

**Northeastern State University**  
**University Assembly**  
**February 19, 2009**  
**Notes – Linda West (Faculty Council Secretary)**

**Opening and Introductions – Don Betz**

Earlier the Celebration of Teaching event took place in the auditorium. We exist to help people learn. We need to find ways to communicate this agenda. Things are not normal in these times. We need to find how we can serve and create opportunities even in these hard economic times. This will be the last University Assembly before our Founder's Day celebration.

**Budget Update – Kim Cherry**

There is not firm news at this point about the state budget. The Equalization Board has met and certified revenues that show a 612 million short fall for the state or an 8.7% reduction. Some pots of money will be available and there are bills in the legislature. We should know more in a few weeks. The 2005 Capital Bond issue is what is funding our current projects. As you take to people about improvements at NSU, make sure they know that this money is not coming from state appropriations or tuition.

The University Technology Committee needs your input. They are compiling a five year strategic plan. They are looking for visionary needs. You can send your ideas to Rick Matzen, chair of the committee, or people in your area on the committee. There will be a distribution of the technology fee soon. It should address specific technology needs. This will be due at the end of February. Funds should be announced in late March.

**Centennial Update – John Gyllin**

The planning for these events started four years ago and has taken the effort of many people. We started with the August kick-off picnic, Carrie Underwood's visit, and many other things. March 6<sup>th</sup> will be a big celebration of Founder's Day. In April, Larry Cocker will speak. Friends and alumni will help us celebrate at Homecoming and the Emerald Ball. Also, we are looking forward to the Inauguration on May 1<sup>st</sup>. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, a new time capsule will be installed.

**Founder's Day Update – Jerry Cook**

There are five events planned. The students will start the celebration on Thursday with entertainment and fireworks in the stadium. The Centurion celebration will honor 100 people and our former presidents at a luncheon. At 2 p.m. the celebration will take place at Centennial Plaza with a program focusing on our history and our future. The Sequoyah status will be dedicated and blessed. Later, 100 Centurion Scholarships will be awarded to students. And finally a reception in the Science building will be hosted by Don and Suzanne Betz, showcasing 20 photographs.

**Higher Ed Day Review – Don Betz**

Higher Ed day was a success due to a new strategy and work before. Students were involved in the visits.

**Mark Kinders** – Our strategy focused on our 24 county area and an emerging issue of the need for science and health care education. There was a good response to our focused message. The teams made over 50 visits. One talking point was our efficiency and our 1.2 million shortfalls due to funding Broken Arrow. There was some money found that day due to the visits.

### **Economic Stimulus Legislation – Mark Kinders**

The Federal Recovery Act was outlined. This will be a sea change in federal funding. There are many areas that focus on education. Everyone should look for areas where we can get money from the plan. Oklahoma's share is 2.68 billion dollars. Higher education funding will be at the highest of 2008 or 2009 funding levels from state funds in order for the state to receive the stimulus money. Stimulus funds can be used for facilities. The plan also increased college tax credits to families. Federal plus ups include increases in Pell grants, work study funds and other education related federal funds. NSU has submitted a 76 million dollar list of building projects that are non-prioritized at this time.

#### **Seeking Non-State Funding for Projects – Tom Jackson**

The stimulus package will also affect grant agencies such as NSF, NIH, DOE, DOJ. We are renewing Community of Science for one more year. When you write grants add in 49% for F&A (administrative support of grants). These funds go to colleges and the University for administrative costs of administering grants. Call his office if you need information.

### **Branding and Integrated Marketing – Mark Kinders**

There is a need to move forward with this. They have sent RFQs to seven different consultants. There will be surveys in April/May. Also, they will be asking some faculty and staff to participate. There should be a new strategy in place by the next academic year.

### **Healthy Campus Initiative – Laura Boren**

Right now in the UC, there are focus groups talking about alcohol and drug use. There is also a conversation about making NSU a tobacco free campus. Students are involved in a new northeast heart association initiative. Libby Rogers, school nurse, has been trained in smoking cessation. Students were praised for helping to clean up the campus after the ice storm. Over 100 students worked for four hours to clean up. The fourth annual Big Event will be March 28<sup>th</sup>. They are planning for 1,000 students. Job requests can be turned in by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Centurion Student Scholarship Update – Don Betz**

Dr. Betz praised Joe Spence and the grounds crews for the job they did in bringing our campus back to life after the ice storm. The UPG is making progress in reframing the strategic plan. The Foundation Office is still receiving \$100 scholarships for the Centurion Scholarships. There is a list being compiled of all awards given on campus. A new service leadership award will be given to two faculty and two staff. The "Model the Way" award will be coming and will be an open process.

### **Comments and Closing – Don Betz**

The President held a retreat for his leadership group. They ran out of time before issues. They talked about realities and challenges we face. The primary goal was to build the team and they made some progress. Some broad spectrum goals were articulated. Four years from now: The Tahlequah campus will be the size it was in 1994 (7000-7400). That is the right size for us. We will have excellence in retention rates (75%). These are the people we serve, we need to help them succeed and to

educate them for Oklahoma's future. We will have an international student population of 400 students from many countries.

We simply "can't afford for you to not be on the top of your game. I ask you to be bold and collaborative. And it's alright to make a mistake." Try – do – serve. We will learn from our mistakes. In 2013 let's meet here and talk about how we did.