



Campus Updates – December 2017

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Update Provided By: Retha Mattern

- BSC Staff Senate and A Healthy BSC Community are teaming up to bring in presentations from NDSU Extension for lunch and learn opportunities for employees. The first event will be a slow cooker meals session on December 18.
- BSC Staff Senate has representation on an Employee Engagement Committee recently established to develop recommendations to recruit and retain excellent employees.
- The Professional Development team is examining options for Staff Day to expand to a full day event instead of a half day and provide sessions to benefit employees.
- Community Relations team continues to work on a spring Frisbee golf tournament and is compiling a list of volunteer opportunities for staff.
- Communications team is creating a newsletter to inform employees what Staff Senate is doing. It will be published electronically on the CORE and the first issue is almost complete.



Update Provided By:



Update Provided By: Lisa Anderson

- Vendors have been sending their applications in for the Vendor Show being held on April 21<sup>st</sup> 2018. We currently have 24 vendors with 40.00 spots available.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> we held a bake sale with a very good turnout.
- Staff and Facility Senate have been working together to update our employee handbook into one, with sections

for Staff and sections that pertain to only Facility. It should be completed this month.

- Updates were made to our employee benefits to include a free fitness pass for employees and facility. With a discounted rate offered to spouses/dependents at 50% off.
- Policy of children in the work place has revised and is ready for the new employee handbook.
- Next week we will be hosting our annual Christmas Party with a White Elephant gift exchange to take place. Should be lots of fun.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Everyone!



Update Provided By: Johnna Douthit

\*\*Staff Senate is holding their annual Goody Gobble tomorrow. This event is to celebrate the end of a semester plus gives faculty and staff the chance to bring and share their baked goodies, etc.

\*\*The Staff Development Committee is in the process of planning a Self Defense workshop in January.

\*\*The Fundraising Committee is still working on a recipe book, finalizing the artwork, etc. for the divider pages. We are also looking for ideas on increasing the donations for our weekly Jeans Day fundraiser or looking at other events.

\*\*We are in the process of making some changes to our bylaws regarding our election of senators.



Update Provided By: Cathleen Ruch

- **Christmas Party Committee update**
  - Approval of \$200 worth of LRSC Bookstore gift certificates – Brigitte made a motion to approve \$200 worth of LRSC Bookstore gift certificates. Cathleen seconded. All approved – motion carried.
- **LRSC Staff Member of the Month** – LRSC needs to present a name by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Further discussion was tabled until January's meeting.
- **Toofawn Simhai & Kenny Dubois Memorials**
  - Simhai poetry display update – Cathleen reported the Librarian has approved the display, however, is wondering whether the display would be a permanent or temporary fixture, as well as how many pieces would be displayed. The group agreed the display would be permanent. It was suggested Elonda Nord be included in the discussion. Cathleen also noted that the Simhai family has been contacted, approved the display of Toofawn's poetry, and expressed they would be honored to allow such a display.

Dubois bench update – Brigitte reported the name plate is here

#### **New Business**

- **Mini Professional Development Sessions** – It was suggested to have TrainND provide the first session in mid-January. Brittany Hanson will ask Dave Steffen for availability.

### Next Meeting

- The next meeting was scheduled for January 2, 2017 12:00pm – 1:00pm.



Update Provided By: Misti Wuori

- Mayville State University Staff senate met on November 14, and had the fall semester Staff Association Meeting on November 21. Items discussed at staff association included updates from all Cabinet members, as well as questions from staff members gathered in a Qualtrics survey prior to the Staff Association Meeting.
- A workgroup is working on holiday decorations (wreath, planters, and solar lights) in front of Old Main.
- We have been asked for staff member recommendations for both the Presidential Search and the Athletic Director Search.
- We will have a Holiday/"End of Semester" Potluck on December 20 for staff (and faculty).
- Work continues on selling Comet Pride Buttons for dependent scholarships.



Update Provided By: Mindy Rudnick

- Minot State University Staff Senate held their monthly meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Items discussed involved the grandfathering in of Emeritus Staff on campus particularly pertaining to the beginning date to allow for nominees since their retirement date.
- Other items included transferring proceeds raised from the Vendor Show held in October to the scholarship endowment. Total money raised at the event came to just over \$820.
- The Special events committee held a turkey scramble for employees to complete and enter to win a free pie from Perkins for Thanksgiving. The committee will be hosting cookie decorating, holiday attire day, and the annual Holiday Decorating contest in December.
- The Professional Development committee worked with the Marketing Office to arrange two Be in the Know sessions on Google Analytics and Advanced Excel to be held in December and January. The November High Five award was presented to Dana Dannewitz in Accounts Payable.



Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- Thanksgiving dinner collaboration with Student Senate, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate is complete. A total of 728 dinners were served with 72 being employees.
- Gift Wrapping is started and will continue until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

- The December Newsletter is now being assembled.
- As Staff Senate we presented a proposal to President Richman for Wildcat Pride. This proposal would allow employees to wear jeans on a certain day. Employees would contribute to participate. A portion of the money would go towards our Scholarship Fund and a small portion would be used for Professional Development opportunities and sponsored events. We are hoping to hear a final decision the beginning of January.



Update Provided By: Diane Axness

### **NDSU Campus Updates**

Our meeting was held December 6, 2017.

- Live2Lead, a leadership development experience designed to equip individuals with new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways, was held last week. We had a great turnout with a well-rounded group of speakers. We continue to explore speakers for DiscoverU to be held in the spring.
- We will be sponsoring a blood drive December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Our Finance office is working with system office on shared services. Met with Microsoft to see how they do payroll for all their campuses – to see if we can use a similar model. Currently we are doing payroll for NDSCS and VCSU, together with ourselves, so might not be huge leap to do the rest. Also looking at other kinds of shared services beyond payroll/business/administrative services
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NDSU Giving Day was Nov 28. The University raised approx. \$470,000 (about a 43% increase over last year's \$328,000). Campus entities with a strong social media presence appear to have reaped the benefits of promoting Giving Day during and leading up to the event

### **Research Activity:**

- NSF (National Science Foundation) FY 16 research expenditure data is out. Our overall rank is 124 (FY 15 was 120). Within all public institutions, we're number 86 (FY 15 was 83). Four of our academic areas were within the top 100:
  - Chemistry (85)
  - Social Sciences (54)
  - Psychology (87)
  - Ag and Natural Resources (17)
 Ninety-seven 97% of our research expenditures were in the STEM fields.
- Sanford is in the process of creating/developing a program for genetics and genomics that ties in with Imagenetics (a program they launched about a year ago) that looks at DNA sequencing and genetic markers that may lead them to diagnose/treat/medicate people differently based on their DNA. The president described it as “revolutionary” and “worldwide cutting edge research in the health field” ... the tie to us is that they want to support the maturation of our genomics and bioinformatics program... and will be looking for people to place in adjunct faculty appointments in that program.
- **Seeds for Hope program and proposed campus visit event:** Seeds for Hope is a program established collaboratively through Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation, Boys & Girls Club of RRV, and YMCA of Cass Clay. The intent is to help instill in area youth (roughly K-5, and especially those who may be underrepresented in higher ed, working with limited financial means, first-generation, or any other number of barriers and challenges) the hope and belief that a college education is achievable for them. One aspect of the program is to match up to \$25 in these children's 529 college savings plan (studies indicate that children are anywhere from 4-7x more likely to attend college if they have anything – even just a little – in a college savings account). Another aspect is to provide a fun, interactive, positive college campus visit experience for these children. Seeds for Hope is working on gaining community support and sponsorships, as well as private individual contributors (“Champions”). They are hoping to rotate the campus event between each of the colleges in the tri-college system, beginning with NDSU on August 1 in the SHAC. The event tentatively would include a brief presentation; multiple interactive booths highlighting academics, student organizations, research projects, student support, etc.; and tours of campus.



Update Provided By: Amber Flynn

- Staff Senate held their first Staff Takeover event. This event is held to create a social gathering for all staff members at the University. There is also a cash raffle with the money supporting staff scholarships. The first event raised \$360.
- Staff Senate is in the middle of the annual 31 Days of Glory. We raised over \$5000 by selling raffle tickets and giving away cash prizes in the month of December. Each individual who bought a ticket was entered into the drawing. Each day M-F the winner receives \$100, Saturday the winner receives \$250 and Sunday the winner receives \$500.
- We will host our December potluck on December 13. Staff Senators will be joined by members of the administration to enjoy a meal and conversation.
- Amber Flynn will pass the gavel to Tyler Clauson, as the new Staff Senate President. Amber will be leaving UND on December 31.
- The Staff Senate executive committee as elected Lisa Earls as the interim Vice President of Staff Senate. She will serve in her term until May 2018.



Update Provided By: Sarah Larsen

- Staff Senate is doing their Secret Holiday Viking this week during Finals Week. This year we had eighteen staff members who wanted to participate. On Friday of this week, we will host the reveal party where staff members guess who their Secret Holiday Viking was and enjoy some goodies. We ask that staff members don't pay over \$20.00 for the entire week so it's a really fun way for people to get creative.
- VCSU hosted a Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving for students who weren't able to make it home for the Holiday. We had approximately 50 students, staff and faculty attend this event so it was well attended. It really enforces the family atmosphere that we pride ourselves on.



Update Provided By: Katie Peterson

- Williston State College Faculty and Staff provided and enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner for any WSC student who was on campus the evening prior to Thanksgiving. This was the second year in a row Faculty and Staff have hosted this event.
- Williston Staff and Faculty met together the day before Thanksgiving to work on campus wide Aquip goals as part of our campus accreditation process. This process will continue in December with the additional of community members.