



Staff Senate Meeting August 2, 2006 *the Voice*

August 2, 2006, Staff Senate session discussed the following items: The Chair opened the session by introducing Chancellor James Oblinger.

Chancellor James Oblinger emphasized the importance of creating and maintaining good working relationships and that people must work together in order to maximize goal achievement. He addressed several topics:

- New Student Orientation visitors reported “very supportive” staff at NCSU. A record number of incoming freshmen bring total enrollment to approximately 31,000. The Chancellor expressed his appreciation for staff members’ efforts in making the orientations a positive experience for attendees.
- Hillsborough Street is an important part of this University’s future. Planning is in progress for roundabouts and other enhancements; NCSU is working closely with the City of Raleigh in these initiatives.
- There is a large effort in progress to enhance NCSU’s web presence. A top-ranked firm that has designed several large university websites has been contracted to do redesign on the NCSU website. Colleges will continue to design and maintain their websites.
- Legislative pay increases of 5.5% are the largest state employees have seen in recent years. NCSU received 18½ million dollars for repair and renovation and 2 ½ million for student financial aid. The Chancellor spoke about the support for state employees by legislators as well as for funding of capital budget and ways to maintain it.
- Tuition Waiver program has been approved for three courses per year; details will be communicated when available.
- The Chancellor acknowledged exceptional representation of staff by outgoing Senate Chair Melissa Watkins and expressed confidence in the leadership of incoming Chair J.C. Boykin.

NCSU and Bulletin Website Redesigns: Keith Nichols and Jason Simon, News Services, described the redesign initiative. A 35-person committee has been meeting since January to provide input on the web site redesign. The goal is to create a web presence that showcases our great university and reflects the unique character of NC State as a leader in teaching, research and public service.

The web site must reflect our commitment to excellence and must help promote NC State’s strengths and contributions. Of note, this incoming freshman class has always had access to the Internet; 90% of undergraduate applications are submitted electronically; approximately 60% of all University donors have visited the website prior to donation; there are approximately 80,000 hits to the NCSU web homepage daily.

New Child Care Benefit: Starting this fall, full-time employees will be able to take advantage of a rate reduction for high quality childcare. The university is partnering with Bright Horizons at Raleigh Corporate Center (located off Chapel Hill Road about a mile past the Vet School.) Twenty dedicated slots have been secured, as they become available, for the children of NC State staff and faculty. Administration will work on providing scholarships and pricing models to offset child care costs for lower-paid employees. Long-term strategy is to build a child care facility on campus.

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