Honorable Trustees:

The NCSU Staff Senate continues to discover, develop, enhance and refine avenues of communication for NCSU’s staff members as we seek to educate employees about issues affecting their lives and work, and as we convey staff concerns to University leadership.

A guest at our November meeting was Jeff Murrison, Executive Director of the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation (HSCSC). Mr. Murrison explained the HSCSC’s role in the ongoing development of the Hillsborough Street corridor as a business destination and an appealing front door to the NCSU campus. Businesses along Hillsborough Street depend on NCSU staff and faculty as well as students, and Senators welcomed the opportunity to hear about current and future projects. Our most crucial question was answered when Mr. Murrison assured us that Sadlack’s Sandwich Shop will return when that block is redeveloped in the next few years.

Another guest in November was Don Patty, Interim Executive Director for Business Operations and Assistant Dean for Finance and Business in the College of Natural Resources. Mr. Patty reported on the work of the Business Operations Realignment Steering Team (BORST). Few topics generate more anxiety for staff members involved in business operations than BORST, as it has potential impact on the positions of many employees. To combat proliferating inaccurate rumors and staff anxiety, Mr. Patty announced a series of ‘town hall’ meetings where staff can ask questions and receive accurate information about the realignment process.

In December we heard from Dean Dan Solomon of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences about plans for celebrating NCSU’s 125th anniversary. Dean Solomon serves as one of the leaders of the anniversary planning group. The Staff Senate is ably represented on the planning team by Chair Elect Susan Colby, a longtime employee, alumna, and current graduate student at NCSU. The Staff Senate eagerly awaits opportunities to help with and join in these celebrations.

Another guest in December was NCSU’s recently named Police Chief, Jack Moorman. Chief Moorman met with our Executive Committee a few weeks earlier to hear our suggestions for
strengthening the WolfAlert emergency warning system. He recapped some of that conversation at the general meeting where he talked about other public safety efforts that impact staff, such as “active shooter” procedures, workplace violence prevention, and the Wolf Guard ID program.

Our guest at our January meeting was Ursula Hairston, Assistant Equal Opportunity Officer for the Office for Institutional Equity & Diversity, as well as liaison to the Staff Senate for Diversity. Ursula has been instrumental in helping our Diversity Committee to re-energize and become more active and engaged. She explained the work of the OIED, the University’s commitment to a diverse workforce, and ways for staff members to embrace and encourage greater diversity.

Upcoming education and outreach efforts of the Staff Senate include a series of Lunch & Learn brown bag lunches with topics such as University Recreation services for staff, sexual assault prevention, sustainability, and the “Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less” weight management program. The Senate is in the early stages of a potential collaboration with Habitat of Wake County to sponsor a project which we hope will benefit some of our lower paid colleagues living in substandard housing. Last year UNC Chapel Hill built ten houses in ten months for ten families, so our goal is at least eleven houses. This goal will require the effort and commitment of many people across the NCSU community – staff, students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University. I hope you’ll hear more about this project as it takes shape in the coming months.

I continue to be grateful for the talented and dedicated staff members with whom the Staff Senate gives me the opportunity to work. They care deeply about the University, our community, and our state, and they show it every day on the job. Thank you for keeping these thousands of workers in mind as you address the major issues facing NCSU.

Respectfully Submitted,

David M. DeFoor
Chair, Staff Staff Senate 2011-2012