



The Voice

September, 2009

The following provides information and updates from the September 2, 2009 meeting of the NC State University Staff Senate.

Speakers:

Stan North Martin, Director of Outreach, Communications & Consulting, Office of Information Technology

A current goal of the Staff Senate is to explore communication issues and develop strategies for more effective and efficient communication between senators and their constituents. Mr. Martin was invited to the Staff Senate meeting to provide information on how the Office of Information Technology can help the Staff Senate improve our current methods of communication.

Currently, many senators are using out-of-date lists to contact constituents. These lists may exclude recent hires, while including people who are no longer employed at NC State. Some senators attempt to update their individual lists by trying to identify new hires within the units they represent, along with those who have left the university. This method can be time consuming and unreliable. In his presentation Mr. Martin explained how the Office of Information Technology could help the Staff Senate improve communications by providing current lists of Staff Senate constituents. Using data from HR, OIT could run a nightly batch to identify current employees represented by the Staff Senate and output lists by district.

There is no senate-wide protocol for how to communicate with constituents. While the senators in one district may divide their constituent list among senators, another district may assign a single senator to communicate with all constituents. In addition, communication obstacles, such as lack of computer access or knowledge and information overload (e.g., multiple e-mails being sent in a single day), inhibit effective communication. In response to these communication issues, Steve Carlton asked for volunteers to serve on an ad hoc committee. The Ad Hoc Communications Committee will research current communication issues and make recommendations on how to improve communication within the Staff Senate, between senators and constituents, and through our website and other publications.

Announcements:

The 2009 NC State Employees Combined Campaign began September 1, 2009. Funds collected through this campaign will greatly benefit the people of North Carolina and beyond. If you haven't made a donation, it's not too late! Donations will be accepted through October 23. For more information, visit the SECC website at <http://ncsu.edu/secc/>.

For complete Staff Senate meeting minutes, go to the Staff Senate website (http://www.ncsu.edu/staff_senate/minutes.htm). Meeting minutes are posted after approval by the Staff Senate.

Officers for the 2009-2010 Staff Senate:

Steve Carlton, Chair
Randy Colby, Chair-elect
Joan Lassiter, Vice-chair
Carrie Levow, Parliamentarian

The next Staff Senate meeting: October 7, 2009

The next Executive Committee meeting: October 21, 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 meetings are open to the public, please join us! What can the Staff Senate do for you?