

messenger

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September 2011

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Why pay for parking if I work here?



Memorial Union pay station

Rob Lynch, Parking and Transportation Manager, says this is the most common question he gets asked.

“People are not aware of how the system works,” Lynch explained. “There is no state funding at all. No appropriated dollar funds from the legislature for parking lots, street maintenance and snow removal. Nothing from student tuition; no student fees. I didn’t understand that when I first started four years ago.”

Revenue from permits provides money for all snow removal, line striping, signs and construction, including patching, curbs and pay stations. Anything to do with a parking lot comes out of parking fees. The only exception would be if a new building is constructed, they may have in their budget funds to create the initial parking lot.

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Campus Child Care Committee Update

**Joshua A. Boschee,
Career Specialist**

The Campus Child Care Committee that was appointed by President Bresciani during the 2011 spring term has been meeting with various stakeholders throughout the summer in preparation of producing a report to President Bresciani by the end of the year. Interviews with administrators, staff of the Center for Child Development, Human Development and Family Science staff and faculty, and child care resource providers both locally and nationally have provided insight to the Committee as

to the changing needs of child care on campus and in the greater Fargo Moorhead community.

As the Committee wraps up the interviews in the coming month, we will compile the information gathered, along with reports created by NDSU students from Making Hard Decisions, summer class and business plan options from MBS students, to provide a variety of options to present to President Bresciani. The Committee is on track to provide their final report to President Bresciani with plenty of time for him to



make a sound decision for the future of child care on campus. The Committee members have taken their responsibilities seriously, recognizing the impact the report will make for many NDSU employees.

Committee members include Canan Bilen-Green, Karen Froelich, Kendra Greenlee, Gary Liguori, Kevin McCaul and Wendy Reed.

Message from the President

Since coming to NDSU, I have on a daily basis become more and more impressed by the people making up our campus community. The enthusiasm I see and hear, the excitement about NDSU and our potentials, and the openness to new and better ways of doing things is, in my experience, without parallel. This is the ninth public university I've been associated with, so that comment is not without considerable context.

It goes without saying that our students are generally well prepared and eager to learn. They lead the 11-campus state college and university system in the proportion that are full-time students, as well as in their retention and graduation rate. Almost 90 percent find employment in their major field of study, a statistic most colleges around the country would envy. They are honest, well behaved, hard-working, and appreciative of the exceptional educational experience they are receiving at one of the most affordable major universities in the nation.

Similarly, the backgrounds and productivity of our faculty reflect our ranking as one of the top 100 research universities in the nation. We're the first and only North Dakota institution to achieve that standing, and our

faculty are a driving force in doing so, but not at the expense of our student-focused, land grant tradition. Our faculty are adept at blending the in-class and out-of-class opportunities of our students and that's part of why they enjoy being here. Let me assure you that is not necessarily the case at most other major research universities.

That all said, however, our staff are who provide the foundation and binding influence that keeps NDSU together and working. I unflinchingly appreciate that the success of our students, and our faculty, would be impossible to maintain without the NDSU staff, who do everything from turning on the lights in the morning to advising and supporting our students and faculty, in many ways, on an around-the-clock basis. Staff are the core of any successful university, and at NDSU I think of staff as even more—you catalyze our success, and I believe that our campus community appreciates that. In fact, I value that to the extent of, in the past year, taking the relatively unusual step of including staff representation on the President's cabinet at NDSU; few major universities around the country do so but I've found it a very advantageous decision. I have also been a strong supporter of staff



President Dean Bresciani

representation to the State Board of Higher Education, and I'm confident that, too, will prove to be a very positive improvement in the leadership of higher education throughout the state. I appreciate all you do for NDSU and for North Dakota.

Dean L. Bresciani, President

Message from the Staff Senate President



Laura Dallmann

My fellow staff members, I am so excited for this coming year. There are many things happening at NDSU and it is so exciting to be a part of it. This year I am particularly pleased to be working with Faculty Senate and Student Government leadership. We will continue to work together and build relationships among the different bodies, which will benefit us all. I see the development of a new Coordinating Council as a very positive way for our bodies to work together to provide for the needs of the whole university.

I hope you have had the opportunity to join us for some of our past events such as the Staff Appreciation Ice Cream Social and the Annual Salary Process presentation, both held in August. If you couldn't make it to the previous events, we really would love

to see you at our upcoming events. We will have the Discover U mini sessions throughout the year, the all-day Discover U seminar in the spring, the Valentine's Ball in February, and other fun and informative events in the upcoming year.

I would also like to invite you to visit us at our monthly meetings. They are open to all staff so, please, come and join us. We have a short, informative program at the beginning of our meetings and then we discuss items that are relevant to us all. Your presence and input can make a difference for everyone so join us if you are able. Our meetings schedule, as well as, other information is located on our Web site at http://www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate/.

Parking *(continued from page 1)*

The Campus Space and Facilities Committee (CSFC) meets to recommend policies and procedures to meet the needs of current and future needs for facilities and review changes in space allocation. The Committee of voting members is comprised of faculty representatives from each of the colleges, three Staff Senate members, three Student Government members and representatives from the College of Graduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Registrar and Vice President for Finance and Administration.

In addition, non-voting representation includes the Director of Facilities Management, Chair of the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Assistant to the Di-

rector of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and Dean of Libraries. "The Committee is charged with looking at building projects and making recommendations to the President on annual parking fees," Lynch explained. "With an aging system, the Committee had to turn things about. Nothing had been done maintenance-wise for the last couple of years. When the lock-down happened, we were also part of that decision. Now we are playing catch-up. The funding for these projects is paid not only through parking permits, but also the paid parking (pay-stations) and citations."

The first year, Lynch was invited to the committee to give an overview of the park-

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Vice President Bollinger explains biennial budget salary process at mini-session

Jodi Pierce Registration and Records

Bruce Bollinger, Vice President of Finance and Administration, spoke on the biennial budget salary process at our last mini-session held in August.

The compensation package has various steps before being approved.

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) submitted a compensation package request for a 4.5% annual salary increase, which went into a salary pool and included the continuation of fully paid health insurance.

This request was then sent to the Governor's (Executive) Office in December, where it was recommended for a 3% annual salary increase and continue the fully paid health insurance.

The Legislative Committee (which met January thru April) then reviewed the request and it was written to accept the plan as requested.

Following the Legislative session, which ended May 10, 2011, the committee then returned the plan to the SBHE, where they

had the option of attaching their own guidelines.

The SBHE then forwarded this back to NDSU, where the campus made determinations on the salary compensation for the employees.

Compensation adjustments vary based on documented performance, market, equity and other factors such as promotion and changes in workload and responsibility, and does not necessarily result in the same percentage increase for each employee.

All regular employees whose performance were satisfactory were given a salary adjustment.

Employees that were not eligible for salary adjustments were probationary staff, employees whose documented performance levels were not satisfactory and temporary/non-benefitted employees.

Bruce did a very nice job of explaining the process and answered various questions that the employees had for him.

Thank you, Bruce!



Rebuild Minot Campaign

In an effort to assist members of the Minot community in recovery of their tragic flooding, Staff Senate is beginning a REBUILD MINOT CAMPAIGN starting Sept. 14, 2011.

Items are being collected to be delivered by NDSU students volunteering to assist in cleanup of the city.

Suggested items are located on the Staff Senate home page. The drop-off site is between Student Activities and Student Government in the Memorial Union.



COSE FISH Award:
FISH Awards are pulled from the state university system. FISH stands for Friendly, Initiative, Smile Helpful.

Know someone that fits the criteria, nominate them here: http://www.nd.gov/cose/fish_award/fish_electronic_form.htm

Feel free to roam, but remember your home

Homecoming is going to be quickly upon us and once again Staff Senate will be entering a float in the parade.

The theme this year is "Free to roam, but remember your home." Staff Senate members of the Public Relations Committee have been working diligently to come up with a competitive design for this year's parade, which will be held on Saturday, October 1.

The float will feature silhouette's of world renowned venues from across the world, representing that you can now expect to travel or live anywhere in the world.

The path leading back to Fargo is represented by the

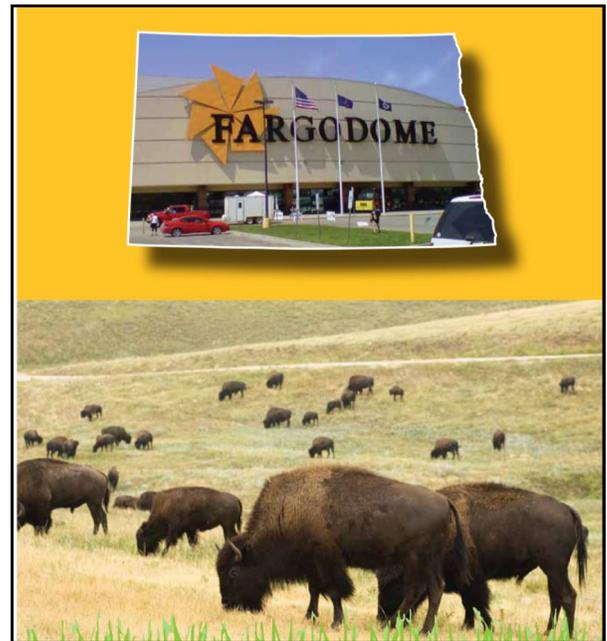
Bison on the plains near the Fargo Dome.

Arrangements have been made to begin assembly of the float the week prior to Homecoming at the old Knox Lumber building on 7th Avenue North.

Volunteers are being sought to help with the assembly.

This is a fun time when staff members can participate in something that is representative of the entire staff and get to know other staff members they don't normally work with.

Interested staff members can contact April Moser at 231-8399, Marilyn Dowdy at 231-9617, or Lynn Ehlen at 231-8366.



2011 Staff Senate Homecoming float banner

Parking *(continued from page 3)*

ing situation. In 2008, former President Chapman commissioned a Campus Master Plan. The information came back describing the parking facilities in categories of very poor, poor, fair and good, together with the estimated costs to bring every lot up to the good category. The very poor category alone was listed as projects scheduled through 2014 at a total cost of nearly \$3.6 million. The poor category was scheduled through 2015, with an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. The remaining projects, both fair and good, were each estimated at approximately \$7.5 million.

Scenarios were put forth to find a means to fund the necessary repairs and improvements. The first was to raise the parking permits by \$15 for two years, or to raise the parking permits \$30 for two

years. CFSC made their recommendations to the Vice President of Finance, who, in turn, took it to the President. The decision was made to raise the permits \$30 for two years and even at that rate, there would still be a deficit of \$400,000. Since they don't work with deficit spending, the list of priorities was adjusted in order to stay within the confines of the funding.

In addition to the repairs to the lots, parking funds also go toward street repairs on campus. At one time, there were some appropriated funds for streets. Then a decision was made to utilize the parking funds for street repair.

The transit system is also paid out of the parking funds. This is inclusive of staff and student ridership

and there are no consistent, dedicated appropriated funds for these expenses.

While it seems like staff and students have taken a hit on the increase of rates for parking permits, it is still low compared to some other schools in the state. UND, for instance, has gone from \$60 for permits to \$225, with additional raises in costs expected.

Parking Ramp

The topic of parking ramps has been in everyone's minds for a long time.

"One issue is paying for one," Lynch said. "It would have to be paid for by people who don't get to use it."

He went on to explain that a \$10 million ramp would provide spaces for

400 - 500 vehicles. Everyone would have to pick up a portion of those costs. UND built their parking ramp when they ran out of desirable spaces. According to Lynch, NDSU is not at that point yet. He does, however, believe that at some point, we will also run out of desirable space.

"If we increase our students the way it has been going," he said, "it will. I have reservations putting this debt load on everyone."

Lynch said he would have no aversion, however, to accepting a large donation from anyone who would want to contribute significant funds for a parking ramp. The University has already commissioned a feasibility

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Parking *(continued from page 3)*

ity study to determine possible locations for a structure. One option was by the Memorial Union where C.I. Nelson Hall currently stands. That would be one level below ground, three levels above, 500 spaces, with skyways to both Ceres Hall and Memorial Union. It would also have a price tag of \$10.4 million.

With the addition of an indoor track near Dakota Field, part of the R parking lot may be removed. The new T-Loft apartments are also taking over, by previous agreement, several of the spaces out of T-Lot.

There is always parking available at the Fargodome, although there is now parking fees there as well. That helps recoup the \$25,000 per year that is paid to the Dome for usage of the parking spaces.

While the availability for students, staff and faculty is still relatively stable, with the addition of the downtown sites, there is an increased demand for double parking permits, which puts more strain on the space availability.

Transit System

The transit system that the campus community utilizes is not owned or operated by NDSU. It falls under the MAT Transit Authority and meets all the federal transportation rules. Much of its funding is from the federal government and routes are approved by the City Commission.

NDSU contributes over \$600,000 annually to fund campus circulators,



service to downtown and the UPASS program, which allows students and staff to ride the entire system at no cost.

This arrangement has actually become a model for other universities who have purchased their own buses to accommodate their transportation needs. In those instances, they have to purchase the buses, provide garages for care and maintenance, and then have drivers hired. Some schools employ students for drivers. The American Public Transit Association is holding their annual conference in Fargo this year to study how NDSU has accomplished meeting the needs of staff, faculty and students with this system.

Citations

Currently, NDSU has an agreement with the City of Fargo for issuing parking citations. A majority of

other universities have their own officers and equipment and set their own procedures and levels of fines. Under the current agreement, the City does all the collection of the citations. These monies are paid to the City, with late fees and fee statements falling under their responsibility.

“NDSU receives all of the citation revenue minus fees for the City to provide equipment and conduct collections,” Lynch explained.

While the fine is paid at the City of Fargo, the appeals process is conducted on campus before a committee of three. If the appeal is denied, the defendant has the option of going to Fargo Municipal Court, which requires posting a \$15 bond. These hearings are held once a month.

Under this system, the appeals committee must follow the City ordinances and rule on the merits of the evidence.

With two years left on the contract, Lynch believes that there is ample time to study the merits of NDSU processing collections rather than the City. The cost of the equipment would be low since the software and a lot of the equipment is already on campus. The real issue, as he sees it, would be to get enough people willing to serve on the appeals board, and then find a way to streamline the process so that only those situations with valid circumstances would be considered. Another issue would be who would take the responsibility for collecting the fines.

International Programs begins food and coat drive

Kara Gravely-Stack, Director of the Diversity Initiatives, recently announced that once again they will be collecting food and coats for all students in need.

A freezer has been donated so they can now accept frozen food items, such as frozen vegetables.

Canned foods are also accepted and distributed to those students who have a need.

Once again, they are asking for con-

tributions of *gently* used heavy winter coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and snow pants. The majority of the need for these items is in the smaller sizes.

Contributions can be dropped off at the Equity & Diversity Center, which is located in Alba Bales. The Center is open Mon. thru Thurs. from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Center will accept contribu-

tions throughout the school year.

If you are a student in need of these items, or if you know someone who is in need, please contact the Equity & Diversity Center at 231-5728.

Requests for these items are kept strictly confidential.

FIRST ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Bonnie Neas (l), VP for Information Technology, addressed the staff attending the social. Bonnie was an integral part of the creation of Staff Senate.



The Staff Senate put on a successful Ice Cream Social in August. Everyone enjoyed the cool treat on this warm day.



Nearly 300 attended the first annual Ice Cream Social, sponsored by Staff Senate, as a means to thank all staff for their hard work all year long. With do-it-yourself sundaes or ice cream sandwiches to choose from, everyone had a wonderful time eating and visiting prior to the start of the fall semester.

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NDSU STAFF SENATE MISSION

NDSU Staff Senate addresses the needs and aspirations of university staff by promoting a progressive campus environment.



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http://www.ndsu.edu/staff_senate

STAFF SENATE MEETINGS

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

ALL STAFF ARE WELCOME!

October 5, 2011—Plains Room
November 2, 2011—Great Room
December 7, 2011—Great Room
January 4, 2012—Great Room
February 1, 2012—Great Room
March 7, 2012—Great Room
April 4, 2012—Great Room
May 2, 2012—Great Room

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