We are currently holding elections for new representatives to the BSC Staff Senate. Newly elected senators will attend a meeting later this month. About half of the districts will have new representation this year.

Staff Senate started a campus cleanup initiative where employees are able to help go across campus and pick up litter. We are holding this event each week during May to help spruce up campus prior to graduation and a lot of campus visitors, and will be doing this once a month throughout the summer.

Update Provided By: Randy Wald

- Looking to revise our annual employee survey to a semi-annual survey.
- Preparing for elections.
- Reviewing accounting procedures for our clothing drives.

Update Provided By: Mike O’Toole

- Dr. Migler, Campus Dean, updated Staff Senate on progression of several Bills working their way through legislation, budgets, and reductions in positions.
  - Watching Senate Bill 2003 closely
  - Raises are unlikely; however, not looking to decrease salaries
  - Some current vacant positions will remain vacant, at least for some time.
  - A few additional reductions in positions will be occurring.
- Children in the Workplace policy will be presented to Faculty Senate for input.
- State Staff Senate face-to-face meeting arrangements are in progress of being made.
- Seat on Staff Senate became vacant, so a special election was held to fill the vacant seat.
- Two senators’ terms are up, so nominations are being held for our regular annual election in May
LRSC Fitness Trainer Students have recruited 40 staff and faculty to participate in a 6-week fitness and nutrition challenge. Staff and faculty are receiving weekly exercise and nutrition advice from students, challenging them to exercise and follow nutritional guidelines. The challenge is to increase staff and faculty health on campus.

Staff Senate organized a spring campus clean-up day. Staff, faculty, students, and administration rolled up their sleeves and washed windows, picked up trash, and hopefully raked winter away for another year. We all enjoyed banana splits after cleanup. Fresh walleye was fried up for an extra special treat.

Sending thank you notes to all who facilitated our Mini-Professional Development sessions.

Planning summer staff retreat.

EAP was on campus conducting a Stress Management session for all employees.

Mayville State Staff Association met April 25, 2017, with updates from President Gary Hagen and Cabinet members, as well as facilities services. The updates serve as a valuable communication tool between offices, as well as staff members giving feedback to Cabinet members. A Qualtrics survey was distributed to all Staff Association members prior to the meeting and a number of questions were generated that were asked of the Cabinet members to respond in their updates to the Staff Association. The Qualtrics survey also asked for feedback on a number of general topics of discussion and training, as well as program planning for Staff Senate for the next year.

New staff senate members were also introduced to the Staff Association and Cabinet members at this time.

MSU Staff Senate Coordinates silent auction – April 3-5, MSU Staff Senate hosted its fifth silent auction. The money raised will benefit Serenity Therapeutic Equine Programs. STEP was established in 2011 to provide therapeutic riding to individuals with disabilities and equine-assisted activities and therapies.

Elections forthcoming – Staff Senate asked the campus for nominations. Elections will be conducted electronically May 8-11.

President’s Staff reviewing staff emeritus proposal – Staff Senate’s Bylaws Committee forwarded its proposal for staff emeritus on to President Steven Shirley and President’s Staff.

The Staff Satisfaction Committee awarded their April High Five award to Lindsey Benson in the Financial Aid Office. Lindsey was given the award for the time she takes to assist students on the campus and make them a priority. She will also take time outside of her job to volunteer to help promote Minot State at various events.
Update Provided By: Bruce Woytassek

- The NDSCS Staff Senate welcomed new members!
- Food Drive is complete. The drive collected a couple of boxes of food, as well as $200 in cash. Senator Schreiber will pick up Fargo’s collection next Tuesday.
- A few committees will need chair persons since their terms are complete.
- Senator Pellman provided an update that Katie Tarter has communicated with a state committee to receive free small recycling bins. Facilities Management and Residential Life plan to pilot a recycling program in Nordgaard Hall for summer session.
- Senator Schreiber had a follow-up conversation with Sandi Giblertson to discuss options to grow the endowment scholarship. Senator Schreiber will provide updates of any options.
- The Recruitment committee used a new method this year:
  - A star was placed on the ballot next to each of the prospective senators who showed interest and recruitment videos were sent to all NDSCS Employees to promote NDSCS Staff Senate.
    - Staff Senate interviews – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sbunYjrRLo
    - Bloopers – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gK4kSaGQig
  - The Committee was dissolved until next year prior to the annual survey for new Senate members.
- Nominations for Vice President: Senator Woytassek, Senator Woytassek declined the nomination. Senator Hinrichs was nominated. Senator Hinrichs was not present.
- Secretary – Senator Herbranson was nominated. Senator Herbranson accepted the nomination.
- State Staff Representatives – Senator Braun, Senator Woytassek, and Senator Schlepp were nominated. Each Senator accepted the nomination.
- New members are asked to speak to Chairs of committees to see what committees they may be interested in joining.
- Janice Hoffarth spoke to our group after this month’s meeting. All NDSCS Staff were invited. Janice proved to be an excellent speaker and motivator! We all gathered many ideas to advance the Staff Senate at NDSCS.

Update Provided By: Ryan Brinkman

- Elections were recently held for the upcoming academic year.
- Gabriel Eronmosele, a student employee, was awarded the Mary McCannel GUnkelman Recognition Award. The honor recognizes a student or employee of NDSU who has made the most significant contributions to creating a happy environment for the enjoyment of NDSU students.
- Budget requests for the upcoming year are currently being sought for the budget planning committee.
Update Provided By: Amber Flynn

- Elections have been completed and we will begin our transition to the 2017-2018 Staff Senate in April. Here are the election results for officer positions:
  - President – Amber Flynn
  - Vice President/President Elect – Tyler Clauson
  - Secretary – Amanda Filipy
  - Treasurer – Sarah Abentroth
  - Membership Officer – Megan Wasylow

- Spring Fling was held on April 26 for overnight staff and April 27 for all staff. There were 86 staff members who attended the night staff breakfast and 430 staff that attended the Spring Fling lunch.

Update Provided By: Kelli Heath

- Staff Senate will be working with Faculty Senate this spring to accomplish our yearly Highway Cleanup responsibilities. In the past, we have split years, but decided to work together to be the most effective from this year forward.
- Staff Senate is hosting our annual Employee Recognition Dinner on May 11 this year. With support from the President’s Office and the Academic Affairs Office, we will be awarding Years of Service certificates to over 25 employees.
- The VCSU Scholarship Auction was held on April 28th. We had a great turnout to our “Game Night” themed-event and our Foundation Office did a fantastic job putting the event on. It took many hours of hard work. We were able to raise significant funds for our students and showed plenty of Viking Pride throughout the event.

Update Provided By: Katie Peterson

- During the month of April, Williston State Staff Senate approved the updated WSC Code of Conduct, IRD Policy, and a handful of staff professional development applications.
- Staff Senate President continues to meet regularly with administration and the Faculty Senate President to keep lines of communication open.
- WSC Staff Senate will hold election of officers at their May meeting.