Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for May 14, 2008
Curris Center: Mississippi Room
Updated: June 10, 2008

PRESENT: Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, Christian Cruce, Kim Griffo, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Lana Jennings, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, and Phil Schooley. Guests: Tracy Roberts, Registrar's Office; Becky Watts, Deputy to the President; Shari Wilkins, Staff Congress member-elect; Gina Winchester, Staff Regent; and Holly Wise, Murray Ledger and Times.

CALL TO ORDER: President Terry Burgess called the meeting to order without a quorum at 1:35 p.m.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:
Becky Watts, Deputy to the President, distributed copies of the MSU Annual Report. Extra copies are available in the President's Office and the Office of Institutional Advancement. The Board of Regents will meet on Friday, May 16. Plans are in progress to make the meeting available for viewing via internet streaming. Ms. Watts listed the committee meeting times. Individuals must sign up at the meeting in order to speak at the meeting.

Tracy Roberts of the Registrar's Office gave an overview of ERP/*My Gate*. She explained that the purpose of the portal is to be an internal means of communication. The MSU home page will eventually be an external marketing tool.
She welcomed input from staff. Feedback has also been solicited from faculty and students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No action was taken on the April meeting minutes due to the absence of a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Marion Hale presented the April Treasurer's Report. No action was taken on the Treasurer's Report due to the absence of a quorum.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Executive Committee Report: Terry Burgess distributed copies of a letter he received from Governor Beshear in response to the letter Terry sent to the governor regarding funding cuts. He also distributed copies of the letters from Staff Congress to President Dunn and the Editor of the MSU News regarding the decision by the Board of Regents to increase tuition by only 6 ½ percent.

In his letter in the February Staff Congress newsletter, Terry asked staff to submit money-saving ideas for the university. He reported that Sherry Fortner suggested looking at the possibility of creating an employee exercise equipment loan program similar to the computer loan program. Terry distributed copies of an email from Joyce Gordon of Human Resources which includes Mr. Denton's approval of a one-year trial of the exercise equipment loan program. The email includes a request that Staff Congress submit suggestions for loan specifications. Terry assigned this task to the Personnel Benefits Committee. He suggested that Sherry Fortner, the idea's originator, be including in the Personnel Benefits Committee meetings which address the new loan.

On Thursday, May 22, a meeting of staff governing bodies from Kentucky universities will be held. Terry will be unable to attend the meeting, but has forwarded the concerns of Murray State Staff Congress members and other staff. The statewide staff governing groups plan to have these meetings once per semester.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: No report.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon announced the following winners for the April 25 elections: group A-secretarial/clerical--Marion Hale; group B-general--Norma Sue Miller and Becky Wilder; group D-executive/managerial/professional--Terri Benton and Shari Wilkins; and, at large-- Lisa Willis, Breathitt Veterinary Center, and Terry Burgess. Orville announced that he was continuing to contact write-in candidates in the general and Facilities Management categories to fill the vacancies in those groups.

Orville announced the following resignations from Staff Congress: Melissa Cooper, Rhonda Rogers, and Michael Buckman.

Staff Recognition Committee: Sheri Riddle reported that 37 Staff Excellence Awards nominations have been received for 22 employees. The Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be held on August 12, and will be catered by Coldwater Barbeque.

Staff Special Events Committee: Christian Cruce said that she is waiting to hear how much money was raised at the rebate dinner at Backyard Burgers. The next staff lunch is scheduled for June 3, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at Culver's Restaurant. This meal will not have a rebate. She has been contacted by a representative of the Calloway County Heart Walk which will be held on October 18. Anyone interested in forming a team for the Heart Walk may contact Christian.

Communications Committee: Chair Lana Jennings reported that a newsletter is almost finished and ready to be mailed. The newsletter includes a list of 2008 Years of Service Awards employees.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

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

Parking and Transportation Group: No report.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:
Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Kim Griffo reported that at the committee's meeting with Marie Jones, the scholarship's namesake, Ms. Jones approved the transfer to the scholarship fund those funds which had been previously donated in her name. The committee will compose a draft of the scholarship which is scheduled to be awarded for the fall 2008 semester.

Staff Excellence Award Changes Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that the Staff Congress Award Nomination forms have been distributed.

Staff Congress Bylaws Review Committee: Chair Orville Herndon distributed copies of proposed changes to the Staff Congress Bylaws. He welcomed comments regarding the proposed changes.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:
Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Terry Burgess said that a meeting of the committee was not held due to scheduling conflicts with finals and end-of-year preparations.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: No report.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Gina Winchester suggested that staff attend the Board of Regents meeting on May 16, to support Staff Congress President Terry Burgess when he expresses staff concerns. She said that she has the Board of Regents meeting agenda available for anyone interested in viewing it.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.