Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for June 10, 2009
Curris Center: Curris Center Stables
Updated June 29, 2009

PRESENT: Vicki D. Anderson, Cathy Bazar, Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, Christian Cruce, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Lana Jennings, Aleeah McGinnis, Norma Sue Miller, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Phil Schooley, and Becky Wilder. Guests: Carmen Garland, Special Assistant to the Vice-President for Student Affairs; Cheryl Hicks, Staff Congress Member-elect; Josh Jacobs, Chief of Staff; Chuck Plummer, Staff Congress Member-elect; Gina Winchester, Staff Regent; and John Young, Staff Congress Member-elect.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Phil Schooley called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. The meeting was streamed live over the internet.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:
Josh Jacobs, Chief of Staff, said that the fourth conference of the International Town and Gown Best Practices was held on the on MSU campus last week. Attendees were very complimentary of campus employees. He complimented Kim Griffo and her department for their work on the conference.

Carmen Garland congratulated the newly elected Staff Congress members. She thanked those who have helped with the Summer Orientation sessions.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES: Norma Sue Miller made a motion to approve the May minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Debbie Plummer presented the May Treasurer's Report. Christian Cruce made a motion to approve the May Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Executive Committee Report: No report.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee:
Sick Leave Policy: Michael Busby presented a copy of the memo regarding proposed changed to the Sick Leave Policy that the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee has written to Tom Hoffacker, Director of Human Resources, and Tom Denton, Vice-President of Finance and Administrative Services. The items in the memo have been approved by Staff Congress.

Discretionary Day: The committee will next be discussing a possible discretionary day.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon introduced the three newly elected Staff Congress members: Cheryl Hicks, Office of Recruitment; John Young, TSM; and Chuck Plummer, Facilities Management. Steve Thomas has resigned from Staff Congress due to his work schedule.

Staff Recognition Committee: Sheri Riddle asked Phil Schooley to draw a winner from the envelope of names of Way to Go nominees. Phil drew the name of Re'nita Avery-Meriwether in Student Life.

Staff Special Events Committee: Cathy Bazar said the discount list has been updated on-line. No rebate meals are scheduled at this time. She gave an update on the status of the purchase of prizes for the fundraiser.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:
Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Michael Busby read a report from Kim Griffo who was

unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. The report included the amounts of book scholarships awarded to staff members.

Staff Recognition Award Changes: No report.

Staff Congress Bylaws Review Committee: Orville Herndon presented the proposed changes to Bylaw Article I: Representatives. Orville made a motion to approve the changes as presented. The motion was seconded and the motion carried. There was no discussion. Terry Burgess called for a question. The hand vote was 14 in favor and 0 opposed.

Staff Congress Handbook Review Committee: Michael Busby has compiled a revised edition of the staff handbook for the committee to review. He will make the revised edition available on Blackboard.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:
Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: No report. (The committee has submitted its recommendations to Tom Hoffacker.)

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: The committee received a naming recommendation which will go before the Board of Regents at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Gina Winchester reported that the Board of Regents met in regular session on May 29. The main action of the board was to pass a budget with a 2% reduction from the state and a 4% tuition increase. Although the budget did not include university-wide raises, no positions were eliminated. She noted that in the 2009-2010 budget, the University of Kentucky's Board of Regents eliminated positions and did not provide pay increases. The UK board voted to pay the increase in health insurance as well as to increase tuition by 5%. The regular meetings of the MSU Board of Regents set for 2009-2010 are scheduled for September 25, December 5, February 19, and May 21. The board will hold a summer retreat, with the date to be determined. Gina also reported that the campus' hosting of the Council on Post-secondary Education's regular meeting in May went well.

Gina said that Dr. Dunn and the Board of Regents have noted that many staff are going beyond expectations, especially regarding the implementation of Banner. Due to the time requirements of implementing Banner, many staff may be unable to use vacation time before it expires. Anyone in a critical staff position who is unable to take vacation time due to working to implement Banner will have his eligibility to exceed maximum accrual of vacation time taken under consideration for this year only.

Josh Jacobs reported that all presidents of Kentucky public institutions met with the governor regarding the budget for the next fiscal year. No additional cuts will be made to higher education for the 2009-2010 year. The community college system was not exempted from the additional funding cut.

OLD BUSINESS: Orville Herndon reported that according to the university attorney, Staff Congress is subject to the open records/open meetings law. Therefore, Staff Congress election totals must be available to the public, though they do not have to be printed in the Staff Congress newsletter. The campus newspaper may choose to print the results of the elections. Discussion followed. Discussion included the possibly of putting the results on the Staff Congress website. Phil Schooley made a recommendation that the Executive Committee further discuss the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:
Ad-hoc Committees: Staff Congress President Phil Schooley dissolved the Staff Recognition Award Changes Committee.

Phil distributed a schedule of upcoming Staff Congress meetings and other events.

Staff Congress Officer Elections: Orville Herndon read the Staff Congress officer eligibility requirements from Staff Congress Bylaw III: Officers. The following nominations for Staff Congress Executive Officers were received: Treasurer-- Debbie Plummer; Vice-President-- Sheri Riddle; President-- Christian Cruce. Staff Congress members voted for officers via paper ballot. Orville Herndon read the results: Debbie Plummer—15 votes for Treasurer; Sheri Riddle—15 votes for Vice-President; Christian Cruce—14 votes for President.

Adjournment: Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.