



Staff Senate Meeting January 7, 2009

the Voice

The January 7, 2009 Staff Senate session included the following items:

Speakers: Dr. Jose A. Picart, Diversity and Inclusion, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion
Dr. Michael L. Walden, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished
Professor and Extension Economist, Agricultural and Resource Economics

Dr. Jose A. Picart began his presentation discussing the new campus culture task force Chancellor James Oblinger formed. Dr. Picart explained he would be reviewing the data from the well being survey on diversity topics to help him make recommendations. Dr. Picart shared Student Body President Jay Dawkins; Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs, and himself will serve as co-chairs of the task force.

Dr. Picart shared information on an overnight retreat called Opening Doors. Opening Doors lays the foundation for personal and organizational growth. Through this workshop participants explore a framework that deepens their diversity awareness and enhances their ability to create inclusive organizations. This workshop addresses personal and professional change as part of an understanding differences initiative of multicultural organizational development. [Brochure and registration information](#)

Dr. Picart also shared information on the NCBI program. This program is just one of many efforts on campus to educate students and employees about issues of discrimination, harassment, prejudice, and diversity. Any member of the NC State University community may attend this workshop free of charge.

Dr. Picart announced the Martin Luther King Commemoration speaker would be Morris Dees. Morris Dees is a legendary civil right activist and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center. This event will be held at Stewart Theater, Talley Student Center on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 12:00 noon.

Dr. Picart ended his presentation expressing gratitude to the Staff Senate for his invitation to speak.

Dr. Michael Walden began his presentation thanking the Staff Senators for the opportunity to speak on the economy. He began his discussion on explaining the difference between a recession and depression. He explained a recession occurs if the economy shrinks by less than 10 percent. A depression occurs if the economy shrinks by more than 10 percent. The last recession we had in 2001, the economy shrunk by one-half of 1 percent. This recession, of course, is not over. Many economists think it will last well into 2009, but the current thinking is that it will cause the economy to shrink somewhere around 3 or maybe 4 percent, again still far short of a depression.

Dr. Walden shared the projections are saying the State will have approximately 2 billion less in revenue. Our Governor has asked for 3, 5 and 7 percent budget cuts with no raises. Dr. Walden shared that one way of increasing revenue would be to increase taxes or reduce spending. He does not believe that taxes would increase. He believes North Carolina will accelerate capital projects. Dr. Walden noted North Carolina could only borrow for capital projects. He shared the brunt of the drop in the economy will occur in the first half of the year, with more moderate losses in the second half. The key issue for policymakers, including those in the Federal Reserve and in the new Obama administration will be to contain the immediate economic damage for the recession. Mr. Walden reported the need to generate more spending to get out of this recession. And one-way is Obama's administration spending plan on infrastructure (roads, bridges, public buildings).

Dr. Walden explained North Carolina's economy would follow national movements. He shared this would mean job losses, higher unemployment, and weak retail sales and wage growth. Home sales will rise off their bottom, but the housing market will still remain weak. With general revenue growth negative, legislators will face their biggest challenge in two decades in balancing the state budget.

Announcements:

Brotherhood Lecture 02/06/08 at 1:00pm in Washington Sankofa Room (126) Witherspoon Student Center

Any questions/comments/concerns regarding the need for lactation rooms in all newly constructed buildings and renovations e-mail Robert Davis (rldavis5@ncsu.edu), he is on the Group Insurance Benefit Committee (GIBC).

Chair Laura Massengill reported district 12 & 13 seat would be filled shortly. She noted she is currently waiting for a response from Dean Moore. Also, Lee Thayne who was a Senator in district 12 & 13 is retiring, more details will follow.

Chair Laura Massengill announced Dr. Terri L. Lomax has been named vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at North Carolina State University.

Officers for the 2008-2009 Staff Senate:

Chair	Laura Massengill
Chair-elect	Steve Carlton
Vice-chair	Michelle Healey
Parliamentarian	Carrie Levow

Next Staff Senate Meeting: Wednesday, February 4, 2009

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/senators.htm . All Staff Senate meeting are open to the public, please join us! What can the Staff Senate do for you?