

Board of Trustees Report

Jan. 31, 2020

Honorable Trustees,

Happy New Year! NC State Staff Senate closed out 2019—and launched into the new decade—on multiple high notes.

We continued to support staff and the students we serve, through:

- Participation in the Staff and Faculty Appreciation event in Reynolds Coliseum on Nov. 11. In order to increase staff's awareness of what Staff Senate does and whom they should contact, we created and distributed Meet Your Senators flyers for each of the districts, with photos of and contact information for each district's senators on the respective flyer.
- A second offering of a non-traditional parent chat for NC State employees who identify as non-traditional parents (foster, adoptive, single, grandparents raising grandchildren, LGBT, parents of children with special needs, etc.) At its conclusion, employees were asking when the next event would be held.
- Two offerings in December of Create Your Own Holiday Arrangement—one at Talley and one on Centennial Campus. Using clippings from across campus, courtesy of Facilities, these events provided opportunities to reduce stress during finals while creating a free, sustainable centerpiece.
- Employee appreciation events at the women's basketball game against Virginia on Jan. 5 and the gymnastics meet against Towson on Jan. 25. Coordinated with Athletics, these events strive to recognize employees while supporting student athletes on teams other than football and men's basketball. At the basketball game, employees enjoyed pizza (provided by Athletics) and Howling Cow ice cream (provided by Staff Senate), along with opportunities to win an autographed basketball and participate in an athletic skills competition. Ticket sales exceeded 350, surpassing previous years' attendance.

Continuing our commitment to give back to the greater NC State community, Staff Senate organized various collection drives and donated the following:

- Warm the Pack Winter Coat Drive – We collected **over 500 coats and other winter items** in 25 locations throughout campus; we distributed these items on the Brickyard on Dec. 9. We delivered any remaining items to the coat rack outside room 605 in Poe Hall, which is available year-round.
- Bountiful Harvest Food Drive – We collected **1,254 pounds of food** in 30 locations around campus; we donated 674 pounds to Feed the Pack food pantry and 580 pounds to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.
- Toys for Tots – This drive produced a challenge that we were happy to have—so many toys were collected that they did not all fit on the truck (additional deliveries were made)! **675 toys**, collected in 48 boxes from 28 locations across campus, were donated on behalf of NC State.
- A food drive was held at the January Staff Senate meeting, enabling us to replenish the shelves of the Feed the Pack food pantry with an additional **128 pounds of food**.

Staff Senate was also represented at the following activities sponsored by university entities:

- Volunteering at the student food drive, Pack the Pantry, on Nov. 5 at the Park Alumni Center,
- Riding in the homecoming parade on Nov. 6 and
- Helping pack meals at the Rise Against Hunger event on Dec. 6 on Centennial Campus.

In order to ensure that staff senators stay informed and engaged with the university, we had presentations from the following individuals at our monthly general body meetings:

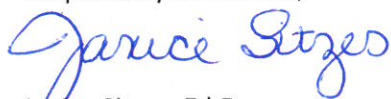
- In November, Matt Peterson, director of federal research affairs, introduced his role as the university's lobbyist in federal affairs, as well as an overview of funding sources and an update on the budget. Also in November, Marie Williams, associate vice chancellor for human resources, and Dr. Nancy Whelchel, director of survey research, provided an update on the employee engagement survey, including results from the 2018 survey and the action plan for the 2020 survey.
- In December, staff senators heard from Than Austin, NC State's recently hired director of transportation. Parking and transportation concerns are consistently raised by staff members; insights provided by Than as to what his department does, why they do it, costs and funding issues, and upcoming initiatives, provided senators with a greater understanding of the complexity of the bigger picture.
- In January, staff senators were introduced to another new employee—Charlie Maimone, vice chancellor for finance and administration. Charlie provided an organizational overview of the office of finance and administration (OFA), and shared his—and OFA's commitment to—principles for employee engagement, customer service, and responsible stewardship.

During this timeframe, we instituted a new protocol to better inform and prepare individuals for their presentations before Staff Senate. The month before the presentation, staff senators are sent a link to a Google Form to submit any questions and concerns they may have. The responses are collated, organized and sent to the presenter the week before their presentation. This process not only provides awareness of the issues being brought forth by staff, but also enables the individual to incorporate these items into their presentation and/or be prepared for the questions they may be asked by staff senators.

An additional initiative we are undertaking is how to make our election process more accessible and sustainable through more extensive use of electronic ballots. Through research and collaboration with Facilities, who will give their employees time during their shifts to access a computer and vote, it is estimated that the number of paper ballots can be reduced by over 63%.

Staff Senate looks forward to continuing our efforts to support staff and the NC State community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Janice Sitzes, Ed.D.

Associate Director, Marketing Services, Continuing and Professional Education
Chair, NC State Staff Senate, 2019-2020