

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY-approved version
Staff Senate Meeting
Faculty Senate Chambers, DH Hill Library
Wednesday February 7, 2007

Attending: Kay Anderson, Valerie Ball, Jon Barnwell, Gwen Bell, JC Boykin, Tracy Brown, Chastity Buehring, Barbara Carroll, Randy Colby, Judith Daniels, Debbie Douglas, Kathy Fuller, Pat Gaddy, Joe Goodrow, Joe Gulick, Dr. Marcia Gumpertz, Nicole Harrell, Janet Harris, Cathy Harvey, Mark Haven, Michelle Healey, Willie Healy, Pat Hill, Carol Horne, Cheryl Howard, Debbie Hunt, Thomas Hunter, DJ Lane, Carrie Levow, Todd Marcks, Laura Massengill, Jannette Mina, Marty Moody, Richard Palmer, Bill Piper, Sara Reese, Patty Routh, Brenda Shelton, Jean Sigmon, Melanie Storey, Lee Thayne, Brendan Thompson, Elbert Turner, Melissa Watkins, Gail Willis, Sandee Zechman, Kimberly Zugay

Absent: Bob Brinson, Miriam Hines, Felicia Mangum, Ginger McGlamery, Carlos Sanford, Patty Spears, E'very Ware, Corrinna Watkins, Floyd Williams, Thomas Young

Guests: Yvette Griffin, Dianne Sortini, Human Resources; Tom Kendig, Christine Klein, Transportation Department; Jack Moorman, Environmental Health and Public Safety; Sheri Schwab, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Dan Tucker, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Call to Order: The 7th meeting of the 12th session was called to order at 10:00am.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Stafford, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Dr. Stafford expressed gratitude for the invitation to address the Staff Senate and to personally convey his gratitude to Senate members for their service and commitment to the University. He also acknowledged and expressed gratitude to the current and Past Chairs for their leadership and service. Dr. Stafford noted the progress of the Senate and expressed admiration for the mission and level of commitment. He acknowledged the two current Staff Senate members from his district, Chair Elect Gail Willis and Richard Palmer.

A Student Affairs organizational chart was distributed. Dr. Stafford asked Senate members to note the relevance of each of Student Affairs' many departments to facilitating student's personal and academic development. He reported the department's motto is "Students First" and emphasized the diligence of department employees to help students' achieve their personal best and academic excellence. He stressed the importance of having numerous and varied opportunities for students to develop and reach their potential and the importance of physical education for students and staff. He reported his department continuously seeks ways to collaborate with all members of the campus community.

The Chair presented Dr. Stafford with a Staff Senate pin to recognize the reciprocal commitment to work together for the betterment of the campus community. Dr. Stafford stated he would wear the Staff Senate pin with pride and again expressed tremendous gratitude to the Senate members for their service to their constituents and for their contributions to the betterment of the students and the University at large.

Guest Speaker: Greg Cain, Assistant Director NCSU Transportation

Mr. Cain expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the Staff Senate. He commented that NCSU is in "good shape" compared with peer institutions regarding amount of parking spaces, permit costs and on-campus vehicle flexibility. He added that good vehicle flexibility works against strong customer usage of alternative transit options. NCSU Transportation has reviewed inventory usage of parking spaces; parking decks have higher than 90% usage, "B" spots have 79% and "C" spots 68%.

Mr. Cain announced a parking area conversion on Centennial Campus as a park and ride option for early shift workers. Monthly fee for the "G" lot is \$7.00.

Beginning in Fall 2007, staff and faculty parking permits will be issued for 3-year increments.

Mr. Cain distributed hard copies of proposed parking permit rate increases for 07-08 academic year that also listed issues and clear definitions/eligibility/operations for service and departmental vehicle parking. Two proposed solutions for service and department vehicles will create five specific and distinct parking permit designations and allow state-licensed vehicles to park in the Dan Allen Deck and Hillsborough Square B lot with displayed hangtag. NCSU Transportation will work closely with departments that have multiple service vehicles. He also announced Transportation employees are working to expand loading zones, especially on North campus.

Mr. Cain opened the floor to questions and/or comments.

A query was raised regarding details of housekeeping personnel concessions for park and ride options; Mr. Cain identified two designated areas (Armory and Centennial Campus) for early-shift employees to park and ride. Transportation employees are reviewing funding options for transit service from park and ride lots to campus.

A query was raised whether SP permits can be purchased by individuals; departments have traditionally purchased these permits. Proof must be provided that the POV is used for service work and areas where work is performed.

A query was raised whether the NCSU Motor Pool could be used to transport housekeepers from the park and ride lots to campus; it is a viable option that needs further exploration with Facilities. Mr. Cain included that more internal funding for this endeavor would be beneficial.

A query was raised whether a voucher or “get out of jail free” card could be given for vehicles being driven to campus that are not able to display parking permits; there is a once per year policy in place to issue a no-fine warning ticket in this situation. It was recommended that employees who may oft have to drive a second non-permitted vehicle to campus be proactive and register the vehicle’s license plate number with Transportation (may be done online).

Clarification was requested regarding elimination of specified designated lots and some permit types; A3 and A2 permits and corresponding parking spaces are being methodically eliminated. There have been tighter controls put into place for A/S permit spaces.

The chair presented Mr. Cain with a Staff Senate pin to recognize his commitment to consider staff input of Transportation issues and keeping staff employees well informed of Transportation proposed changes.

Roll Call: A roll call was performed by Laura Massengill to ensure accurate attendance records. The Chair welcomed Ex-Officio members and guests to the meeting.

Approval of January 3, 2007 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

Budget Report:

There was no report given.

Administrative Report: Barbara Carroll, Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources

Ms. Carroll reported a due date extension for both federal and state income tax returns to Tuesday April 17th.

She announced the open enrollment period for healthcare benefits will be March 1st through March 31st.

Employee Appreciation Week flyers were distributed. Senate members were asked to please post them in their workplaces. There was a request for volunteers; anyone interested was asked to contact Rob Stevenson.

Ms. Carroll reported Human Resources personnel continue their efforts to increase and vary communication channels with employees. Following a query, it was generally agreed that Personnel Connection reps are the main distribution point for information. Ms. Carroll asked to be notified of any additional information that would be beneficial for the Human Resources website to contain.

Ms. Carroll announced the retirement of Dianne Sortini and that an event in her honor is planned for Monday February 26th. Dianne stated that she's had a wonderful experience working with the Staff Senate since its inception and that she was truly appreciative of all the work and dedication of Senate members. She also acknowledged and thanked the Human Resources subcommittee for their dedicated efforts.

Benefits Director Yvette Griffin reported that a periodic Benefits newsletter, with information about the State Health Plan open enrollment and other benefits, is forthcoming.

Committee Reports:

Chair:

The Chair read aloud Chancellor Oblinger's letter indicating his formal approval of our efforts to include EPA employees' representation by the Staff Senate.

The Chair attended the January 8th meeting of the Holladay Medal advisory committee (faculty award).

The Chair attended the January 9th University Budget Advisory committee meeting.

The Chair attended the January 11th and 12th BOG meeting and participated in a Staff Assembly videoconference on January 12th.

On January 17th the Chair hosted the Executive Committee meeting and met with Barbara Carroll regarding procedure to gather census information for the upcoming election.

The Chair attended the January 22nd University Council meeting and participated in the search committee meeting for Vice Chancellor for Advancement.

The Chair attended a planning meeting for the Staff Senate retreat on January 23rd.

The Chair attended the January 24th men's basketball game with members of the Staff Senate; attendees were seated in the Centennial Authority suite.

On January 25th the Chair attended another meeting regarding gathering EPA census information.

On February 1st and 2nd he attended the Emerging Issues Forum at the McKimmon Center.

On February 7th, 8th and 9th he attended the BOG meeting and Trustees Conference focusing on the PACE study.

Vice Chair:

The Vice Chair received and has already responded to a request from a Duke University employee for information regarding the formation, mission and running of the NCSU Staff Senate.

Governance:

There was no report given. The Chair commented that new EPA constituents have been identified and efforts now will focus on how best to fit in these new members to our constituent base.

Human Resources:

The Committee Co-Chair expressed gratitude to Barbara Carroll for forwarding the benefit study information that was recently requested. Committee members will review and compare peer institution's employee benefits.

The Committee Co-Chair expressed gratitude to Dianne Sortini for her graciousness and dedication and numerous valuable contributions to this committee.

Diversity:

The annual Sisterhood Dinner will be held on February 28th at 5:30pm at the McKimmon Center; Dr. Sue Rosser's keynote address is entitled "Succeeding in the Academic Environment". Event registration deadline is February 16th.

Stop the Hate: Forum Against Hate and Discrimination will be held tomorrow February 8th, 7:45pm in Talley Student Center.

Meizhu Lui is guest speaker at a presentation entitled "The Color of Wealth"; which focuses on the division of wealth between people of various races and cultures. The event is tonight, 7:00pm at the McKimmon Center.

Committee members will continue their dialogue with GLBT community members. Committee members attended a planning meeting for the proposed GLBT Center which will provide resources and support for GLBT members, as well as programs to increase awareness and sensitivity of all campus community members.

Opportunities are still available for table sponsorship at the upcoming Council on the Status of Women event.

Many committee members were able to participate in both on and off campus events that honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Committee Chair recommended campus community members visit www.ncsu.edu/diversity for a complete calendar of upcoming training and events.

Public Relations:

Committee members have begun efforts to edit the Staff Senate brochure to include new EPA employee representation and formation of UNC System Staff Assembly.

The Administrative Secretary was asked to forward photos and available back issues of the VOICE for inclusion on the website.

Employee Appreciation Day is Tuesday March 6th. Committee members have designed and ordered a banner, promotional writing pads and composed a comment card. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth.

Resources and Environment:

The Committee Chair received a response from University Towers regarding pedestrian safety issues; Resident Advisors will speak to current residents and at new student orientations regarding safely crossing Dan Allen Drive. Committee members continue their review of pedestrian and vehicular safety issues on campus. There are computers available for loan; computer loan program applications will be made available at the Staff Senate booth at Employee Appreciation Day.

Legislative Liaison:

The Committee Co-Chairs met with Kevin Howell to discuss issues and concerns regarding new legislation.

Committee Co-Chairs met with Barbara Carroll for an in-depth discussion of the PACE Study.

Committee members are reviewing and discussing UNC-CH Staff Forum's response to the PACE Study.

Old Senate Business:

Patty Routh was granted permission to address the Senate and provide an explanation for her lack of meeting attendance which resulted in her current negative standing. A motion was passed to forward her request to remain in the Staff Senate to the Executive Committee for review.

New Senate Business:

The Resource and Environment Committee will begin discussions regarding changing the computer loan program's eligibility requirements.

The Chair invited Senate members to attend the next Staff Assembly videoconference; PACE Study is on the agenda.

Newly elected Staff Senators Mark Haven, District 4, and Chastity Buehring, District 6, were introduced and welcomed to the Staff Senate.

Announcements:

NCSU Campus Police will host the second annual Polar Plunge on Saturday February 3rd at 10am. This fundraiser benefits the NC Special Olympic to help ensure the athletes have the proper equipment and opportunity to compete. Donations will be most welcome and can be made online at www.firstgiving.com. Staff Senate Chair JC Boykin has volunteered his talents as a Disc Jockey for this event.

It was requested that members of the campus community who have two identification numbers (employee and student) contact either Human Resources or Registrar's Office.

Campus community members who need identification cards updated for use on mass transit systems are advised to go to the West Dunn building (corner of West Dunn and Dan Allen Drives).

The Chair acknowledged the generosity of the NCSU Administration in donating suite tickets and parking passes for two men's basketball games to members of the Staff Senate.

The Chair invited all members of the Staff Senate to attend the monthly Executive Committee meeting.

Remarks:

There were no remarks.

Adjournment:

The 6th meeting of the 12th session was adjourned at 11:29am.

Next Staff Senate Meeting:

Wednesday March 7, 2007
10:00am-12:00pm
Faculty Senate Chambers
DH Hill Library

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday February 21, 2007
10:00am-12:00pm
Room 301, Admin Services III

Submitted by: Judith Strickland, Administrative Secretary
Laura Massengill, Secretary of 2006-2007 Staff Senate