

*Minot State University
Staff Senate Meeting
October 19, 2004
9am Jones Room*

Members present: Caren Barnett, Linda Benson, Billy Boyeff, Karen Brunner-Wright, Chad Carr, Sheldon Dokken, Donna Harvey, Tim Healy, Bill Klimpel, Pat Hrichena, Scott Peterson, Sherie Saltveit, Kim Schwinler, Sherry Wheeling, Kim Whithus, Kimberly Witt, Gary Wolf and Judy Bacon. Kim Thompson, ex-officio.

Members absent: Cathy Horvath, Audrey Sidener, and Laurie Weber. Wes Matthews, ex-officio

Guests present: Laurie Brierly, Dr. David Fuller, Melanie Moore, and Kelly Buettner Schmidt.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Judy reported that there is currently \$3128.76 in the Staff Senate account, which includes ticket sales of \$2621.00, leaving a balance of \$928.88.

Dr. David Fuller addressed the Staff Senate with information regarding recent meetings between local legislators and university administration concerning goals of Higher Ed., support and funding issues.

Dr. Fuller also advised everyone of the recent 'Centers of Excellence' meeting which was held on campus on Oct. 6, with 110 people in attendance and of the \$5 million which may be granted to each campus to enhance economic development. On that day, various discussion groups contributed 55 different ideas for possible 'Centers of Excellence.' In the forefront, the Prairie Community Development Center is an ongoing organization, which helps communities establish businesses and in the process are able to leverage more funds for the communities.

Other items of concern included the issue of smoking on campus, and the safety of the students in regards to the 'date-rape' drug, which has recently been reported on the news and in the *Red & Green*. The issue of access by persons with disabilities to the Student Health Center in Lura Manor was noted. Dr. Fuller also acknowledged everyone's efforts and professionalism in the process of changing over to *People Soft*.

Kelly Buettner Schmidt, assistant professor of nursing and NDCPD's project director for the Tobacco Education, Research and Policy Project informed everyone of the on-going discussions between their committee and the administration regarding the issues of smoking on campus. Laurie Brierly, STAMP coordinator at First District Health Unit, gave information on smoking statistics among college-age students and explained efforts to promote tobacco/smoke-free environments. Bill Klimpel suggested sending out surveys via email to gather information from as many people as possible as to their feelings regarding this issue.

There was no new information on tuition waivers for dependants of MSU employees, nor was there any information regarding tuition waivers for employees taking classes on-line.

The NDUS Staff Senate IVN meeting is scheduled for December 15.

Linda reported that she has met with Ashley Lysne, Student Association President, regarding various topics of mutual concern. It is hoped that the president of faculty senate will be able to take part in a meeting at a future date.

Bill moved and Caren Barnett seconded to continue with the annual Christmas office decorating contest. A notice will be sent out campus-wide, and a committee will be formed to organize the contest.

Bill reported on the NDPERS meeting at which catch-up raises for state employees was discussed.

Discussion on holding an employee/faculty event at a basketball game this winter was tabled until next month.

Bill moved and Chad seconded to send out a campus-wide email to see if there is any interest in re-ordering the Minot State cookbooks for sale by Staff Senate.

The winners of the prizes for the Bloms family benefit raffle were as follows: Terry Eckmann-painting by Jon Olson; Terry Eshenko-photo by Linda Olson; Nadine Holmly-photo by Bill Harbort; Duane Halvorson-poster by Walter Piehl, Jr.; Eldon Strand-ceramics by Rudy Wall; Shawn Schmidt-ceramics by Rudy Wall. Total proceeds raised for the family were \$3,869.25. Funds will be deposited in the 'Blair Bloms Fund' in the Minot Area Schools Federal Credit Union.

Melanie Moore informed everyone of the Halloween Party for area children to be held on October 31 at the Dome from 5 – 8 pm. This event is sponsored by the Minot Optimist Club and MSU Student Council for Exceptional Students.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10am.