

## **NDSU Staff Senate 2011-12 President's Report**

Staff Senate enjoyed another great year of partnership with students and faculty to serve our campus community. 2011-12 also demonstrated another year of growth within Staff Senate. We accomplished many great things which is a tribute to our teamwork and dedication to the university and our community, both state and local.

One of our first privileges was to welcome the new Provost to campus. Dr. J. Bruce Rafert is a great supporter of Staff Senate and has encouraged meetings with our leadership. Provost Rafert has already given President Elect De Geldere and President Dallmann advice to help promote and lead staff to a new level.

Some of our greatest accomplishments this year were a result of the SWOT analysis held in 2010-11. One of our several objectives was to express appreciation for all staff at NDSU for their continued hard work and dedication. To that purpose we held two events for staff which were well attended and a great starting off point for future events.

Other work brought forward by the SWOT analysis results included an update of our standing committees and subsequent changes to our bylaws which is currently underway. Also, tackling larger fundraisers for scholarships has progressed very nicely and we should see some wonderful results of that in the coming years. The coming changes to our senate as a result of the analysis, I am sure, will have great impact on all staff at NDSU.

Another stride forward for Staff Senate was the addition of a Communications Officer to help promote the mission of Staff Senate. As chair of the Public Relations Committee, the Communications Officer has many tools available to them to get the word out to more people. Although this position is new and has specific duties listed, it is felt that there is so much potential for that person to be a great leader for Staff Senate.

Last summer, the Minot area suffered the devastating effects of a flood. Over 1,100 Minot State University employees experienced losses due to the flood. In an effort to help our fellow University System employees, we accepted the challenge of the University of North Dakota and created our own Rebuild Minot Campaign. The campaign accepted donations for common household items many lost during the flood, as well as, monetary donations. At the completion of the campaign's collection period, the committee coordinated efforts with the Beyond History Books student group to transport the items collected and give the student group the opportunity to provide service required by their organization. This effort was a huge example of the teamwork of everyone at NDSU and our fellow state employees.

This spring we were pleased to add an official staff representative to NDSU FORWARD. Potentially, our involvement could be long-term as FORWARD progresses and becomes permanently established at NDSU.

NDSU Staff Senate is very proud of our members on the State Staff Senate level. Their hard work and efforts were greatly appreciated this year as that body continues to move forward as a voice for staff throughout the state.

In addition to the many things Staff Senate accomplished this year, we were able to do something never before seen at NDSU. President Bresciani proved his dedication to and dependence on staff, student and faculty leadership by going directly to the three governing bodies to ask for our feedback on potential budget cuts at NDSU. In response to this important issue, Staff Senate held a special full senate meeting to discuss the issues at hand and give the requested feedback. It was a great honor to be a part of the process and to know that staff truly are valued at NDSU.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued inclusion of a staff representative on the President's Cabinet. Again, this is a privilege and honor to have this voice at the top level of leadership on campus. We were represented very well by President Elect, La Donna De Geldere. I feel that it is a testament to her ability to work with the leadership that our membership on the Cabinet is valued and continues.

Overall, as I look back on the year, it was mostly a blur of activity but I was so excited to be a part of another great year for staff at NDSU. In closing, I would like to thank all of the staff senators for their hard work and efforts this year. As I expressed to them in May, I know that their efforts were not personally done for me but it felt very personal on many occasions. My greatest hope is that I was able to serve them even a fraction of how much and well they served our community. Thank you for this opportunity to serve all of NDSU staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Dallmann  
President, Staff Senate  
2011-12