Staff Senate Holiday Gathering/Potluck: 12:00 to 1:00 PM


Members Absent (excused): Zachary Buchhop, Jim Hanson, Carrie Jackson, Jenny Le Texier, Janelle McGarry, Renee Nilsen, and Amber Onder.

Members Absent: Christopher Choate, Nancy Garcia, Kara Helmig, Andrew Johnson, Jennifer Lynch-Hurt, Lani Moen, and Andrew Wynne.

Guests: Diane Lundee, CILT; Lori Swinney, CILT; Brian Larson, Support Unit Allocation; and Heather Wages, General Counsel

President Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Guest Speaker: Lori Swinney, Director CILT – Blackboard update and other technology updates similar to PeopleSoft; there will be less autonomy and more agreement for streamlining purposes. In February Blackboard will be on campus for 3 days. There will be open sessions to attend to hear and question the Blackboard representatives. The plan is a statewide migration scheduled for fall 2017; the legislature is being asked for base funding. The campuses using Moodle say they can’t afford Blackboard.

Bryan Larson, the staff representative on the MIRA Support Unit Budget Allocation Committee said the associate director for construction management is currently reviewing 26 reports turned in based on the 6 criteria used for discussion campus wide. The next step is to apply these scores towards the 2017-2018 budget.

Announcements/Question Period: The full staff senate picture will be at the January 11, 2017 meeting. Patty Reed thanked the Senators responsible for “Tubs of Love” for getting them here and the committee for organizing them.

Chris Dingle moved and Amanda Filipy seconded the approval of November 9, 2016 Staff Senate Minutes. Motion carried.

Officer Reports - as needed

Staff Senate Committee Reports - as needed (please read committee reports prior to meeting sent with agenda)
a. Constitution, Bylaws, Elections – One Year Senator – Diane Hillebrand brought forth one name to vote on: Megan Wasylow. Motion carried.

University Committee Reports - as needed (please read committee reports prior to meeting sent with agenda). University Budget committee had an update meeting yesterday on the charge and role of committee.

Suggestion Box:
Denim Spirit Days
Questions & Ideas:
1) I am confused as to why it was decided to change Denim Days to every Friday. This was discussed in the past by Staff Senate and due to many staff taking Fridays off for a long weekend and several offices already having casual Fridays that the income generated would go down which is why alternate Wed and Fri were selected. I for one will no longer donate to denim days as I already have casual Fridays in my office!

2) When did Denim Days become about just sexual violence? The history of Denim Days has always been about the spirit of service and ALL causes. Why just sexual violence? Who's personal agenda is that? If Denim Days changes then I will no longer support it.

3) What is the reasoning to go to denim spirit days? I understand you want to incorporate spirit days into our oneUND but has it been considered the revenue that will be lost to support our local charities? I can tell you from experience people already lack on donating on Fridays and it will continue to decline now that denim spirit days are only on Fridays. For some departments they already wear denim on Fridays and I can foresee they will not pay again because there were some that didn't contribute in the past for this very reason. There has already been a decline in denim day dollars in the past years and with this change you will see even more of a decline. My hope is this can be a discussion at a future staff senate meeting and hopefully the committee makes a change to move denim days to a different day other than Friday's. Thank you for your time and consideration.

4) It is my understanding that UND will be having regular denim days on Friday every week. Our office used to have Friday denim days and donate to a charity of our choice. Right around Valentine's Day every year Dakota Medical Foundation Alex Stern Family Foundation and Impact Foundation have Giving Hearts Day. [https://impactgiveback.org/giving-hearts-day/](https://impactgiveback.org/giving-hearts-day/) It is an opportunity to donate to many of our local charities as well as they may receive matching funds from other sources. Perhaps this could be the February special denim day? Odds are there are a few charities that are already in the pool of eligible charities that the denim day committee has already picked but if it were distributed through Giving Hearts it's possible the donation would be matched.

Questions & Ideas:
It would be helpful and definitely time saving if you could list the "suggestion box" items in date order or at least give an option to sort in date order or at the very least expand all option. When I look at the suggestion box I am not looking for a particular "suggestion" I am looking at what was "suggested" in the "suggestion box." PS - Benefits under Human Resources is spelt incorrectly.

Response:
We try to place new suggestions directly on the Suggestion Box website, while organizing older suggestions into the different categories. With the number of suggestion box items we have received over the years, we felt this was the best way to organize that section of our website rather than by date.

Stop and Stretch
Business Items:

a. Diane Hillebrand provided the second reading on the Bylaws Changes (see attached) The first vote was on the green changes; motion carried. The 2nd vote was on the on red changes; motion carried.

b. Legislative Session 2017: Heather Wages, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel provides legal services training and education to UND. She provided a best practices general overview regarding political activity as a government employee. Free speech is regulated when working in an official capacity on behalf of UND; there is no clear answer as to when you are in this capacity aside from the obvious, wearing a work uniform, using work email, etc. We cannot make political statements that could be perceived to be as on behalf of UND. Regarding bills that affect staff at UND we cannot respond publicly as a UND employee. The use of PTO to attend demonstrations or rallies is acceptable. Regarding political emails sent to all emails, we cannot use state resources for this, the recipient not at fault - only the sender. Specific to the upcoming legislative session, the legislative committee looks at bills of importance to staff, which we can talk about, but we have rules in place for dealing with such. We report to the President and he reports to the state board of higher education.

Matters Arising/Open Discussion

President Henderson adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Next Staff Senate Meeting
January 11, 2017 - 1:00 to 2:30 PM
Memorial Union, River Valley Room