

Honorable Trustees,

Thank you for the opportunity to present on behalf of the Staff Senate.

The Staff Senate was established in 1995 and we are excited this year to be celebrating 25 years of service to the University community. While we recognize the many accomplishments in our past, we are taking action for the future as we continue to stand on the core values of this great University. Integrity—Freedom— Respect— Responsibility- Stewardship-Excellence—in all our endeavors.

While COVID-19 has made this year particularly challenging, we continue to enhance, enrich and encourage a sense of community among all university staff employees. The following outlines some of the key initiatives and activities of the Staff Senate since April:

- Staff Senate Connections, our monthly newsletter, included Coronavirus resources for campus as well as our NC State extension office.
- We continue to advertise, promote and support Wolf Pack monthly lunch and learn via Zoom. Some of the sessions held May-August were: Discovering the Jenkins MBA Program Information Sessions, Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid Information- Wellness Power Lunch Series: Men’s Health, Hot Tips for a Safe Summer, Healthy Habits to Keep You Well, 4-H Virtual Summer Programs
- Saddened by the news of the senseless killing of George Floyd, as well as the murders of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor we issued a Statement offering our support of the statements presented by Chancellor Woodson and Sheri Schwab, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity. We encouraged members of the senate and all staff at NC State to be active citizens in addressing systemic racism and acts of injustice, both at our university and abroad. We are looking forward to taking part in continued dialogue and action that leads toward a more inclusive and welcoming Wolfpack community.
- Virtually held our 2020-2021 elections for officers and committee chairs.
- Participated in a Return to Campus Exercise- hosted by the Emergency Management & Mission Continuity.
- Staff Senate was present and recognized at a Staff Town Hall hosted by Chancellor Woodson where he provided updates and answered questions from staff regarding the reactivation of campus operations.
- Invited to listen to presentations given by candidates for the African American Cultural Center Director position and provided feedback.
- Welcomed 49 new senators and 31 returning senators.
- Pursuant to communication which the Staff Senate received from the UNC Racial Equity Task Force, we were included in a meeting with Sheri Schwab, Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity. The Task Force requested information from the 17 campuses regarding efforts related to racial equity. Per the UNC Staff Assembly Chair,

NC State Staff Senate were among the 8 institutions that submitted their report by their deadline. Thank you Sheri!

- Presented a virtual Professional Development workshop for Cooperative Raleigh Colleges on behalf of our Staff Senate.

As COVID-19 continues to impact our community in a way we are still trying to comprehend, the Staff Senate is honored to have a seat at the table for weekly Executive Briefings led by Provost Arden and Vice Chancellor Maimone. In addition, the Staff Senate Chair and Faculty Senate Chair have weekly meetings with Chancellor Woodson. At these meetings, we are able to provide feedback as it relates to the staff, voice their concerns, as well as share their ideas and suggestions.

Our motto for the staff senate this year is “NC State Staff Senate, Leading Together during a Time of Change. We are the Change!” We asked ourselves, since we are the voice for the Staff community, how do we continue to lead during these changing times in a way that provides inclusiveness and transparency among the staff? Some of the ways are:

- by continuing to participate and be included in leadership discussions as we bring staff concerns to the table.
- educating staff as much as possible on university processes, so that they can make more informed decisions about the efficiency and effectiveness of their work.
- reminding them that the Staff Senate is alive, well, constantly working on their behalf.

We strongly believe that even in these difficult, changing, uncertain times, this great Staff Senate can move to Greater as we continue to work as an advisory body to the Chancellor

Out of the many accomplishments the Staff Senate has over the last 25 years, the "Give a Shout Out to Staff" program stands out in my mind. This initiative was started by the Staff Senate in the fall of 2011 and is still going strong. Each month staff is recognized by peers in the Staff Senate Newsletter. During this season of the pandemic, this has been a tool most often used to recognize our staff members who are, and have been doing, great work during this crazy time.

The Staff Senate is looking forward to all the opportunities we will have this year to affect change. “We are the Change.”

Respectfully Submitted

Pat Gaddy,

2020-2021 Staff Senate Chair