Loosening the Bow Tie

Capital Request Advances Facilities Plan

Some have said our campus layout resembles a bow tie; others have said it looks more like a barbell. No matter what description is used, facility planners find it problematic. The campus’ south side is primarily comprised of academic areas; the north side is mainly residential. In the middle, planners say, is a knot that reduces campus interaction and prevents the University from having a “front door.”

To remedy the problem, our master facilities plan proposes a long-term strategy that begins with moving the business and accounting programs to the center of campus, where they would be located near most of the University’s academic areas. The plan also calls for transforming Memorial Hall gym into a new Beaux Arts Ballroom, with a lobby area readied to welcome visitors.

The University’s 2010 capital bonding request helps advance the master facilities plan with a design request to renovate the gymnasio and surrounding areas in Memorial Hall and to construct new classroom space in a portion of Hobson Memorial Union. The new Hobson space will not only house business and accounting departments, but also business-related units such as the Center for Research and Innovation, the Small Business Development Office, and the Marketing and Assistance Research Solutions (MARS). The synergy that already exists between these entities will undeniably expand as they come together in a single location. In addition to these changes, the bookstore and some customer services areas also would be moved to a more accessible area in Hobson.

By renewing the use of obsolete or underused space, we are able to support academic programs that are growing and provide more visibility to critical student services. In the past five years, the accounting and business programs have experienced a 48 percent increase in credit growth. They desperately need smart classrooms and learning laboratories to provide more flexible learning environments.

This year’s bonding request also enables us to reduce our campus footprint with the demolition of Maple Hall in 2010. While it is often emotional to see buildings removed, it’s necessary to bring our learning and service programs into conformity with the realities of a 21st Century campus by adjusting the total square footage of our facilities. Reducing our facilities footprint will also result in energy savings.

Another aspect of the University’s request presents renovating some psychology department space in Hagg-Sauer to create more effective teaching and learning areas. Five asset preservation and replacement (HEAPR) projects totaling some $3.2 million are also part of the University’s 2010 request.

Bemidji State has been fortunate in securing support to continually improve our campus facilities. Over the past few years, we have witnessed the transformation of several buildings including Bridgeman and Linden halls, lower Memorial Hall, and, most recently, Sattgast Hall. Projects like these revitalize tired or outdated facilities and convert the spaces into cutting-edge learning or living environments. Acquisition of the former high school property will provide the University with new space utilization options as learning and service needs evolve in the future.

Partnerships are often a key part of our facility improvement efforts. Such was the case with the Outdoor Program Center, which moved to a highly visible, highly accessible lakeside facility at Diamond Point Park. A lease agreement with the city of Bemidji enable us to shift locations and provide this nationally-recognized center a new home in one of the area’s finest recreational parks. Similarly, the new trail that winds lakeside through campus, linking Bemidji State to the area’s bikeway system, was another such partnership. Bikers and hikers now traverse the campus’ shoreline as they make their way along the path.

We are extremely grateful for the efforts of areas legislators, community leaders, and alumni have made to help secure funding for the University’s facility projects and capital requests over the years. Many of those same individuals have already stepped forward once again to help us carry the message of our 2010 bonding needs to the state legislature. And once again, we offer our gratitude for their continued support of Bemidji State University.
At the end of every war the United States has waged, at its conclusion military veterans return home to uncertain futures. How will they readjust to civilian life? How will society receive them? And what scars will they bear, emotionally and physically? Tom Murphy, professor of history, will be exploring these principle questions faced by America’s war veterans during a pair of presentations as part of the Honors Council Lecture Series.

Murphy’s two-part presentation begins Tuesday, Nov. 10, with a presentation of the 1946 film, “The Best Years of Our Lives.” The film chronicles the experiences of three World War II veterans -- a soldier, a sailor and an airman -- returning home to Boone City and the difficulties they face in re-acquainting themselves with a society they left behind years earlier. Murphy will introduce the film, then be available to answer questions afterward.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, Murphy will deliver a lecture on the issues veterans face when returning home after combat. The lecture will feature stories from both American and foreign soldiers.

Both presentations will be held in Hagg-Sauer 112 on the BSU campus. The Nov. 10 film presentation begins at 6 p.m. while the Nov. 12 lecture will begin at 7 p.m.

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University completes computer recycling initiative
Hundreds of obsolete computer systems recycled under program sponsored by Apple Computer

Under the direction of Mitch Davidson, chief information officer, Bemidji State completed a recycling initiative during the summer of 2009, taking advantage of a unique opportunity offered by Apple Computer, Inc., to recycle more than 600 obsolete computer systems.

"I am pleased to say that we were able to recycle 607 computer systems, some of which had been in storage for quite some time," Davidson said. "This kept more than 3,000 pounds of heavy metals and other toxic materials out of our landfills."

Apple's program, which was offered free to all educational institutions with at least 25 computers, printers or displays to recycle, ended in August.

For institutions submitting at least 25 pieces of computer hardware for recycling, Apple also accepted printers, fax machines, scanners and other office hardware for recycling. Apple’s program ensured that retired equipment was disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner, with special consideration for data security. Hard drives were ground into confetti-sized pieces and asset tags and other identifying information was removed prior to destruction. Certificates of destruction were issued for each lot recycled through the program, and all electronic waste collected through the program was processed domestically in the United States.

"By taking advantage of this program, we saved $21,245 in recycling fees," Davidson said. "In addition, we received $33,285 for some of the technology that still had residual value."

Davidson gave special thanks to staff members Craig DuMarce, Daryk Leonhardt and Dana Danielson and student workers Ben Eckstein, Mitch Nelson, Matt Herboldt, Lance Richter, Justin Christensen and Troy Guntzel for their help with the recycling project.

While the Apple program likely will not be available again, the University still has more systems to recycle.

"We do have 100 more systems to recycle, soon to be 170 when laptops are replaced at NTC," Davidson said.

Staff Feature

Lynn Johnson, associate director of distance learning, Center for Extended Learning

**What’s your job at BSU?**

"I’m the associate director of distance learning. I work as a liaison between students taking off-campus courses and the faculty who are offering them."

**How long have you been here?**

"I’ve been here for eight years. Before coming to BSU I worked at St. Mary’s University in Winona."

**What’s your favorite thing about being at BSU?**

"The staff that I work with; everybody on campus is great. The students our office works with - returning adult students trying to finish their degrees - are also an interesting population to work with on a day-to-day basis."

**Inside the Beaver’s Studio**

1. What is your favorite word?
   "Yes."

2. What is your least favorite word?
   "Re-iterate."

3. What turns you on?
   "I love being outside, even for winter activities. Especially for winter activities."

4. What turns you off?
   "Summer."

5. What sound do you love?
   "Night sounds - frogs, crickets, things you hear in summer."

6. What sound do you hate?
   "Traffic."

7. What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?
   "It would be fun to be a wilderness guide."

8. What profession would you not like to do?
   "Politics."

9. If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?
   "I hope He tells me that He appreciated my efforts."

Thanks to Lynn for playing along for this issue’s faculty feature! Participants for this section are selected randomly using a process that involves a dozen clowns impossibly packed into a tiny car.

This is intended to be a lighthearted look at the non-professional side of some of our favorite professionals. If you have suggestions for a faculty or staff member you’d like to see featured here, e-mail Andy Bartlett at jbartlett@bemidjistate.edu or call my office at 2746.
Personnel News

New faces and old friends in new places

- No activity to report.

Campus Notes

Updates on the activities and achievements of our friends in the campus community

Arts & Sciences

- Marty Wolf, professor of mathematics and computer science, co-authored a paper "Developing artificial agents worthy of Trust: Would You Buy a Used Car From This Artificial Agent?" that was accepted for presentation at the Eighth International Conference of Computer Ethics: Philosophical Enquiry in June 2009. The paper was co-authored by Frances Grodzinsky and Keith Miller and presented by Grodzinsky and Miller.

That trio also had "Why Turing Shouldn’t Have to Guess," accepted for presentation at the Fifth Asia-Pacific Computing and Philosophy Conference in Oct. 2009, presented by Miller, and "On the Meaning of Free Software" accepted for publication in the Dec. 2009 issue of Ethics and Information Technology.

Health Sciences and Human Ecology

The Eighth Annual Bags of Wishes is coming the week of Nov. 16-20.

Sponsored by the Social Work Club, this is a campus community donation drive for the House of Hospitality, the family homeless shelter in Bemidji. Each year faculty, staff and students provide financial support and household or food items to help this nonprofit organization. They rely on our support to make it through difficult times. Last year over $1,500 and 600 items were donated.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 16, donation bins will be located throughout the campus and faculty and staff will find a plastic bag on their door with information about this year’s drive.

If there are any questions, contact Cheryl Byers at 2836 or via e-mail at cbyers@bemidjiSTATE.edu or John Zajac, vice president of the Social Work Club, at john.zajac@st.bemidjiSTATE.edu.

MnSCU visit to discuss Presidential search process

Lori Lamb, vice chancellor for human resources at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and Linda Skallman, associate vice chancellor for human resources, will be in Bemidji on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 2 and Thursday morning, Dec. 3 to describe the presidential search process to interested constituents at Bemidji State and Northwest Technical College. They will present at the following times for approximately 45 minutes.

Wednesday, December 2
2 p.m.  NTC Faculty, Staff, and Students, NTC Community Commons
3 p.m.  BSU Student Senate and all BSU students, Crying Wolf Room
4 p.m.  BSU Leadership Council and NTC Dean Bruce Hemstad, Ozawindib Room

Thursday, December 3
9 a.m.  BSU Faculty and Staff, Crying Wolf Room
10 a.m. BSU Faculty and Staff, Crying Wolf Room