STAFF SENATE MINUTES
October 19, 2010

PRESENT: Chris Abbott, Dusty Anderson, Kari Bitz, Sacheen Whitetail-Cross, Sheila Curl, Janet Decker, Dave Ell, Karen Erickson, Jenny Gisinger, Scott Helphrey, Josh Jeffers, Claire Jorgensen, Darcy Makeeff, Kene Miller, Aimee Schmit, Kayla Seifert, Rachelle Smith, Greg Sturm, Chris Beckler

ABSENT: Zak Allen, Brenda Austin, Jean Berger, Dave Clark, Becky Fischer, Donna Fishbeck, Sue Hartley, Kevin Holmstrom, Amanda Miller, Anselm Ternes, Roxanne Van Zomeren

President Jeffers called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes
Senator K. Miller moved to approve the September minutes. Senator Gisinger seconded.

State Staff Senate Update
President Jeffers updated the senators on the NDPERS retirement bills that were emailed to the senators last week. The State Staff Senate (SSS) approved support of bill 52. After the approval, the staff senate from Williston State College opposed the approval indicating they were in favor of bill 53. The recommendation has already been approved and more information will be provided if another vote is called.

Committee/Projects
Vice President Helphrey informed the senators about a retreat he is in the process of finding the logistics to for staff senate. The Faculty Senate has been having a retreat yearly to refocus the group and have a whole day for new ideas. President Jeffers did take the idea to President Skogen and he was in favor of it. At the next staff senate meeting Helphrey will have more information on it for the senators.

Staff Training Ideas – Aimee
Senator Schmit asked the senators to email HR with ideas for new staff trainings. Some ideas that HR currently has are the following:

- Broadbanding
- Dress for Success
- Work/life benefits
- Beyond the basics for supervisors

Senator Schmit also reminded the senators that HR has a library of DVD’s that can be checked out to staff for a variety of work related topics. Vice President Helphrey suggested contacting the copywriters of the DVD’s to see if BSC can make the videos available on the web. Senator K. Miller also suggested using some of the videos for Staff Development Day sessions.
**Operations Council – Kene**
Senator K. Miller stated that the OC reviewed credits for military students and the new policy was emailed out earlier to employees. The OC is also coming up with an “animals on campus” policy after students stated they wanted to bring their pet to class with them for companionship reasons. The institutional annual diversity report was reviewed and BSC is up in diversity this semester. The OC is in the process of reviewing the budget planning process and timeline and will be having meetings with employees who are in charge of department budgets. The next OC meeting will be at the Armory where they will tour it to decide on what to bring to the Armory next year when the computer classes are moved to the tech. center.

**Constituent Contacts**
- **Suggestion Box**
  - President Jeffers asked for the senators to voice their opinions on having a suggestion box added to the staff senate website. After much discussion, the senate came to an agreement to not have a suggestion box, instead the senators will need to contact their constituents more often to have them feel comfortable enough with the senators to voice their opinions and concerns. Further discussion on ideas for contacting constituents will be discussed at the next staff senate meeting where all senators are to bring with them five questions that they can ask their constituents to get them more involved.

- **One Year Minimum**
  - At the September meeting Senator Makeeff stated that a constituent voiced their concern to her about having a rule about only allowing a staff member to be voted onto the senate after completing a year at BSC. A few senators explained that it is good to have new employees on the senate to bring knowledge to BSC from their previous job. The one year minimum was agreed to not be put in the bylaws and the voting will continue to include all staff whether or not they have been here for a year or not.

After no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Recording secretary,
Darcy Makeeff