Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2011
9:00 a.m. – Jones Room

Members Present: Vicki Troftgruben, Anton Huether, Nathan Anderson, Linda Benson, Melissa Cantone, Sarah Carr, Korie Huettl, Julie Keller, Bill Klimpel, Cheryl Merck, Nancy Mickelson, Scott Peterson, Mindy Rudnick, Sarah Walker, Darla Weigel, Tom Seymour

Absent: Donna Harvey, Brenda Munson, Connie Teets, Lynn Redden, Rebecca Ruzicka, Sherri Giessinger, Tess Foley, Tricia Houmann, Wes Matthews

Call To Order: President Vicki Troftgruben called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Since Connie Teets was not at the meeting, the approval of the September/October minutes was moved to the December meeting.

Officer Reports: Tom Seymour reported on behalf of Faculty Senate. President Fuller was concerned with some issues in regard to the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. He is meeting with the Faculty Senate executive board to discuss those issues further.

Committee Reports: Sarah Walker reported for the Tax Rebate Committee. We were notified that our bill did not make it through the Delayed Bills Committee. While the committee was disappointed, it was encouraging that our legislators and state officials did take time to consider our proposal. The committee will promote the bill in the next legislative session.

The Bylaws Committee has not met since the last meeting. Vicki encouraged the group to read the document that Connie distributed at the October meeting for the December meeting so that we can have discussion at the time.

Sarah Carr reported that 36 volunteers responded to the Holiday Service Project survey. There is a commitment for 93 dozen baked goods and 12 bags of candy. We need 125 dozen baked goods to fill each tray. Sodexo and Dr. Fuller both mentioned that they would like to know what is needed so that we can meet our commitment of 125 trays. Linda Benson will put another announcement in Public Information to see if additional people are interested.

Sarah Walker reported that the Holiday Decorating Committee has not appointed a chair but will work jointly. Judging will be earlier this year so that all of the MSU community can enjoy the contest. Judging will take place the afternoon of December 12. The first announcement will go out in Public Information on Monday, November 14.

Old Business: The Compensation Task Force met. The primary purpose was to help get the new members acquainted with the how the committee works. Longevity in- and outside of MSU may be a consideration. Employees should have been contacted by their supervisors to get input about years of experience. The group will be meeting again November 30.
Mindy asked if anything has been done to fill Karen Humphreys position. The Election Committee will look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Vicki circulated Thank You cards for the group to sign to be forwarded to the folks from Grand Forks and Fargo who brought donations for the MSU flood victims.

Under new business, the CTF committee members reported that MSU employees could see a 3% reduction in their paychecks after the first of the year. One percent will go toward decreasing the shortfall in the retirement plans and the other 2% will be a social security reinstatement. There was discussion that this should be publicized so that folks won’t be taken off guard. Scott Peterson mentioned that he is concerned for the custodial staff and worries that some of his staff may find it difficult to bear the cut, especially in lieu of the cost of living in Minot. Scott also asked if there is a possibility that folks could have the option to drop the insurance benefit and take a pay increase.

Tom Seymour mentioned that as employees of the North Dakota University System, this is an issue that should be addressed by the legislature. He also mentioned that the Board of Higher Education is looking seriously at efficiencies, e.g., there are other systems like Blackboard that might be more cost effective.

Sarah Walker was approached by a College of Business employee who wanted to know if there is some sort of security system in place in the event of an escalation in the office. Some offices have a system in place. Vicki will ask Bill Chew, security superintendent, to attend our next meeting to address the issue.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 20th in the Jones Room.