STAFF SENATE SCHOLARSHIP HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ON-SALE

It’s never too early to start thinking about the holidays! All proceeds from holiday ornament sales go towards the Staff Senate Scholarship. Ornaments may be purchased in person at the Bookstore, at any home football game, and select events around campus. Talk to your local Senator for more information, or visit the Staff Senate Scholarship page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chancellor’s Opening Assembly
Wednesday, August 12, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
BAC Theatre, BAC Theatre Lobby

First Day of Fall Semester Classes
Monday, August 17, 2015, 8 a.m.

Employee Appreciation Day
Thursday, September 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The WCU Staff Senate scholarship fund provides financial support for the children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews of SPA and EPA non-faculty employees.

This year, three students received scholarships through staff senate. Hannah Adams, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, is the daughter of Jerry Adams. Tiffany Brown is a sophomore biology major, and the granddaughter of Virginia Owen. Tiffany Frady, a sophomore math education major, is the daughter of William and Lisa Frady. Each of the students received $1,000 toward their education at WCU.

Staff senators have raised money for the scholarship fund through a variety of fundraisers, as well as by encouraging supporters to contribute via payroll deduction. The most recent fundraiser, a ‘speakeasy casino night’ sponsored by the University Club, raised $1,521 for scholarships. At the April 17th event, participants dressed in 1920s costumes and played blackjack, roulette, craps, and poker. All proceeds went toward the scholarship fund.

If you would like to donate to the Staff Senate scholarship fund, you can find more information HERE.
JANET B. ROYSTER MEMORIAL
STAFF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Janet B. Royster (JBR) Memorial Staff Scholarship Fund was created in August of 2011 by the UNC Staff Assembly in memory of UNC-TV employee Janet B. Royster. Janet represented UNC-TV on the General Administration Staff Forum and was subsequently elected to the UNC Staff Assembly. She served as its first Parliamentarian until her untimely death in June 2011. This scholarship promotes staff development for permanent, full-time, non-faculty employees, as well as recognizes and honors Janet’s leadership and dedication to all UNC system employees. The JBR Memorial Staff Scholarship provides one or more annual awards, based on the availability of funds. Scholarships provide assistance towards earning a degree or other professional certification.

The scholarship can be applied to the cost of tuition, fees, books, or registration fees. Click HERE for more details.

HOW BUDGET DECISIONS ARE DETERMINED ON CAMPUS

“The Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is a budget transparency initiative created by Chancellor Belcher and managed by Kristen Crosson, Director of Budgets and Financial Planning. The intent of the BAC is to engage staff and faculty in the campus-wide budget process and budget discussions with campus leadership.”

Charge:

The BAC is composed of representatives from faculty, staff and students. The BAC charge includes:

- Learn about budgeting issues at campus and statewide levels.
- Attend unit and campus-wide budget hearings to learn about budget requests.
- Participate in joint budget discussion with the CLC to develop recommendations for budget priorities.

Role in Budget Process:

The BAC attends the unit hearings by sending at least one member to each hearing. All members are encouraged to attend hearings to learn more about campus budget issues.

The BAC does not advocate for individual budget requests. It does not have power to “approve” budget requests. The BAC attends hearings in order to learn about unit requests to enable a productive joint discussion with the Chancellors Leadership Council (CLC) in developing recommended budget priorities.

Staff Senate Members: Pam Buchanan; Pam Degraffenreid; Robin Hitch; Galen May; David Rathbone

Faculty Senate Members: Kristin Calvert; Brian Gastle; AJ Grube; Dan Grube; Roger Hartley; Judy Neubrander

Graduate Student Association: Alecia Page

Student Government Association: Alex Wright

For more information check out budgetprocess.wcu.edu for the 2015-16 Campus Budget Process!
A bill is moving through the North Carolina General Assembly that would modify the State Human Resources Act, the law that provides the rules and protections associated with SPA employees in the state of North Carolina. Introduced in the NC House of Representatives, HB495: OSHR Modernization/Technical Changes, passed the House and recently passed the Senate (now SB663).

The Senate version of the bill includes the following: decrease the probationary period from 24 months to 12 months (SPA employees would receive career status at 12 months instead of 24); strike a previous provision that prohibited incentive pay programs to now allow for researching new compensation systems including the potential option to establish incentive pay; change grievance case reporting from quarterly to annually; provide the option to create policy and procedures for a reorganization through voluntary separation program; changes reduction in force (RIF) priority to end if a RIF candidate declines an interview (previously only ended when a RIF candidate declined a job offer); shifts authority over state human resources from the Department of Administration to the Office of State Human Resources; changes the rules governing political hiring and the violations related to political hirings, so that what constitutes a violation and what could be a grievance may change; and allows access to employee personnel files by other state agencies if that employee applies for a job in that agency. If you would like to read the current bill in its entirety, you can visit http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2015&BillID=S663.

The bill returns to the House, and a joint House-Senate Committee will negotiate the differences between the two versions of the bill before a final vote. We still do not know if the bill will pass in its current form, or if it will be sent to the Governor. So far, we do not foresee any changes that cause concern regarding protections to SPA employees. We will keep you updated of any news on this bill.