

Fayetteville State University's Staff Senate

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Introduction

The Staff Senate vision is to support, publicize, advocate for, and represent the interests and needs of SPA and EPA (non-teaching) staff at Fayetteville State University. Members of the Senate employ individual and group efforts to encourage and build unity, camaraderie, and professionalism among staff while supporting the mission of the University.

The Senate held its first official meeting for fiscal year 2014-15 on August 20, 2014. The Senate discussed and developed goals for the year. Listed below are the goals.

Goal 1. Establish a "Staff Senate Grant Award" to assist SPA and EPA (Non-Faculty) Employees -- Accomplished

Funds were generated through a fundraiser. The Legal Counsel advised the Senate that in order for the Senate to be able to implement this activity, the activity had to be re-named. This activity is now entitled "Staff Senate Grant Award". The purpose of the grant is to promote staff development for permanent, full-time, and non-faculty employees at FSU. The Staff Senate Grant Award principally targets four year academic programs; however, graduate and certificate/licensing programs are also eligible provided that the training will enhance the applicant's skills and abilities. Recipients are selected by a selection committee. The grant will be applied to the cost of tuition and/or fees. Payment will be made directly to the providing institution. One grant in the amount of \$250 will be awarded per semester. The grant award will only be offered to a staff member once each academic year.

Goal 2. Update By-Laws -- Accomplished

A committee was formed to begin this process. The committee's final report for this year stated that updates were ongoing and not finalized. Further, the committee reported and requested that the Senate approve a rollover of this activity into the next year. The Senate approved.

Senate Activities:

1. 2014 Community Homeless & Hunger Stand Down – November 2014
2. Poinsettia Sale – December 2014
3. Food Drive 2015 for Second Harvest Bank – February 2015
4. FSU Delegates' UNC Staff Assembly Meetings – August 2014, October 2014, February 2015
5. Mr. & Ms. FSU Staff – April 2015
6. Chancellors Cup Golf Tournament – April 2015
7. Annual Election 2015-16 – April & May 2015
8. Employees Appreciation Week – May 2015
9. Employee of the year Award – May 2015

The Senate was able to successfully continue previously established activities. These activities included the following:

1. On November 14, 2014, the FSU Staff Senate volunteers worked with the *2014 Community Homeless & Hunger Stand Down* organized by the City of Fayetteville and the VFW Post 6018 to feed and provide needed items for the City's homeless population. On the day of the Stand Down, we worked alongside over 150 community volunteers from health and human service organizations to serve **600 meals and provide 1,500 pounds of clothing, coats, and shoes** to those in need. This event was coordinated by Staff Senator, Ms. Cassandra Jenkins; this was year the first time we participated and it turned out to be a very successful community service project.

2. Staff Senate held its Annual Poinsettia Sale. This fundraiser allows our organization to fund planned activities that help boost the morale of the staff. We raised **\$1,069.00** from this event, which is our largest and most lucrative fundraising event each year. This event was coordinated by Staff Senator, Ms. Leslie Tukes for the past two years.
3. In the month of February 2015, FSU Staff Senate assisted Second Harvest Food Bank in stocking their shelves with non-perishable items. During the last event we collected **455 pounds of food**, as well as **\$303.00 monetary donations**. Our contributions allowed Second Harvest Food Bank to provide **1,894 meals** to individuals at risk of hunger. Ms. Teresa Griffin, Staff Senate Alternate, has coordinated this event for the last four years.
4. The Delegates and Alternate (Ms. Patricia Flanigan, Mr. Byron Riddick, Ms. Leslie Tukes, and Mr. Velappan Velappan) represent Fayetteville State University on the UNC Staff Assembly; they attended three meetings at UNC General Assembly, Chapel Hill, and other UNC institutions.
5. We conducted the Mr. FSU Staff and Ms. FSU Staff selection event; this fundraiser brought in **\$1,303.51**. Ms. Xenía Lopez, Secretary of FSU Staff Senate, has chaired this event for the last two years.
6. The Senate sponsored a Staff Team to play in the Chancellors Cup Golf Tournament, which was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 in Greenville, N.C. to support staff scholarships that are awarded throughout the 17 UNC system campuses. FSU Staff Senate Delegates and Alternate plan to volunteer for the Golf Tournament this fiscal year. This event was coordinated by Staff Senators, Ms. Cassandra Jenkins and Ms. Sandra Hughes.
7. The Senate's Annual Election (2015-16) was held on April & May 2015 with the following results:
 - thirteen new Senators
 - fourteen new Alternates
 - eight Proxies

- one new Alternate Delegate to the Staff Assembly

The Election Committee has been chaired by Mr. Velappan Velappan, Vice- President of the FSU Staff Senate, for the last three years.

8. The Annual Employees' Appreciation Week was held May 2015. This weeklong event was chaired by Ms. Tonya Williams, FSU Staff Senator. The Senate held its first Health and Wellness Day. Vendors from across the city and outside the state brought their expertise to FSU. Workshops were held, as well as health related screenings, and other activities such as rock climbing, swimming, yoga, and dancing. The University community (administrators, faculty, and staff) participated in full force.
 - A. Lunch was celebrated at karaoke and dancing
 - B. The highlight of the week was the Employee Appreciation Luncheon Day held in the Student Center
 - C. Mr. FSU Staff and Ms. FSU Staff were crowned for the 2015-2016 fiscal year
9. The 2015-2016 Employee of the Year selection was announced at the Employee Appreciation Luncheon Day. This program was chaired by Ms. Sandra Hughes, FSU Staff Senator.

The Special Guests were Board of Governor Member, Mr. Richard "Dick" Taylor and his wife; UNC Staff Assembly Chair, Ms. Susan Colby; and UNC Staff Assembly Chair-Elect, Mr. Parnell Bartley.

Conclusion

The 2014-2015 fiscal year was very successful for the Staff Senate. The President, Ms. Patricia Flanigan and the Vice President, Mr. Velappan Velappan met with the Chancellor's Representative, Dr. Thomas Conway, Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, on a monthly basis. Dr. Conway's support, guidance and advice served as a source for the President and Staff Senate. FSU Chancellor, Dr. James A. Anderson, provided strong encouragement and financial support. Without his support, the Staff Senate could not have been as successful as we were.

Submitted By: Patricia Flanigan, 11/19/2015.