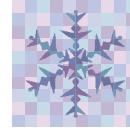


**Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2007
9:00 am – Jones Room**



Members Present: Linda Benson, Rich Berg, Chad Carr, Julie Drum, Patricia Hubel, Barb Johnson, Donna Just, Thomas Lipsey, Jolina Miller, Scott Peterson, Toni Schwartz, Cheryl Rystedt, Wes Matthews, Amber Jensen (Student Association representative), Lou Whitmer, and Laurel Hyatt.

Members Absent: Renee Olson, Karlee Rauschenberger, Jerry Smith, Kristen Warmoth, Kim Thompson Tawnya Bernsdorf, Merri Jo Connole, Chad Fenner, and Shan Haarsager.

Guests: Dr. Fuller

Call to order: Drum called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Officers Reports: Minutes were approved. The balance in the Staff Senate account remains at \$188.39.

New Business

Amber Jensen noted that there was no report for Staff Senate at this time as the last Student Association meeting was a short one in December before the holiday break.

Drum noted that she has been assigned to a new recognition committee. This committee is currently discussing the criteria for awards which will be given to deserving faculty or staff members. The committee has been meeting weekly, and she will provide updates to the Staff Senate as time goes on. These awards will not replace the Beaver Praise or the Board of Regents awards.

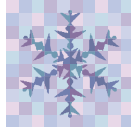
MSU President

Dr. Fuller addressed the senators. He stated that any input Staff Senate can provide concerning the new awards will be valuable. The University Cabinet has been asked to identify those who deserve special recognition. This is for those who have gone “above and beyond the call of duty.”

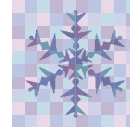
Dr. Fuller noted that he appreciates the staff input for the direction of Minot State University’s new strategic plan. Teams will be developed for each of the seven strategies to develop a timeline to accomplish the plans.

Dr. Fuller met with Governor Hoeven last week, and he gave Governor Hoeven a copy of Vision 2013. The Governor was quite surprised and supportive of the efforts of Minot State University.

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In his 2006-2007 budget, the governor did not support the 21% funding that the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) requested. Dr. Fuller noted that if North Dakota University System schools are going to compete with peers, the funding has to be increased. There is an effort to keep tuition increases below 5%. The SBHE requested funds for two areas. Both were reduced. They were apportioned to the institutions. MSU gets \$600,000 per biennium for deferred maintenance. The extra funds total approximately \$889,000. The Dome floor was #1 on the list from the SBHE, however, Hoeven provided no dollars for this. Swain was #6 on list. MSU requested \$7 million and were allotted \$2.5 million. Dr. Fuller noted that there is a misunderstanding of the use of these facilities.

Dr. Fuller spoke on staff engagement within community. The question brought up has been: Is there an expectation that staff will have to become civically engaged? The answer is no. There will not be a requirement for staff to become volunteers in the community although the institution and community both support and appreciate these efforts. MSU's plan, goal, strategies, vision will be mentioned as key expectations for new employees. Overall, it's the spirit of supporting the common good. There will be an expectation for faculty to become more involved in service to the community through academics.

Dr. Fuller asked what the Senate wants to do with MSU at the Zoo. Matthews noted that the scope of the event had been questioned at the last meeting. Dr. Fuller noted that he would like an annual event for the campus community and their families to come together prior to the fall term. He noted that he appreciated the time commitment required to host the event.

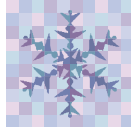
Dr. Fuller was asked if there was a budget specifically for the zoo project. He noted that by default there is a budget. Hyatt commented that the money that comes from the vice president of administration and finance is the Staff Senate budget. Dr. Fuller noted that it would be good to involve Faculty Senate in some way, and he will approach them with this possibility.

Wes Matthews

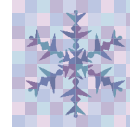
Wes Matthews noted that the Compensation Task Force presentation is on Friday at noon in the Conference Center. He commented on the news about the increase in the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour. MSU can pay the government rate (minimum wage) or the market rate. MSU is using the market-driven rate; MSU's minimum rate is \$8.25. Over time, increasing the government rate (minimum wage) will drive changes in the market leading to higher salaries. So, an increase in the minimum wage does not create an immediate increase in MSU salaries.

OLD BUSINESS

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MSU at the Zoo. Initial discussion was that if the funding is there, we should move forward with the event. Whitmer noted that holding it at the zoo one more year with the refined focus may help with planning and finances. Drum noted that Rick Hedberg stated that he will contribute some funds and Senate should approach him next year.

Motion by Whitmer: The Staff Senate should write a resolution for a budget to be developed to provide the Staff Senate with necessary funding for the MSU at the Zoo event. The motion was seconded and carried.

Discussion: When the resolution is developed it will be presented to the administration. If a budget is approved/provided by the administration, the Staff Senate will vote on continuation of the provision of manpower for the event.

Berg noted that a few non-MSU families had to be turned away at the gate. In the future, a possible “black eye” for the university could be avoided by the zoo’s personnel publicizing the closure of the zoo for the evening of the event.

A committee of volunteers will develop the budget. Individuals are Linda Benson, Rich Berg, Julie Drum, Laurel Hyatt, and Jolina Miller

Holiday Decoration: RCJC won. When the plaque is found (by RCJC), their name will be added for their winning entry.

Scholarship Committee: Connole, who has been collecting the applications, has been out of the office. The Scholarship Committee will review the applications for eligibility and conduct drawings for scholarships this week. The recipients’ names will be provided to the Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

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