

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

**Members Present:** Caren Barnett, Julie Drum, Donna Harvey, Pat Hubel, Renee Olson, Scott Peterson, Kim Schwinler, Catherine Walker, Kim Withus, Timothy Healy, William Klimpel, Gary Wolf, Jolina Miller, Karlee Rauschenberger, Kimberly Witt Wes Matthews (ex officio),

**Visitors:** Dr. YT Lee, Dean MSU College Arts & Sciences

**Members Absent:** Linda Benson, Kim Thompson, (ex officio), Cathy Horvath, Chad Carr, Merri Jo Connole, Jerry Smith, Lou Whitmer, . Sheldon Dokken,

**Call to order:** Vice President Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Reports:**

Minutes were approved for the February meeting.

Hubel reported that there is \$199.02 remaining in the Staff Senate account.

Wolf noted that President Benson is working with Ron Dorn to secure additional funds for the MSU picnic next summer. The picnic was a success thanks to donations of time, money, and services by many staff members.

Staff Senate elections are upcoming.

There was a brief discussion regarding the function of the Staff Senate. It was noted that with requests that have come forth this year, it appears that many individuals are perceiving the Staff Senate as a service organization. It needs to be clear that this is not the purpose of the Staff Senate.

President Benson has been working with the president of Dickinson State Staff Senate to discuss their process for obtaining emeritus status for staff, similar to the emeritus status that faculty receive upon retirement.

Staff Scholarships have been distributed.

**Compensation Task Force.** Wes Matthews noted that a draft proposal was emailed through Kim Thompson yesterday and that there is an open forum on March 22, 2006 and all employees are encouraged to attend. Matthews noted that the reality is that everyone will not be happy with the proposal and that it is not a long term solution.

**Smoking Policy.** Caren Barnett presented information from the University Cabinet. All senates agreed that Minot State University should be smoke free by July 1, 2006 and the process is moving forward. The only exceptions will be for cultural and ceremonial events.

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**New Business:** Wes Matthews presented information on the University System HR Council. He noted that it is Minot State University's term to have a member of the staff on the council. This is a two-year term. The individual will attend meetings every other month to discuss, write, and revise institutional policies. The first meeting for this individual will be in July.

Hubel proposed a flyer be sent to all staff for nominations with a reasonable deadline and the Staff Senate would vote on the representative at the April meeting. Wolf approved this recommendation with consent of the senators.

Dr. YT Lee addressed the Staff Senate regarding the role and mission and vision of the College of Arts & Science. He emphasized and complimented the quality of work of the faculty, staff, and members of the Centers.