Attendees: Vicki Troftgruben, Darla Weigel, Sherri Giessinger, Tyler Schmaltz, Mindy Rudnick, Celeste Simmons, David Klassy, Cathy Anderson, Carla Davis, Virginie Vournas, Donna Harvey, Diane Pierson, Wes Matthews – Ex-officio member, Dr. Tom Seymour – Faculty Senate representative, and Tanya Brown – Student Government Association representative.

Absent: Linda Benson, Scott Peterson, Charlene Radke, Julie Keller, Cheryl Merck, Bill Klimpel, Beth Odahlen, John Johnson, Linda Seklecki, Brandon Neiss, Derek Van Dyke, Lindsey Benson, Suzanne Blessum, Jennifer Feller, Emily Rodacker, Karla Bredahl, and Roger Herrmann – Student Government Association representative.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vicki Troftgruben, Staff Senate president, at 9:00am.

Minutes: A motion by David Klassy to approve September’s minutes as written was seconded by Darla Weigel. The minutes were approved as written.

Area Reports:

Human Resources Update

Wes Matthews gave an update regarding the State Employees Compensation Commission. They met recently about the recommendation they give the Governor’s office regarding state employees’ compensation. The law has changed to express this in terms of dollars instead of a percentage. The recommendation is to add $42-46 million to the budget. A $44 million increase equates to approximately a 4 percent increase in state employee compensation. Generally, higher education follows this recommendation. This is just an informal “fyi” and not a guarantee or promise to future wage increases.

Open Enrollment will be October 22 – November 9, 2012. This is the opportunity where employees can make needed changes to their benefit choices. These dates will be announced in Campus Announcements.

AFLAC will be rolling-out some changes. No specifics were mentioned, but there may be changes to the flex comp benefit. Appointments will be available, and times will be announced in Campus Announcements.

Faculty Senate Update

Celeste Simmons stated there has been on-going discussion regarding the “Pathways to Student Success” proposal, and about general education. Dr. Seymour stated there will be legislative interim committees meetings prior to the January legislative session, sometime in November. The legislative website has more information: http://www.legis.nd.gov/council/interim/meetings/
Introductions:

Staff Senate welcomes two new members attending this meeting: Virginie Vournas, coordinator for our international students; and, Tanya Brown, a representative from student government association.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee

Darla Weigel and Vicki Troftgruben gave an update. The cost of living survey has been announced via Public Announcements with a link. Everyone is encouraged to participate, and to encourage staff and faculty in your departments to participate. The survey is anonymous, and voluntary. All questions can be answered, or you can pick and choose if not comfortable answering all questions. Anecdotal stories are needed and can be submitted in the comments section.

The purpose of the voluntary survey is to help gather information that will be incorporated into the proposal outlining the increase in the cost of living in our community due to the flood and energy boom. David Klassy, Linda Benson and Nathan Anderson, amongst others on the committee, are gathering data for the proposal or developing a framework for the report.

Parking Committee

Everyone is welcome to attend the Parking Committee meeting next week, Thursday, October 25, 2012, at 10:00am in the Westlie Room. Administration welcomes any proposals the committee will give.

Old Business:

Staff & Faculty Gym

It is acknowledged by Dr. Fuller and MSU administration that a faculty and staff work-out area is desired for our use. Items being addressed are security for the 3rd floor Dome area, and staffing for it. It is a slow process due to the current budget constraints. There was discussion about staff paying for use of the new Student Wellness Center. In light of Minot area business politics, this option may be one that is viable in a few years.

New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2012, Jones Room. * Note: this may be the annual photo date.