Staff Senate Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017
Memorial Union, River Valley Room
1:00-2:30pm


Members Absent (excused): Stacey Borboa-Peterson, Jessica Dunphy Amanda Filipy, Don Rasmuson, and Teri Salwey

Members Absent: Kara Helmig, Amber Onder, and Jen Proulx,

Resigned:

New Members:

The meeting was called to order by President, Pam (Henderson) Shea at 1:01 p.m.

Guest Speakers:

Chris Schlarb – Director, The Pride Center (LGBTQ+), was introduced and spoke about this New Position at UND. The office is located 2nd floor Memorial Union room 219 with a mission to serve LGBTQ+ students and provide a more welcoming environment for them. Currently Chris is training allies; it is a 4-hour course with a certification.

Alice Brekke, VPFO – Budget Updates (1:30 PM) SB2003 1st engrossment 20% reduction for UND did allow 3% increase for residents and did not cap the rate for non-residents, law, med and pharmacy. President Kennedy asked that the legislature not ask for more reductions after the revenue forecast due March 9. Alice encouraged us to view President Kennedy’s power point presentation that he presented to the legislature: http://und.edu/president/_files/docs/legislative-matters/2017-03-06-house-testimony.pdf A question was asked as to where we are with the steam plant? Alice said there have been some repairs over the past few months and there are some innovative ideas in the works. April 26 is the last day of the legislative session, but legislators are hoping to wrap up early to save money.

Announcements/Question Period:
Amber Flynn announced “It’s On Us” will be hosting a Sexual Assault workshop April 6. Amber will send out this information at a later date.

Lynn Lee moved and Patricia Reed seconded to approve the Staff Senate minutes from February 8, 2017 Staff Senate meeting. Motion carried.

Officer Reports – as needed

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

Staff Recognition – Tyler Clauson provided ballots for the Senator of the Year which were distributed and collected by Amber Flynn. They will be counted by Pam Henderson and Amber Flynn and announced at the full senate meeting in April. He also noted the Spring Fling date is April 27 – Donations of burgers have been secured for this year’s event.

Constitution, Bylaws, and Elections Committee Chair Diane Hillebrand provided an update on the Staff Senate Election. Nominations are open until March 15; the committee is collecting nominations. Nominations will occur later in today’s meeting for President and Vice President. We will elect Secretary, Treasurer, Membership chair, Historian (aka Web Master), and 3 members-at-large at the May meeting. Amber spoke about the opportunity for the professional development opportunities of leadership and management duties that come with holding an office in Staff Senate but may not be available within the parameters of your job.

Staff and Professional Development co-chair Barry Brode announced that Dawn Kaiser, inspirational speaker and Joy Refueler, will speak about organizational change from the emotional perspective on Tuesday April 4 10:30-noon. There will also be a lunch from 12:15-1:30 for a limited number.

University Committee Reports – (committee reports were sent prior to meeting with the agenda)

Amber Flynn reported the UND Legislative Affairs Committee meets tomorrow. March 8-9 is a critical time for budget reviews and considerations. Amber mentioned the many opportunities that exist for questions.

Stop and stretch

Business Items

Vice President/President Election Nominations – The floor was opened for nominations for Vice President. Chris Dingle nominated Tyler Clauson. Lesli Riskey nominated Rob D’Heilly. Jennifer Lunde moved and Lesli Riskey seconded to close nominations. Motion carried.

Continued Budget & Campus Discussion

1) What concerns, rumors or questions are you still hearing from staff regarding the budget and budget process? When positions are eliminated it doesn’t get communicated campus wide are we meeting the APA standards?

2) How can Staff Senate work to improve morale across campus? Understand what people have to do and what they have to work with. Spread the word. Communicate. Support each other. Be kind to one another.
Suggestion Box –

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 (update from last month):
It doesn't appear that an outdoor drop off will be possible, due to security and traffic issues. But, I have been working on other options, such as specific drop off locations at a few locations on campus. For instance, all departments within the Medical School would drop off their deposit at one location/office within the Medical School and then a courier would pick up the deposits from that location and bring them to Twamley to be processed. Prior to this suggestion being received by Staff Senate, I have been working with the Procurement Office on an RFP for a courier service for the campus. Once all the details have been worked out, they will be communicated to campus departments.

Question/Idea:
My husband wants to know why the staff at the university only works 7 1/2 hour days. Lots of us go to work at 8, have a 1 hour lunch and leave at 4:30. I don't have an explanation for him.
Response from Pat Hanson:
Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Since the university is a 24-hour operation, there may be variations in shifts. Employees may be allowed a rest period of fifteen minutes each half day. Employees who work more than four hours in one day are allowed a minimum of thirty minutes (unpaid) for one meal.

Question/Idea:
Could the university save money by offering faculty and staff money to not be on the University's insurance? There could be several families out there that get health insurance through UND that could get it through another business. If there was an option of receiving $5K to get insurance elsewhere and that option was taken would UND save money?
Response from Pat Hanson:
Since, an employer cannot offer a financial incentive to not enroll in employer-provided health insurance, any additional payment would need to be regular taxable compensation or part of a cafeteria plan (where employees receive a specific dollar amount to customize their benefits package). State employees do not have the option to participate in a cafeteria plan. If taxable compensation was offered, this would not preclude the employee from enrolling in health insurance during the next open enrollment period.

Question/Idea:
Will the staff dependent tuition waiver ever apply to other ND Institutions as well?
Response from Pat Hanson:
The spouse and dependent tuition waiver is provided by SBHE policy 820 Tuition Waivers/Tuition Assistance. Section 3.f.ii – specifically states:

- The benefit is available to the spouse or dependent at the employee’s campus of employment only.

At this time, there is no discussion at the SBHE level to change this policy.
Question/Idea:
I suggest that the digital TV screens across the UND campus including the one outside the parking garage be used to generate ad revenue for UND. This would require a UND and perhaps NDUS policy-wide change. Judging from REA’s ad prices for its screens the potential for income is real and on-going. The technology is already in place; why not use it to make money in these times of budget cuts?
Response:
waiting for response (being looked into)

Question/Idea:
I think the university could save a lot of money if they closed the campus and made everyone take time off from December 26-January 1. A lot of universities do this.
Response:
Suggestion forwarded to VPFO

Question/Idea:
With the current budget cuts coming my suggestion for cost savings is: “Meetings!” There are so many meetings reoccurring and others that do not provide any meaningful direction and lead to follow-up meetings that do the same. Administrators Directors Supervisors and Deans have enough to do without more meaningless meetings. The question that should be asked is: What did this meeting accomplish? If you struggle to find an answer that meeting could be once a month instead of once a week or gone all together.
Response:
Idea will be posted to Staff Senate website

Question/Idea:
UND discounts with Splasher’s Waterpark. Altru gets them and it would be nice for UND to as well.
Response:
Idea forwarded to Human Resources

The following two motions to extend the meeting occurred during the discussion on the various items in the suggestion box.
Diane Fugleberg moved and Jennifer Lunde seconded to extend the meeting for 5 minutes. Motion carried. Laurie McHenry moved and Lynn Lee seconded to extend the meeting for 5 minutes. Motion carried.

Laurie McHenry moved and Diane Hillebrand seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Next Staff Senate Meeting
April 12, 2017
1:00-2:30pm
Memorial Union, River Valley Room