The meeting was called to order by President, Pam Henderson, at 1:03pm.

Announcements/Question Period: There were a number of staff who were recognized at yesterday’s Staff Recognition Luncheon. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

Approval of Staff Senate minutes from April 13, 2016 Staff Senate meeting.

Barry Brode moved to approve the Staff Senate Meeting Minutes from April 13, 2016 with corrections. Seconded by Moses Serna. Motion carried. Trish Hodny abstained.

Officer Reports (as needed)

Membership Officer, Cheri Williams. The 2015-2016 Staff Senate term is ending with 45 members. We are no longer doing binders. There will be a link on the Staff Senate website that says “New Senators” with all of the information that a new senator would need from the binder. Hopefully it will be on the website by the end of the month. You can leave your nameplates on the back table and the membership officer will bring them to the meetings.

Staff Senate Committee Reports – (committee reports were sent prior to meeting with the agenda on April 7, 2016)

University Committee Reports – (committee reports were sent prior to meeting with the agenda)
Suggestion Box –
Question: I have a question regarding the way parking passes will be done in August. I guess that we will not be required to have a hang tag in our vehicles due to parking being able to read license plates. Over in the area by the steam plant where parking is absolutely horrible what is to stop people from parking in the lot when they may not be authorized to park there. Even if parking goes through the lot every hour it still will not help with lost parking spots. I think something needs to be able to distinguish what lot a person can park in so everyone can help monitor this. Also I don't think that graduate students should be able to have an "A" parking pass. They still are students. Many of the grad students are now complaining about having to pay for their own insurance and want the departments to cover it. In our college the Dean is having the departments pay more than the $500 which is what we are supposed to pay because the foreign students have complained enough to him. I know that they will still find the money to purchase an "A" permit though.

Response from Clayton Harrington, Director of Parking & Transportation: You are correct as of August there will not be hang tags issued to identify your permit. Parking and Transportation will utilize enforce based upon the license plate number. I do question if you are out watching for people with different hang tags and telling them not to park in that lot currently? This seems like an issue that doesn't matter what the system is if someone wants to break the policy they will break the policy. We will enforce that area, but at this point we aren't going to tow a person parked in the wrong area. Adding hang tags to the permits costs roughly $15,000 per year, plus the cost of administering them, and shipping cost. It is my thought, that any cost we avoid, reduce, or minimize is a good thing as cost drives the permit rates.

Graduate students are allowed to purchase "A" Permits under certain limited circumstances, they must be employed at 50% or more in order to qualify. Non student employees are eligible to purchase an "A" permit as well, but without any restrictions. I understand the loss of ½ of the lot there has put pressure on the parking situation in that area. As we move forward with the Parking and Transportation committee we will be able to address some of those situations.

Question: Has any thought been given to cancelling the 2016 Staff Recognition Ceremony? As many employees are losing their jobs due to budget cuts it seems like a slap in the face to hold such an event. Especially for those who are up for years of service awards that are also being cut. It is like we are saying thanks for your 15 years of service sorry you won't get a 16th. It seems like now might not be the right time for it.

Response from Pat Hanson, Director of Human Resources: When planning began for the 2016 Staff Recognition Luncheon, we did consider from a budget perspective that the university might want to change what this recognition event looks like. At that point we were unaware that we may be facing staffing reductions. This is an event that many staff and departments at the university look forward to with anticipation each year. While we recognize that this is a difficult time at UND, we felt that it was important to continue to recognize the great work, dedication and long service of staff here at UND.

Question: I was shocked to hear that Staff Senate wrote a resolution to support one individual department (Studio One) when there are a number of departments seeing cuts during this budget crisis. How can you support one and not the others (like Music Therapy, Golf & Baseball that we also know about)? Please post your roll call vote on the resolution so that I will know which Senators are supporting individual favorite groups so that I can be sure to NOT re-elect because they are NOT representing ALL staff on campus.

Response from Pam Henderson, Staff Senate President: This is a difficult time for the entire University. It is not easy to hear about programs or activities being cut or people losing their jobs. Unfortunately, this is a necessary step that must be taken for us to move forward as a University and to have a balanced budget. The goal of the budget reductions is to identify UND’s priorities and efficiencies when looking at long-term solutions to solve the deficits that exist.

Since last Wednesday, I have heard from many staff across campus who have expressed concern for the fact that Staff Senate passed a resolution supporting just one of the programs being cut. With that being said, the resolution to request the Administration to preserve Studio One was brought to the floor by a staff member from the Television Center for support from the Staff Senate. The document was amended by Staff Senate during our April 13, 2016 meeting. During the discussion a question arose as to why Staff Senate would potentially support a resolution for Studio One and not other departments seeing cuts during this budget crisis. It was stated that if other programs wished to submit a
resolution, Staff Senate would consider them as well. Staff Senate held a ballot vote regarding the amended resolution, with 16 Senators for the resolution, 14 against, and 5 abstaining.

In the past, Staff Senate has not passed a lot of resolutions, so this process is still new to us when it arises. Because we are listening to our constituent’s feedback, we are working to improve our processes so that when a resolution is brought forward in the future we try to allow for as much public comment as we can before a vote is taken. Whether that means sending the resolution out on StaffChat prior to the Staff Senate meeting and making sure staff are aware that it will be an agenda item and/or tabling the resolution to seek constituent input before voting. Sometimes due to time constraints, this model will not be possible, however, we will try our best to seek as much input as we can moving forward.

Question: It was mentioned that there are multiple places across campus that do similar things in terms of production of promotional material across campus and President Schafer mentioned it would be possible to combine these outfits and resources. Why not combine them to keep Studio One and have all departments across campus utilize them when able to increase their utilization and profitability?

Response from Peter Johnson, Interim VP for University & Public Affairs, from his budget summary: Budget summary - http://und.edu/president/budget/index.cfm

The Television Center had the added task of preparing a budget that eliminated funding generated as a Cost Center. The current budgeting practice for the Television Center – predicated on a combination of institutional funds, local funds, and estimated income as a Cost Center – has not been a workable model. In recent years, expenses have outpaced revenue every year but one (the Television Center ended in the black each year thanks to a reserve pool; that reserve pool has decreased steadily and would soon be depleted if the current expenses-revenue trend continues).

The directive to the Television Center was ultimately three-fold. The first part was to develop a budget that eliminated the Cost Center portion of the funding. The Television Center provided multiple budget scenarios. The Interim Vice President for University & Public Affairs chose one budget option to include with the Division’s budget recommendations. This recommendation would reduce the Television Center’s overall budget by 21% and would eliminate two positions and reduce another position to 80 percent.

The Television Center was also directed to work with the Interim Vice President for University & Public Affairs to develop a new model for the Television Center. The directive is to focus the Television Center mission on producing videos that align with the priority needs of campus units which seek videos as part of their communication strategies, and to deliver this service at no cost to the client units. This refocusing and prioritization may lead to the suspension or elimination of the Studio One program and the related function that has provided internship opportunities for students.

Further, as part of the restructuring process, the Television Center has been directed to work with the Interim Vice President for University & Public Affairs to vigorously explore combining resources and creating greater collaborations with other units in campus with television and video capabilities.

Business Items
Presentation of certificates and photos for those senators who served during the 2015-2016 term.

The Senator of the Year Award was presented to Cheri Williams.

Recognition of Outgoing Senators: Jana Diemert, Jenny Duffy, Kathie Howes, Susie Kroetsch, Trish Hodny, Bree Melicher, Kaaren Pupino, Moses Serna, Cherie Stoltman, Vicki Thompson, Alyssa Walker, Cheri Williams.

Passing of the Gavel: Thank you to Sharley Kurtz for all she did during her term as Staff Senate President. Thank you to Pam for stepping into the President’s role mid-term and for all of your hard work!

Election of Members-at-Large (3) Barry Brody nominated Lori Shafer for Member At Large. She accepted. Mark Danes nominated Jenny Le Texier for Member At Large. She declined. Diane Fugleberg nominated Chris Dingle. He accepted. Amber Flynn nominated Barry Brode. He accepted. Mark Danes nominated Lesli Riskey. She accepted.

Jenny Le Texier moved to close nominations, seconded by Stacey Borboa-Peterson.

Ballots were distributed to Staff Senate. Lesli Riskey, Lori Shafer, and Chris Dingle were elected to the three Members At Large positions.

July meeting – It was suggested that President Mark Kennedy be invited to attend the July meeting. Pam will extend him an invitation.

Jennifer Lunde moved to hold a potluck for the July meeting, seconded by Mark Danes. Outgoing members and Laurie McHenry abstained. Motion carried.

Matters Arising/Open Discussion: Moses Serna’s family welcomed a baby boy a few weeks ago! Congratulations, Moses!

President Henderson adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Next Staff Senate Meeting
June 13, 2016
1:00-2:30pm
Location TBD