

STAFF SENATE MEETING MINUTES-approved version
Wednesday October 5, 2005
Faculty Senate Chambers, D.H. Hill Library

Present: Shelia Ange, Valerie Ball, Jon Barnwell, David Beverley, J.C. Boykin, Tracy Brown, Jeff Cable, Corrie Cadwallader, Barbara Carroll, Angie Chiatello, Randy Colby, Kristina Coxe, Kathy Fuller, Albert Genovesi, Janet Harris, Cathy Harvey, Michelle Healey, Willie Healy, Vanessa Hicks, Miriam Hines, Carol Horne, Debbie Hunt, Thomas Hunter, Carrie Levow, Carina Lockley, Todd Marcks, Laura Massengill, Tom Mease, Sherry Mosher, Robin Nowlin, Richard Palmer, Samantha Parrett, Terry Price, Patty Routh, Phyllis Royal, Valerie Sameshima, Christy Scheid, David Serxner, David Setser, Brenda Shelton, Mel Stoss, Rodney Vinson, Corrinna Watkins, Melissa Watkins, Jim Wilder, Gail Willis and Sandee Zechman

Absent: Sherry Bowen, Bob Brinson, Nicole Harrell, Jamie Hinton, Kathy Kelly, Lucy Mabry, Rob Stevenson and Leroy Wilkins

Guests: Chad Austin, News Services; Julie Garrison, Chancellor's Office; Jessica Guzzo, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Franki Senter and Dianne Sortini, Human Resources; Dan Tucker, College of Veterinary Medicine

Call to Order: Chair Melissa Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:00am and introduced Chancellor Oblinger.

Guest Speaker: Chancellor James L. Oblinger, North Carolina State University

Chancellor Oblinger expressed gratitude for both the opportunity to address the Staff Senate and for the valuable contributions staff members make to this great university, which he believes is great because of its people. He expressed great pride in representing the campus community and in its members' commitment to excellence. He stated he wished to address three topics and then would field questions from the floor.

1. Employee Appreciation Week: Chancellor Oblinger again expressed sincere gratitude to staff members for their dedication and hard work and stated he is looking forward to celebrating with them during Employee Appreciation Week activities. He proudly acknowledged Karl Hedrick, the only university system employee recipient of the 2005 State Employees' Award for Excellence for Outstanding State Government Service. This is the highest honor that a state employee can achieve. A ceremony honoring Mr. Hedrick will be held on October 17th.
2. NCSU Capital Campaign: This campaign began four years ago with a goal of raising \$750 million dollars. Due to overwhelming response and confidence expressed in the future of NC State, \$836 million dollars has been amassed and the goal was increased to \$1 billion dollars. To help continue the University's commitment to excellence, monies received will be used for scholarships, fellowships, endowment of faculty chairs, teaching and learning program research, extension programs and "bricks and mortar."
3. Monetary Issues:
 - The university has set its minimum salary at \$10 per hour or \$20,800 per annum, which is above the state minimum pay levels. UNC System Chancellors plan to continue their efforts to increase pay and benefits for staff and faculty and will maintain this issue as a "top priority".
 - Tuition autonomy for NCSU and UNC-CH continues to be discussed. Chancellor Oblinger stated other budgetary influxes should be reviewed due to the financial complexity of research-based universities and that budget challenges cannot be solved using only tuition increases.
 - Chancellor Oblinger expressed genuine concern about the effect of increased State Health Plan co-pays and that benefits and salary adjustments are not keeping up with inflation. He stated that "we are working on several fronts to better serve" faculty and staff and are exploring ways to improve benefits packages for employees.

In response to a query Chancellor Oblinger stated that the university is looking into developing its own State Health Plan initiatives.

Chancellor Oblinger was thanked for his efforts in raising the minimum pay levels for university employees.

In response to a query about the effects of the Gulf Coast hurricane and predictions of increased fuel costs, Chancellor Oblinger acknowledged it as a national problem and said that no specific campus restrictions were imminent.

In response to a query about how receptive he would be to suggestions for additional in-house benefits, Chancellor Oblinger stated that he's "always interested in hearing ideas" from campus community members.

In response to a query about his opinion of the recent appointment of Erskine Bowles as UNC System President, Chancellor Oblinger stated he believes Mr. Bowles' strengths include superb managerial and organizational skills, high intelligence, political connections, various professional experiences and the exposure to new networking opportunities he offers. Chancellor Oblinger would like Mr. Bowles to visit NCSU extension locales during his upcoming tour of the sixteen UNC System campuses.

Chancellor Oblinger again expressed sincere gratitude to staff members for their valuable contributions. He also expressed gratitude to the Chair and Staff Senators for their welcoming atmosphere and efforts in staff representation.

Budget Report: Corrinna Watkins, Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources
Ms. Watkins reported there were no recent expenditures posted to the budget.

Administrative Report: Dianne Sortini, Director of Employee Relations and Training
The annual Employee Appreciation Day Benefits Fair will be held on Thursday October 6th at the McKimmon Center. Photography contest entries will be on display and there will be numerous entertainment events throughout the day. There will be shuttle services and plenty of free parking.

Approximately forty staff members participated in this morning's Fun Run/Walk.

Roll Call: Debbie Hunt performed a roll call to ensure accurate attendance records. Guests were welcomed and thanked for their attendance.

Approval of September 7, 2005 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved with one correction.

Committee Reports:

Chair:

The Chair participated in airport interviews of candidates for the Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement and Economic Development position. She reviewed the schedule for candidates' on campus Open Forums and encouraged all staff members to participate in these forums.

The Chair attended the CCAST Luncheon; Dr. Diana Oblinger was the Guest Speaker. Her topic "From A Different Perspective" reviewed differences in learning styles and spoke of the challenge to incorporate all styles in order to form the best possible learning environment.

The Chair attended the General Faculty Meeting; Provost Larry Nielsen was the Guest Speaker. He spoke directly about listening closely to all campus community members who bring forth ideas to improve the success of our university. She strongly recommended campus community members read the transcript of his address, which is posted online.

The Chair attended Diversity Day events for International Housekeeper's Week. Diversity Committee Chair David Serxner spoke on behalf of the Staff Senate. District 10B Senators and Committee members were introduced.

The Chair attended the Buildings and Property Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees; recent construction projects and future projects were reviewed. The Chair and Past Chair attended the full Board of Trustees meeting. The Past Chair presented the end-of-year report for the 2004-2005 Senate.

At the September 21st Executive Committee meeting, copies of the finalized goals for the 2005-2006 Senate were distributed. The Administrative Secretary was charged with electronically forwarding copies to Staff Senators.

The Chair attended the Achieve Campaign University kickoff events. Highlights included staff recognition for providing an efficient, safe, attractive and welcoming campus environment.

The Chair attended the Chancellor's Liaison Meeting. Topics included campus hurricane relief efforts, football game ticketing issues and student fees.

The Chair attended a meeting of all UNC System Staff Council/Senate Chairs. Current System President Broad stated that wage and salary issues would have the highest priority in the UNC System in upcoming years. She encouraged Chairs to begin and/or continue to strongly encourage staff members to participate in the Staff Council process. Updates were given on the UNC System Presidential Search Process, Legislative session and the State Health Plan.

Vice-Chair:

The State Employees Combined Campaign has been extended; donation submittals are due by October 13th.

A flu shot clinic has been scheduled for State Health Plan members, their dependents and retirees. For information and to register: http://www7.acs.ncsu.edu/benefits/upcoming_events/flushots/flushots.asp.

Governance:

Committee members have begun work on holding elections in the three districts without current representation.

Human Resources:

There was a career banding update at their last meeting.

Diversity:

Committee members represented the Staff Senate and participated in an event during International Housekeeper's Week. Committee members discussed their attendance and participation at upcoming campus events and ways to encourage staff members to attend campus events.

Possible guest speaker invitees for upcoming meetings were reviewed.

Public Relations:

This afternoon committee members will set up the Staff Senate booth for tomorrow's Benefits Fair. All available time slots for booth coverage have been filled. The new brochure, note pads and pens will be distributed at the booth.

Committee members will resume the search for a student intern to handle the redesign of the Staff Senate website.

Committee members will soon begin planning for the Open Forum.

Resources and Environment:

Committee members discussed efforts and ways of goal obtainment.

Committee members are researching and reviewing the possible composition of a resolution about recognition and training of building liaisons.

Committee members are diligently working on hurricane relief efforts and will encourage staff participation with these efforts.

Legislative Liaison:

An agenda has been composed for the October 12th meeting located at the CVM. Representative Coleman will be the Guest Speaker. The Committee Co-Chair welcomed topic suggestions and concerns that Staff Senators or their constituents would like addressed at this or future meetings with Legislators.

Old Senate Business:

There was a second reading of the proposed by-laws amendment to reflect the status change of the Legislative Liaison Committee. A motion to change the by-laws to reflect this status change passed unanimously.

New Senate Business:

An Issue of Concern has been received regarding the fairness of imposing parking charges on off-campus employees who come to campus for meetings. This issue will be reviewed by the Resource and Environment Committee.

Announcements:

Eli, the newest equine addition to the Campus Police Department, will be introduced at tomorrow's Benefits Fair.

Shuttle service to the McKimmon Center for the Benefits Fair will run every 12-15 minutes; routes from main campus, the Vet School and Centennial Campus are planned.

On campus forums of candidates for the Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement and Economic Development position begin next week. Staff members were encouraged to attend and participate at each candidate's forums.

The Staff and Faculty Senates are co-hosting a budget discussion with Provost Larry Nielsen and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business Charles Leffler on October 20th from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Staff members were encouraged to attend and participate.

Master Plan review meetings continue. Staff members were encouraged to attend and offer suggestions and opinions about the plan.

The CVM is hosting a presentation entitled "Understanding the Latino/Hispanic Culture" on October 25th.

Remarks:

There were no remarks.

Adjournment:

The 3rd meeting of the 11th session was adjourned at 11:08am.

Next Staff Senate Meeting:

Wednesday November 2, 2005
10:00am-12:00pm
Faculty Senate Chambers
D.H. Hill Library

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday October 19, 2005
10:00am-12:00pm
Room 1115 Administrative Services I Bldg.

Submitted by: Judith Strickland, Administrative Secretary

Debbie Hunt, Secretary
Staff Senate