

Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 2006
9:00 am – Jones Room

Members Present: Barb Johnson, Laurel Hyatt, Donna Just, Shan Haarsager, Sarah Rogers, Cheryl Rystedt, Cassie Artz, Thomas Lipsey, Tawnya Bernsdorf, Tim Healy, Kim Schwinler, Jolina Miller, Caren Barnett, Linda Benson, Julie Drum, Pat Hubel, William Klimpel, Renee Olson, Scott Peterson, Lou Whitmer, Gary Wolf and Wes Matthews (ex officio).

Members Absent: Chad Carr, Sheldon Dokken, Merri Jo Connole, Donna Harvey, Cathy Horvath, Karlee Rauschenberger, Kimberly Witt, Jerry Smith, Catherine Walker, and Kim Thompson, (ex officio) Kim Withus.

Visitor: Matt Balas

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

Officers' Reports: The minutes were approved as printed. Benson reported that there was \$199.02 in Staff Senate's account. Hubel reported that there are still two Staff Senate websites and that she is working with Anton Heuther, ITC, to rectify the situation so that access is still available through either area but the page will be complete with information, including minutes from 2004-2006.

Benson asked for both old and new members of the Senate to introduce themselves and welcomed the new members to the Staff Senate.

Old Business and Committee Reports:

Smoke Free Policy: Barnett noted that the policy goes into effect June 1st and that signs are currently being produced for all building entrances. Matthews stated that the First District Health unit is working with MSU to administer a smoking cessation course for employees and any of their family members over age 18 who wish to participate. A minimum of six are needed for a class with a maximum of twenty. First District Health is contacting other state agencies to obtain enough participants.

Compensation Task Force: The task force is breaking into two groups. Matthews commented on the email sent out by President Fuller on Monday to reinforce the information that the task force proposals were accepted; however, on a caution that funds may not be available due to lower projected enrollment, the approach appears different. After enrollments occur in the Fall, they will reexamine compensation based upon funds.

Discussion: Rogers noted that currently there were an additional 200 applications for Fall semester, compared to this time last year.

Whitmer asked if there is a lobbyist for the staff when the North Dakota Legislature is in session. Wes said that the North Dakota Human Resources Council contacts legislators about concerns. Bill Klimpel said that the North Dakota Public Employees Association

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also lobbies for university employees, both faculty and staff, during the legislative sessions. When 2007 Legislature convenes, Matthews said that he will work closely with Staff Senate's Legislative Committee. That way staff can remain informed of pertinent bills pertaining to MSU.

Staff Senate Elections: Elections were held on May 9. Schwinler noted that there were 87 votes cast (of 211 possible), so turnout was good compared to previous years.

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New Business:

Picnic 2006: Benson noted that she had connected with Linda Olson for information concerning assistance from faculty but has not heard back. A suggestion was made to get the Alumni Association involved and possibly receive financial assistance from them since there were many who participated in the event. Bernsdorf will take the information to the Alumni Board meeting on June 6th. Benson noted that the shelter is reserved for August 16th. Whitmer stated that this may be the date of the Great Tomato Festival and will find out and inform Benson. Drum noted that the new MSU at the Zoo Picnic Committee needs to meet as soon as possible owing to the magnitude of the event.

Election of Officers: Outgoing senate members were excused from the meeting.

Benson requested nominations for the 2006-2007 Executive Board of Staff Senate.

President: Artz was nominated but declined. Drum was nominated. A motion was made for a unanimous ballot to be cast. Motion carried, and Drum was elected.

Vice President: Miller was nominated. No other nominations were made. A motion was made for a unanimous ballot to be cast. Motion carried, and Miller was elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Hubel was nominated. No other nominations were accepted by individuals on the Senate. A motion was made for a unanimous ballot to be cast. Motion carried, and Hubel was elected.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.