

**Office of the President
Minot State University
Report to University Cabinet and Campus*
April 19, 2006**

Happy Spring to all! I have included below the list of current activities since the last meeting of the University Cabinet on March 15, 2006. There is also a list of major topics and issues for your information. If you have any questions about any of these topics and other campus issues, please contact me directly. Thank you.

Report of Current Activities (since March 15, 2006)

- March 16: Visit to campus by Kent Munster, an interior design architect, to prepare a design plan for the Beaver Dam, the new Student Activity Center.
- March 20: Return of the master planning architectural group to present the plan draft to the steering committee and to conduct open forums with campus and community members.
- March 21: Open meeting with International students to discuss expansion of international programming on the MSU campus. Kick-off meeting with the MSU Higher Learning Commission Steering Committee.
- March 22: Special meeting of the NDUS presidents in Bismarck to discuss the responsibilities of the system and to consider a resolution in support of the system. Chancellor's Cabinet meeting in Bismarck; major agenda items included: discussion regarding ConnectND, the MGT Consultant's report; the Budget guidelines; and academic program requests.
- March 23: Employee Recognition and Campus Luncheon in the Dome; faculty and staff were recognized for years of service, the Faculty Senate emeritus faculty member was recognized; and the Board of Regents award winners were presented their awards. Later that afternoon the International Open Forum for faculty and staff was held to discuss international initiatives.
- March 24: A luncheon for invited community leaders was held in the Fisher Room; the community members were updated on campus events and initiatives and asked to provide their suggestions and comments about MSU.
- March 26-March 29: Participated in a Higher Learning Commission consultant evaluator comprehensive team visit to an institution in South Dakota.
- April 1-3: Attended the Presidents' workshop at the Higher Learning Commission Annual meeting in Chicago.
- April 4: Addressed the participants during the closing session of Market Place for Kids' event on campus. Selected the piece of art work from the student art juried show; the selected art was purchased and permanently displayed in the President's Office.
- April 5: Met with the North Dakota Nursing Site team chairs. Participated in a State Board of Higher Education and Chancellor's Cabinet meeting to discuss the long-term finance plan. Hosted a reception for the SBHE members and the NDUS office.
- April 6: State Board of Higher Education held on campus. Hosted a luncheon for Minot community members and the SBHE; the discussion included comments about how the Board and the community can work together.
- April 10: Meeting with Native American Club to discuss the relocation of the multicultural center. Meeting of the Executive Committee of the MSU Board of Regents.

* This report includes selected University activities. It is distributed to the University Cabinet at its regular monthly meeting, and it is also forwarded to faculty, staff, and student leaders, members of the Board of Regents, and Alumni Board for their information. If anyone wishes to learn more about any of these items, he/she should contact the president at 858-3301 or in the President's Office in the Administration Building.

- April 11: Attended faculty and staff presentation on Service Learning.
- April 12-14: Traveled to Washington DC to participate as the North Dakota representative on the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Council of State Representatives; updates on federal initiatives and presentations from AASCU staff members, the director of the Institute for College Access and Success, the professional staff member for the Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary education, and the Senior Education Policy Advisor for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.
- April 18: Met with officials from the NAIA regarding MSU's current study regarding a move to NCAA Div II.

Other Topics and Issues:

- Open Forums to discuss International Initiative
Two forums were held to begin conversations about the potential expansion of international activities on campus. A low turn out at the international student meeting indicated that we needed to reschedule the meeting and to seek the input from more students. The meeting with faculty and staff was well attended; many ideas and suggestions were offered. It was clear from the nearly 50 in attendance that there is strong interest in pursuing the expansion of international activities on campus. A task force was formed with volunteers to consider what the campus should do in the short-term and long-term to develop the infrastructure necessary to support expanded programming and activities. The task force will be reporting back in a month on its findings.
- State Board of Higher Education meeting on campus
The Council of College Faculty (CCF) and our own Chris Keller and Wes Matthews did a fine job reporting on the compensation study and the issues involving salary comparisons and retention data. Another major item on the agenda was the discussion and approval of tuition increases for next year. Our recommended 9.5% recommended increase was approved. Our justification for this increase was based primarily on the need to cover increased parity costs, the substantial increase projected in utility costs, and the additional one percent in salaries above the standard 3%.
- Planning and Budgeting Council meetings to review and revise vision statements, values, core purpose, and mission.
The PAB Council reviewed, discussed, and reworked the recommended statements to be presented at the open forum on April 20
- Searches
The Vice President for Academic Affairs search, the library director search, and the registrar search are conducting final interviews. A recommendation from the search committees will be forthcoming soon, offers made, and appointments confirmed.
- Status of building projects
Crane, the first floor of Dakota, and the renovation to the Student Union Ballroom are proceeding on schedule to be open and ready in the fall. An interior designer has been working on the Beaver Dam (the new student activity center).
- Master planning open houses and plan
The architects conducted their open houses to share a draft of their recommended plan. They will be reviewing comments and revising the draft to bring the final recommendation to campus in May.
- Smoking policy

The recommendation to make Minot State University campus a smoke-free campus has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates, the University Cabinet, and the President's Staff. Each senate and group was given considerable time to share the proposal with their constituencies and seek their input. All groups supported the proposal strongly. The new policy will be communicated to campus before the end of April, and the new policy will go into effect on June 1.

- Compensation task force recommendation

The task force has worked throughout the year to study compensation, to identify disparities and special problems, to make a recommendation as to the process for communication and salary distribution next year, and to begin developing a long-term plan for addressing compensation. The President's Staff is currently examining the budget and projected expenses to see if it is feasible to support a 4% average increase. At present, 9 of the 11 institutions in the state plan to give average 3% increases. North Dakota State College of Science and Minot State University have indicated that they are considering 4% increases.

Concluding Remarks

This month was highlighted by a successful campus community event in the Dome. This year, the planning committee decided to schedule it during the day instead of the evening. The committee and all others did a wonderful job decorating the Dome and planning the event. It was an enjoyable community event. Thanks also to so many faculty and staff for making the campus and the arrangements for the State Board of Higher Education's visit. The Board members and other visitors to campus expressed their appreciation for our support and accommodations. We can be very proud of the way our campus looked and how well the details for the visit were covered. We put our best foot forward in welcoming the Board and other visitors to our campus. There were also many more activities on our campus that again showed our collective interest in making our campus active, engaging, and welcoming to students and others from off campus. All of these events, our staff support, and of course the learning activities in our classrooms take an inordinate amount of time and effort. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing devotion to Minot State University, our students, and our community.

David Fuller
April 19, 2006.