



Minot State University
STAFF SENATE
Box 225, MSU, Minot, ND 58707

Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 9 am, Jones Room

Members Present: Linda Benson, Rich Berg, Chad Carr, Merri Jo Connole, Julie Drum, Chad Fenner, Amber Jensen (student representative), Barb Johnson, Donna Just, T.J. Lipsey, Cheryl Rystedt, Jerry Smith, and Lou Whitmer.

Members Absent: Tawnya Bernsdorf, Shan Haarsager, Pat Hubel, Laurel Hyatt, Shane Larson, Jolina Miller, Renee Olson, Scott Peterson, Karlee Rauschenberger, and Toni Schwartz.

Ex Officio Members: President David Fuller, Wes Matthews and Kim Thompson.

Call to Order: President Drum called the meeting to order at 9 am.

Officers' Reports: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed. The balance in Staff Senate's account was \$172.79, as of March 16th.

Committee Reports: Berg and Whitmer reported on the progress of the Campus Sustainability Committee. The committee knows that better signage, more bins, and additional education about recycling are needed. Accountability issues are also being looked at.

Drum reported that she had attended a meeting of the Diversity Committee, and she would encourage interested individuals to attend.

Old Business:

- Compensation Task Force—Wes Matthews related that President's Staff is discussing CTF's recommendations for the salary plan.
- MSU at the Zoo—Dr. Fuller will bring Staff Senate's recommendations before President's Staff.
- Update on new Staff Senate members—Chad Carr distributed a roster showing Staff Senate representatives, their constituencies, and their terms of service. Drum stressed that Minot State University employees who work for Chartwells and Barnes & Noble can be elected to Staff Senate and get release time from work.

New Business

- Election Committee—Elections for Staff Senate will be conducted May 8th, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The ballot table will be located by the Post Office, second floor Administration Building. Passive nominations will be utilized again this year. If a

staff member does not wish to be considered for election to Staff Senate, Renee Olson, communication disorders, must be contacted by 4:30 p.m. on May 1st, and the employee's name will be removed from the ballot. Olson's telephone number is 858-3031; her e-mail is (renee.olson@minotstateu.edu). (For clarification, once a staff senate representative has completed a two-year term of service, the individual is eligible to serve another two-year term.)

- Improving communication of Staff Senate minutes—all of the Staff Senate minutes will be placed on one website, and an all-campus e-mail will be sent out by the Public Information Office when new minutes are added.
- Wes will look into questions concerning the new card-swipe check-in system.
- President Drum related that her last Staff Senate meeting will be April 17th, and her last workday at MSU will be May 11th.

Report from President David Fuller:

President Fuller emphasized Staff Senate is significant in the shared governance of MSU; respect should be given to Staff Senate as an important component in the shared governance. Staff members have to be empowered and supported in their service on Staff Senate.

He said his March President's Report would be sent out to all MSU personnel.

He talked about the presentations Minot State University and the other 10 North Dakota University System campuses made to the Senate Appropriations Committee at the end of February. Minot State University's presentation included a published booklet and an oral report from the president. The presentation highlighted selected accomplishments, such as the new mission, the strategic plan, the institutional vision and strategies, the Roundtable and Cornerstone projects, the economic impact study showing the \$136 million dollar impact MSU has on its community and region, and the Roundtable accountability measures indicating high licensure test rates, student satisfaction levels, alumni and employer satisfaction reports, and employee satisfaction.

He said enrollments have dipped slightly but over the ten-year period have remained relatively stable. Escalating costs, especially the high utility expenses, continue to be a concern. Increased base funding and support for salary increases were emphasized. The Swain Hall renovation and the Dome floor project were discussed during the presentation to the Appropriation Committee and questions answered. In response to the request from the committee, MSU described four critical priorities for the future. Those were the need for increased base funding, increased funding for faculty and staff salaries, keeping tuition increases low, and addressing the serious needs of the ConnectND system. Minot State University continues to appreciate the support from the Governor and from the North Dakota Legislature, and requests continued support.

that he gave to the North Dakota House and Senate Appropriation Committees.

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motioned carried. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 17th at 9 am in the Jones Room.

AS ALWAYS, ALL STAFF ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND ALL STAFF SENATE MEETINGS!