

**Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, September 20, 2005
9:00 am - Jones Room**

Members Present: Caren Barnett, Linda Benson, Sheldon Dokken, Donna Harvey, Timothy Healy, Pat Hubel, Jolina Miller, Renee Olson, Scott Peterson, Karlee Rauschenberger, Kim Schwinler, Jerry Smith, Catherine Walker, Lou Whitmer, Kim Withus, and Gary Wolf, Wes Matthews (ex-officio member)..

Visitors: Dr. Gary Rabe, Dr. David Fuller.

Members Absent: Kim Thompson Cathy Horvath, Merri Jo Connole, Chad Carr, Julie Drum, William Klimpel, and Kimberly Witt.

Call to order: President Linda called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Reports:

Treasurer report (via Linda Benson): As of September 15, 2005 the balance for the Staff Senate account was \$814.76. Pat Hubel was locked out of PeopleSoft and unable to get the balance this morning.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as written. Hubel noted that minutes will be made available on the Staff Senate committee link in the near future.

Picture of Staff Senate will be taken at next meeting for the committee web site.

Old Business.

Picnic Committee: After noting that Dr. Fuller would like the picnic to be an annual event, R. Olson stated that several suggestions have been made for next year's event. These included a larger budget for food items, arranging the lines for entry differently, help from the Alumni with some funding, and that prizes would be awarded differently and the suggestion is to have a package of prizes rather than drawings for each individual item. There has been discussion to approach MLT about one of the trips they give away and see if they will donate to MSU for one of the prizes.

New Business. Dr. Fuller presented information on enrollment. The figures are noted to be slightly up in FTEs although headcount is down slightly. Dr. Fuller notes that bids are coming in for renovation projects around campus. MSU has presented to the state concerning a Center of Excellence for Art to be combined with the Space Art Center. The vision is to create a create this center which may help improve the arts program by combining it with such a prestigious program. He noted that it was a different approach for a Center as it was not an area of economic development though could be.

All Staff are invited and encouraged to attend all Staff Senate meetings.

A short discussion about a daycare initiative followed. Dr. Fuller is hopeful that there can be a daycare on campus at some point in the near future. Student Association President, Britney Blackmore has made this issue one of her focal points.

Dr. Fuller noted that there will be a summary of the focus groups that were conducted over the last several months and staff, faculty, students, and the public are going to be encouraged to come and discuss the issues.

Drs Fuller and Rabe presented information on the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and discussed how many students had completed the survey and what the final results were found. NSSE data noted that the MSU students do not compare favorably to either peers, other Master's I institutions, or all institutions taking the NSSE survey. There was discussion about NSSE including a question regarding the number of online students who may have taken the survey and if they skewed the results. Dr. Rabe and Hubel will examine this more but will require a manual analysis as the uploaded names did not distinguish if students were strictly online or on-campus enrollments. The names submitted were students who were freshmen and seniors. Dr. Rabe noted that there will be a survey (FSSE) of MSU faculty completed in January 2006. This survey is the complement to the NSSE survey.

Homecoming Parade: The theme for homecoming is "Anytime is Beaver Time." The staff senate will work on a float the night before the parade. Anton Heuther and Cathy Horvath have worked on sound effects and a clock for the pickup that will be used. Decorating will occur on Friday, September 30, 2005, the evening before the parade. There was a motion to decorate at 4:30 Friday by Barnett, second by Olson. Motion carried.

Family Weekend. Due to low response, the event has been cancelled.

Student Association Issue. An email was discussed regarding staff and faculty eating at student sponsored events. It was noted that many staff are also students and do pay fees to the Student Association so would be eligible for Student Association sponsored events.

Office/Services Accessibility. The issue of being accessible to students during lunch and evening hours was touched on briefly. Although it has not been mandated, it is likely to be forthcoming.

Compensation Committee. Wes Matthews noted that there is a Compensation Committee being formed to examine compensation at Minot State University. He is asking for volunteers willing to serve on the committee which will include four individuals from Staff Senate. Senators are asked to email Linda Benson to volunteer.

Social for Staff Senate at Fullers is scheduled for October 24, 2005 at 5:30 pm

Motion to adjourn by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Olson. Motion carried.

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