Minot State University
Staff Senate Minutes
March 19, 2013 – Jones Room

Attendees: Vicki Troftgruben, Darla Weigel, Linda Benson, Sherri Giessinger, Julie Keller, Cheryl Merck, Tyler Schmaltz, Mindy Rudnick, Lindsey Benson, Suzanne Blessum, Emily Rodacker, Pam Hopkins, Donna Harvey, Derek Van Dyke, Bill Klimpel, Beth Odahlen, Karla Bredahl, Scott Peterson, Virginie Vournas, Dr. Tom Seymour – Faculty Senate representative.


Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vicki Troftgruben at 9:03 am.

Minutes: The February minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report: There is $773.32 in the MSU Fall Kickoff fund and $1,847.06 in the general fund.

Area Reports:

Dr. Tom Seymour – Faculty Senate Representative
The US Congress’ sequester has stopped some military tuition assistance, causing another recruiting challenge for MSU due to some students having to drop out of enrolled courses because of lack of funds. Pam Hopkins, MSU’s VA Office representative, said that other VA programs should not be affected. And, that tuition assistance is only one program for veterans to access.

State Staff Senate – Darla Weigel reported
- A new logo was approved.
- A vote of no-confidence of the chancellor would be up to individual institutions, with caution to consider and look at the reasons carefully. MSU faculty is voting March 25-28 by secret individual ballot instead of senators voting for constituents.
- North Dakota University System employees, such as state IT personnel, are not represented well, so choices are being discussed for their representation options.
- MSU volunteered to host the State Staff Senate June 18, 2013, face-to-face meeting. Discussion of program and activities pursued. Approximately 40-45 people are expected to attend. Our current executives formed a committee to follow through with planning to see if it is feasible to host this event.
Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee – all recipients have been notified.

Professional Development Committee – requests have been made, waiting for updates.

Old Business:

HLC Pathways Project – a campus announcement will seek input from all staff for project ideas.

Motion concerning actions by SGA – Derek VanDyke withdrew the motion to hold a vote regarding Chancellor Shirvani’s performance. Derek made a new motion for Staff Senate to support MSU’s Student Government Association, and our students’ actions concerning their recommendation in support of the amendment of SB2003 and SGA’s vote of no confidence in the Chancellor. The motion was seconded by Linda Benson. The vote carried with a majority vote.

More discussion ensued with the idea of holding a vote for all staff; similar to what faculty is doing, instead of senators holding a vote. It was noted how tenured faculty and students, since they are paying customers, are protected from any repercussions, but staff are less protected with North Dakota being a right to work state. No motions were made on this topic.

New Business:

The annual MSU Employee Appreciation event will have a different format this year. It is being combined with the Retirement Social to take place May 8, 2013. A small social will be in the McFarland Lobby with the program to follow in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the Jones Room at 9:00 am.