Attendees: Darla Weigel, Linda Benson, Sherri Giessinger, Julie Keller, Cheryl Merck, Bill Klimpel, Beth Odahlen, Tyler Schmaltz, Mindy Rudnick, Lindsey Benson, Suzanne Blessum, Emily Rodacker, Karla Bredahl, Celeste Simmons, Pam Hopkins, Cathy Anderson, Carla Davis, Virginie Vournas, Donna Harvey, Diane Pierson, Wes Matthews – Ex-officio member.

Absent: Vicki Troftgruben, Scott Peterson, Charlene Radke, John Johnson, Linda Seklecki, Brandon Neiss, Derek Van Dyke, Roger Herrmann – Student Government Association representative, Dr. Tom Seymour – Faculty Senate representative, and Tanya Brown – Student Government Association representative.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Darla Weigel, Staff Senate vice president, at 9:00am.

Minutes: A motion by Bill Klimpel to approve November’s minutes as written was seconded by Cheryl Merck. The minutes were approved as written. Thanks to Celeste for taking care of the regular November meeting minutes, and Darla for taking care of the special meeting minutes this month.

MSU President’s Address:

Dr. Fuller attended multiple meetings where Minot’s specific needs are being discussed. Some topics addressed are the perception of price gouging in the Minot area and how the Chamber is addressing some of those concerns. At the Chancellor’s meeting, discussion of need for additional monetary flood relief due to low enrollment was addressed, along with specifics referenced in the Governor’s budget report for state agencies to apply for a one-time $4 million grant, and how the budget is supportive of an average 4% salary increase. Lastly, local legislators were provided correct information regarding MSU staff concerns and false claims aimed at MSU. Staff Senate’s cost of living survey may be a good tool to help legislators understand our community’s needs brought upon by the oil & energy economic impacts, as well as the on-going flood impact. It was suggested to provide the survey to the Chamber and Legislature to help communicate MSU’s position on these topics.

Treasurer’s Report: We have $500.91 in the General Fund, and $2,453.03 in the Fall Kickoff Fund.

Area Reports:

State Staff Senate

State Staff Senate met Dec. 17 and accepted nominations for the staff representative to the State Board of Higher Education. The nominees are Janice Hoffarth from the University of North Dakota and Laura Dallman from North Dakota State University. Voting for the next staff SBHE representative will be conducted at the January 2013 State Staff Senate meeting. If anyone is interested and wants to serve on the State Staff Senate Legislative Committee, please contact Vicki Troftgruben by this Friday, December 21, 2012. Chancellor Shirvani will meet with UND Staff Senate while in Grand Forks January 7, 2013. This meeting can be viewed virtually so that every NDUS Staff Senate can listen to Chancellor Shirvani speak – questions directed for Shirvani to answer will be collected ahead of time.

Submitted by Sherri Giessinger, Secretary/Treasurer – 12/19/12
Committee Reports:

Professional Development Committee
The committee will meet with Dr. Kris Warmoth, dean of the Center for Extended Learning, in January to determine upcoming spring events.

Holiday Decorating Committee
The decorating contest was judged December 7th with this year’s winners being NDCPD. Senate members gave treats and certificates to participants during the judging process.

Legislative Committee
Vicki Troftgruben will be presenting the Cost of Living Legislative Subcommittee survey to Dr. Fuller this Wednesday, December 19, 2012. It was suggested to have the survey sent to senators.

Scholarship Committee
The committee is in the set-up phase, organizing meetings, and getting scholarship amounts.

Tax Rebate Committee
Bill Klimpel suggested tabling this movement for now so as to not compete with other monetary requests from the state. Bill Klimpel made the motion to suspend the cause and committee for now, Sherri Giessinger seconded, the vote was unanimously passed.

Parking Committee
Committee has been discontinued for this year.

Old Business:

Staff & Faculty Gym
Gym is now available on the third level of the Dome. Faculty and staff can obtain a key in the Athletics Office.

New Business:

Susan Ness, from the Domestic Violence Crisis Center board of directors (DVCC), visited about a fundraising opportunity to help Minot’s DVCC. The funds would be used to furnish eight apartments (2 units) of transitional housing. Cheryl Merck motioned to have MSU help with fundraising with Karla Bredahl as the second. Emily Rodacker moved to form a committee, with Lindsey Benson as the second – Julie Keller was nominated and voted as the chair.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in the Jones Room at 9:00am.