MUSSA Update

The Board of Regents meeting was held at Flathead Valley Community College on May 21st and 22nd. President Linder, Senator Mangold, and Staff Senate’s administrative associate, Judy Wellert, attended as representatives of the University of Montana as part of the Montana University System Staff Association (MUSSA) for a breakfast meeting with the regents. Over the past year, MUSSA representatives have compiled information to compare professional development funding and opportunities across Montana campuses. MUSSA has also compiled campus demographics of classified staff to assess classifications and staffing numbers. Topics for the meeting with the Board of Regents included findings from the professional development assessment, an update on the National Academic Advising Association Conference to be held at UM in September, and a few short staff bios to demonstrate the diverse skills, talents, and personalities of the outstanding staff on each of the campuses.

Medical Benefits Now Cover Medical Massage Therapy

MUS employee benefits now cover massage therapy if performed by a licensed massage therapist. Massage copays are $15 per visit with up to 30 visits per year. Out-of-network is the same as in-network since there currently is no network for Massage Therapy. Members will be balance billed for the difference between allowance and the provider charge. A claim form will be available on the MUS website on July 1.

Ask the Expert

We asked Deb Hayes, Benefits Supervisor, Human Resource Services, “What happens when I donate sick leave to a fellow employee?”

“When someone donates sick leave to another employee, we only deduct it from the donor’s sick leave balance when we use it. We use the donated sick leave in the pay period that the receiving employee uses it. Sometimes we have excess donations so we don’t need to take any leave from the donor. When we do use a donor’s sick leave, we reduce their balance by putting the hours donated in the used column. An employee can go into Cyberbear and look at their leave balances. When you click on Sick Leave and it shows what you have used, if you click on the Leave History by Employee link at the bottom, it will show your leave history, and you can see that you donated sick leave.”
KUDOS Awards

UM staff, faculty, administrators, and students can nominate UM classified staff members for Staff Senate Kudos Awards. You may recognize someone’s outstanding work and give them the pat on the back they deserve. Go to the nomination form to recognize an

**Daphne Felker**, Computer Support for the Defense Critical Language and Cultural Program: “Daphne has been a great team member for all the instructors/faculty…Her quick response to our needs in dealing with technology in our classes has tremendous impact on our day-to-day operations.”

**Brenda Miller**, Alternative Formats Coordinator for Disability Services for Students: “Brenda manages and produces over 440 alternative formats of instructional materials each year. Accessibility at the University has significantly improved thanks to Brenda’s accurate attention to details and exceptional customer service to students.”

**Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry**, Director of Study Abroad, Student Exchanges, and Institutional Partnerships: “Marja’s leadership led to implementation of the Risk Management, International Travel, and International Travel Registry policies…This provides universities with an integrated and comprehensive system that allows better prevention and reaction in emergency cases.”

**Colleen O’Brien**, Administrative Associate, Grizzly Scholarship Association: “Colleen has single-handedly carried on the tradition of displaying the photos of all the graduating student-athletes outside the Grizzly Scholarship Association office. Thanks, Colleen, for going above and beyond to start this new tradition!”

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**Election Results**

Recently-completed Staff Senate elections will bring new faces to the table beginning June 10. Four Senators were re-elected: David Crowley, Matt Filer, Gloria Phillip, and Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma. New Senators elected are Luke Alford, Daphne Felker, Cindy Ferguson, Mark Fritch, Kiley Gage, Carlie Magill, Candace Patrick, Stella Phipps, Caitlin Sager, Edi Stan, Sarah Wade, and Kellyn Younggren. Congratulations to the new Senators!

Staff Senators represent each of the five job categories established by the Department of Labor: Professional, Clerical, Service, Technical and Crafts. Do you know your job category? Contact Staff Senate if you’re not sure.

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**Like Staff Senate on Facebook!**
It’s an easy way to engage in your campus community and get relevant news for UM staff. **New posts every weekday!**

Check out the list of upcoming events on the Staff Senate website!
Staff Senate meetings are open to guests, too.
Community Pint Night
at Flathead Lake Brewing Company

Tuesday, August 25, 6-8 p.m.
424 N. Higgins Ave.

One dollar from each pint sold between 6 and 8 p.m. will go to Staff Senate. These funds will fuel future staff appreciation events and scholarships. Bring family and friends and join staff colleagues for the informal event! Enjoy good company while you support a local business and Staff Senate initiatives!

Lawn Chair Luncheon
Bathing Beauties Beading Lesson

Wednesday, June 10, 12-1 p.m.
Picnic Tables at the Law School patio

Katie Ghen Simpson, owner of Bathing Beauties Beads, will teach how to make a pair of beaded earrings. You must RSVP to participate and only fifteen people may register. Email judy.wellert@msou.montana.edu. Staff Senate will pay $10 per participant; participants must pay the other $10. Bring your lunch. There will be shade, seating and lemonade provided by Staff Senate.

Staff Senate Announces Scholarship Winners

The Staff Senate recently awarded $3,000 in academic scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year, courtesy of Residence Life, the Office of the President and Staff Senate fundraising. Contributions for additional awards were made by The Bookstore, UM Dining, Intercollegiate Athletics, University Center, and the Office of Public Safety. This year’s winners are Austin Clark (son of Janean Clark, Division of Biological Sciences), Samantha Croft (daughter of Chris Croft, UM Police Department), Shane Cronin (husband of Angie Reather, Curry Health Center), Ellen Dye (daughter of Patrick Dye, Department of Environmental Health Sciences), Malaele Fataala (niece of Lawrence Suiawnoa, Grizzly Athletics), Jodie-Lee Hostetler (daughter of Donna Weathers, Student Affairs), Jessica Hurd (daughter of Karen Hurd, Environmental Studies Program), Logan Joseph (son of Robin Joseph, Residence Life Office), Michael Nelson (son of Leisa Nelson, Department of English), and Timberlee Plenger (daughter of Emmalee Plenger, Human Resource Services).
Outstanding Staff Awards

This year, as in the past, Staff Senate received many outstanding nominations for the Excellence in Job Performance and the Campus Interaction & Meritorious Job Performance Awards. Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate their colleagues for these awards. The Staff Awards Committee has an extremely difficult time choosing just two individuals to name for these awards. We are always inspired and humbled by the dedication and work contributions made by our colleagues across campus. All of the nominees should be proud of their contributions to the University of Montana and the success of our programs. They all deserve applause and gratitude.

Michael Sweet was selected for the Outstanding Staff Award - Campus Interaction and Meritorious Job Performance. Mike is the Research Specialist in the College of Forestry and Conservation’s Quantitative Services Group and Montana Climate Office. Mike has been a powerful advocate at the state level for the application of rigorous, quality science in solving state resource management problems. He has been a board member of the Clark Fork Coalition and a charter member of the Montana State Geographic Information Clearinghouse. He has advised the Office of the Governor and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on key issues regarding water management. Mike also supports UM classes and faculty across departments with remote sensing products and maps needed for instruction and research. He has assembled, interpreted and analyzed recently collected, remotely sensed data on climate change and painstakingly revised the data layers for a set of significant physical and atmospheric attributes to generate the first Montana Climate Atlas which this past year was recognized by the State Library as the official data set to expand climate change

Janean Clark was selected for the Outstanding Staff Award - Excellence in Job Performance. For 24 years Janean, Administrative Associate Manager, has provided a consistent outstanding level of service in a succession of increasingly demanding positions in the University of Montana’s Division of Biological Sciences. Her contributions combine great creativity, an extraordinary networking ability, a deep insight into the needs and motivations of students, staff, and faculty, and a truly generous level of service. Janean works consistently to promote respectful and positive interactions among the 200 staff, faculty, and graduate students employed by the DBS and infects all the employees with her high standards, collaborative work ethic and enthusiasm.

In addition to the staff awards selected by Staff Senate, Rita Garland, Benefits Associate in Human Resource Services, received the Outstanding Service to the Campus Community Award in recognition of her exemplary service, and the Outstanding Teamwork Award went to Daniel Bowling, Connie Bowman, Ruth Burgad, Kerry Hallin, Camryn Hare, Derek Hubbard, Geoffrey Lake, Karen Moore, Eric Seyden and Katie Dalessio, who worked together on the Veteran’s Data Warehouse project.

Resolutions

Five resolutions have been passed by the Staff Senate in recent months:

SB 1 - 2014-15 Resolution to Define Funding Allocation for Staff Senate Scholarships and Professional Development
SB 2 - 2014-15 Resolution Defining Professional Development and to create a Professional Development Committee
SB 4 - 2014-15 Resolution to Define Visibility Fund Expenditure Process
SB 5 - 2014-15 Resolution to Appoint Staff to University Committees
SB 6 - 2014-15 Resolution Changing Duties and Definitions of Staff Senate Officers

Resolutions may be submitted to the Staff Senate by any classified staff member. Resolution template.