

2015-2016 Staff Senate President's Annual Report

Another year has flown by. I feel like just yesterday I took over as President but here we are, at the end of my leadership year. It was a fun year I think and I had a great time leading this wonderful group of staff leaders. Every one of the senators brings a unique perspective which makes Staff Senate a great group to be involved with.

I want to thank all of our campus supporters first and foremost because we really do have a lot of support on campus. You guys help us function. But let's not forget about all the senators; without you, we wouldn't succeed. There is so much dedication and work put into what we strive to do in Staff Senate, that I am honored to have been the leader of it all for a short time. We do great things here at NDSU!

The *Public Relations* committee continues to update the campus community with things that Staff Senate has and is doing. I want to thank that committee for gathering all this information into one newsletter. This committee also starts off the school year with a welcome back event for staff at a Redhawks game. This always seems to be well received and a night of fun with fellow employees and their families. Another activity this committee plans and executes is the staff appreciation events during the school year that happen in September and March. The members of this group put in a lot of thought into these events to make staff members feel cared about here at NDSU. Great Job committee!

Another very active committee is the Staff Development & Program committee. Not only does this committee plan and execute the Discover U's during the year, but they also plan speakers for each of our monthly meetings. This is a great opportunity for the senators to hear from different departments and leaders around campus. This committee also likes to help improve their fellow Bison staff members by hosting several Discover U's to improve our work environments. The dedication of this committee starts right away in the summer months each year because lots of planning goes into all these events. This continuous work is greatly appreciated by the staff members on NDSU. Keep up the great work!

There are also a few banquet type events that some of our committees are involved in. In the fall, the *Scholarship* and *Campus Relations* committees worked together this year to host the holiday extravaganza in conjunction with a silent auction. This big event helped raise scholarship money for staff members and staff member dependents. This is a great way for Staff Senate to give back to others at NDSU.

Then there is the *Staff Recognition* social and the *Gunkelman* award ceremony. These two events recognize award winners for their great work and contribution to the NDSU community. These committee members have to read several wonderful nominations and then pick winners of awards based on what others have written about those they have nominated. This can be a complicated task because there are so many wonderful things that staff members accomplish

here at NDSU that these committee members deserve a shout out for a job well-done in making the hard decisions!

We also have a few more “under the radar” committees that do important things that might not be as visible. One of these committees is the *Bylaws* committee. They are more behind the scenes but take care of an important part of our senate. Then there is the *Legislative* committee. They were a bit more low-key this year because there was no legislative session but they continued working on figuring out how to educate the legislators with what NDSU continues to accomplish. The *IT* committee keeps us informed on what is going on with the IT department and what that means for the rest of the campus.

Last but not least, in the spring semester the *Election* committee works very hard at figuring out who is done with their term on the senate, how to recruit new senators, and they set up and run the nomination and election events for our senators. Another job well done!

I’m so glad I am able to be a part of such a great group of people! Thanks everyone for a wonderful year as the Staff Senate President!

Sincerely,

Gennifer Sprecher