January 8, 2019

Honorable Trustees,

Happy New Year! It is difficult to believe that this Staff Senate session is halfway through and that my term as Staff Chair will end in just six short months. In my first report, I stated that I wanted each of the Staff Senate’s committees to adopt OKRs (objectives and key results) so that I could monitor and assess the progress of the Staff Senate during my term. In this report, I will share some selected key results from each of our committees.

The Human Resources committee held a very successful food drive collecting 7,290 pounds of food which is equivalent to 6,125 meals. The Computer Loan program is currently serving 129 clients with a healthy waiting list. The Resources and Environment Committee is hosting a monthly event to help reach staff across campus to work towards waste reduction and to teach about the practices currently in place at NC State to practice sustainability and improve the environment. The Diversity committee is hosting coffee chats with panels comprised of underrepresented NC State employees. The panel this month (January) will feature employees that work and live with disabilities. The Governance committee completed its revisions of the Staff Senate bylaws and recruited staff members to fill seats that were not represented and/or underrepresented on the Staff Senate. The Public Relations committee re-designed the weekly Staff Senate newsletter and is regularly garnering open rates between 50-60%. The PR committee also implemented a monthly constituent email that senators send out to their constituents following the monthly Staff Senate general session. The monthly email has improved communication between senators and their districts and has received immense positive feedback. The External Affairs committee teamed up with the Pack the Polls initiative to help push out the message to university staff regarding election participation, as well as using Talley as an early voting site. The newly formed Employee Experience and Relations committee crafted three Staff Advisory Council models that can be used by any department or unit at NC State wishing to include more staff and be better informed of the concerns of staff in their respective divisions.

One really cool thing the Staff Senate did this past semester was to launch what we called a “shout out.” In our newsletter, we asked staff to give a shout out to a staff member who deserved additional praise for going above and beyond the realm of their job. To our surprise, we received shout outs to over 50 staff members. We then worked with athletics to further honor and recognize these staff members at a wrestling match in December (vs Nebraska) or at a women’s basketball game in January (vs Duke). I was able to provide certificates to these staff members at each of these events while they were each individually recognized over the loud speaker during intermission in front of capacity crowds. This proved to be very meaningful to these staff members and their families. We look forward to continuing this for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, NC State Staff Senate, 2018-2019