Bellew, and Dan Ruby).
 - Participated in Commencement meeting to discuss plans for ceremony.
 - Attended retirement party for Larry Bellew at the City Auditorium.
 - Attended Faculty Senate meeting to present strategic plan, discuss Commencement format and seek support, and seek feedback on decision-making processes.
 - Interviewed by KMSU regarding campus activities and initiatives.
 - Attended the Chamber's Business After Hours at Ryan Chevrolet.
- December 11:
 - Lunch with potential donor.
 - Signing ceremony with Fort Berthold Community College in New Town.
- December 12: Breakfast meeting with Artspace representatives and architects to discuss plans for building.
- December 13:
 - Campus Holiday Party.
 - Trinity Board Meeting
 - Planning and Budgeting Council meeting to discuss January convocation.
- December 14-15: Architect Kent Munster visit to review Student Union.
- December 14: Minot Area Development Corporation Board meeting.
- December 17: Meeting in Bismarck with the Presidents from the North Dakota Tribal Colleges.
- December 19: Chamber Board meeting.

Concluding Remarks

It is surprising that we've come to the end of the fall semester. It seems only yesterday that we met for our fall convocation to prepare for the start of classes. As I write this report, I am repeatedly reminded about the many ways Minot State University faculty and staff have devoted their lives and work to the success of our students. The students, too, have contributed immeasurably to the campus and our own lives.

Thank you to all of you for doing so much for our students and for our campus. I appreciate so much your work and good efforts.

Have a happy holiday and wonderful new year.

David Fuller
December 20, 2006