



Campus Updates – March 2020



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Crystal Tangsrud

- Plans continue for our first Professional Development Month in April. Many sessions will now be moved to remote delivery for our staff at both CTS and the NDUS System Office. Sessions include: Securing Your Home Network & Computers, Recording Sessions in Microsoft Teams, online book discussions, and other wonderful content presented by our talented staff and some external presenters. This month is being sponsored by the senior staff at CTS and the NDUS System Office, our Wellness Committees, and CTSO Staff Senate.
- Our CTSO Staff Senate Scholarship application closed on March 1st, with 7 total applicants. Our Scholarship Sub-Committee will be selecting a recipient and making that announcement to our staff in April.
- The New Employee Kit and Perks Committee is working on compiling a one page document to provide to new staff upon hire that tells them about the Staff Senate and other important information regarding their work location. Since CTSO Staff Senate represents staff at three physical locations along with remote workers this is one way we can help to welcome them to our organization and build community.



Update Provided By: Laura Halvorson

- DCB like others has gone to alternative delivery and buildings condensed to minimal and essential staff and faculty only. We currently have 15 students on campus who have never left working on arrangements to go home.
- DCB Staff Senate Vendor Show is being postponed to Fall 2020. Waiting to hear from vendors on date confirmation.
- HLC visit that was to take place April 6 and 7 will now take place virtually so campus is still busy preparing for the 2 day meeting.

- Spring Connection event for faculty/staff/students sponsored by Staff senate has been cancelled.
- Spring Cookout/Potluck sponsored by Staff Senate has been postponed and future date is TBD.



Update Provided By: Josh Nichols

- Due to our recently vacated Staff Senate VP position, the fast approaching turnover of senators, and other factors, Staff Senate voted to leave the VP position vacant until elections occur at the July 2020 meeting. Staff Senate also approved the extension of Josh Nichols' current role of president through June 30, 2021. The VP elected in July of 2020 will assume the role of President on July 1, 2021.
- Connie Klein has accepted a vacant seat on senate. She will assume those duties immediately and will soon be joining committees and attending regular meetings.
- Staff Senate elections for vacant positions will be coming up soon. There will be 6 two-year term seats and 1 one-year term seat open for a total of seven open positions that will be filled in the upcoming election.
- The spring Staff Senate open forum took place on Friday, February 21, 2020.
- Two representatives of Staff Senate are serving on a committee regarding the process for merit raises for staff members.
- Nominations are now open for the newly approved Emeritus Staff Distinction.



Update Provided By: Cathleen Ruch

- Mini Professional Development Sessions – EAP-Respectful Communications on March 25th
- Staff Retreat – July 16th at Eastbay Resort
- Next meeting on April 7th.



Update Provided By: Susan Cordahl

- The Mayville State University Staff Senate met March 10, 2020.
- Staff Senate solicited donations for our annual Spring Break Care packages. This year, we had donations that allowed us to pack 35 bags for our students that remained in the area over Spring Break. The bags are picked up by students in our mailroom on a first-come, first-served basis, starting the Monday of Spring Break. As of Tuesday, all bags had been picked up. This year, more than ever, the bags were appreciated as many of our students were finding it difficult to stock their own pantry's due to lack of availability of items on store shelves caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Staff Senate is looking into volunteer-approved hours for staff, to allow us to do good volunteer work in our communities without having to use annual leave time. Tentatively, we are planning on participating in the May 1st Day of Giving with our campus. This Day of Giving was initiated by the MSU Foundation and has been approved by Cabinet. The MSU Foundation is working to provide various opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to volunteer that day. Staff Senate recently took on an Adopt-a-Highway project and the plan is to incorporate our highway clean up as an option into this day. MSU Foundation is planning a hot-dog feed and t-shirts for all who participate. There are still discussions being had about approved leave for other volunteer time for additional opportunities; however, it has been tabled due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, which of course is at the forefront of our campus-wide initiatives currently.

- Our Staff Association meeting is planned for April, but again, everything is uncertain at this point. We may try to find a way to do it remotely or provide information. We are working on updating our Bylaws and those will be sent to all Staff soon to vote on those changes. We are also working on awarding our annual Comet Pride Scholarships for dependents/spouses of MaSU employees, as well as the Orville Johnson Meritorious Service award which is given each year to an outstanding Staff member.
- Our next meeting is set for April 14th, and may take place via ZOOM.
- We hope this finds everyone well and healthy amidst this time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic upon us.



Update Provided By: Michael Linnell

- Leon Perzinski, student center director, was named Minot State University Staff Senate's February High Five Award winner.
- Minot State Staff Senate and MSU Cross Country / Track & Field hosted 72 runners for its inaugural Minot State Frozen 5K Fun Run on March 6. Winners from the male and female categories were awarded a \$25 gift card from SCHEELS and Minot State cross country / track & field gear, while second place in each were awarded a \$25 gift card from Spicy Pie. Multiple door prizes were handed out to runners as well.
- Minot State Staff Senate hosted two sessions of Excel training as a part of its ongoing professional development in March.



Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- Recruitment Committee
 - Senator Woytassek made an advertisement to be sent out.
- Campus Engagement Committee – Chair – Senator Pellman
 - March Food drive is Complete
 - The NDSCS Staff Senate March Food Drive was designed for employees from each building to accrue points by donating items needed at the food pantry. Items with a higher need or expense were assigned higher points. The building with the highest total points was awarded a pizza party! Haverty Hall was victorious for the March food drive and the Central Heating Plant noted Honorable mention for 100% employee participation.

It was very exciting to see all NDSCS involved including NDSCS Fargo! A total of 1926.5 pounds of food, supplies and cash was delivered to the Richland Wilkin Food Pantry
- Discussion is on the schedule for Employee Appreciation Day.
 - Diversity and Equity Report – Senator Griffin
 - Working on poster board learning kits for residence halls with topics such as weight, sexuality and pay equality.

Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Megan Wasylow

- Friday, March 6 was Special Denim and Spirit Day to support Circle of Friends Humane Society.
- We took Nominations for Staff Senate/President-Elect at March 11 meeting.
- March 11 guest speaker Coach Bubba Schweigert, at our March 11 meeting.
- March 16 – Non-essential UND employees, if possible, to work remotely starting at noon.
- Professional development, March 19 staff campus speaker event Barry Brode “Optimism 101.” **Postponed event due to COVID-19 social distancing/working remotely.**
- Senator nominations went out for the UND Staff Senate 2020-2021 term election. Deadline for nominations was 3/24/20, but have been extended to April 6.
- Guest speaker Major Michael Humble, US Army at our April 8 meeting. **-Canceled event due to COVID-19 social distancing/working remotely.**
- April Staff Spring Fling Luncheon (collaboration with UND Work Well to include vendors, massages, and therapy dogs) – **Canceled event due to COVID-19 social distancing/working remotely.**
- 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: Ben Ferguson

- Staff Appreciation Week was planned for March 16-20. However, all events after the first day were postponed.
 - Monday- “We appreciate you” message and candy, along with a graphic with the itinerary for week.
 - Tuesday- St. Patrick’s Day – Green St. Patrick’s Day treat.
 - Wednesday- Professional Development Day- Two sessions were planned; one focused on business etiquette and customers service, the other scheduled as a True Colors Assessment.
 - Thursday- Years of Service Day- To recognize years of service at VCSU, staff were invited to wear VCSU apparel matching their years of service with a specific color:

0-5 years – Red

6-15 years – Grey

16-25 years – White

26+ years – Blue

- Friday- Potluck Day.
- Planning for the annual Employee recognition Dinner is in progress:
- Staff senate members will take tickets and design the PowerPoint presentation. We are looking into gifts for employees being recognized for milestone years. We will talk to the music department about performing again, and ask supervisors of individuals that are above 25 years of service if they would like to say a few words.
- There is the possibility of having an event at the Medicine Wheel Park in Valley City. The goal will be to find a time when the weather is nice, while also accomodating faculty schedules.
- On March 12, broadband meetings were held for the Professional and TPOS(Technical, Paraprofessional, and Office Support) broadband groups, led by President Alan LaFave and Vice President for Business Affairs Wesley Wintch. The purpose was to discuss the compensation model for staff and the push to get salaries closer to market average; after giving an overview, LaFave and Wintch took questions from staff. A similar meeting for the Facilities broadband group is scheduled for April 1.



Update Provided By: Kristina Kitchens

- We went fully online this week.
- Most employees are working from home.
- Graduation has been cancelled.