



## Campus Updates – January 2020



Update Provided By: Jessie Meckle

- BSC Staff Senate is holding a “New Year Event” this week for Staff. There will be treats, crafts and games. We will be accepting donations of gloves, scarves and hats for Ministry on the Margins from staff.
- We teamed up with BSC’s student run newspaper, “The Mystician”, to feature a monthly piece called “Get to know your Employees”. Our Staff Senate President will be the first to be interviewed.
- Employee Outreach is exploring how our Staff Senate committee can welcome new employees beyond the H.R orientation and onboarding process. Ideas range from a guided tour, taking them for coffee or BSC apparel.
- Employee Retention is exploring new ideas for employee recognition, such as printed certificates or a free coffee. In previous years, we handed out certificates called “You Make A Difference”.
- Professional Development continues to hold monthly “Lunch and Learn” sessions. Future sessions include demonstrations on stretches we can do in the workplace, a charcoal drawing event, and an overview of the new Cybersecurity program.
- We discussed the FMLA policy. BSC is in favor of putting into policy that employees can bank hours before taking leave. BSC’s H.R dept. already allows the option to take unpaid leave with hours banked for future use, but it is not written in policy.



Update Provided By: Crystal Tangsrud

- Our 2019 Operation Red, White, & Blue was our biggest yet. This project collects items and raises funds to send care packages to service members serving away from home during the holidays. We were able to send 76 care packages from Grand Forks and Bismarck this year, with new community partners. More information can be found on the Operation Red, White, & Blue Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OperationRWB>.
- The 2019 CTS/System Office Staff Senate Bake Sale was a big success as well. Our staff in Grand Forks and Fargo donated bake goods which we packaged and sold. In addition, we offered three online silent auction items so that our staff in all of our locations and work remote workers were able to participate. Our Fargo location created a large basket of goodies and two of our staff donated artwork. The Bake Sale was able to raise enough funds to cover one full scholarship.



Update Provided By: Laura Halvorson

- We are preparing for an HLC visit coming up in April.
- There is a survey going around campus for choices of new activities for students.
- Enjoyed our visit with Reetha and have been discussing some the highlights
- Planned and hosted the Holiday Gathering on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Good time was had by all!



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Cathleen Ruch

- Mini Professional Development Sessions Discussed
  - EAP Program – 3 common seminars include: Stress Management, Balancing Work and Home, Recognizing Depression and Anxiety. Staff Senate would like to hold 2 sessions for one of the 3 common seminars and which ones would be their top picks. After poll then try to get at least the top seminar coordinated for a day where 2 sessions are available. Possibly hold the second top seminar after that on a different date in the year.



Update Provided By: Susan Cordahl

- The Mayville State University Staff Senate met December 10, 2019.
- We held our annual Holiday Staff Potluck on December 20<sup>th</sup>, over the lunch hour. This is always very well attended and a fun time for all. Small door prizes were also given out. We also held an office decorating contest this year, with a “traveling trophy” awarded as a prize. 10 office areas participated in the contest, including our Extended Learning LRSC site!
- We awarded our 3<sup>rd</sup> monthly Comet Kudos award in December. It was created to recognize staff members for their outstanding contributions to Mayville State. Staff are really engaged with it; it’s going well.
- And finally, our staff senate work toward having emergency kits in our State Fleet vehicles has come to fruition! In consideration of MSU employee safety, a winter emergency kit has been placed in each one of our state fleet vehicles. In the kit there is a blanket, flashlight, first aid kit, and a small survival candle with matches. These bags are to stay in the fleet vehicles at all times. All vehicles also have an ice scraper and shovel.
- Our next Staff Senate Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.



Update Provided By: Michael Linnell

- Tricia Tessendorf, student accounts manager in the business office, was named Minot State University Staff Senate's November High Five Award winner.
- December's professional development events featured Karina Stander, MSU director of residence life, for a session on mindfulness and gratitude at the Northwest Arts Center and a land ski team building exercise in the Minot State Wellness Center. January's professional development event is titled "Battling Anxiety and Depression," with MSU campus councilor Troy Roness as the featured speaker.
- Staff Senate will hold its annual Holiday Decorating Contest with the theme of Holiday Movies during finals week and the Minot State business office took home the top prize.



Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- No updates due to postponed meeting.



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Megan Wasylow

- Our Community Relations Committee started Tubs of Love the day of our December meeting; tubs are spread out around campus collecting donations throughout December and distributing donations for the Northlands Mission at our January meeting.
- We hosted our annual December potluck on December 11. The President, Vice Presidents, Deans, AVPs, University Senate Presidential leaders, and Student Government Presidential Leaders are invited to this event.
- 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: Lacey Udem

- Sub-committee Reports
  - Campus Community –
    - Secret Viking – Held the week of 12/16-12/20 with reveal party on 12/20/19 – 37 participants
    - Holiday Treat Exchange – 21 participants
    - A “Soup Off” at the end of the semester
  - Difference Makers -
    - Foundation/Alumni and President’s Office selected Linda Trzruc for difference maker
    - Facilities Services will be selecting the next difference maker
  - Parade –
    - December 5<sup>th</sup> – WBB rode in the Viking Ship float
    - Parade had great attendance, amazing lights, lots of floats!
  - Staff Appreciation –
    - Staff and Faculty Appreciation Night will be held January 24<sup>th</sup>
      - Stoudt Ross Ford to host Social Event prior to WBB/MBB games
      - Faculty versus Staff shootout will be played during half-time
  - Welcome to VCSU –
    - New employees to welcome are Kari Klettke, Career Services and Laquone Robinson, Track and Field
- For the Good of the Order
  - Broadband Meetings
    - TPOS – Held December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10AM
    - Professional – Held December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30AM
    - Crafts/Trades – to be scheduled
  - Budget proposal requesting to bring staff up to 85% of the market median was submitted to the campus budget committee – current staff market median is set at 80% per staff and coaches compensation model
- VCSU Staff Senate website - <http://www.vcsu.edu/employeeservices/staffsenate/>



Update Provided By: Megan Kasner

- WSC P3 project starts next week and will go until August 24<sup>th</sup>. This renovation includes the Nursing Department, Music Department, and the Teton Lounge.
- WSC is a finalist in the workforce category for the Bellwether Award. We have a competitive presentation February 2nd and 3rd in San Antonio.