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Chancellor Schuman hits the trenches

Summary:

(July 23, 2003)-University of Minnesota, Morris Chancellor Sam Schuman recently gave Morris campus employees an offer they could, but didn't, refuse.

"If any office, program or work group would like, I'd be pleased to join them for a morning or afternoon, and actually try to help out doing what they do, to the extent that an untrained but willing person could help out," said Schuman. "I'd help clean things, or work behind a counter, or file things, cook, wash dishes, help coach, change oil or cut grass or shelve books or enter data."

Several campus offices responded with tasks, and Schuman so far has spent these early days of summer helping with a psychology experiment, cleaning rooms in Pine Residence Hall, visiting a computer class, filing and assisting with other office work in the Minority Student Program office, and sorting and delivering mail in the campus Post Office.

"I worry sometimes about the inevitability of a college president or chancellor drifting into a kind of executive isolation," added Schuman. "While this seems to me less a problem at a small, communal institution like UMM than at larger, more layered places, it remains a concern."

But, alas, no time for theorizing there's work to be done. Let's see, Friday at 10 - tour of Heating Plant...Tuesday at 9 - office work in the Office of Residential Life...

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