

North Dakota University System Staff Senate- Final Report 2009-2010

Past and present staff senate leaders across the state gathered on Nov. 14, 2008, to discuss the process of creating a statewide staff senate. Supported by each campus President and guided by Chancellor William Goetz, this group formed the North Dakota University System Staff Senate (NDUS SS). During 2009, the group developed a solid foundation by creating and adopting its constitution and bylaws. Each institution's Staff Senate having had the opportunity to review, discuss and offer input to the process, voted in favor of the constitution and bylaws. See attachments.

The desire was to organize a representative body of college and university staff employees with a foundation of a spirit of cooperation, issues of mutual interest and a desire to partner with the State Board of Higher Education, the North Dakota University System Chancellor, administrators, faculty and students for the betterment of the system. The NDUS SS will serve as a council under the State Board of Higher Education, much like the Council of College Faculties.

The NDUS SS has three purposes:

- Serve the staff employees of the NDUS colleges and universities by identifying interests and issues shared among the staff of the System's institutions, and it shall be a forum to consider matters, concepts and developing trends related to staff.
- Strive to promote communication among the SBHE, the NDUS Chancellor and staff employees of the System's institutions.
- Representation to the SBHE. With SBHE approval of staff representation, the NDUS Staff Senate President, or designee, shall advise and counsel the SBHE and the Chancellor with respect and clarity in purpose of issues concerning System staff. The communication shall reflect discussion and approved motions by the Senate.

In November 2009, the NDUS SS passed the attached resolution to review the staff representation in presidential search committees. This was presented to the SBHE following the over site of appointing a staff member to the NDSU presidential search committee. The NDUS SS learned a great deal as they went through the process of creating the resolution.

In February of 2010, the SBHE was presented with a resolution from the NDUS SS requesting to be formally recognized by the board by creating a seat for the senate equal to that of the Council of College Faculties. Discussion and process will be discussed during the SBHE May retreat. Vocal support has been received from numerous state councils and board members alike. Process for a change like this could take legislative action and could take some time.

In the meantime, the NDUS SS will meet four times per year developing strength in purpose as we forge forward as the voice for staff in North Dakota higher education. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010 9:00-4:00 at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo, ND. Sparb Collins

and President Hanson will be guest speakers. New officers will be elected during the June meeting and Janine Trowbridge of NDSU will assume the role of President for 2010-2011. The State Board of Higher Education will also be meeting at NDSU on June 17, 2010 and are invited to sit in on the next NDUS SS meeting.

For more information on the NDUS SS, please contact Janice Hoffarth at janice.hoffarth@und.edu or Janine Trowbridge at janine.trowbridge@ndsu.edu or 231-7315.