

NDSU STAFF SENATE

Minutes

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021

ZOOM

- I. Call to Order by Latterell at 9:31
- II. Attendance Report by Amanda Reil – 39 present, 8 absent (3 excused, 1 medical), and 9 guests present.
- III. Consent Agenda – Motion by Swank/Helgaas to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Motion to approve by Leech/Young with the change to meeting order for Woolsey’s report. Motion passed.
- V. Campus Kudos by Cindy Breyer – Staff recognition award nominations are now open online and the nominations will stay open until March 15. Awards will be presented at the June senate meeting instead of in person. https://www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate/staff_recognition_award/
Presentation of Kudos awards for of Kelley Lopez nominated by Nichole Hauser and Edie Nelson nominated by Justin Swank.
- VI. Speaker: President Bresciani – Thank you to all staff for keeping NDSU running through the pandemic. NDSU is doing much better than many other colleges, both in the NDUS system and around the country. Our state legislatures are hearing about our successes. That success is due to everyone here, especially staff. We are in a position to have that success translate into financial support this session. Legislatures recognize that past cuts have been negative. A cost of living increase is being requested and considered at a “3 and 3” level (3% the first year and 3% the second year), but at least a 2 and 2 increase seems relatively sure. Additional contributions to retirement benefits have been floated but they don’t seem likely to go through. It does seem likely that we will receive funding for a \$70 million agricultural products development center. This building would replace Harris, parts of Sheppard’s and a few other locations. This would mean 3 new major facilities for 3 sessions in a row which is very unusual and a huge recognition of how important NDSU is to the state’s economy. Admissions continue to be monitored closely due to its impact on funding. It is everyone’s responsibility to promote enrollment at NDSU.
No reason expected that we won’t back to something near normal next fall, we’ll be transitioning to that this summer. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be approved soon and this will accelerate the process. ND is leading the nation in vaccinations. North Dakota’s positivity rate is near 3%, NDSU’s near 1%. We will continue with the mask mandate through the end of this semester. It is a priority that everyone to stay safe.
Question from Fred Hudson addressing vaccine prioritization for higher education in North Dakota. Federal definition of educators is k-16, state’s definition is k-12. The governor’s office was contacted to include higher education in the priority scheme. An additional priority level was added to the state and so higher education is prioritized as class 1C right behind k-12. This is much better in comparison to the original North Dakota decision of no priority.
Thank you again to everyone for keeping us high functioning.
- VII. **Student Government Report by Matthew Friedmann** – Students are excited to be back on campus. Enthusiasm levels and general attitudes on campus are doing better this semester and there seem to be more students physically on campus. Student government sponsored grants, which were announced last semester, still have some funds available. If you know of a need that the grants could help fund please let us know. Elections will be this spring, and we are looking for staff and faculty to nominate outstanding students to join the ballot. An email with details will go out soon. New term starts in April. Thank you to everyone for their work on campus.
- VIII. **Faculty Senate Report** – No report.
- IX. **Approval of Wednesday, January 6th, 2020 Staff Senate Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve by Leach/Hopkins with minor corrections and update to treasurer’s report. Motion passed
- X. **Treasurer’s Report** by Tina Exner – Appropriated account, \$753.82, local account \$6,526.31, scholarship account \$116.38.
- XI. **Public Relations Officer Report** by Olivia Scott – Thank you to everyone that engages with the Facebook page. Please send any updates you would like posted.

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Elections by Elizabeth Cronin – A short introduction and information session will be held before the March Staff Senate meeting. Most new members come from people who already know someone on senate and so to encourage new members we may hold a recruitment challenge. The plan is to collect nominations in early March and vote on new members during the last week of March.
- B. Legislative and Bylaws by Jeremy Kopp – No report.
- C. Information Technology by Ben Bernard – No report.
- D. Scholarship by Kay Hopkins – We collected \$80 during the ugly sweater competition and completed the fundraising week of dine/takeout on first week of January, bringing in 60.97. We are hoping to do that again later in the spring semester. Have sold 60 of 100 anniversary masks so far, all proceeds will go to scholarship. There is an informational post on FaceBook so please share. If we do sell out Marketplace will update to let everyone know and we can consider ordering more masks. Scholarships close on the 26 of February.
- E. Staff Development by Cora Crane – Next month’s speakers are CeCe Rohwedder and Marc Wallman to discuss IT services and how well they are or meeting our needs. They will be asking us several questions including: what IT services do you currently use and like, and what IT services are offered do not fully meet your needs? What should the IT division be doing, that we are not doing? How have instruction, research and work been going during the COVID era, and how can we assist in making it better? Is there anything else the senators might want to discuss? Please bring questions.
- F. Staff Recognition by Cindy Breyer – No report.
- G. Campus Engagement by Fred Hudson – We have a blood drive coming up in early April and are working on other things as well that we aren’t ready to present yet.
- H. Gunkelman Award by Megan Ramsett – We met to plan the 2021 award ceremony. We decided to keep the ceremony virtual for 2021. The event is scheduled for 3 pm on Friday May 7th. We are working to secure an MC and plan other details of the event. Nominations will be submitted through our website March 8th through March 29th. Details on both nominations and the event will go out by email closer to the relevant dates.
Finished report with an overview of the history and purpose of the Gunkelman award and encourage people to start thinking of nominees.
- I. Environmental Sustainability by Sabrina Lippincott – Lots of holiday lights were brought in for recycling. Plastic bag recycling is ongoing and is going well. Currently have enough money for about 8 more sign sets if anyone would like a sign for their building, please let the committee know. Hoping to partner with the environmental sustainability club for events this spring. Next meeting on the 22nd.
- J. Senate Coordinating Council by Margaret Latterell – No report.
- K. State Staff Senate by April Helgaas – I have put out a call for volunteers to serve on a retirement oversight committee. This is an NDUS wide position, nominations for NDSU close on Friday. We do have at least one nominee now who is very interested.
- L. Joint Committees
 1. Campus Space and Facilities by Jennifer Young – No report.
 2. Library by Alicia LaFerriere – We will meet later today.
 3. University Athletics Shiloh Susag – will meet next Thursday.
 4. Learning Space Advisory Committee by Tina Exner – No report.
 5. Student Voice Project by Amanda Booher – No report.
- M. Ad Hoc Committees
 1. 30th Year Anniversary by Jennifer Young – Over 60 masks sold, we are getting them sent out quickly as orders come in.
 2. Campus Food Insecurity Taskforce by Tammy Helweg –A meeting was held to determine the structure for the food pantry in the future. It will be housed under campus attractions and staff senate will continue to be involved. Website and other preparations will be ready soon. Tentative hours set for Tuesdays 10-3 and Thursdays 11-5. The Swipe Out Hunger program is ongoing and 110 meals have been given out as of the las update. We are good on funds for now, but will probably do a push at the beginning of the next school year.
 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee by Jordan DiPalma - We are in the process of

rescheduling due to Zoom crash last week. Will be talking about the requests from students of color that resulted from events in December. We will be looking at hiring processes, and what the barriers are.

- XIII. Advisor Comments** by John Woolsey – HR will be moving to Hastings Hall which has been remodeled, we will be on the top floor. Scheduled to move at end of February. There could be a day that we're going to be hard to get ahold of as we move over there, but we're going to get over there and get back up as soon as possible. Kristina Astrup has sent out an email about doing a book reading this semester. The book is *Crucial Conversation*. She has as at least 40 people interested. The readings will be held via Zoom. Goal is to move forward with other types of development in the fall. New employee orientation on Feb 19^h. Will be a half day event by Zoom. The last training had been hybrid, but very few people attended in person. We are keeping an eye on the stimulus bill to see how it will affect us. Wingenbach is great, definitely try get her as representative for NDUS. In response to a question on using space at Hastings for staff senate storage; the open space is not being run by HR, but John will check into who is using it and how it might be assigned.
- XIV. Executive Committee** by Josh Schroetter – last meeting was short, our x drive space was filling up and new space was purchased.
- XV. President's Cabinet** by Elizabeth Cronin – Meeting was last Monday and many of the topics have already been brought up. Some additional notes include the following:
The new director of Financial Aid, Matt Sanchez has started.
The spring census numbers for campus are down 3% compared to last spring, but we are up 31 transfer students, 42 graduate students and 19 international students.
In Athletics they have been working with the city on capacity plans for spring events. Basketball games have been using mask wearing and social distancing.
Consultants have been working with Provost Fitzgerald on budget prioritization. They are collecting data and scheduling interviews with key leaders on campus. Further input will be collected from the rest of campus through open forums and surveys.
One other item that was brought up through the cabinet is the opportunity to participate in a 4 part workshop on facilitating difficult conversations that is being offered through a grant at from the Ethics institute and the YWCA, there are 18 slots available, 15 for NDSU and 3 for Concordia. The goal is for have of the positions to go to Students, but the rest may go to faculty/staff.
- XVI. Old Business** – None.
- XVII. New Business** – None.
- XVIII. Announcements**
- A. Phil Hunt – The Faculty Senate meeting agenda was recently sent out. Staff Senate members are advised to look at it because there is an item pushing for censure of President Bresciani and reopening the provost search. This would impact everyone on campus and create an impression of NDSU that may not be favorable. We should be mindful of the power balance here as an equal branch of campus governance. Does this censure represent us as part of NDSU? Do we want to have an official stance or form a resolution in response to the outcome that accurately reflects where staff stands on the issue? Where does Staff Senate stand on the issue?
Faculty Senate Agenda (pages 12-18):
<https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/facultysenate/FSMeetingAgenda20210208.pdf>.
Discussion held among senators.
Motion by Lambertz to form resolution in support of Bresciani's decision to appoint Margaret Fitzgerald as the Provost. Amendment by Cronin to watch for results and then act. No second received and so motion failed.
Motion by Lambertz/Swank to have a special meeting to discuss the result of the Faculty senate proposing the censure of Bresciani. Amendment by Lambertz/Swank to hold meeting next Tuesday. February 9th at 9:30 am if the faculty motion passes. Amendment to the amendment by Cronin/Lambertz to schedule the meeting for Wednesday February 10th. Motion Passed.
- XIX. Adjourn at 10:54 by Latterell**