



## Campus Updates – September 2018



Update Provided By: Mindy Sturn

- This past year BSC established an Employee Engagement Team on campus to provide recommendations to the BSC Cabinet on how to improve employee morale/engagement on campus. BSC's first effort is, and will continue to be, prioritizing pay raises and preserving the State's current health care plan. The next big move has started with BSC piloting a change to the public hours for the 2018 Fall semester, based off of recommendations provided by the Employee Engagement team. The new public hours for 2018 Fall are 8am-4pm. Throughout the pilot, BSC will review department feedback, public concerns and etc. In December, a determination will be made whether to continue the new public hours. NDUS/BSC policy requires employees work 40 hours per week, but this change allows for increased opportunities for flexible schedules for more BSC employees, including public facing departments.
- The Staff Senate Employee Outreach Committee received approval for BSC employees to wear their BSC Mystic Apparel for home game days. This is just one activity they are working on for the upcoming year to help increase employee morale around campus.
- We elected a new Vice President for our Staff Senate committee. Thank you Ashley Mattson for accepting the nomination!
- BSC held their annual Meadowlark picnic which is open to all BSC employees.



Update Provided By: Crystal Tangsrud

- Recently made some changes to our Constitution and By Laws, which include the creation of a Communications Officer.
- We are already ramping up for our holiday philanthropy project and partnering with other organizations and businesses in Grand Forks to put together care packages for Service Members deployed during the holidays. The goal this year is to send 50 care packages.
- We received approval from our Senate in August to work towards our first ever Professional Development Week and are submitting a letter for approval to both Senior Staff at both CTS and the System Office. This is tentatively planned for the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>. Look for more on this in future updates.
- In August, at all three of our locations we created "Survival Kits" for both start of the Legislative Session and the start of the school year and passed those out to all staff. They were very well received, and we had lots of positive comments.



Update Provided By: Hattie Albertson

- DCB Staff Senate continues to raise funds so that a Staff Senate Scholarship can be provided during the 2019-2020 academic year. Our monthly lunch has had varying success prompting a call for new ideas. October is a busy month for DCB Staff Senate as we sponsor a pumpkin decorating contest as well as the Halloween costume contest. A survey was sent to faculty and staff to drive the decision making process in regard to the DCB faculty/staff Christmas party. Preparations have already begun looking ahead to the Staff Senate sponsored vendor show in April.



Update Provided By: Laura Fetting

- Staff Senate has taken over the planning of the Silent Auction for the Employee Holiday Party. All departments are encouraged to participating by donating a basket or individual items!
- DSU Staff Senate has scheduled two Open Forums, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.
- The Staff Development Committee hosted two sessions of a workshop titled “Message Unread – Most of What You Need to Know About Email.”
- Staff Senate is now sending a monthly meeting recap to all staff employees after each meeting. Since the meeting minutes do not come out until they are approved, which is a month after each meeting, the recap is a way to disseminate the meeting information in a timely fashion.



Update Provided By: Cathleen Ruch

- Lake Region State College Staff Senate is providing Mini Professional Development Sessions in September on Starfish and in October on Using email/calendars on Outlook and Liquid Files.



Update Provided By: Susan Cordahl

The Mayville State University Staff Senate planned a week of events to recognize State Employee Recognition September 10-14.

- On Monday, September 10, we passed out York Peppermint Patties to staff members with the message, “Thank you for your commit-mint, involve-mint, & invest-mint of time and energy to making Mayville State University a great place to be!” We also opened up an “Appreciation Wall” on campus for the week, where faculty, staff, and students could stop by and leave a note to express appreciation to an employee or department for their hard work and dedication. The notes were taken down and handed out to the individuals the following week. Lots of smiles and good vibes came from it!

- On Tuesday, we sponsored a free authentic Mexican Lunch with guest chef Jesus Sandoval who is the owner of Acapulco Restaurant in Fargo. This was put on in coordination with our Office of Diversity and Inclusion's International Cuisine Day. We enjoyed Tacos de Carnitas, Tacos al Pastor, Steak Tacos, and Mexican Rice. It was delicious! Some of our International students decorated our dining area and music was played while we enjoyed our free lunch.
- On Wednesday we had our usual "Walk on Wednesday" event to walk over the noon hour, but we spiced it up a bit by having a friendly competition to if more faculty or staff would show up. (Staff won!) Participants were entered in a drawing for a free long-sleeve shirt from the MSU Bookstore and Gatorade was provided for all.
- Thursday we sponsored a free Ice Cream Social for all faculty and staff. A few of our International students helped dish up ice cream. It was another well-attended event.
- Friday was "wear your colors" day where faculty and staff were asked to wear MSU attire that corresponded with their years of service at MSU. 0-5 years of MSU Service=white MSU attire, 6-10 years of MSU Service=blue MSU attire, 11-20 years of MSU Service=black MSU attire, Over 20 years of MSU Service=gray MSU attire. We also drew for door prizes on Friday, giving away a Comet Pride Button, free lunches from MSU Dining Services, and some t-shirts.

All in all, it was a great week and we received several compliments for our planning efforts.

The Mayville State University Staff Senate met September 11 with 10 of 15 members present. A discussion was had regarding the Friday after Thanksgiving initiative and a formal vote was taken to support moving forward with the initiative.

We had our Facilities Services Director, Dan Lorenz, attend our meeting so we could discuss with him the possibility of adding winter survival kits to our State Fleet Vehicles. This is still being worked on, as well as trying to come up with a way to make sure the proper snow removal occurs around and on the vehicles.

A campus security "walk-thru" event is being planned for an evening in late September to bring awareness to the lack of lighting in various areas around our campus.



Update Provided By:

- No Update Provided



Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- Marketing Committee – Chair – Senator Woytassek
  - The NDSCS Staff Senate newsletter was distributed. Senator Woytassek encouraged Senators to send him any ideas for the next newsletter.
- Diversity and Equity Report – Senator Griffin
  - This team has been working with HR to put together a new essential training module relating to diversity.
  - The Don't Cancel Class Initiative has had a strong start to the semester. There have been 17 requests thus far.
  - Upcoming Events: "The C Word," a film that addresses consent is being played on September 11<sup>th</sup> in the Cultural Center at 7 p.m. All employees are welcome to attend.



Update Provided By:

- No Update Provided



Update Provided By:

- No Update Provided



Update Provided By: Kari Bodine

- VCSU is participating in the Valley City High School Homecoming parade with our Viking Ship Float.
- We are working on a campus climate survey to administer this fall and use results to improve campus initiatives and morale.
- We will host a campus clothing and office supply swap for lightly used items so staff and faculty don't have to purchase brand new.
- Senators are reviewing an extensive Title IX policy that will prompt discussion at our next meeting.
- We are preparing for the SBHE board meeting on campus and final round of presidential interviews. Our new president will be named on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.



Update Provided By: Amy Armstrong

- Staff Senate is organizing a special tribute to Braxton Raymond, a one-time WSC student athlete. Braxton has been slowly losing control of his muscle movement since October of 2017. He had gone through a number of different medical professionals who could not find anything physically wrong with him. Upon arrival home after two semesters at Williston State College, Braxton lost feeling in his left hand and left foot. Throughout the summer Braxton was tested for a wide array of things looking for the exact medical diagnosis. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Braxton was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The brain tumor is located on the right side of his brain and is considered inoperable. He has lost mostly all control of left side of his body which has affected his ability to walk (he is using a walker now), speak (he will start meeting with a speech pathologist this week), and take care of himself. They estimate Braxton has 2-5 years to fight the tumor and hope for further medical advances in that window to help in his fight. He has been going through radiation and chemo to attack the tumor. He is also doing rehab to gain strength back in his left side. Details on our staff tribute to Braxton are forthcoming!