

Dickinson State University
Staff Senate Minutes

May 21, 2009, 1:30 p.m. – Klinefelter Conference Room 107

Members Present: Deana Carstens, Christie Chernich, Johnna Douthit, Aaron Johansen, Roberta Kudrna, Chris Meek, Josh Nichols, Kelly Steffes, Stacy Wilkinson and Anthony Willer

Members Absent: Bonnie Bohlman, Jay Danbom, Jane Fischer, Heidi Larson, Kathy Meyer, Jacob Siegler and Lori Wagner

Guests: none

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by President Kelly Steffes

Adoption of Agenda: Roberta Kudrna made a motion to accept agenda. Josh Nichols seconded.

Approval of Minutes: Anthony Willer made a motion to accept the minutes. Stacy Wilkinson seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Heidi Larson was absent so no report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education Committee: Nothing new to report.

Emergency Management Preparedness Committee: Mock training was to be held but it is on hold at this point.

Budget Committee: Josh Nichols reported. He has been seeking ideas from various staff members on campus. The last staff social was at the Elks Club. Discussion was held on what to do for the next staff social. People liked the May Stay Day we had last year and it was suggested we do that again.

President's Future Focused Planning Committee: Josh Nichols reported. A steering committee is being formed and will meet over the summer. The Future Focused Planning Committee will reconvene in the fall. Staff members are encouraged to watch the website for updates.

DSU Appreciation Committee: Anthony Willer reported. There were several compliments on the Staff, Faculty/Student Appreciation that was held in May. It was well attended. Discussed doing another one in the fall when school starts. This committee will come off the agenda until another event is planned.

Staff Thoughts & Concerns Committee: Anthony Willer and Johnna Douthit reported. Anthony and Johnna met with Gail Ebeltoft regarding staff salaries, BC/BS Wellness Benefit and summer hours. Gail indicated that she would be willing to meet with Staff Senate to go over these same issues with the whole group. New employees get this information when hired but may not hear about it again and it's good information to know.

Regarding salaries, basically the legislature dictates what the raise increase will be from year to year. There may be discretionary funds available over and above the raise increase, but those are approved by DSU Cabinet. Our benefits alone total 30% of our salaries.

We just got notice that the BC/BS insurance premium, for a family, will be going up effective July 1, 2009 from \$658.08 to \$825.66, an increase of \$166.86 per month, per person. This alone is an excellent benefit. DSU is also the only institution that covers 100% of the employees' tuition.

As for the Wellness Benefit, beginning July 1, 2009, anyone under NDPERS will now be eligible to participate in the Health Club Credit and receive reimbursement for visiting a health club 12 days a month.

Regarding summer hours, there are a few departments on campus that use this right now – Extended Learning, Athletics and Facilities. If more departments want to consider this, how would it affect customer service? It obviously would not work for some offices. If a department is interested in trying this, they need to approach their supervisor. It would then be forwarded to Alvin Binstock and possibly Dr. McCallum for the final decision.

Old Business:

1. *Campus Senate Report:* Kelly Steffes reported. They have not met since April 14th. It was cancelled in May. The luncheons will begin again in fall after school starts.
2. *Strategic Enrollment Planning Report:* Kelly Steffes reported. Noel-Levitz will be on campus sometime this summer. They should be getting more information on that meeting shortly. Data was collected from the Key Predictive Index. Noel-Levitz was still conducting interviews. Results should be back by next meeting date.
3. *The Big Event:* The Big Event was held May 2. As a group, we did not participate. Student Senate had taken this on as their project. Had some attendance but was not very well advertised. We had gotten no information on what the projects were going to be. The Big Event was initially begun as a way for college students and campuses to say thank you and give back to the community by offering to help community residents wash windows, rake leaves, assist with their painting projects, etc. This agenda item will come off until next year.

New Business:

1. *NDUS Staff Senate:* Christie Chernich reported. They have just gotten the finalized constitution. There will be a meeting on June 17th in Bismarck. Both Christie and Kelly attended the State Board of Higher Education meeting held on the DSU campus last week as reps for the NDUS.
2. *Other:*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Klinefelter Conference Room 107.

AJOURNMENT

Kelly Steffes adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. (Anthony Willer, motion; seconded by Josh Nichols)

Respectfully Submitted,

Johnna Douthit for Heidi Larson