



Campus Updates – February 2020



Update Provided By: Jessie Meckle

- We are hosting a Esports tournament for around 80 athletes. BSC is hoping the Esports team keeps growing.
- Enrollment is up 5%
- Staff Senate, HR and Continuing Education are teaming up to offer several professional development sessions throughout the year for all employees as an alternative to a whole day of training
- Planning a Employee Appreciation week over Spring Break
- The Presidential search continues with interviews of the top applicants this week



Update Provided By: Crystal Tansrud

- No updates.



Update Provided By: Laura Halvorson

- 3rd Annual Vendor show coming up April 18th in the campus gym
- HLC will be here April 6 and 7
- Couple Spring events in planning mode for Student/Staff Connection Events



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Susan Cordahl

- Our Staff Senate recently submitted a letter to our Cabinet members to let them know about some staff concerns and what we would be doing as a senate to address those concerns. We had two cabinet members present at our meeting to discuss this further. We are also working on the possibility of getting some volunteer approved hours for staff to do more volunteer work in the community. One of these things we are looking at receiving approved volunteer time-off hours for is our Adopt-a-Highway initiative, as early as this spring.
- We will soon be planning our Staff Association meeting (most likely for April). We had various committee updates as well. Our Staff Professional Development committee has several monthly Staff Strategies trainings planned; February's training is "Todoist vs MS To Do & Teamup Calendar." The next few months we will be looking at some training on Excel and a mental health training. Our Event Planning & Fundraising Committee is currently collecting "Pennies for Pride" and will use that money to go toward our Comet Pride scholarship. Our Spring Break Food Drive solicitations will begin at the end of the month as well.
- Our next meeting is set for March 10th.



Update Provided By: Michael Linnell

- Anne Nordgaard, admission specialist, was named Minot State University Staff Senate's January High Five Award winner.
- The Minot State Staff Senate Professional Development Committee presented an event titled "Emotional Wellness" by Troy Roness, MSU campus counselor, speaker, and author for staff, faculty, and students. Roness discussed depression, anxiety, and coping skills in today's world.
- The Professional Development Committee also presented "Life Hacks for Living Well," by MSU professor and nationally recognized speaker Terry Eckmann. Eckmann explored key lifestyle choices that enhance overall health and well-being throughout the lifespan, identified effective research-based strategies to increase activity level, improve eating habits, manage stress, and improve attitude, and offered a number of life hacks to fit fitness and overall wellness into day-to-day life. She stressed the power of simple choices. This event was also open to all staff, faculty, and students and was a packed house.
- Minot State Staff Senate will sponsor multiple events in March including "Excel Training" from Jan Repnow, MSU assistant professor of business information, on March 6 and 13 and "Postural Solutions for the Workplace," a posture and ergonomics training session on March 4 with Minot State Wellness Specialist Courtenay Brekhus.
- The Special Events Committee sponsored a fun, free "Death by Chocolate" giveaway on Feb. 13 in the Student Center, giving away homemade sweet treats.
- Minot State Staff Senate and Minot State Cross Country / Track & Field are sponsoring the first ever Minot State Frozen 5K on March 6 at 4 p.m. The unique winter race circles the campus, starting and finishing at the MSU Wellness Center. Spicy Pie will serve as the official post-race venue with free hot chocolate while

supplies last and food and drink specials for racers and their families. To register, logon to the [MINOT STATE FROZEN 5K WEBSITE](#).



Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- The Marketing Committee has started to send the Monthly "Spotlight" flyer that introduces Staff employees again after the Holiday break and received many compliments from Campus.
- The Campus Engagement Committee is organizing a *March Madness* Team Building Food Drive
- NDSCS Staff Senate will invite the new Executive Director of Facilities, Andrew Pederson to a Staff Senate meeting for introductions and to explain how the Staff Senate enjoys helping the campus as they can.



Update Provided By: Wendy Baumann

- Nominations for new staff senate members are open March 4-31, 2020.
- A campus blood drive is scheduled for February 24, 2020.
- Sponsored by the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the NDSU Bookstore is giving out reusable shopping bags donated by Gate City Bank for "bring your own bag day", and they also offer a small discount for bringing your own bag.
- The Campus Food Insecurity Taskforce is working with a representative from Student Government and with several faculty members to discuss bringing a resolution on this project to Student Senate soon.
- The President's Cabinet report included information about a pilot program to offer dual-credit enrollment to local high school students. The offerings would be NDSU courses taught by NDSU faculty members. The Degree Completion Taskforce is looking to market more aggressively to people with some college credits who may want to complete a program. Also, ahead of a meeting with the state chancellor, staff senate president Elizabeth Cronin will be sending out a survey to get opinions on what challenges and opportunities are currently being faced by staff.
- A letter of support for the Preserved Leave Resolution has been finalized and sent to Finance and Administration for a vote. If approved, it will go to the Senate Coordinating Council.
- A virtual tour of the NDSU campus is now available online, and will replace the in-person tours that have sometimes occurred as many as three months after initial onboarding of new staff and faculty.



Update Provided By: Megan Wasylow

- Our Community Relations Committee had a successful Tubs of Love; tubs were spread out around campus collecting donations throughout December and distributing donations for the Northlands Mission at our January meeting. The buckets were overflowing and multiple stops were made to deliver to the mission before January's main pickup day.
- Professional Development Committee set up a speaker for Mini Leadership Series. Dr. Cassie Gerhardt spoke about Leadership. Mini Leadership Series is held at the beginning at our full Staff Senate meeting, where a speaker presents for a half hour.

- Friday, February 21, we are hosting a UND Staff Takeover at Red Ray Lanes bowling alley. It was structured for a team sign up of 3 per team, an hour for the first round and winners bracket for the 2nd hour. Teams pick team names and are encouraged to dress in UND spirit. Prizes will be given out for best dressed and the bowling winners. The invite also included the social aspect for people who want to attend without bowling.
- We are continuing to present a UShine Award Winner of the month.
- We are continuing to send a monthly Staff Senate newsletter.



Update Provided By: Benjamin Ferguson

- Planning of the annual employee recognition dinner has begun. With a handful of employees reaching notable years of service (25, 30, etc.), we will be inquiring with supervisors of those employees about giving short speeches on their behalf.
- We are planning a staff appreciation week during March 16-20. On each day we will have a particular event/promotion (including a St. Patrick's day celebration, events for professional development and recognizing years of service, and a potluck meal.)
- There is the possibility of a Staff Senate sponsored event in connection with the Medicine Wheel park in Valley City. The time of the event is still up for discussion, as we want to balance ideal weather with having the event during the semester so that more faculty members will attend.



Update Provided By: Megan Kasner

- No updates.