



Campus Updates – September 2019



Update Provided By: Jessie Meckle

- BSC's Accreditation has been reaffirmed for 10 years
- The Presidential Search nominations for Faculty and Staff have been sent to the NDUS Chief of Staff and we hope to hear who will serve on the committee later this month
- Employee Outreach committee is compiling suggestions to H.R regarding a better New Hire orientation process, as well as creating a "welcome orientation" event for new Staff Senate members
- Employee Retention reported that 110 employees were served at the Employee Picnic that Staff Senate/Faculty Senate hosted last month.
- Professional Development is hosting "Lunch and Learns" during four different days this fall which will showcase some the updates to BSC's programs such as Health Sciences and Auto Technology
- The "Little Pantry" has been built and will be placed soon. A list of suggested foods/items were provided
- Retha Mattern is BSC's new Admissions and Outreach Coordinator!
- Each year, BSC's carpentry program constructs a house that is listed for sale to the public. This year's house should be completed in April 2020. Last year's house is for sale for \$479,900.
- BSC launched Esports, and BSC is a member of the newly formed National Junior College Athletic Association Esports.
- BSC's offers a BAS in Cybersecurity and Information Technology. BSC is now an active Pearson Vue testing site which will be used to administer certification exams for this program



Update Provided By: Crystal Tangsrud

- September was about planning and kicking off all of our various committees for the 2019-2020 year. Most committees got some headway on their assigned tasks. Look for more information on their progress in future updates.
- Our FUNraising Committee hosted the first of three monthly Donut Days in Grand Forks. Staff at the Information Technology Building could purchase a donut and coffee to kick start their morning with the proceeds of the sales going towards Staff Senate events. It was a successful sale and we are looking forward to next month's!



Update Provided By: Laura Halvorson

- We have reached 1000 students for the first time ever. This year 1006 students were recorded for DCB
- We are hosting a Pot Luck with games for Staff, Faculty, and Students Wednesday September 25th
- We have passed the new Staff Senate sponsored Scholarship for returning full time online students. First one to be offered Fall 2020
- Sponsoring pumpkin painting and costume contests for Halloween.
- There will be a professional development committee formed on campus for staff. This group will approve various professional development opportunities that employees request to take part in.



Update Provided By: Josh Nichols

- No updates.



Update Provided By: Cathleen Ruch

- Mini professional development sessions
 - September – FERPA session – another survey will be sent out to staff/faculty on what they would like to see more of in mini professional sessions. Feedback from the Staff retreat suggested more self-care/wellness and leadership sessions.



Update Provided By: Susan Cordahl

- State Employee Recognition Week was September 9-13. We had a committee from Staff Senate that planned activities for the week, and they were well received. Included in our week:
- Muffins delivered to Staff on Monday morning to kick off the week with the message: “Muffin to do but appreciate you.”
- Comet Kudos Wall. We had an area on campus where faculty, staff, and students could stop by and leave a (post-it) note of appreciation or kudos. At the end of the week, a drawing was held; anyone who had a note of thanks on the wall was entered into a drawing for one of five gift baskets which were delivered to them the following Monday by members of Staff Senate and the President (the drawing was a surprise). “Comet Kudos” is something we are planning to continue monthly to recognize outstanding staff members.
- An Ice Cream Social was held Monday afternoon and Tuesday we had a free taco lunch, organized by Staff Senate and sponsored by Mayville State Cabinet.

- Wednesday we offered Puppy Yoga. Faculty, Staff, and even some students were able to join us with a yoga session (instructor was from our own MaSU Wellness Center), all while playing with adoptable dogs from Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue. This was a great fundraiser for TMAR and our Staff Senate received great feedback on offering something so new and unique for our employees and students.
- Thursday we played office bingo throughout the day with small prizes and then had a social at our local Top Hat. Bingo is played there every Thursday night and proceeds benefit our Comet Athletic Club, so Staff Senate decided to glom onto that and added appetizers and an evening of socializing. It was a hit!
- Friday afternoon our offices were closed as our 17th President was inaugurated that afternoon. It made for a great way to end our fun week.
- Something else we've been working on is the formation of sub-committees on our Staff Senate. We have formed the following four sub-committees: Staff Recognition, Staff/Professional Development, Public Relations, and Event Planning/Fundraising.
- Our Public Relations committee has already been hard at work, introducing a new campus publication called CometConnection! This will be a monthly newsletter intended to increase engagement and communication between staff which will include important campus information, events, and much more. Their first letter was emailed out on September 3, and staff are already looking forward to October's newsletter.



Update Provided By: Michael Linnell

- Minot State planned five events in conjunction with President's Staff for the North Dakota State Employee Appreciation Week, including muffins on Monday, popcorn on Tuesday, Taco in a Bag on Wednesday, a Cornhole Tournament on Thursday, and an ice cream social on Friday.
- Lori Braasch, administrative assistant in residence life, was named Minot State University Staff Senate's August High Five Award winner.
- Minot State Staff Senate announced national speaker VJ Smith will conduct two sessions with Minot State employees on Oct. 8 (1 and 3:30 p.m.) about customer service, the power of thank you, and being an exceptional employee. The event is in partnership with MSU Academic Affairs.



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: April Helgaas

- No new updates.



Update Provided By: Megan Wasylow

Recap of last month

- We celebrated State Employee Recognition week by providing a breakfast for night staff on September 10, providing a Pie Social on September 11, and a luncheon on September 12 with a vendor fair, massages, and therapy dogs. All of these events were free to UND staff and we had over 400 staff participate.
- We represented UND Staff Senate with a float in the Potato Bowl Parade on September 14, 2019.

Events Coming up

- We will start our 31 Days of Glory raffle on October 1. We sell 600 tickets for \$20 each and there is a winner every day in December (Mon-Fri \$100, Sat. \$250, and Sun. \$500). This is a fundraiser for Seeds for Staff Success, which allows UND staff to apply for a grant up to \$500 each calendar year toward professional development.
- Our Special Denim Spirit Day charity for October 4 will support the Salvation Army natural disasters response fund.
- We will represent UND Staff Senate with a float in the Homecoming Parade on October 5.
- We are continuing to present a UShine Award Winner of the month.
- We are continuing to send a monthly Staff Senate newsletter.
- Next week we will “catch” our 84th staff member. “I’ve been caught by UND Staff Senate” is a picture of the staff member with some information about them and it is posted on our UND Staff Senate Facebook page. We are getting faces with names and it also helps increase traffic for our Facebook page.



Update Provided By:

- No updates provided.



Update Provided By: Megan Kasner

- Record fall enrollment continues at Williston State College with 1,132 registered students according to census totals released Tuesday, September 24. Read here for the full story: <https://bit.ly/2kV34IG>
- -Oct. 31st WSC will be hosting Trail of Treats. We expect around 800 Trick or Treaters on campus.
- -November 4 & 5 the Legislative Interim Committee will be on campus.
- -WSC is adding 4 new sculptures on campus. They will represent, veterans, Homesteaders, Oil, Ranching. The additional sculptures will go along with the Lewis and Clark Expo and Sitting Bull arrangement.