

Board of Trustees Meeting



North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics

Report of the Staff Senate

Friday, May 10, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Durham, NC

Crystal Woods, Staff Senate Chairman

The Staff Senate continued its mission to facilitate NCSSM SHRA and EPS (Exempt Professional Staff, formerly EHRA Non-Faculty and IRIT) employee communications; to promote a harmonious community by addressing issues affecting the activities and welfare of the membership; to serve as a liaison between its membership, the administration, and the Board of Trustees; and to seek opportunities for open communication with all members of the NCSSM community.

The Staff Senate is a forum for SHRA and EPS members to voice opinions and ideas about NCSSM and work to promote interdepartmental cooperation and create better communication about NCSSM policies, state policies, and future development of the school. The Staff Senate is one Staff Senate, representing both the Morganton and Durham campuses.

The Staff Senate consists of:

Executive Committee:

Crystal Woods, Chair **Sonya Tillman**, SHRA Vice-Chair (D); **Ben Halligan**, SHRA Vice-Chair (M)

Jennifer Betz, EPS Vice-Chair (D); **Kristin Harrison** EPS Vice-Chair (M); **Alicia Stokley** (D); Recording Secretary; **Kate Axelrod**, Treasurer

Departmental Delegates:

Academic Programs: **Michelle Rutowski** (D), **Gabrielle Norfleet** (D)

Chancellor's Office: **Jamie Butler** (D)

Development/Foundation: **Paulette Becoat** (D)

Extended Learning **Blake Reed** (D)

External Relations: **Beatrice Moss**, (D)

Housekeeping & Plant Facilities, **Anthony Wilson**, (D&M)

Information Technology, **Jared Jeffries**, (D&M)

LITCOM: **Sharron Johnson**, (D&M)

Student Life: **Maya Harden** (M)

Morganton Campus At-Large Delegate: **Cameron Robinson** (M)

BOT Liaisons: EPPC: **Lori Newnam**; Extended Learning: **Ryan Donaldson**; FAHR: **Alana Sanders**; IA: **Karen Barlow**.

UNC System Staff Assembly Delegates: Crystal Woods Chair/Delegate; **Sonya Tillman**, Delegate (D); **Kristin Harrison**, Delegate (M); **Jennifer Betz**, Alternate (D)

Staff Wellness Week

The Staff Senate, in partnership with Student Life, organized the second annual Wellness Week for all NCSSM employees across both campuses. The event offered a wide range of activities to promote employee wellness, including solar eclipse events, affirmation walls, self-guided mental wellness activities, creating items in the Fabrication Lab (FabLab), food trucks, model rocket launching, journaling, mindful coloring, TSERS Retirement workshops, pet therapy sessions, a financial wellness workshop hosted by Human Resources, and much more.

We extend our appreciation to the Wellness Week Planning Committee for their outstanding dedication and contributions in orchestrating this remarkable event. The Committee consisted of Co-Chairs Ayesha Yousafzai and Crystal Woods, Chad Cygan, Gabrielle Norfleet, Kristin Harrison, Lindsay Barrick, and Ricardo Phipps. You can view photos of the week [HERE](#).

Morganton First Responders Appreciation

In March 2024, NCSSM recognized the opportunity to express our gratitude to the first responders at the Broughton Police Department in Morganton, by providing catered meals from Boulevard BBQ. Thanks to donations from employees and resources from the Chancellor's Office, we were able to accommodate four separate shifts spanning two days to thank the first responders for their service to the NCSSM Community. A special thanks to Staff Senate Vice Chairs Kristin Harrison and Ben Halligan and Treasurer Kate Axelrod for helping organize the endeavor. You can view photos of the event [HERE](#).

Human Resources Special Session

The Staff Senate held a special session with EPS and SHRA staff, Chancellor Roberts and Human Resources to discuss the new Recruitment & Retention policy and important changes regarding the State Human Resources Act (SHRA) pay ranges within the UNC System. You can view the new pay ranges [HERE](#).

Staff Senate Website & Staff Awards

The Staff Senate continued its efforts to recognize exceptional staff and their outstanding work at NCSSM. In September 2023 we began the Staff Senate Employee of the Month program as part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating excellence within our community. All Employees are encouraged to nominate a deserving colleague for the EPS and SHRA Employee of the Month awards. You can view the recipients [HERE](#).

Staff Senate Website

The Staff Senate has a [website](#) highlighting our endeavors and the Staff Senate representatives. We invite you to visit the website for more information and visit our [Instagram](#) page to see the endeavors of our amazing staff.