****North Dakota State Staff Senate Meeting Agenda**

February 10, 2025 @ 2:30pm CT via MS Teams

***The NDUS Staff Senate serves to represent staff employees from the eleven academic institutions and employees throughout the university system. The Senate identifies staff interests and issues; acts as a forum for the discussion of staff-related matters; and facilitates communication on behalf of the campus staff members with the NDUS Chancellor and the State Board of Higher Education.***

1. Call to Order – Anna Kinney called to order at 2:30 pm
2. Roll Call
   1. BSC – Joseph Camisa, Jessie Savre
   2. CTSO – Greg Carlson, Heather Lentz
   3. DCB – Mike O’Toole
   4. DSU – Johnna Douthit, Laura Fetting
   5. LRSC – Andy Wakeford, Casey Zehrer
   6. MaSU – Stacy Buchl
   7. MiSU –
   8. NDSCS – Lisa Braun, Sadie Russenberger, Alissa Sherven
   9. NDSU – Jenn Young
   10. UND – Anna Kinney, Brandon Wallace, Mike Wozniak
   11. VCSU –
   12. WSC – Carol Campbell
   13. HRC Rep – Laura Fetting
   14. SBHE Rep – Michael Linnell
3. Approval of Agenda – motion by Greg; second by Mike W.; motion passed.
4. Approval of January Meeting Minutes: [Meeting Minutes NDSSS - January 2025.docx](https://ndusbpos.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/NDUSNDStateStaffSenate/EV4ZJdU6cD5PgPcg6qy-0RYB06h0GGz8F9BydNNZ2xf6Bw?e=LvXbp1)

Motion by Mike W.; second by Mike O.; motion passed

1. Reports
   1. Campus Updates – Submit to website
      1. Jessie (BSC) – interim president met with staff senate for about an hour to discuss purpose and direction of staff senate
      2. Mike (UND) –listening session with university administration to voice any questions/concerns about the recent federal/state bills/executive orders; session to get thoughts out there – didn’t generate answers
      3. Jenn (NDSU) – president put together a rapid response team in response to the federal mandates to help us better prepare
      4. Casey (LRSC) shared link - <https://digital-client-solutions.hoganlovells.com/resources/elections-hub/executive-order-tracker/table>
      5. Mike O’Toole (DCB) – leadership comes to staff senate meetings (monthly) – opens up to questions
      6. Laura (DSU) – presidential search process – DSU search committee will be meeting next week to discuss candidates for the first time
      7. Casey (LRSC) – LRSC will have an interim president when their current president retires so that the presidential searches don’t overlap – will have an interim for about one year
         1. Jessie – (in seat until January 2026) but hiring isn’t set until July 2026 so don’t know what’s going on for those 6 months; advanced technology center is really nice; beams going up now for recreational building – athletes can work out; climbing wall; virtual reality game room
   2. SBHE Staff Advisor Report:
      1. A lot of discussion regarding executive orders.
      2. Massive funding things coming for research from the state; appropriations bill has been well received so far, no mention of funding so far so that’s positive
      3. Tribal college system – Dr. Twyla Baker, president of tribal system, gave an overview of what they’re doing – how can we collaborate
         1. Make sure getting collaboration with tribal colleges into reports
      4. Gov. Armstrong appointed a couple of positions – two new board members (one from Fargo and one from Williston) – Senate needs to approve them but mostly a formality
      5. Presidential and chancellor search timeline discussed – line up with academic cycle
         1. Chancellor – working on RFP to form a committee, not just going with the current consultant group used for most of the presidential searches
      6. Dual credit – really hot topic, 3 schools VSU, NDSU, and NDSCS have come to an agreement – several state staff senators gave negative opinion of this so Michael voiced it - Vote was tight but was a yes to allow it to move forward – concern about impact on support staff and funding
      7. Tenure and post-tenure – crazy process to watch; academic freedom vs cart blanche to do what you want – tenure allows for middle road; tenure has been used in an incorrect manner to do whatever they want and gotten away with it
         1. Bill came out addressing 2-yr college – some ambivalence towards it
         2. Lisa Montplaisir and Kevin Black had two very different opinions about what tenure is – along with Casey Ryan – have done a really good job making compromises and coming up with a unified front
         3. Will be a much tougher system for tenure than some other states – may lose some candidates over the toughness of the tenure system
      8. Research
         1. Has a significant amount of requests for funding and good momentum for it
         2. A significant dollar amount for the other nine
         3. Challenge Grant – huge increase suggested
      9. Crossover is February 28th so bills will need to have a decision made to be sent over – will have a good idea of what isn’t crossing over; changes aren’t usually as drastic after crossover
      10. Wife is having heart surgery in March – next SBHE meeting is 2 days after her surgery, will send in report and try to listen to it; April report will most likely not be in person; request new person be allowed to attend May meeting and June retreat when they come on – usually new person will attend June meeting – in person in May usually but changed it to June
   3. HRC Update:
      1. HUB investment advisors – about some new trainings – everyone’s HR departments will be getting that information
      2. Legislative updates more on the HR side of things
2. Business Agenda
   1. Taskforce Chair Updates –
      1. Legislative
         1. Sent out one update a couple of weeks ago
         2. Will get another one ready to send out
         3. Been following the State Board meetings on Fridays at 2 that address the Legislative Session
            1. HB 1437 – Tenure bill – discussed quite a bit – neutral position with suggestions rather than in opposition with no suggestions
            2. SB 2330 – Mandatory training re human trafficking – provides no funding
            3. SB 2003 – appropriations bill
         4. ND LegiTrack AI Dashboard - <https://app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/aef1f113-c34f-4d5d-a57b-3139db5f9ca0/reports/268d8ccd-3194-447e-8390-22529cc68692/37645f4f6e14f9cf1fa7?ctid=ec37a091-b9a6-47e5-98d0-903d4a419203&experience=power-bi>
         5. <https://ndlegis.gov>
      2. Staff Recognition
         1. Emily Viewig was the chair and has resigned
         2. Anna and Mike W. will work to try and get a meeting on the books to move forward with this committee
      3. Professional Development
         1. Been meeting regularly
         2. Meeting earlier today with some people pulled away for other meetings
         3. Hoping to have one potential offering in place in March or April as a template
         4. Some trainings not widely disseminated that they are occurring – can State Staff Senate help with dissemination of trainings so that everyone can participate?
      4. Staff Affairs
         1. Has concluded their work and has a write-up that will be in Teams in an end-of-year report
   2. Juneteenth Resolution Request: [Juneteenth.pdf](https://ndusbpos.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/NDUSNDStateStaffSenate/Edpfw7tzVL5LpsXc2Uy9RocBC5SBZQYJXGIFH12k5vPr9w?e=906EgF)
      1. Why just Juneteenth? What about the Friday after Thanksgiving? Indigenous Peoples Day?
      2. Would need to solicit legislatures to write a bill to introduce to the Legislature because it is a change to Century Code – really need to think about timing – now would not be the time to do it, too late to get into the session now; that’s how you would get momentum on it
      3. Joseph Camisa – reminder that we need to take a resolution back to our respective staff senates
      4. Campus closures? Who has the authorization to close campus? Individual presidents – but not very clear on who has the power.
      5. Document is in the Miscellaneous folder
      6. Not in right timeline, don’t have a full idea of what we need to do, not necessarily best for us to be at the forefront of a resolution regarding Juneteenth
   3. SBHE Staff Rep
      1. Nominate and vote to finalize the representative by the end of this meeting.
      2. Nominations:
         1. Anna Kinney
      3. Lisa moves to close nominations,
      4. Joseph moved to casts a unanimous ballot, Greg seconded, motion passed
   4. Communications officer: Emily stepping down vacated this position
      1. Anyone willing to serve as communications officer? Basically, keeps the website up-to-date
      2. Think about it and decide if you want to consider to step in for this role, either temporarily or run in the June meeting to serve next year
   5. Employee morale-open discussion, idea sharing.
3. Open Discussion
   1. Can we get the total rewards survey broken down by faculty and staff?
      1. Michael Linnell said he would reach out and see if we can get those results.
4. Future Meetings: March 10, 2025, 2:30-4:00 CT.
5. Adjournment – Jessie moved; Lisa seconded; meeting adjourned @ 4:00 pm

**Additional Information:**

* NDSSS Website - <https://staffsenate.ndus.edu/>
* Campus Updates Submission - <https://staffsenate.ndus.edu/campus-update-submission-form/>