

Members Absent: Stacey Borboa-Peterson, Christopher Choate, Jim Hanson, and Kari Holter.

Resigned:

New Members:

Ex-Officio Present/Absent: Pat Hanson

Guests: Emily Holth, Alice Brekke, Lisa Burger, Cheri Williams, and President Mark Kennedy

After the group pictures the meeting was called to order by President Henderson.

Guest Speakers:
   a. Emily Holth, Conflict Management Consultant provided her background and the liaison relationship with her company, Sustainable Solutions, serving in the place of an ombudsman at the university.
   b. Alice Brekke, VPFO - Provided a powerpoint on the tentative budget planning process going forward with the potential reduction to 85% of the general fund level for the biennium (12.5 million per year).

Announcements/Question Period
   The legislative committee is seeking members. There is a ND Legislative app available to download. Patricia Reed will be filling the open position on the University Bookstore Advisory Committee. Patricia Reed asked us to please take the Denim Day posters back to your Denim Day coordinator. Remember you can still sign up for payroll deduction for Denim Days.

Amanda Filipy moved and Shannon Jongeward seconded to approve the Staff Senate Minutes of December 14, 2016 as corrected. Motion carried.

Officer Reports - as needed
Sarah Abentroth reported on the treasurers report; we received our $$ from the President’s office. Denim & Diamonds had a surplus. And the 22 cents we had left in the scholarship fund will be transferred to another scholarship fund. Diane Hillebrand reported that she and Pam are working on a letter regarding the change in structure to the staff senate makeup. Tyler Clauson reported on staff recognition: Lindsey Cernik, Career Services received the December U-Shine award.

Staff Senate Committee Reports - as needed (please read committee reports prior to meeting sent with agenda)

University Committee Reports - as needed (please read committee reports prior to meeting sent with agenda)

Suggestion Box
Question/Idea:
I am not sure who makes the ultimate decision for school closings but on Tuesday, January 3 staff at this university were given a very clear message. They are not valued in the least. There are currently no classes being held and the majority (I won’t say all because I am not certain of that) are not back on campus. Staff are on campus. Staff have been on campus all break. At 10:00am when work was scheduled to begin the North Dakota Department of Transportation was still advising no travel on all major roads leading into and through Grand Forks (highway 2 and interstate along with most county roads). When a state agency is telling its citizens to not travel and a public institution is saying "Yes come to work or use your vacation hours" there is a problem. Staff drove on roads that were not yet cleared in dangerous conditions to get to work by 10am during a time of year when it should have been much easier to value their safety over full operation of the university (considering classes are not occurring). I have seen pictures and witnessed first hand what some staff had to walk through to get to their building doors as campus roads and sidewalks were not even cleared. Why not stay closed and properly clean and prepare roads sidewalks and parking lots so that when people returned to work on Wednesday it was safer and drier to enter the workplace. It’s completely frustrating. The university wonders why there is a staff morale problem. There is no better example than what occurred Tuesday morning. I wonder how many hours of vacation HAD to be turned in because people could not physically get to work. I wonder how many people got stuck on their way to campus that morning (I know of two people who got stuck on city streets and one who was stuck on a campus road due to the fact that it had not yet been cleaned). I hope that whoever made the decision to open doors at 10am was aware of the risk and stress they put on their valued staff at the university. Maybe next time the state is advising no travel the university think twice about what that means. The roads are dangerous not yet cleared and people shouldn't use them.
Response:
Waiting on response from President Kennedy & Peter Johnson

Question/Idea:
Will the staff dependent tuition waiver ever apply to other ND Institutions as well?
Response:
Waiting on response from Human Resources

Question/Idea:
The Business Office needs an outdoor drive by drop box for departmental deposits. This would save time and would not require any parking by staff in front of Twamley Hall.
Response from Lisa Heher:
Thank you for forwarding the suggestion to me. We have previously discussed having an indoor drop box, but have not thought about an outdoor drop box. I will look into this, as we will need to research security measures, location, access, etc.
I will get back to you as soon as this has been researched and let you know if it is feasible to implement. Thanks!

Question/Idea:
Does anyone know why the snow removal on campus is not up to the usual standards as in the past? The ridges at intersections are very dangerous especially by the Law School.
Response from Michael Pieper, AVP Facilities:
Thanks for the opportunity to follow up with you on this and I appreciate questions/input from others so please in the future let me know of concerns like this one.
I had a debrief with my staff after our latest large snowfall to see what was working and what areas we could improve on. It was a good debrief in that it uncovered some process and prioritization gaps. In short between our increased level of moving departments over break and assumptions made based on classes not in session our main initial focus of getting all areas at least cleared once got delayed. We made some adjustments and will be looking into some other alternatives for dealing with similar situations in the future.

Question/Idea:
Is there a policy in place that states that if an employee chooses to take a course (whether it be for a degree or for pleasure) that the employee is allowed to be paid for that time spent away from their job duties AND is also entitled to use their lunch break?
Response:
Waiting on response from Human Resources

Question/Idea:
Please post your monthly Agendas PRIOR to your monthly meetings so that we can see who your guest speakers are prior to each meeting. Thank you.
Response:
We will do our best to get the monthly agenda and committee reports posted to our website one week prior to the meeting.

Stop and Stretch

Business Items
a. Vice President/President Elect Election Timeline
   1. Overview of Vice President/President Elect Position
   2. Presides in the absence of the President.
   3. Assumes the duties of the President for the unexpired term in the event the President is unable to complete the term of office.
   4. Represents Staff Senate at University Senate and on the North Dakota State Staff Senate.
   5. Coordinates the July and December Potlucks.
   6. Carries out additional duties as assigned by the President.
   7. The Vice President role takes about 2-5 hours per week depending on the time of year and events or meetings in a given week.
   
   Process:
   Nominations - March meeting
   Written statements sent out 1 week prior to April meeting
   Speeches - April meeting
   Elections - April meeting

Staff Senate is on Facebook and Twitter!
Facebook - www.facebook.com/UNDStaffSenate
Twitter - @UNDStaffSenate
Matters Arising/Open Discussion

Adjournment

Next Staff Senate Meeting
February 8, 2017 - 1:00 to 2:30 PM
Memorial Union, River Valley Room