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## **Crookston Campus E-Update**

an internal administrative news digest

September 18, 2007

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### **From the Chancellor**

This edition of the Crookston Campus E-Update is dedicated to information and updates from the Chancellor's Office. Over the 2007-08 year, the second issue of each month will focus on news from my office to provide an opportunity to enhance in-depth communication with the campus community, and beyond, on a variety of subjects. A consistent feature will include details regarding Board of Regents meetings and action items that will directly affect the University of Minnesota, Crookston. As in previous editions, the first E-Update of each month will deliver reports from various departments and units on campus, including news from the Chancellor's Office.

Thanks to the hard work of many individuals, enrollment for fall 2007 has increased significantly when compared to fall 2005 and 2006. There are so many people to thank that I will not try to list them all. However, faculty, staff and students all worked collaboratively over the past year to achieve these results. Faculty members contacted prospective students and hosted visits to campus; others took time to interact with students and their parents during campus stops – many helped in small and large ways to make a difference.

Everyone makes a contribution to recruitment and retention of students. Everyone needs to and does contribute to the success of the campus. As I mentioned in my opening week remarks, there is no day off or break time. To succeed as an institution, we must put our personal agendas aside. This we do as if the future of our campus depends on it – because it does.

The enrollment increase is fairly broad based, which is also good news. New freshmen numbers are up and we have more online and international students onboard. Ethnic diversity has also increased on campus, which I consider a significant accomplishment. Students of color make up 10% of our student body. One area we will need to address for 2008 is improving transfer student numbers.

Now for a summary from the Board of Regents meeting Sept. 6 and 7, 2007. Note that most items are reviewed by standing committees and recommendations are forwarded to the Board for consideration.

#### **Educational Planning and Policy Committee**

Four major items were discussed.

1. 2007 Minnesota-Wisconsin Tuition Reciprocity Agreement
  - Wisconsin students would receive a supplement beginning fall 2008 effectively reducing the cost of tuition to what they would pay if they attended a comparable campus in their home state.
2. Addition of the Urban Forestry emphasis in the Bachelor of Science horticulture degree at the Crookston campus
3. Process for Academic Program changes

4. Academic Issues Related to: University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report
  - The major emphasis was on the Twin Cities Report. However, the University of Minnesota, Crookston is included in the Report. As a campus, we must ensure we are measuring the right data. Many measurable items were identified in the Strategic Positioning Task Force Report.

#### **Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee**

There were three major items presented.

1. Post-Tenure Review Update
  - The current process is from the Regents Policy on Faculty Tenure.
  - Data from last year shows that more than 99% of faculty reviewed in the 2005-2006 academic year successfully met or exceeded the goals and expectations established by their academic units.
2. Responding to Needs of Student Veterans
  - Several initiatives and services for veterans were discussed.
  - The Crookston campus has 24 student veterans, spring 2007.
3. Student Mental Health Issues
  - Several issues and services related to mental health were discussed.

#### **Finance and Operations Committee**

1. Capital plan of \$308 million to be submitted to the 2008 legislative session
  - \$238.7 million requested from the Legislature.
  - \$69.3 million in resources committed by the University of Minnesota.
2. Asset Management Report
  - Possible benefits to the Crookston campus include Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) dollars and funding for classroom and laboratory improvements.

#### **Board of Regents Meeting**

Five new Regents Professors and two new McKnight Presidential chairs were introduced. Following those introductions, demonstrators interrupted the meeting, and the meeting subsequently was adjourned. As a result, committee recommendations were not considered, and they will be on the agenda for the October 11 and 12, 2007, Board of Regents meeting at the Morris campus.

Overall, the Regents are extremely interested in measures and metrics. While we have identified several, I believe we need to be more intentional in evaluation efforts. We have a great deal of survey information that can help inform the campus about appropriate measures as we move ahead.

In responding to President Bruininks request for my work plan for 2007-08, I have used the four University of Minnesota pillars as he did in his work plan. These pillars are Exceptional Students, Exceptional Faculty and Staff, Exceptional Organization and Exceptional Innovation. I have posted my [work plan](#) online at <http://www.umcrookston.edu/chancellors-office>, and I invite you to take a few minutes to review it.

In other campus news, Senior Vice Chancellor Baldwin and I have talked about initiating discussions on department head leadership with faculty members in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Math, Science and Technology. We will begin a search for the director of research after the department head search process is underway.

I have also been meeting with Vice Chancellor Johnston-Ortiz to plan a search for a director of facilities management. He has been meeting with facilities staff, and we've gathered input from

others on campus and facilities management in the Twin Cities in order to move forward. Until we have filled the position, VC Johnston-Ortiz will be providing leadership and be the main contact for Facilities Management and Operations.

Much work remains ahead of us. However, great opportunity exists as well. I'm optimistic about the future of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. It's important to the future of Northwest Minnesota that we are successful. Thanks to everyone for your help and support in ensuring that success.

Chuck

– Charles H. Casey, Chancellor  
University of Minnesota, Crookston

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## Featured Events & Activities

**Insight Radio/Audio Broadcast, Saturdays** – Insight is a 10-minute weekly radio show featuring students, faculty, staff and services and activities at the Crookston campus. Tune in to KROX 1260 AM in Crookston, Minn., at 8:40 a.m. on Saturdays. Or listen online at <http://www.umcrookston.edu/insight>.

**Singer/Songwriter Jason LaVasseur, September 24** – Join us on campus for Musical Monday, sponsored by S.P.A.C.E., from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge.

### Family Day, October 6

**Homecoming Week “Let the Good Times Roll,” October 1 to 6** – Celebrate Homecoming by participating in the following events and activities: Oct. 4, Coronation at 8 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium and Homecoming Dance at 9 p.m. in Bede Ballroom; Oct. 5, UMC Athletic Hall of Fame and Outstanding Alumni Banquet from 6 to 9 p.m. in Bede Ballroom; Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., parade, tailgating and football with a social following.

We look forward to seeing you. For more details or to discover what's happening this week, visit UMC Today at [www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews](http://www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews) or review our news page at [www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews/stories](http://www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews/stories).

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If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to [urumc@umn.edu](mailto:urumc@umn.edu).

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