



Staff Senate Meeting May 3, 2006 *the Voice*

May 3, 2006, Staff Senate session discussed the following items: The Chair opened the session by introducing guest speakers Joe Williams, Assistant Director of University Benefits and Steve Bostian, Project Manager of Facilities Design and Construction Services.

Joe Williams gave an abbreviated version of the workshop on the new PPO Health Plan being offered through the State Health Plan. PPO stands for Preferred Provider Organization. **NC SmartChoice** PPO plans offer greater affordability, greater choice, significant cost savings, more comprehensive – including preventive care, and cost effective network of hospitals and physicians. The Blue Options network includes participating providers in all 100 counties and more than 22,000 health care providers: 90% of primary care physicians in the state, 85% of specialist in the state, and 97% of hospitals in the state. A current list of in-network providers is available on the State Health Plan website. All 3 tier options include an employee-spouse tier. Prescription coverage will not change, however, diabetic supplies are covered with a copay. A benefits calculator is available on the State Health Plan website to add in decision making.

Open enrollment for the PPO Health Plan will be May 22 - June 30, 2006. If you have not received an enrollment package by May 22nd, please contact the University Benefits Office or download the information from the State Health Plan website. Coverage for the PPO plan will begin on October 1, 2006. Tier changes (**NC SmartChoice Basic**, **NC SmartChoice**, **NC SmartChoice Plus**) will only be available during open enrollment periods. One-hour workshops will be available on campus through June 22nd. For more information, visit www.statehealthplan.state.nc.us or 1-888-234-2416.

Steve Bostian presented an update on the Rocky Branch Restoration Project. In 1978, Rocky Branch was one of the most polluted urban streams in North Carolina. The restoration project has been segmented into three phases, of which Phase I and II are completed. The final phase will begin once the plans have been approved and, the construction could begin next spring. Phase III is the segment of Rocky Branch running between Dan Allen Drive and Morrill Drive. The restoration goals include stabilizing the creek, improving water quality, and integrate the creek into the campus environment. This project is funded by several grants and has been recognized as a leader in the nation for stream restoration. The completed project will contain 6,000 feet of greenway paths connecting the university campus with the City of Raleigh.

Melissa Watkins gave a construction update for the Transportation Department. Several projects are scheduled for this summer that will interfere with traffic patterns and bus schedules on and around campus. The paving of Dan Allen Drive and Cates Avenue is slated to start May 15th. Yarborough Drive will also be closed down for a period of time. Construction timetables will be made available and updated periodically on the Transportation Department's website at <http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/trans/>. Transportation also recommends signing up for the listserv if you work in an area that will be impacted by the projects.

Wake County Schools to graduate in Reynolds Coliseum. Due to the construction downtown, all Wake County High Schools will be holding practice and graduation ceremonies in Reynolds Coliseum between May 26th and June 11th.

Staff Senate Contact Information:

Please remember this is your Senate and your issues and concerns are important to us. If you do not know your Senator, visit our website at http://www.ncsu.edu/staff_senate.