

Murray State University Staff Congress  
Draft Minutes for February 14, 2007  
Curris Center: Mississippi Room

**PRESENT:** Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, Christian Cruce, Wesley Diggs, Mark Galloway, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Lana Jennings, Rick Pierceall, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Tracy Roberts, Rhonda Rogers, and Phil Schooley. Guests: Gina Winchester, Staff Regent and Kristin Taylor, *Murray Ledger & Times*.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Staff Congress President Terry Burgess called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Staff Congress Treasurer Marion Hale presented the Treasurer's Report. Marion said that travel expense on the report should be listed as in-state travel (510 sub code). The expense was for Marion Hale and Gina Winchester to travel to the Staff Recognition Luncheon at Breathitt. Money will be transferred into the Travel account to make the balance positive.

Orville Herndon moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as corrected. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee Report:** Terry Burgess said that the Executive Committee has not met with Dr. Dunn this semester.

Terry expressed appreciation for the invitation to staff members to be guests at the basketball games on February 10.

**Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee:** Mark Galloway reported the Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee will be meeting to discuss the Interim Title Limitation Policy Request (AI# 0607-021).

**Credentials and Elections Committee:** Orville Herndon distributed the tentative timeline for Staff Congress elections. The Credentials and Elections Committee will meet before the March 14 Staff Congress meeting to finalize the timeline.

Orville announced that Staff Congress member Keith Skinner will retire from Murray State on March 15. Keith has served as a member of Staff Congress for more than 20 years.

**Staff Recognition Committee:**

**Quarterly Staff Recognition Award (AI# 0607-016):** Rhonda Rogers said that the proposal for a Quarterly Staff Recognition Award will be presented to Tom Denton, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, for approval.

**Staff Special Events Committee:**

**MSU Staff Night with the Nashville Predators (AI# 0607-022):** Christian Cruce reported that an outing for staff to attend a Nashville Predators game is being planned. She asked that staff notify the Staff Special Events Committee of suggestions for future group outings.

Christian said that the back dining room at Ryan's Restaurant has been reserved for staff on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. All staff members are welcome to meet Staff Congress members in the dining room.

Christian reported that Special Events Committee Chair Misty Starks is going to talk to Corky Broughton of the Wellness Center about sponsoring a "Biggest Loser" contest.

Tracy Roberts suggested that Staff Congress send a thank you card and gift certificate to Mark Shearer for appearing as Santa Claus at the children's Christmas party sponsored by Staff Congress in December 2006. Marion Hale said that a gift certificate could be purchased with funds from the Staff Congress MSU Foundation account. Orville Herndon made a motion to purchase a \$20 gift certificate to send with a thank you note to Mark Shearer. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. Marion Hale will send a thank you note and the gift certificate to Mark.

**Communications Committee:** Lana Jennings reported that a Staff Congress newsletter was recently mailed to staff. The Communications Committee will begin working on the next newsletter.

**Working Conditions Committee:** No report.

**AD-HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee:** No report.

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**

**Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee:** Terry Burgess reported that the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee met on January 18. At that meeting, the committee approved proposals to request Tuition Waiver Changes/Bank Creation (AI# 0607-015), Sick Leave Bank Policy Wording Changes (AI# 0607-016), and Sick Leave Policy Wording Changes (AI# 0607-017).

**Intercollegiate Athletic Council:** No report.

Mark Galloway said that some individuals have asked him about the possibility of the university offering courses that explain the rules of various sports. Michael Busby said that he will ask Athletic Director Allen Ward about offering those types of classes.

**Naming Campus Facilities Committee:** No report.

**Judicial Board:** No report.

**Sick Leave Appeals Committee:** No report.

**Staff Regent Report:** Staff Regent Gina Winchester thanked President Dunn and Jim Carter for recognizing Staff Excellence Award recipients at the February 10 men's basketball game.

On February 16, at 2:30, in the Curris Center Theater, Dr. Dunn will host an open forum for student input regarding tuition increases.

The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for February 23.

Gina summarized the initial draft of Kentucky House Bill 461 regarding required contributions to KTRS by faculty and professional staff who participate in the Optional Retirement Plan.

The next staff information forums are tentatively scheduled for 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, in the Curris Center Barkley Room and 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 19, in the Curris Center Theater. These times were set in response to staff comments. These sessions will be made available to satellite campuses via Elluminate.

Gina noted that several staff members have told her that they are interested in a tuition waiver bank.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Changes to Staff Constitution and Bylaws (AI# 0607-001):** Because two-thirds of the total membership of the Staff Congress was not present at the Staff Congress meeting within thirty days of the first reading of proposed changes to the Constitution, as required by Article XI, Section 3 of the Staff Congress Constitution, the process to amend the Constitution will be initiated again with another first reading of the proposed changes to take place at the March Staff Congress meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Orville Herndon said that several staff who participate in KERS have said they have questions about the change in the retirement formula which will be implemented on January 1, 2009. Orville suggested that information explaining how the

retirement formula will affect staff be provided in a Staff Congress newsletter or through information distributed by Human Resources. Terry Burgess responded that he will ask Human Resources if that department would provide information for a Staff Congress newsletter or would distribute information directly to employees. He will also mention this request to Dr. Dunn.

Michael Busby said that some staff members have asked him about being off for Fall Break. Terry Burgess said that he will ask about the possibility of staff having that day off from work.

**Adjourn:** Marion Hale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.