



## Staff Senate Minutes

Aug. 11, 2021

3-4:30 PM

### Present:

Mike Ullrich, Megan Wasylow, Brian Schill, Laura Vatnsdal, Andria Spaeth, Mike Wozniak, Jed Shivers, Julie Simon, Jamie Holweger, Erika Johnson, Kaitlin Lockett, Jordan Eberhart, Dan Boese, Carla Spokely, Lisa Moore, Kathy Westerhausen, Monica Evavold, Zauna Synnott, June Novacek, Jenn Proulx, Peggy Varberg, Carissa Green, Kyle Markwardt, Kayla Hotvedt, Briss Donis Van Asch, Brenda Halle, Kris McNab, Melissa Mager, Linnea Nelson, Jade Gorneau, Christopher Glenn, Renee Carlson, Andrea Velaris, Jasmine Hurley, Sarah Heitkamp

### Absent:

Cheryl Misialek, Paula Cox, Corey Klatt, Chris Dingle, Brian Larson, Eric Souvannascd, Cindy Murphy, Kyle Myers

#### 1. Call to Order

2. **Announcements:** Just a reminder: our friends at the Grand Forks Public Health Department are still offering regular COVID testing at the Fritz Pollard Jr. Athletic Center. Vaccines are also available regularly at the Pollard Aug. 17, 24, and at Student Health.

3. **Approve minutes from July 14, 2021, Staff Senate Meeting** – Julie Simon made a motion to approve the minutes, Jamey Holweger seconded the motion. No discussion, Minutes are approved as distributed.

#### 4. Officer Reports

- a. Vice President: **Paula Cox** – no report
- b. Historian: **Dan Boese** – no report
- c. Membership: **Carla Spokely** – no report
- d. Secretary: **Cheryl Misialek (absent)** – no report. Megan Wasylow taking minutes.
- e. Treasurer: Open seat, potential to utilize the Shared Service Center to help with the budget. It is still important to have a Treasurer on Staff Senate.
- f. Member at Large: **Eric Souvannascd, Cory Klatt, Mike Wozniak** – no report. There was discussion on Potato Bowl Parade. Should we sign up for it or not?

#### 5. Committee Reports

- a. Engagement: **Paula Cox & Jordan Eberhardt** – Next meeting will be 8/18
- b. Community Relations: **June Novacek** - Northland Rescue is this month's Jeans Give Back recipient
- c. Constitution, Bylaws, & Elections: **Megan Wasylow** – Committee is currently working on Officer Bylaws.
- d. Legislative: **Kyle Markwardt** - Met with new members
- e. Public Relations: **Andria Spaeth** – Had the first meeting. Received the first flyer for State Employee Recognition week.
- f. Staff & Professional Development: **Zauna Synnott** – Had the first meeting
- g. Staff Recognition: **Jenn Proulx & Kayla Hotvedt** – voted on May, June, and July UShine Awards. Coordinating State Employee Recognition week events.

## 6. University Committee Reports

- a. Pandemic Committee: Concern over delta variant and rising case count; SMHS to continue masking policy in-building; more direction to come from UND for fall semester. Group encouraging vaccinations. Vice President Shivers- Article in the GF Herald about a disease specialist. Looking at Sept-Oct for cases to rise. There will not be a vaccine mandate as far as he can tell, but try to reach out and encourage people to get vaccinated. If you don't get vaccinated, then at least get tested. Time to be more watchful as we get into Sept-Oct, where it will give us a better idea of it's trajectory Chancellor said that there should be no incentive program using funds directly allocated by the Federal Government. If they were done via donated dollars by the foundation, this would be a way to use the incentive.

## 7. Staff Senate President Report

- a. Working on Exec positions behind the scenes.
- b. Suggestion box: question re: hiring of GTAs/part-time instructors.- Recruiting Solutions – applicant system provided by CTS. HR is working on trying to find a solution. Also bogged down the student hires, which has helped them get CTS involved more to make some changes. Briss Donis-Van Asch said that they are fans of Recruiting Solutions at Engineering and offered for anyone to reach out with any questions about it if they are interested.
- c. Tuition Waiver: SS to meet with Dr. Casey Ryan, SBHE chair to see their interest. State Staff Senate is also looking into whether or not to try getting the day after Thanksgiving off as a closure.

## 8. Business Items

- a. Discussion/decision on Staff Senate pursuing AAF endowment for Seeds dollars. . Zauna explained what Seeds for Staff Success is, that it is funded through 31 Days of Glory. That we average about \$1000 over what we fundraise each year. Explained the Endowment, that we would need \$25,000 before we can draw from it. She said that Legal recommended that UND's Administration gives stamp approval, that Alumni Foundation has their own process. CARISSA GREEN – talked in favor for implementing this, that this came up a long time ago and people had a lot of questions, and that Zauna and others are really digging into answering those types of questions. ZAUNA – multiple ways we can fund the endowment, twenty five thousand or more, or less and wait until we can draw on it. SHIVERS – think about our multi-year spending plan and not to run short. Two different kinds of endowments: Quasi endowments and Pure Endowments. First reading, will bring to a vote next month. Zauna – August 15 is deadline for Seeds for Staff Success.
- b. Exec Position(s) - Brian asking if anyone wants to nominate themselves for Treasurer, or if anyone has any nominations. Julie Simon self nominated. Megan Wasylow moved for Julie Simon to be Treasurer. Brenda Halle seconded. Motion Passed
- c. U-Senate Budget committee and Conflict of Interest/Scientific Misconduct committee nominations: Julie S. and Laura V., respectively. - Andria Spaeth Moved and June Novacek seconded for Julie Simon and Laura Vatnsdal to be on the U Senate Budget Committee.

## 9. Matters Arising/Open Discussion – Looking at a hybrid option.

## 10. Adjourn

**Next Staff Senate Meeting**

Sept. 8, 2021 – 3-4:30 PM

**Zoom and in person?**