



UNIVERSITY  
OF MINNESOTA  
CROOKSTON

Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

## Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

October 23, 2007

---

### From the Chancellor

I recently attended the October Board of Regents meeting in Morris, along with Senior Vice Chancellor Thomas Baldwin. As you may recall, the September Regents meeting was adjourned before committee recommendations received final approval, so completing that unfinished business was part of the October agenda.

The agenda for the Educational Planning and Policy Committee included updates on strategic positioning from the Crookston and Morris campuses. I presented the [Crookston campus update](#) and encourage you to review the remarks. Committee members commented on efforts to increase retention and graduation rates and seemed open to developing new performance measures for the campus. I will be meeting with several individuals to review current retention and graduation metrics and determine if we should develop additional measures of success.

The major presentation at the meeting was the 2008 State Capital Request which was approved by the Regents. The University of Minnesota, Crookston doesn't have a specific building on the Capital Request. However, the \$100 million Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) request; the \$3 million request for classroom improvements; and \$10 million for laboratory renovations are of great interest to our campus.

Recommendations approved by the Regents that pertain to the Crookston campus include: the Minnesota-Wisconsin tuition reciprocity agreement, a new emphasis in urban forestry in the horticulture program and the Teamsters' contract.

I end my Board of Regents report with outstanding news from the University of Minnesota Foundation. Fundraising for the 2006-07 year totaled \$250,513,981, compared with \$181,532,050 the previous year.

Today, October 23, we are hosting the All-College Advisory Committee for their fall meeting. The Program Improvement Audit Committees (PIAC) are also meeting with faculty on campus. The campus community appreciates the dedication and support of the many individuals who volunteer their time to help move the campus forward.

The annual Torch & Shield Awards ceremony this evening will recognize the 2007 recipients as well as financial donors who have contributed to the University of Minnesota, Crookston through their lifetime and annual giving. Congratulations to the following [Torch & Shield honorees](#): Cindy Bigger, 1979 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Crookston; Jon Evert, Clay County (Minn.) commissioner; Robert J. Jones, Ph.D., University of Minnesota senior vice president for system academic administration; Ardell Knudsvig, director of the Student Outreach Project for Applied Science and Technology at the Crookston campus; and Senator Keith Langseth, current chair of the Minnesota State Senate's Capital Investments Committee who was recognized during homecoming weekend in early October. Please join me in extending our thanks to these individuals for their outstanding leadership and support.

I'm pleased the AFSCME members have voted to approve the most recent contract offer. Their contributions to the University of Minnesota, Crookston are important to the success of the campus.

Last week, I received an update on the Enterprise Financial System that will go live in July 2008. Since work on the system first started in 2005, much has been completed, but there remains a great deal to be done. Currently, system testing plans are underway, training of staff will follow and a communication plan for faculty, staff and other stakeholders will be developed. Vice Chancellor Eric Johnston-Ortiz has been involved in updates, and the Business Affairs staff will participate in training in preparation for the conversion.

Last week, Principal Media Resources Producer Jeff Sinks reported to the Administrative Cabinet and Executive Committee on status of the proposal for a new Crookston campus telephone system. After several months of proposal development and vendor presentations, Jeff and his committee recommended the proposal from Cisco be accepted. Administrative Cabinet voted to accept the Cisco proposal and to have Jeff submit a purchase order. It is now being forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval.

I'm also happy to report the proposal came in about 40 percent below the original cost estimate and will provide many additional features compared to the current phone system. My thanks to Jeff and all the members of the group that led this effort. Jeff summarized the proposal by saying, "It's a great price for a great product."

Chuck

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

---

## Featured Events & Activities

**Fall Convocation, October 24** – Academic achievers are recognized along with student-athletes at 10 a.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. University of North Dakota French Professor Virgil Benoit will speak on the settling of this region of the state in recognition of Minnesota's 2008 sesquicentennial celebration.

**U.S. Army Field Band and Soldiers, October 29** – This special performance sponsored by KROX begins at 7 p.m. in the Lysaker Gymnasium. Stop by KROX Radio, 208 South Main St., Crookston, Minn., for free tickets or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to KROX Radio P.O. Box 620, Crookston, Minn., 56716.

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).

---

**Publication notes:** The *E-Update* is published twice each month August thru April and once each month in the summer, May thru July. [Issues are posted online.](#)

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