



UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON

Driven to DiscoverSM

Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

December 18, 2007

Inside this Issue

[Holiday greetings from the Chancellor](#)
[Organizational psychology degree approved](#)
[New residence hall discussions continue](#)
[Progress on becoming a top three research university](#)
[State budget and economic outlook](#)
[Safety upgrades to bring TXT-U to campus](#)
[Featured events & activities](#)

From the Chancellor

As we wrap up the semester this final week, I want to wish each and every member of the University of Minnesota, Crookston community a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for a happy New Year. I encourage you to share the goodwill of the season with your family and friends.

Students have already been busy spreading “good cheer” as part of the Winter Wonderland activities sponsored by the Crookston Chamber of Commerce earlier this month. I want to acknowledge the involvement of the Crookston Student Association (CSA), who managed Santa Land; the Aviation Club, who lighted luminaries; and the UMC Choir, who shared their musical talents. About 50 students helped make this annual holiday tradition a wonderful time for families throughout the region, despite the cold temperatures. This is just one example of how Crookston campus students partner with area organizations to support the community. Thanks for your continuing efforts.

Board of Regents Update

This past week, I attended the December 13-14 Board of Regents meetings in the Twin Cities. Several of the items and discussions are of interest to our campus community. I also had the opportunity to meet with administrative teams during our visit in order to move projects ahead. Minutes, docket materials as well as video/audio of the meetings are posted online at www1.umn.edu/regents/meetings.html.

The Board of Regents approved delivery of a **Bachelor of Science degree in [organizational psychology](#) as well as a minor on the Crookston campus**. Thanks to Assistant Professor Alvin Killough, Ph.D., for conceptualizing and writing the proposal and Bill Peterson, department head in Arts, Humanities and Social Science, for supporting the program development. Thanks, also, to the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Assembly for their support. This program will help with recruitment and retention of students on campus.

During my time in the Twin Cities, I also had the opportunity to join Vice Chancellor Eric Johnston-Ortiz and Environmental Health & Safety Specialist Tom Feiro for a discussion with U of M staff advisors about the Crookston campus **proposal for a new residence hall**, which would be ready for fall 2009. They requested some additional information from the campus, which is

being provided. The next step will be to take the proposal to the Capital Planning Committee early next year.

Reports of note:

1) **Minnesota Budget and Economic Outlook** presented by Minnesota State economist Thomas Stinson, Ph.D. – Stinson presented data indicating a projected 2008-09 State budget deficit of \$373 million, which has been widely reported in the media. The affect on budgets will be minimal, according to Stinson. However, he expressed some longer-term concerns about the Minnesota economy including challenging employment ratios for young and senior workers, a decline in research and development investment and the overall decline in the Minnesota Employment Growth over the past six years.

2) **2007 Annual Research Report** presented by Vice President Timothy Mulcahy, Ph.D. – Mulcahy provided several measures of research productivity at the University of Minnesota as compared to national and international peers. Some conclusions include:

- a) The U posted the second largest increase in research expenditures for 2006 among the top 20 research universities (public and private)
- b) The U ranked 9th among public universities in 2006, rebounding from a slip to 10th place in 2005
- c) The U is “closing the gap” toward becoming “No. 3” – one of the top three research universities in the world

3) **University of Minnesota Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Financial Report** presented by Vice President Richard Pfitzenreuter – Summary statements include:

- a) The University’s balance sheet continues to be strong
- b) The University’s revenues and expenses resulted in an increase in net assets
- c) The University experienced favorable returns on investments during FY 2007
- d) Future financial strength is dependent on new sources of revenue, cost containment, State support and focusing the University’s financial resources on its core mission

4) **University of Minnesota U Plan Update** – This presentation by health care executives provided background to the Regents on market trends, health and risk factors and paying for care. The discussion was informational only and required no action; however, these issues will affect all University employees in the future.

5) **University of Minnesota Systemwide Student Health Report** presented by Dr. Edward P. Ehlinger, director and chief health officer of Boynton Health Service and the University of Minnesota campuses as well as other 4-year and 2-year campuses in the state. The survey presented by Ehlinger contained six interest areas:

- a) Health Insurance and Health Care Utilization
- b) Mental Health and Related Issues
- c) Alcohol and other drug use
- d) Tobacco use
- e) Nutrition and Physical Activity
- f) Sexual Health

6) **Update on Undergraduate Initiatives** presented by Vice Provost Craig Swan, Ph.D. – The report’s major focus was on initiatives and measures of success for the Twin Cities campus. This generated significant media interest because of improvements in retention and graduation rates on the Twin Cities campus. The coordinate campuses received only brief comments. Crookston campus 4-year graduation rates remained stable in 2007 at 25.7 percent, compared with 25.3 percent in 2006.

Other Campus News:

Jeff Sperling, Technology Support Services director, presented information to the Executive Committee about the use of text messaging via cell phones to notify the campus community about emergency situations. This has been implemented on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses already and we expect it to be operational on the Crookston campus by the middle of spring semester. Stay tuned for your opportunity to sign up.

My thanks to everyone again for all your contributions to the success of the University of Minnesota, Crookston and for your support of the work I do. Safe travels to everyone, Happy Holidays, and I look forward to an eventful spring 2008.

Chuck

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

Featured Events & Activities

Corn College, Dec. 19-20 – The two-day college involves in-depth, hands-on workshops designed for corn producers featuring top extension and research specialists from the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University (NDSU). Visit the [Web](#) page for more details.

Holiday Break, December 24-25 – Offices closed. Happy Holidays!

Golden Eagle Hockey vs. Franklin Pierce, December 28 – Cheer on Golden Eagle Hockey as they face New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce Ravens. Game time is at 7:30 p.m. at the Crookston Civic Arena.

Holiday Break, December 31-January 1 – Offices closed. Happy New Year!

Spring Semester 2008 – Residence halls open January 6 at 1 p.m. and classes begin January 7.

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.

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.