Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
Tuesday, April 17, 2012
9:00 a.m. – Jones Room

Members Present: Linda Benson, Donna Harvey, Anton Huether, Tricia Houmann, Korie Huettl, Bill Klimpel, Wes Matthews, Cheryl Merck, Brenda Munson, Mindy Rudnick, Rebecca Ruzicka, Tom Seymour, Vicki Troftgruben, Darla Weigel

Absent: Nathan Anderson, Melissa Cantone, Sherri Giessinger, Shan Haarsager, Julie Keller, Nancy Mickelson, Scott Peterson, Lynn Redden and Connie Teets

Recording: Darla Weigel

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

Vicki asked if anyone had any corrections to the minutes from last month, there were none. Bill Klimpel moved to accept the minutes as written and Cheryl Merck seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Mindy Rudnick reported that the general fund has $500.91, and the Kick-off fund balance is $657.24.

Area Reports:
Wes Matthews: MSU’s administrative officers are still working on the budget challenges we are facing, but are determined to maintain the 3% average salary increase. Wes met with the Compensation Task Force recently and they supported using a small percentage of that 3%, maybe 2.7 – 2.8 percent, to maintain the salary floor, while still providing close to a 3% increase overall. The final decision lies with the administrative team.

Wes updated senate members on the buyout process. Twelve applications were submitted for buyouts. Of that, five did not accept what was offered, one withdrew from consideration, two are undecided and four have accepted. Generally, they were offered half of their current salary to be paid out over three years, though Wes did not go into specific detail. All final decisions should be in today, with contracts being signed by the end of the month.

NDUSSS: Linda Benson reported that NDUSSS met Monday regarding by-laws and terms and vacancy of officers. Election of officers is held in June with the state representative being elected in Dec. Janice Hoffarth from UND is our state staff senate representative to the SBHE and has been very active and involved. She was re-elected for a second term, a recent change to the NDUSSS bylaws to allow the SBHE representative to be elected for a one year term and the option to be re-elected for a second one year term. Tom Seymour commented that term limits are good, in that no one person should be able to serve too many terms.

Linda provided information on the four options being considered by the Employee Tuition Waiver Task Force. The options are listed and explained on the agenda. Wes added that one area of concern is having too many employees taking a class and not having sufficient paying students, to cover the cost of
the instructor. One idea might be to limit employee registration until sufficient paying students have registered for a class.

Committee Reports:
Legislative Committee: Sarah Walker has resigned to accept employment elsewhere, so the committee is without a chair. Wes has already visited with Dr. Fuller and provided him data on some of the issues the committee has discussed, and that data has been shared with the state. Wes added that the Cost of Living index has definitely gone up in Minot. We went from 92% in 2005 to over 100% the last few years, while Fargo has stayed in the mid-90s all the way through. Vicki asked that the committee meet again to discuss where we go from here. Anton Huether suggested that either Cari Olson or Penny Brandt from the Institutional Research office be invited to be a part of that committee.

Bylaws: Connie Teets was not present but the committee felt comfortable in going forward with a motion. Linda Benson moved that the by-law changes be accepted as suggested. Bill seconded. Motion passed.

Elections: Linda Benson reported that passive nominations reminders were sent out three times and that today is the deadline. Voting will take place April 23 – May 2.

With no other business, Bill Klimpel moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rebecca Ruzicka. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 15, 2012, 9:00 a.m. in the Jones Room.