

**Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, February 21, 2006
9:00 am – Nelson Room**

Members Present: Caren Barnett, Linda Benson, Chad Carr, Merri Jo Connole, Julie Drum, Donna Harvey, Timothy Healy, Cathy Horvath, Pat Hubel, William Klimpel, Renee Olson, Scott Peterson, Kim Schwinler, Jerry Smith, Catherine Walker, Kim Withus, Lou Whitmer, and Gary Wolf.

Visitors: Kelley Buettner-Schmidt, Tom Boostrom, Christine Nelson, Beth Pross, Lori Brierley (director of tobacco prevention from First District Health), and two members of the nursing accreditation team.

Members Absent: Sheldon Dokken, Jolina Miller, Karlee Rauschenberger, Kimberly Witt, Wes Matthews (ex officio), and Kim Thompson, (ex officio)

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

Officers' Reports: The minutes were approved as printed. Hubel reported that there was \$199.20 in Staff Senate's account.

Old Business and Committee Reports:

Compensation Task Force: Connole noted that the task force had ranked short- and long-term goals for compensation. Whitmer noted that details had been discussed concerning the market rates and that MSU staff salaries are based on wages paid in the western area of the state, not in North Dakota as a whole, or by regional salary rates. The committee noted that the comparison should be to state rates.

Scholarship Committee: The Staff Senate had \$232 to go toward scholarships. Motion was made and carried to award four scholarships of \$58 each. Four names were drawn at random of the eligible staff who submitted paperwork. Scholarships were awarded to: Rachelle Todosichuk, Linda Llwellyn, Melanie Moore, and Shawn Froseth.

Geranium Days: Harvey noted that Faculty Senate does not want to be involved in geranium days. There is question as to whether local sponsors such as Lowe's may have an issue with the project. Faculty members were also concerned with legal ramifications and burden of initial costs. Staff Senate notes that there are time constraints with this project and Staff Senate members are already burdened with work and other duties of the Senate. The project will be pushed back to the originator at this time. Benson was asked to take the idea back to the University Cabinet.

New Business:

Dr. Fuller is asking for representatives to serve on a committee regarding the residence halls being made mandatory for first-year students. Merri Jo Connole and Bill Klimpel volunteered.

Donna Harvey will serve the rest of the year as the Staff Senate liaison to Faculty Senate.

Lou Whitmer noted that Earth Day is approaching and asked what MSU does in terms of recycling. Whitmer noted her willingness to head up an awareness committee. Motion approved.

Nursing students, Boostrom and Nelson, provided the Staff Senate with a presentation on secondhand smoke and answered questions following their presentation. A motion was made for MSU to become tobacco-free by summer 2006. Discussion regarding tobacco-free vs. smoke-free ensued. Motion carried that the Staff Senate is in favor of a tobacco-free campus by summer 2006. Benson was instructed to present Staff Senate's wishes at University Cabinet.

Minutes: A motion was made that minutes be made available online and via the Public Information Office for emails to MSU staff rather than continuing with printing minutes. Discussion regarding the need to continue paper copies vs. online and electronic availability followed. Motion carried. This is the last time the minutes will be available hard copy and run through the university post office. Individuals who need/want a hard copy may obtain them by going to the web site and printing them beginning next month. In addition, the minutes will be sent by email.

Minutes are online at: <http://www.minotstateu.edu/academic/com33.shtml>

Picnic Committee: As there will be changes in Staff Senate at the end of the year, questions regarding moving forward with the picnic arose. Benson will be meeting on February 24, 2006 with President Fuller and will discuss the Staff Senate's concerns about the Picnic and Geranium Day.

The meeting was adjourned.

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