



Fall Semester 2016

President's Report

By: Mark Murphy

To Send
Comments,
Questions, or
Suggestions
Visit Our Website:

scranton.edu/staffsenate

or email us:

staffsenate@scranton.edu

Meeting Dates

<u>2016</u> December 14

2017 January 11 February 8 March 8 April 12 May 10

Brennan Hall PNC Board Room 10:00—11:30 a.m.

All Staff Welcomed

Connextions Program, ongoing work on the assistance, the Christmas Luncheon, our recommittee chairs, and lively discussions on the spring is always a busy time for the Staff Senate and will include a Communications Symposium, Roundtable meetings, the annual election process and Meet and Greet, Employee BBQ, presenters, 2016/17 Awards Luncheon, and other projects. As we approach the end of 2016 and get ready to enjoy the blessings of our holiday season with co-workers.

Have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

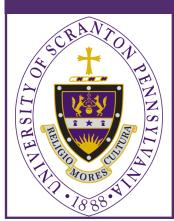
friends, and family remember to "Live your own vocations joyfully!"

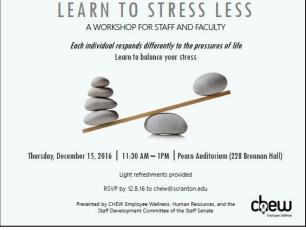
In November, The Society of Jesus lost a wonderful and humble leader, the 29th Father General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach. Fr. James Martin, SJ commented on an experience he had when he met Fr. Kolvenbach in Boston years earlier. Fr. Martin asked, "Father General, how should we increase vocations?" He answered, "Live your own vocations joyfully!" I recently read these words, and I thought of the service that the members of the Staff Senate perform through-out the year. Each of us has our own vocation and it is always inspiring to see the excellent work that is done by our staff to help improve and strengthen The University of Scranton.

For a good number of years, with the support of the Jesuit Center, Betty Rozelle and I have been participating in a Society of Jesus Maryland Province Magis program that includes discussions on how the work of the Society of Jesus will continue as the number of Jesuits decrease. Part of the answer is through lay collaboration by staff like us. Very good examples of living your own vocation joyfully are our past Staff Senate officers, Joe Wetherell, Caitlyn Hollingshead, and Pauline Palko. These individuals, and others, are great examples of people that give freely of their talents, experience, time, and selves to perform service for others helping to improve our University.

I recently met with a staff senator to review a policy suggestion. In that discussion the passion, care, and concern for all University employees was palpable in each comment and suggested edit. The Staff Senate is a vehicle in which this kind of caring for the University is turned into positive action. I have been pleased to see this same passion and caring many times on numerous topics that we have discussed. We should be proud that we are developing an environment where new ideas are welcomed and staff input is freely given.

When we group our activities together, your efforts, commitments and accomplishments are impressive. This Fall semester Staff Senate initiatives included Lunch & Learns, Spirit Awards, a Communications Symposium, Roundtable meetings, the Connextions Program, ongoing work on the Wellness Time Policy, Presidential Search assistance, the Christmas Luncheon, our newsletter, a new set of Senate officers, new committee chairs, and lively discussions on varied topics.





Staff Senate Roundtable Dates

Clerical - Thursday, December 1, 9:30 a.m. in Loyola Science Center Forum

Maintenance, Trade, Technical, and Police - December 12, 2:00 p.m. in Brennan Pearn Auditorium 228

Professional/Para-professional - December 14, 11:45 a.m. in Brennan PNC Board Room

Check the Staff Senate website, and your email, for details and RSVP information relevant to your constituent group.

Staff Senate Upcoming Events

The Staff Development Committee has teamed up with the Center for Health Education & Wellness and Human Resources to present a Stress Less Workshop on Thursday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Pearn Auditorium, Brennan 228. This event is open to staff and faculty. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Social Events and Community Building Committee is sponsoring a clothing drive in collaboration with Campus Ministries' Center for Service and Social Justice. New socks, hats, gloves, scarves and gently worn sweatshirts will be collected and distributed at the 8th annual Community Christmas Day Breakfast. Please look for the drop off boxes at various campus locations. We are again counting on the overwhelming generosity of our University family!

The Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 20, 2016, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the DeNaples Center, McIlhenny Ballroom. The proceeds collected will be donated to the Bethel A.M.E Homeless Shelter. The shelter, run by the Bethel AME Institutional Church, offers the area's homeless a place to sleep during the year's coldest months. Watch your mailbox and email for an invitation and please remember to <u>RSVP</u>! All Staff Senate Committees will donate special gift baskets for the raffle along with many donations from local business. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Christmas Luncheon as well as 50/50 tickets.

The Communications Committee is devoted to improving communications among members of the University of Scranton community. Thank you to our presenters and all of our staff and faculty that attended the Fall Communication Symposium and made the event such a great success. Our committee is currently looking at potential presenters for our Spring event.

The Staff Senate Recognition & Excellence Committee accepts nominations each month for spirited employees. Find the form here and support your fellow staff members by sending in your nominations by the 26th of each month.

