

2014 Staff Senate President Annual Report

The IT Ad Hoc committee was formed in spring 2013. Research completed by this group determined that the Senate could benefit from the addition of an IT officer supported by an IT committee. The IT Officer position and the IT committee were approved by the Senate to be added to the bylaws in April 2014.

The Senators in these roles will not only serve in a functional manner to enhance the uses of technology to facilitate senate activities, but they will also serve as liaisons between the campus community and the senate, thus improving the flow of information regarding technology initiatives.

Another change to the Senate structure came in the form of changes to the former Valentine's Ball committee. This committee's mission has been shifted from focusing on a single Senate event to enhancing campus relationships by planning, promoting and executing events that encompass varying facets of the NDSU community.

The Senate participated in the planning and preparation of the NDSU Day of Honor. The event was well received and allowed guests the opportunity to remember those of the NDSU community that have passed away in the past years. We look forward to the opportunity to participate in the event in the future.

In addition to continued input on University policies through the SCC, the Senate Executive Committee had the opportunity to provide input on the selection of the new NDSU Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Senate was also fortunate to have a representative serve on the Planning and Development Committee for the \$26 million dollar STEM building, which will provide much needed classroom and laboratory spaces for the campus.

The Staff Senate committees for Staff Recognition, Gunkelman Award and Scholarship implemented new procedures this spring to ensure that their selection processes were free from conflicts of interest when selecting winners. Both the Recognition and Gunkelman award committees did a wonderful job of vetting nominations and the Gunkelman Award ceremony was well planned, well attended and did tribute to an outstanding award. The Scholarship Committee raised \$2,195 from fall raffle ticket sales. These funds, along with \$408 raised by the second annual vendor show, and \$1,320 from the endowment fund allowed the committee to award \$3,900 in scholarships to staff and students.

The Staff Development and Program Committee planned and hosted two successful Discover U programs this year. "Becoming a Better You" was presented by Rollie Johnson in November 2013. Attendance was 108 staff members. The presentation was entertaining and informative, motivating employees to identify their strengths and collaborate for greater effectiveness in the work place. In February, two NDSU employees, Steve Winfrey and Matt Skoy, presented "Mindset". Attendance was just under 75 and there were many positive comments on the presentation. The committee also planned for nine senate meeting programs throughout the year. These included a presentation by President Bresciani, the Metro Council of Governments on Metropolitan Area Planning, and a presentation by the HR office on employee discounts.

The Public Relations Committee did another great job this year of meeting the objectives for expanding awareness of the Senate. Three issues of the *Messenger* were published and distributed throughout the year. A Summer Food Drive in July, 2013, resulted in \$800 in donations and 215 lbs of non-perishable food for the Great Plains Food Bank. The Welcome Back Redhawks game resulted in 175 tickets sold to staff members and their families. It was a great to see so many employees together at the game. The Staff Appreciation Day was hosted March 27th. The turnout was wonderful, the remarks from the speakers were very endearing, and there were many positive comments about the event.

The leadership shown by this year's officers and committee chairs was outstanding. Many staff members emerged to take on important roles. A heartfelt thanks goes out to the Executive Committee Members for their support and hard work and the Senators for their participation and effort.