Update Provided By: Retha Mattern

- We are working with Operations Council to clarify language on the Emeritus policy to reflect that it applies only towards administrators and professional staff, in line with SBHE wording. These changes are being relayed to Faculty Senate.
- BSC Staff Senate is looking at redistricting options to better reflect the changing makeup of campus. Currently, our districting is done by department and with the budget necessitating the realignment of some areas combined with the loss of employees, some districts are very small. This means our representation is not efficient or effective. Any changes to the districts will be done after the legislative session concludes.
- 84 staff members completed a survey regarding policies and procedures initiated by a Staff Senate subcommittee. Many campus staff indicated they are not aware of who their representative is.
- Feedback from the Staff Day held during spring break on campus was positive. Staff also took part in a group picture during the day.

Update Provided By: Randy Wald

- We are preparing to conduct our yearly employee satisfaction survey.
- We decided on our first Scholarship winner.
- We are also starting to prepare for elections.
- We recently held a Louisiana Spring Potluck for all employees that was very successful.
Vacant Senate seats filled for our following functioning areas: Physical Plant, Student Support Services, and Student Affairs/Housing

Children in the Workforce Committee was selected. Committee reviewed current policy on Children in the Workplace and then drafted a proposed revision and submitted it to DCB’s Admin Council for further consideration.

Discussed upcoming State Staff Senate face-to-face meeting to be held at DCB.

We are in the process of revamping the make-up of the staff senate membership, as a result of an all staff meeting held at the beginning of this year; representatives will be “elected” from each department, not at the campus level.

We continue to host appreciation events; i.e. Coffee & Conversation, Popcorn with the President; and are currently doing a few fundraisers so that we can continue to show appreciation, and are looking at some Professional Development events.

We are encouraging all eligible spouses and dependents to apply for the Staff Senate Scholarship, as we have the ability to award 4 this year.

We have been given a column in the bi-weekly newsletters that are sent from our communications office, and we are excited to take the opportunity to share what we are doing with the entire campus through this venue.

A Campus Information Session was given by the IT Department. IT Technical Support Specialist, Freddie Griffin showed faculty and staff the benefits of using Skype for meetings or calls. He also demonstrated a new software called Liquid Files and how that can be used to share information in a secure manner.

LRSC Staff Senate distributed a small St. Patrick’s Day “We are so LUCKY to have YOU” treat to all present on campus.

A park bench in memory of beloved staff member Kenny Dubois was approved for purchase with funds donated by faculty and staff.
• Spring Clean-up dates are set to assist the Physical Plant staff with preparing the campus for the 2017 Commencement celebration in May.

• Encouraged staff to attend a personal development session – “Bridges Out of Poverty” workshop presented by Lake Region Community Shelter (to be held April 22nd)

• Encouraged Staff members to participate in the Fitness Challenge, being an example for other staff.

• Staff Senate tested use and inquired about price of a survey system, TINY pulse, to be used as a communication tool. The price of the system was not within budget.

• Staff and faculty participated in a legislative update provided by President Dr. Doug Darling.

• Staff Senate President Brigitte Greywater sent an email encouraging participation in a personal development session to staff and faculty – Behavioral Health for Your Community, presented by Prairie St. John’s and NDSU Extension Service.

• Birthday month cake is back! Faculty and staff have signed up to bring cake to share each month in honor of employees celebrating birthdays. One day per month cake is served in the afternoon so all can gather to enjoy cake & friendship.

• Staff and faculty worked together in the first Higher Learning Commission Team Meeting to begin the process of reaccreditation. Five criterion teams met to discuss needs for each criterion and participated in a campus wide potluck luck.

Update Provided By: Misti Wuori

• Mayville State University Staff Senate conducted a survey in Qualtrics on topics and questions from all benefited staff for Cabinet members for the April 25 Staff Association meeting.

• The 2017 Orville Johnson Meritorious Service Award was awarded at the April 6, 2017, Employee Recognition Banquet to Rick Karboviak. Rick is a Mayville State University staff senate member and Admissions Recruiter. He has also been known to moonlight as “Captain Comet” at MSU sporting and other events! Nominees for this award are nominated and voted by their peers for their dedication and quality commitment to high level service to the Mayville State University campus community.

Update Provided By: Mindy Rudnick

• The Minot State University Staff Senate voted to approve the Staff Emeritus Policy drafted by the Bylaws committee. The proposal will now go to President’s Staff for approval and then will be implemented at the University.

• The Professional Development committee has worked with the Marketing and Human Resources departments to arrange for five “Be in the Know” sessions during the months of April and May. There will be a Stress Management session, two financial planning and investing sessions, an Intermediate Excel training and a session on Practicing Santosha, presented by one of our wellness specialists on campus.
• Preparations have been made for the Spring Silent Auction. The Auction raises money for a local nonprofit in Minot with items donated by faculty and staff. Last year $1,250 was raised for Minot’s Companions for Children. This year’s auction will take place on May 4th and 5th and a nonprofit will be selected at our next Senate meeting.

• Our March High Five Award was given to Courtenay Corpe in the Wellness Center. Courtenay was selected for her passion to health and wellness, her ability to motivate the students in the Wellness Center and the job she does looking after the well-being of those utilizing the Wellness Center.

Update Provided By: Nick Kraft

• NDSCS Active Aggressor Drill will take place on April 12th at 1:00pm. This 50 minute drill will have the entire campus on lockdown. Many media outlets will be advised to alert citizens before the event. Open forums will be held after the event for debriefing.

• NDSCS Customer Information desk phones may be transferred to NDSCS Fargo.

• Strategic Planning Update

• AQIP strategy team has analyzed the employee satisfaction survey, student satisfaction inventory, HLC information, and the feedback collected this fall from committees, departments and senate feedback. The AQIP team has drafts of AQIP goals. Dr. Vangness Frisch will share goals with Senators at the April meeting to talk through the goals.

• President Phares-Oren mentioned to the Senators that if anyone is interested in stepping up for officer elections, please consider. Vice President Kraft will step into the President position, per the By-laws, therefore, the Vice-President position will open up, as well as the Secretary Position and representatives for State Staff Senate. The primary representative for State Staff is the Staff Senate Vice President, however, there are two alternates.

• Vice President Kraft has contacted Janice Hoffarth regarding speaking to the Senators about her role in starting a staff senate on campus. Janice is willing to come to NDSCS to speak at any time. Vice President Kraft will speak to Janice about her availability and transportation costs. Senator Woytassek requested that when this date is confirmed to include in the Senate newsletter.

• Vice President asked Senators their ideas on how to get a more diverse representation on staff senate. Discussion will continue and possibly add 2 “at large” positions to Staff Senate.

• Vice President Kraft stated that ideas are being discussed for the food drive in April.

• Dallas Fossum and Senator Jirak shared a couple of proposals for the price of parking tickets. There is a discussion on setting a $59 price for parking passes across the board. There is also a discussion on creating a more tiered scale based on salaries. Dallas stated that the revenue from parking passes will not cover the cost to repair parking lots in the future. Other income sources or an annual parking fee increase will need to be secured.

• The recruitment video will be sent out to the campus before the survey.
Update Provided By: Ryan Brinkman

- We elected 27 new individuals into Staff Senate for our recent election process. 15 of those individuals are new to Staff Senate and 12 individuals were reelected as their term had expired.
- We made a few updates to our by-laws to work on continuity and to make sure we aligned with practices and procedures.
- We are currently working on Nominations for new Executive positions. We will be electing at our next meeting in May.

Update Provided By: Amber Flynn

- Spring Fling, an annual staff recognition lunch event, will be held on April 27th. A breakfast will be provided on April 26th for night staff.
- Elections for staff senate positions are currently underway and we will select our new Vice President/President Elect at the April 12 meeting.
- Professional Development Event with Dawn Kaiser was a great success! 115 staff members attended the event and 25 staff were invited to a lunch conversation with Dawn.

Update Provided By: Greg Carlson

- Staff Senators distributed bags of candy with a note of appreciation to all staff during Staff Appreciation Week last month. This was a change from what we’d done in the past for the event. It was well-received and seemed to make people smile.
- Staff Senate invited President Mason to join our previous senate meeting. She gave us a brief update and overview from her time presenting to the House Appropriations Committee and then senators engaged in a very meaningful conversation regarding the budget reduction process currently in place. We appreciate her coming and her willingness to answer our questions.
• The HR office also went around during Staff Appreciation Week and handed out brownies for a treat. It was also a great opportunity to ask people if they had questions or needed to talk about the current budget process. It was reported that many conversations were had that our Director for HR didn’t think would have happened otherwise.

• The 23rd Annual VCSU Scholarship Auction is approaching. April 28th will bring lots of fun times and money being raised to give back to our students! This year’s theme is “Game Night” and should be a great time for all who attend.

Update Provided By: Katie Peterson

• Williston State Staff Senate reviewed and approved an updated Title IX policy on our campus.
• We are currently reviewing an updated Student Code of Conduct and will be discussing this at our next Senate meeting in April.
• Election for Senate officers will occur at our May 2017 meeting.