

About the Staff Senate

This month we wanted to give you an overview of what the Staff Senate does and how it works. If you would like more information, please visit the Staff Senate [website](#) or email staffsenate@wcu.edu. We are here to serve you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Employee Appreciation Day

Thursday, September 5
11am – 2pm, Ramsey Center

Secrets of Power WCU Women Networking Event

Tuesday, September 10
5pm, UC Illusions

Staff Senate September Meeting

Wednesday, September 11
8:30am – 10:30am
UC Cardinal Room

Take Back the Night

Wednesday, September 18
7pm, UC Grand Room

Mountain Heritage Day

Saturday, September 28

UClub Meetings

Every Friday, 5pm
Moore Building

CONTACT US!

If you have an article, announcement or suggestion relating to this newsletter, contact Staff Senate at staffsenate@wcu.edu to have it included.

Staff Senate – How We Can Serve You!

The role of the Staff Senate is to serve the staff members of WCU and to represent the needs and interests of the staff to university leadership. The Staff Senate comprises staff members from across all position classifications of the university. The Senate year begins in July and ends in June and Senators serve three year terms after being elected by fellow members of their classification. Senator responsibilities include: attending monthly meetings, serve on at least one subcommittee, represent their classification's constituents to the Senate and when needed, serving as a Senate designee on university committees. The Senate has six officer positions: Chair, Chair Elect, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian.

There are four subcommittees in the Staff Senate. These committees serve specific functions and deal with a variety of issues that affect WCU staff members and the Senate. The committees are: Human Resources, Public Relations, Resources & Environment and Scholarship. You have probably heard of the work that these committees have done, including fundraising and distribution of the annual Staff Senate Scholarship and the Staff Days of Service. The Senate also implemented last year's forum with the Chancellor and Provost, where staff members had the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and have an open discussion with university leadership.

Most recently, the Senate created and distributed the staff survey and then compiled and presented the results to the Chancellor (those results are available on the Staff Senate [website](#)). The wealth of input of staff members in this survey have already helped to shape goals and changes that Chancellor Belcher announced in his Opening Assembly address. These changes include the appointment of an ombudsperson (Jayne Zanglein from the College of Business) and the new Employee Relations position. Chancellor Belcher also announced two goals for staff salaries: the creation of a \$24,000 salary floor and bringing all salaries to 72.5% of market value. These goals were the product of the Salary Study Task Force and were reinforced by the results of the staff survey. (Note: as Dr. Belcher said in his address, this plan is dependent on the enrollment growth money that WCU receives as well as the Legislature's approval for salary adjustments.)

On the Staff Senate [website](#), you can see who your representatives are for this year. Each person's name, position classification, and subcommittee membership are listed there. You can even email your Senators from that page! Here are the 2013-2014 Staff Senators:

- Robin Hitch (*Chair*)
- David Rathbone (*Chair-Elect*)
- Patrick Hinkle (*Vice Chair*)
- Pam DeGraffenreid (*Treasurer*)
- Jen Nickel (*Secretary*)
- Andy Voelker (*Parliamentarian*)
- Marty Brow
- Brian Buchanan
- Paula Carnes-Ashe
- Sarah Carter
- Jennifer Cooper
- Michelle Cooper
- Phyllis Franks
- Patrick Frazier
- Amy McKenzie
- Gwen Nicholson
- Emily Sharpe
- Carrie Shuler
- Brian Wood

The Senate meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the UC Cardinal room. These meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend, so we encourage you to come visit us!

Congratulations to the recipients of the Staff Senate Scholarship for 2013-2014

The Staff Senate Scholarship is for WCU students (family members of WCU staff).

- **Megan Boland** (WCU staff member parent is Kathy Boland from Student Financial Aid)
- **Kayla Byrd** (WCU staff member aunt is Jolene Coggins from the Registrar's Office)
- **Hunter Roberson** (WCU staff member parent is Hoyte B. Roberson, Jr. from the Mailroom / Print Services)

(Note the new name on this list: one of the previously announced recipients transferred so the scholarship was given to the applicant next in ranking. The competition for that third spot was intense so we're glad we could extend the offer! Each recipient was awarded \$1,000.00 for the year.)