

Board of Trustees Report

September 22, 2017

Honorable Trustees,

The NC State Staff Senate serves as a conduit for communication, connecting Staff and Senior Administration. We are an advisory body to the Chancellor. In fulfilling this role, the Staff Senate:

- Provides feedback and consultation regarding interest/concerns that affect staff members;
- Receives proposed policies or policy changes from the Chancellor or other executive officers of the University for review and makes recommendations on policies and regulations that affect staff members;
- Initiates the consideration of new or review of existing policies and regulations affecting staff members, and offer informal suggestions or formal resolutions for changes or improvements;
- Assists in the communication of issues and institutional activities affecting staff members;
- Serves as the primary liaison between staff members and the Chancellor, the University Council, the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor's Liaison Committee, the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, and the UNC Staff Assembly;
- Represents all SHRA and EHRA non-faculty professional and support staff, according to Staff Senate Bylaws;
- Encourages a sense of community and engagement among all University employees by the promotion and facilitation of staff participation in the University community.

**Communicating! Collaborating! Connecting!** is the theme that resounded throughout our July 19th retreat at Hunt Library. Chancellor Woodson spoke to NC State's achievements--Think and Do the Extraordinary campaign, Our Employee Dependents Scholarships, student success. He applauded the dedication and passion of our staff members and the leadership of our senators and provided an update on this year's legislative budget and its impact on our University community. Marie Williams, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, reiterated the chancellor's message and strongly encouraged our Senators to reach out and connect with our constituents. Our esteemed guests spoke of their goals and visions for collaborating and connecting with Staff Senate. Appreciative thanks to UNC Staff Assembly Chair Pernell Bartlett, NC State Chair of the Faculty Carolyn Bird, and NC State Student Body President Jackie Gonzalez.

In this our 23rd session, Staff Senate includes 28 returning senators, 38 new senators, and 3 elected officers, representing nearly 6,000 staff, across all 100 counties of the State of North Carolina.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Rich Bonanno, Associate Dean, CALS and Director, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, emphasized these connections across the state as he shared the history and progress of cooperative extension nationally, regionally, and locally.

As Chair, my vision for those serving on Staff Senate is to inspire and develop strong and engaged leaders. We spent the afternoon participating in Team Building & Collaboration activities led by Stephanie Davis, Makeba Jackson and Anne White, our incredibly talented trainers with Human Resources here at NC State.

This retreat laid the foundation for the coming year. Our committees bonded as teams and came to our first general meeting excited and ready to "Think and Do"!

Our shared vision is to create a positive work environment through communicating, collaborating, and connecting. Let me highlight a few of our ongoing projects in the context of the roles of Staff Senate that I've outlined. Committees are noted in brackets when they are project leads.

**Communicating**—*Assists in the communication of issues and institutional activities affecting staff members*

- Staff Ombuds Pilot Program 2017  
Within the first six months, our Faculty and Staff Ombuds Roy Baroff opened more than 20 cases with staff. Thanks to AVC Marie Williams' guidance, a steady and measurable progress is being accomplished. I will have more to report to you as the year progresses.
- Legislative updates [External Affairs]
- Staff Senate Connections, our newsletter [Public Relations]
- Staff Senate website, staffsenate.ncsu.edu [Public Relations]
- Social Media, including Facebook, Twitter, and new this year, Snapchat [Public Relations]

**Collaborating**—*Encourages a sense of community and engagement among all University employees by the promotion and facilitation of staff participation in the University community*

- Packapalooza (packapalooza.ncsu.edu)  
Packapalooza™ is an all-day block party and street festival capping off Wolfpack Welcome Week at the start of the academic year. Chair of Staff Senate serves on the Planning Team during the year. Senators connect with the community through our Wheel of NC State Knowledge in our Staff Senate booth and as Packapalooza volunteers.
- Monthly “Lunch-and-Learn” events [Human Resources, Resources and Environment]
- “Dancing Around the World!” event [Diversity]  
Staff Senate celebrated our diverse campus by sponsoring 100+ participants who learned to dance the latest line dances and enjoyed watching the pros demonstrate dances from around the world. Due to its resounding success, this event is returning for a repeat performance!

**Connecting**—*across schools and departments, across campuses, across institutions, across the entire state! Serves as the primary liaison between staff members and the Chancellor, the University Council, the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor's Liaison Committee, the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, and the UNC Staff Assembly*

- UNC Staff Assembly  
Staff senate chairs--past, present, and future--coming together, sharing staff concerns and ideating solutions across the 17 institutions in the UNC System

**NC State Staff Senate - Communicating! Collaborating! Connecting!**

Respectfully Submitted,



Cathi Phillips Dunnagan

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Chair, NC State Staff Senate, 2017-2018