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Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

November 20, 2007

From the Chancellor

We are very pleased that the Minnesota Board of Teaching site visit last week was successful. The evaluation team reported their preliminary findings verbally on November 14 indicating they will recommend that the University of Minnesota, Crookston be granted initial approval for institutional licensure with conditions that include requirements for follow-up reports and follow-up on-site visits. We expect to receive their written report in 30 days, and the final recommendations will go before the Board of Teaching for consideration in late January or early February 2008, when the licensure would become official.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the Crookston campus and paves the way for expanding our teacher education programs. This is another in a series of program changes that are being proposed to enhance opportunities for students and recruit, retain and graduate them. Currently, our birth through grade 3 program is offered in collaboration with Bemidji State University.

Early Childhood Education faculty did an outstanding job in preparing materials for the evaluation team. Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, Ph.D., Marilyn Grave and Marsha Odom, Ed.D., are to be congratulated for providing a comprehensive report. Early Childhood Development Center Manager Connie Camrud was instrumental in providing information on our teacher training laboratory and on-site facilities. Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Department Head Bill Peterson provided great support for this faculty-led effort.

Food and Beverage Vendor Proposals

The University-wide food and beverage Request For Proposal (RFP) that called for providing services at all campuses is nearing the final review stages, and a decision is expected as early as December 2007. The Crookston campus participated in the proposal review process, and a campus working committee, led by Finance and University Services, is analyzing the vendors who submitted proposals for system-wide consideration. The committee was asked to determine how each vendor matches up with the needs of the campus, as we have the choice of being part of the University-wide contract, continuing with the current in-house business model or selecting a different independent vendor. The working committee will be forwarding a recommendation to administration in the near future and opportunities for gathering additional campus input will be forthcoming.

Board of Regents Report

Senior Vice Chancellor Thomas Baldwin and I attended the November 8-9 Board of Regents meeting in the Twin Cities. Compared to typical meetings, the November agenda was more limited; however, here are some items of interest that I would like to highlight:

- 1) Regents approval of the collective bargaining agreements with the AFSCME locals
- 2) Regents approval of the proposal for a campus phone system including hardware, software, installation and maintenance support to be completed and fully operational by June 2008
- 3) Review and discussion of policies on intellectual property rights and copyright
- 4) Review and discussion of payment of University indebtedness

- 5) Reports by the external auditor and compliance officer
- 6) University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report presentation

A highlight of the Friday morning Board of Regents meeting included recognition of Regents Professor Emeritus Leonid Hurwicz, Ph.D., who received the 2007 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. In addition, Robert B. Kvavick, Ph.D., University associate vice president for planning was recognized for being appointed Knight First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit for his work in strengthening connections between Norway and the University of Minnesota.

Visit to China

As mentioned in the last edition of *E-Update*, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 3 I traveled to Hangzhou, China, with my wife, Barbara; Director of International Programs Kimberly Gillette, Ph.D.; Director of Counseling and Career Services Don Cavalier; and Math, Science and Technology faculty member Jingpeng Tang, Ph.D. We had the opportunity to visit the Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic University (ZJETP) and Zhejiang Forestry University (ZFU). We also returned to visit a school administered by the Zhejiang Ronghuai Education Group.

We had meetings with administrators in all three institutions, building on previous meetings involving U of M, Crookston administrators and faculty. At ZJETP we discussed future faculty collaborations and support for development of an English as Second Language (ESL) program. This would enhance the ability to attract students from ZJETP to the Crookston campus. ZJETP President Lee plans to travel to Minnesota in March 2008, and I invited him to visit our campus. At ZFU we signed an agreement that would lead to recruiting ZFU students to campus, encourage faculty exchange and encourage student study tours in both institutions. ZFU is a four-year comprehensive institution with about 18,000 students.

The Ronghuai Education Group took us to a residential school that is comparable to our K-12 program in Minnesota. This was obviously an opportunity to build a longer term relationship with their school and its students.

We also had the opportunity to visit a number of interesting sights and experience the culture of the area. One cannot visit and not be impressed with the long history of the area while at the same time recognizing the tremendous changes being made. The investment in higher education is particularly noticeable.

United Way Fund Drive Update

The United Way Fund Drive at the Crookston campus ended Nov. 15, and I thank everyone for their contribution to this community effort to support important organizations. We have the privilege and responsibility to help support individuals in need of these services. Contributions total \$9114 thus far, short of our \$11,000 goal. While the campaign has officially ended, additional pledges and contributions will be accepted through Nov. 30. I encourage you to consider supporting the United Way Fund if you haven't already and help us reach our goal.

My thanks to Associate Vice Chancellor Peter Phaiyah, Ph.D.; Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Department Head Bill Peterson; and Counselor Laurie Wilson for their leadership of the campus effort. Thanks, too, for the support of many building and unit leaders who helped raise awareness of the campaign and process the donations.

The end of fall semester is approaching quickly and with it the holiday season. I hope the next few weeks will be productive for all faculty and staff as we continue to serve students on campus and online. Thank you for your continued help and support. I wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Chuck

Charles H. Casey, Chancellor
University of Minnesota, Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Faculty/Staff Night and Social with Basketball vs. Valley City State, November 20 – Social for faculty and staff starts at 4:30 p.m. with half-time recognition. Golden Eagle Women's Basketball game begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Golden Eagle Men's Basketball game at 8 p.m.

Thanksgiving Holiday, November 22-23 – No classes. Offices closed.

Hockey vs. Concordia College, November 26 – First home game of the season.

Women's Holiday Social and Silent Auction, December 4 – Connect with friends of the University, enjoy holiday music, light refreshments and the silent auction. The event will be held in Bede Ballroom from 4 to 6 p.m. "A Vision for Mil Sahlstrom's Art" presentation will begin at 5 p.m.

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 or review our news page at 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.