

NDSU Staff Senate
Presidents Report 2009-2010

What an exciting year for our Staff Senate! We celebrated 20 years of staff committed to the idea that staff should have a voice in our campus community. We do have a voice and it grows in purpose and strength every year. Thank you for being concerned and connected to the growth of NDSU. We couldn't have become who we are, or, continue to grow into who we wish to be without dedicated and involved staff like you.

This past year was another year of growth opportunities that we met head on. If we had no challenges I doubt we, as staff or Staff Senate, would be such a dynamic force in contributing to the success of our students. The students are who we all serve.

We saw a beautiful new house built on our campus, the President's house. This will become a vital tool in our mission to become an even more vibrant university. It will be more than just a home for our president. It will be a venue where new lasting partnerships are formed and where already existing bonds are strengthened. Let's begin to see the useful purpose of this landmark and take pride in it. We also are experiencing a change in leadership as President Joe Chapman resigned after many years as a leader with vision and purpose. We are now awaiting the selection of a new president for NDSU. It will be up to staff and Staff Senate to contribute to the success of our new leader. We will be a voice to help guide NDSU to its renewed vision and continued role as a leading Land-Grant University.

Speaking of a new campus president and a voice for NDSU Staff Senate, it took a firm, but tactful voice, to allow staff a place in the selection of our next president. Our Staff Senate was formed 20 years ago so that staff could have a role in the president selection. This year we were almost excluded in that process. But, thanks to efforts by many supporters, the Staff Senate President was included in the search committee. It seems that history repeats itself! Our search committee has a responsibility to pick a leader who will continue to lead us in the direction we want to go. What direction is that? Well, I challenge Staff Senate with being proactive in discerning our new vision. Let's be ready to put our voice to work – let's have a plan! I would like to see us do our own S.W.O.T. analysis and begin forming a vision and mission statement for our campus future. We are leaders, why not lead!

Another challenge that we see as an opportunity is that NDSU campus is now a "Smoke Free" community. This policy will need to be gently, but firmly, phased into campus life. Again, Staff Senate played a leading role in this issue and we need to be part of its success. Your support and ideas will need to be heard – please contribute.

This year Staff Senators contributed to our campus community in many ways. Through our standing committees and various ad-hoc committees we helped nurture and support a community that is a caring and responsible example of what it means to really be a vibrant part of what NDSU stands for. Please take the time to read the committee year-end reports. If you

do, you will find out how much we did to help make this community a great place to live and work. I would like to say that we have "Synergy". That is, the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. What this means for Staff Senate is that, if we worked only as individuals we would accomplish some things, but working as a team with different complementary skills, we accomplish many more things. It is true in your work areas and it is true within Staff Senate. Read about what we did this year as a Staff Senate of different complementary skills and see if what we accomplished, as an entire team, was indeed more than what you thought you were doing. When it comes together, it really stands out as synergy!

In closing, I would like to offer a huge NDSU Bison thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your president this past year. If I said I won't miss it and thank goodness it's over I would be telling a big lie. You helped guide our mission and you helped guide me. We stand together as a team, a dynamic, changing team. That's what makes this organization of NDSU Staff such an important aspect of our campus community. Growth comes from change and change demands teamwork in order to accomplish growth.

Thank you all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vance N. Olson
NDSU Staff Senate President
2009-2010