



Staff Senate Meeting July 5, 2006

the Voice

July 5, 2006, Staff Senate session discussed the following items: The Chair opened the session by introducing Maria Brown, Assistant Director of the University Cashier's Office.

Maria Brown, Assistant Director of the University Cashier's Office, spoke about the Cashier's Office commitment to excellence, integrity, and respect. The Cashier's Office has new billing and payment options with eBILL, e-check via ePAY, and monthly payment plans. Financial Aid is also available through direct deposit. Students also have online access to account summary, current balance, and may also setup authorized payers for tuition.

The Cashier's Office is also in the process implementing a new student information system. For more details, visit the website at www.ncsu.edu/sis. The new system contains seven modules with a "go live" date in the spring of 2008.

Career Banding: The General Assembly has suspended the Banding Initiative for additional study for all state agencies, with the exception previously approved job families. The perception is that the career bands have gone from being too broad to too narrow in scope. Also, the banding initiative was to be budget neutral. Agencies have asked for budget increases to make salaries market competitive, which has clouded the focus of the initiative to be budget neutral.

Bi-annual Budget Approval: The General Assembly gave its initial approval Wednesday to an \$18.9 billion budget plan including a 5.5% pay increase for state employees and a 3.1% COLA for retirees. Although the budget may pass within the next few days, the salary increase may not be included in employees' July paychecks. The legislation is sent to Office of State Personnel to be dispersed to all state agencies. It is most likely that the university will not receive the OSP guidelines in time to meet the July payroll deadlines. If this occurs (as it has in years past), the salary will be retroactive to the effective date of the salary increase.

President of the UNC System, Erskine Bowles, has approved a Staff Assembly. The Staff Assembly, like the Faculty Assembly already in place, will be an elected body of representatives of the staff of the 16 UNC System universities. The first meeting is scheduled for October 16-17, 2006.

PPO Health Plan, coverage for the PPO plan will begin on October 1, 2006. For more information, visit www.statehealthplan.state.nc.us or 1-888-234-2416.

Computer loan program information can be found on the Staff Senate Website. If you are approved and no computers are available at the time, you will be placed on a wait list. http://www.ncsu.edu/staff_senate/news/news_001.htm.

New student orientation begins July 6th. Almost 4,000 new students will be visiting campus until Friday, August 4th. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ncsu.edu/nso/>.

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.