From the Chancellor

We had a very interesting Board of Regents meeting last month. During his opening report President Kaler mentioned the Wellness Center is “on-schedule and on-budget,” and he highlighted our impressive fall-to-spring initial retention results mentioned in the previous E-Update. The Regents’ issues, which consumed a major part of the meeting and have significant potential to either directly or indirectly impact our campus, included discussions of tuition increases and undergraduate enrollment targets on the Twin Cities campus.

In brief, some of the Regents are very eager to substantially increase the TC non-resident tuition from where the TC campus presently sits as the lowest in the Big 10 to the midpoint. The present plan is to raise this incrementally over the next few years while mitigating the increases on continuing students. This may mean that the Regents will want to have non-resident tuition on all the campuses, although this has not been part of the public conversations at this point and in my informal conversations there seems to be an understanding that our “one rate” tuition model works well for us. As a reminder, at this time we project no increase in tuition at UMC for next year, but stay tuned as this discussion continues.

The second item discussed has to do with the undergraduate enrollment targets for the TC campus moving from 30,500 to as high as 33,000. While our enrollment pools are not identical, a substantial increase in enrollment on the TC campus could potentially impact our on-campus numbers. The Regents are aware of this interconnectedness, and they briefly discussed a desire to begin working on a system-wide enrollment plan that includes all the campuses. It will be very interesting to see how these conversations continue. From my perspective, a system-wide discussion and plan is very good news as there are many opportunities for improvements in this area. As a first example of system-wide thinking regarding enrollment, we were very thankful to receive recurring funding for our new director of admissions position, along with funds for international recruitment, and professionally created recruitment videos.

Speaking of system-wide efforts, there have been changes in two offices on the TC campus related to system-wide advocacy. This is good news for our campus. Last week we were visited by folks from the State Relations and Alumni Offices to discuss new efforts to connect our advocacy in St. Paul across the entire system. To our knowledge, this focused work is a first for both of these offices. I am fully supportive of these efforts as I think there is enormous potential to make a compelling case that the entire state benefits when there is investment in the entire University of Minnesota.

Following the Board meeting, Brandy Chaffee, Rose Ulseth, and I traveled to the annual Arizona Social. We had very strong attendance, and it was good to see our two-year alumni joining the event too. We also traveled the area and met with a number of new folks in order to begin to build relationships. All in all it was a very successful trip.

Finally, I hope you enjoyed supporting our winter athletic programs as much as I did this year. Once again, the equestrian team was outstanding. While not quite reaching their goal of winning the team regional title, a
number of riders on both the Hunt Seat and Western teams will be advancing. The men’s basketball team played very well, especially considering that they were intentionally very young this year. They were close to winning a number of games, and the future is very bright for this young team. The women’s basketball team seems to just keep getting better with a record-breaking year in terms of total wins and conference wins, and we all benefited from an outstanding home playoff win, which set a college attendance record for “The Hersch.” It was great fun to see the students enthusiastically supporting their team. Go Golden Eagles!

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Peter Boie, Magician for Non-Believers, Wednesday, March 9 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free for UMC students, $5 for members of the public

Spring Break, Monday, March 14 through Friday March 18 – classes excused, campus offices open

U of M College of Continuing Education’s Bridge Safety Inspection Workshop, Thursday, March 17 – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Peterson Classroom, Heritage Hall, $125 registration fee

Crookston Chamber of Commerce High School Career Day for High School Juniors, Thursday, March 17 – 9 a.m. to noon, locations across campus

2016 International Dinner Series: “Mexico: South of the Border” Featuring UMC Student Cassandra Morthera Navarrete – Monday, March 21 – 6 to 8 p.m., Bede Ballroom, series tickets are $50 for adults, individual dinner tickets are $15, contact Rae French for tickets at rfrench@umn.edu or 218-281-8339

It’s a Wrap! – “A Blonde, Blind Lady and a Southern Sister, Turned Minnesotan: An Inclusive Model of Diversity, Ability, and Inclusion,” Tuesday, March 22 – 3:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Golden Eagle Gratitude, Wednesday, March 23 – 11:44 a.m. to 12:44 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge

For details on these and a comprehensive listing of other events or to discover what’s happening this week, visit UMC Today at www.umcrookston.edu/today or review our news page at http://news.crk.umn.edu/news.
Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: http://brief.umn.edu/.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

Diane Christianson has been hired as assistant to the vice chancellor in the Office of Academic Affairs. Christianson holds a B.S. in business administration from Columbia College, Columbus, Missouri. She comes to UMC after serving as a financial manager for Greater Minnesota Management in Mentor, Minn. She also has experience as a contracts and grants manager for Northwest Mental Health Center in Crookston. Christianson began her duties at UMC on March 2.
Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) –

Faculty and staff members who are interested in implementing a continuous improvement project in their area may complete and submit an AQIP Action Project Proposal. Completed proposals should be submitted to Sue Erickson, director, Institutional Effectiveness. The next deadline for proposals is March 15, 2016, and the following deadline will be June 15. The form to submit a proposal is available online at www.umcrookston.edu/aqip.

Student Affairs –

Students elected or appointed to positions in the Crookston Student Association for spring semester 2016 include: Madison Crane, Senator for Elections and Special Events; Samantha Lemay, Senator Liaison; Ben Koisti, Senator for Constitution and Bylaws; and Noelle “Ellie” Sjoquist, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Representative. Dalton Javner, who served as a senator in fall semester, has been appointed the Regents Representative.

“Magician for non-believers” Peter Boie will perform on Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free for UMC students and is sponsored by SPACE (Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment). Boie has showcased his talents on national TV, where he performed for the CW Network’s hit show, “Penn & Teller Fool Us.” He also was nominated for "Entertainer of the Year 2015" from Campus Activities Magazine.

International Programs –

The UMC International Programs Office and Confucius Institute Satellite Office will host a farewell reception for Chunhui Wang, Ph.D., on Wednesday, March 9, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. Wang, who has served as the director of the Confucius Institute Satellite Office on the Crookston campus since March 2013, will return to his home institution of Capital Normal University in Beijing, China. A new director for the satellite office will arrive in August to continue sharing Chinese culture and language.

Facilities & Operations –

Vern Shafer has been hired as a maintenance carpenter in the Facilities & Operations Department. He comes to UMC with several years of experience as a finish carpenter and cabinet builder for various construction companies. He also has been self-employed. Shafer is a graduate of the carpentry program offered by Moorhead Vocational and Technical School, which is now Minnesota State Community and Technical College. He began his responsibilities at UMC on March 7.

Technology Support Services –

Faculty, staff, and student input from across the system is requested to shape the future of IT at the U of M. The foundation of the annual IT governance process is in understanding the needs of the U community. Take a short survey to help set near-term information technology service priorities: http://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ThcdtHg4q56kWp.
Development & Alumni Relations –

Check out the first Golden Eagle Gratitude event, a student-focused campus celebration to raise awareness of the impact of giving, on Wednesday, March 23, from 11:44 a.m. to 12:44 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center. There’ll be t-shirts for the first 100 students who write thank you notes, a roaming photographer and videographer, a large thank you banner to sign, stations with food and beverages, and a short program including the unveiling of a new, fun Regal the Golden Eagle graphic. Watch social media for more information in the days ahead.

University Relations –

TV commercials showcasing the current selection of majors within each of UMC’s four academic departments will air on KSTC TV (channel 45 in the Twin Cities metro area) during the Minnesota State High School League Boys’ Basketball Tournament, March 10-12, as well as the MSHSL the Girls’ Basketball Tournament March 17-19. The four different TV spots—one representing each academic department—will be rotated equally.

Athletics –

The UMC Golden Eagles Women’s Basketball Team wrapped up the best season in program history just over a week ago. They eclipsed their program-best for wins in a season with 18, while also surpassing their conference wins record of 14. The 18 wins bested the 2004-05 team’s mark of 16-12. This season was also highlighted by the team’s three-point shooting, which from January 1 to February 4 was ranked as either the No. 1 or No. 2 among all of NCAA Division II. UMC ends the season shooting 39.0 percent from beyond the arc, ranked seventh nationally. The team’s historic run features their second-ever and second-consecutive home playoff game at Lysaker Gymnasium as they were granted the opportunity after finishing third in the NSIC North Division for the second-straight season. Katrina Nordick now becomes the team’s all-time leading rebounder on the season and finishes third all-time in scoring, while Alexa Thielman finishes fourth all-time in scoring and sets the school record for three-pointers in a career. The two are also ranked in the Top 10 all-time for many other categories.

University of Minnesota Crookston women’s basketball players Katrina Nordick, a senior from Perham, Minn., majoring in applied studies, and Alexa Thielman, a senior from Buffalo, Minn., majoring in health sciences, have been named to the 2015-16 All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) First Team, and Alison Hughes, a freshman from Janesville, Wis., majoring in early childhood education, has been named NSIC All-Freshman. Nordick and Thielman, who also received the All-NSIC First Team honor in 2014-15, earn the eighth and ninth All-NSIC First Team accolades for the UMC program. They are among the five players in program history who have received nine All-NSIC First Team honors along with Jamie Zelinsky (2010-11), Karna Plaine (2004-05), Cathy Behr (2002-03), and Jessica Forsline (2000-01, 2001-02). Nordick and Thielman join Jessica Forsline as the three UMC women’s basketball players who have earned All-NSIC First Team accolades twice.

The University of Minnesota Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian Team earned High Point Team honors as they closed the 2015-16 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) regular-season with a home show on Saturday, February 27, and Sunday, February 28. The Golden Eagles fell just short of claiming the Regional Title, but they did earn Reserve High Point Team in the region. Three riders will advance to the IHSA Zone
Championships: Selena Young, a freshman from Plymouth, Minn.; Megan Motter, a freshman from Cooperstown, N.D.; and Monika Frame, a sophomore from Polson, Mont. Additionally, Young was named High Point Rider. Zone 7 Championships will be held on April 19 at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

The UMC Western Equestrian Team finished their season by earning Reserve Team Champion regional honors following the IHSA show held at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities on Saturday, February 20. Amanda Guimont, a senior from Nowthen, Minn., will advance to the Western Semifinals set for March 19-20 in Findlay, Ohio.

University of Minnesota System

On Thursday, March 3, U of M President Eric Kaler and Vice President of University Services Pamela Wheelock presented the University’s 2016 legislative priorities to the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee. Six proposed capital request projects have been identified across the U of M system that benefit the entire state, and President Kaler emphasized the value of state investment in University facilities across Minnesota. Learn more about these projects at www.govrelations.umn.edu/capital-request.html. The committee heard bonding proposal presentations from other state agencies as well. The legislative session convenes on Tuesday, March 8.

Campus and Community

The U of M College of Continuing Education will hold a Bridge Safety Inspection Workshop at UMC on Thursday, March 17, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Peterson Classroom, Heritage Hall. The workshop is open to the public. The seminar fee is $125 and includes an updated NBE Field Manual (for Minnesota), class resource book, lunch, and refreshment breaks. Learn more and register at http://cce.umn.edu/bridge-safety-inspection-refresher-training.

More than 400 high school juniors from several regional schools are scheduled to visit the U of M Crookston to learn about different careers from a number of local professionals during the annual Crookston Chamber of Commerce Career Day on Thursday, March 17. The event, sponsored by the Crookston Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and UMC, begins at 9:30 a.m. with a keynote address in Kiehle Auditorium and continues with two occupational sessions before concluding with lunch in Brown Dining Room.

Accolades

The U of M Crookston’s online bachelor’s degree in marketing has earned a top 15 national ranking among “2016 Most Affordable Marketing Degrees Online” from OnlineU.org. The listing is available at www.onlineu.org/most-affordable-colleges/marketing-degrees. To be considered for this ranking, colleges were required to offer at least a bachelor’s degree or higher in marketing in a fully online format. OnlineU.org is a product of SR Education Group and is a free, comprehensive guide allowing students to compare all online colleges in the U.S.

AccreditedSchoolsOnline.org, an online resource that reviews accredited high schools, colleges, and universities, has ranked the U of M Crookston at #6 among the top ten “Best Online Schools in Minnesota for 2015-2016.” See www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/minnesota.
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