



The Grizzly Heartbeat

Staff Senate 101

Staff Senate is comprised of senators from UM's Mountain and COT campuses. They are elected to two-year terms. Each senator represents constituents in their specific job category (professional, technical, clerical, crafts, and service).

Beyond convening once a month, all senators serve on either a Senate or University committee. There are currently senators on the Diversity Advisory Council, the University Discrimination Grievance

Committee, the University Planning Committee, the Brand Strategy Task Force, and others.

Staff Senate President Fisher and Vice-President Samson meet regularly with University President Engstrom to bring concerns to light, and Vice-President Branch and Provost Brown have presented at recent meetings. Staff Senate executive officers attend January and May Board of Regents meetings to represent the UM-Missoula staff.

Thank You, Board of Regents!

Staff Senate would like to thank the Montana Board of Regents for attending our April 2011 meeting. We appreciated the opportunity to have an open dialogue and let the Regents know that, as staff of UM, we are committed to working toward UM's mission. We are thankful the Board allowed us to express our opinions and listened with open minds. Their support of the recent staff pay raise is appreciated! We enjoyed the opportunity to have the discussion and hope the Board visits us again soon!

Large Response to Staff Survey

547 classified staff responded to the recent Staff Senate Survey - 45% of the staff! The average length of employment by staff who responded to the survey was ten years. Many respondents reported they hold another job, attend school, or volunteer on campus and in the community. The most common concerns listed were opportunities for professional development, increased communication from Staff Senate, salaries, job performance recognition, and parking.

Staff Senate is working on a formal report of the survey data and is already addressing some of the concerns noted by staff that responded to the survey.

Thank you to those who filled out the Staff Senate survey!

Staff Senate's Mission Statement

The University of Montana Staff Senate facilitates communication and cooperation between the administration and the non-academic staff of The University of Montana. We promote and work for improved working conditions and the professional welfare of UM's non-academic staff - *the Heart of the Grizzly*.

Officers

Laurie Fisher, *President*

Darlene Samson,
Vice-President

Carol Bates, *Secretary*

Heather Hibbard,
Financial Officer

Chelsea Rayfield &

Lisa Coon,

Communications Co-Officers

La nell Curry, *Historian*

Tammy Yedinak, *Ex-Officio*

Senators

Andi Armstrong

John DeYoung

Phillip Flukas

Chuck Harris

Beki Hartmann

Marvin Hess

Natalie Hiller-Claridge

Slade Johnson

Sharon Laramie

Becky Maier

Denise May

Gregg Potter

Sandi Robinson

Maryann Robison

Sharon Schneider

Hannah Singleton

Allison Squires

Brandie Terpe

Ann Weiler





MUSSA

The Montana University System Staff Association (MUSSA), formed in 2004, is a dynamic entity, created by the eight staff senates in the MUS system. MUSSA exists to broaden communications and enrich the classified experience across the Montana University System.

Twice a year MUSSA members meet and present issues and concerns to the Board of Regents from the perspective of staff on each campus. At the January 19, 2012, Board of Regents meeting in Helena, both Tammy Yedinak, current MUSSA Chair, and Laurie Fisher, UM Staff Senate President, will make presentations to the Board.

MUSSA enjoys an effective and positive relationship with the Regents, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), and campus administrations.

More about MUSSA: <http://www.mus.edu/mussa/>

Ways YOU Can Get Involved in Staff Senate

- **Attend Staff Senate** meetings the second Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Locations are posted on the Staff Senate website.
- **Read the meeting minutes** on the Staff Senate website.
- Voice your concerns at the upcoming **Town Hall Meetings** Staff Senate will be coordinating in conjunction with ASUM and Faculty Senate.
- **Contact a Staff Senator** or Judy Wellert, Staff Senate's Administrative Associate, with concerns or ideas.
- **Volunteer** to be a Staff Senator!

Meeting of the Presidential Minds

Staff Senate President Laurie Fisher and Vice-President Darlene Samson meet monthly with UM President Royce Engstrom during the academic semesters (and sporadically in the summer) to tell him about Staff Senate's activities. Topics from their December 15th meeting included:

- Staff Senate's newly-created brochure and newsletter
- Staff survey results and potential initiatives that will result
- Staff Senate's work with MUSSA (Montana University System Staff Association)
- The University Council meeting on shared governance
- Exploring ways to collaborate with the Staff Ambassadors
- The upcoming lunch meeting with the Board of Regents in Helena
- Judy Wellert, Staff Senate's new administrative associate

Staff Welcome at Fitness and Recreation Center

Let's all be healthy! University staff can buy a membership to the Fitness & Recreation Center and Pool for only \$25 a month! If you buy a membership for \$125 on January 1st, you'll have five months of access to the workout room, basketball/volleyball/badminton courts, squash court, racquetball/handball courts, walking/jogging track, swimming pool, and climbing wall. Staff can join leagues to play soccer, softball, flag football, basketball, dodge ball, volleyball, inner-tube water polo, tennis, golf, or Ultimate Frisbee.

www.umt.edu/campusrec/

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. — Theodore Roosevelt



KUDOS to UM Staff

Six UM staff recently received KUDOS awards! Here are excerpts from their nomination forms:

- **Victoria Clark**, Bitterroot College Program, “has the students’ best interests at heart!”
- **Dena Griffin**, Facilities Services, “warm, friendly, professional approach makes her an asset.”
- **Mary Kamensky**, Graduate School, “passionate about helping Native American students.”
- **Stephanie Lyons**, Facilities Services, “deserves recognition for being such an important part of our team.”
- **Maryeleni Alexandra Mountzouri**, Food Services, “maintains excellence in performance and customer service.”
- **Nicole Thompson**, Business Services, “has been very patient with all my travel questions.”



Dena Griffin, Facilities Services, earns KUDOS award!

Congratulations to these KUDOS winners! If you’d like to nominate a UM staff member for a KUDOS award, please visit www.umt.edu/staffsenate/kudos.

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARDS

Every year Staff Senate coordinates with Human Resources to present two staff awards on UM Recognition Day. Nominations will be solicited soon for “Outstanding Staff Award: Campus Interaction and Meritorious Job Performance” and “Outstanding Staff Award: Excellence in Job Performance.” Monetary awards for each recipient are \$1500!

Each nomination is read by four readers and rated on specific criteria. Nominations must describe accomplishments, reason for nomination, and specific examples of why you feel the person being nominated should receive this award.

Recent award recipients:

- 2011 Becky Maier, Office of Foreign Student and Scholar Services; and Jennifer Fowler, Department of Physics and Astronomy
- 2010 Tim Edwards, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences; and Tammy Yedinak, School of Business Administration
- 2009 Joe Tredik, Residence Life; and Dani McLaughlin, CAS
- 2008 Angela Priest, Faculty/Staff Wellness; and Patricia Collins, Mansfield Library
- 2007 Kelly Chadwick, University Center; and Michelle Johnson, Department of Mathematical Science

Staff Senate Scholarship Application Available Soon

Staff Senate fundraises each year to offer scholarships for children of staff at The University of Montana-Missoula. Applicants must be enrolled at The University of Montana (either at the Mountain Campus or the College of Technology) as a full-time (at least 12 credits) student in the 2012-2013 academic school year. This scholarship is open to incoming freshman, continuing education students, graduate students, and transfer students. Previous recipients are eligible to apply. Awards are based on scholastic ability, campus and community involvement, and/or financial need.

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must submit the official application form, a biographical statement, two letters of recommendation, official transcripts, and a Financial Aid Needs Analysis for Scholarships form. Application directions, forms, and deadline dates will be available on the Staff Senate website in late January.



Staff Senate Hires Administrative Associate

Judy Wellert was recently hired by the University of Montana to support the work of Staff Senate. Judy says, "I'm eager to meet the University staff who help the faculty and students have a rewarding educational experience. I want to hear about their accomplishments and challenges in their careers, and I want to learn about their role at the University. I encourage staff to contact me so we can celebrate their successes, and they can voice their concerns."

Judy moved to Missoula in 2001 from Virginia. She is originally from Wisconsin and has lived in many places (California, Georgia, Germany, and Massachusetts), as her husband was a civil service employee with Armed Forces Entertainment.

Judy's office is in the Facility Services Building, Room 135F. Please contact her via phone at 243.5422 or email at judy.wellert@mso.umt.edu

Free Tickets for School of Theatre & Dance

As an expression of appreciation, and in conjunction with the School of Theatre & Dance, the University will provide UM staff members with one free ticket to each of the following stage productions. In addition, you may purchase a second ticket for only \$9. Present your faculty/staff Griz Card at the UMArts Box Office in the PARTV building.

Doubt, by John Patrick Shanley
January 24-28, 31—February 2, 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov
February 28—March 3, 6-10 at 7:30 p.m.

Dance in Concert
March 7-10 at 7:30 p.m.

Chicago by Fred Ebb, Bob Fosse, and John Kander
April 24-28, May 1-5 at 7:30 p.m.
April 28 and May 5 at 2 p.m.

Grizzly Athletics Offers **Staff Appreciation** **Basketball Games**

Grizzly Athletics invites the University of Montana staff to Staff Appreciation Night with Griz and Lady Griz Basketball! Join the Griz on **January 19th at 7 pm** as they host Northern Colorado and the Lady Griz on **January 26th at 7 pm** as they take on Eastern Washington! Let the Grizzlies say "Thank You" for everything you do. All you need is your Griz Card for admission!

Trouble Finding Parking?

All University classified staff may park their personal vehicles or bikes at the Park-n-Ride locations and ride the free buses to the College of Technology, the University Mountain Campus, or downtown, and return. The schedule is available in the University Campus Guide (phonebook) and at the bus stops. To see where the buses currently are in their route, go to ASUMbus.com!



January frost accents Jay Polite Laber's sculpture "Charging Forward" on Campus Drive.