Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for October 10, 2007
Curris Center: Mississippi Room

PRESENT: Michael Buckman, Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, MeLissa Cooper, Kim Griffo, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Lana Jennings, Debbie Plummer, Phil Schooley, and Lisa Willis. Guests: Amanda Crider, MSU News; Jay Morgan, Faculty Regent; Donna Richardson, Kentucky Public Employees' Department of Deferred Compensation; and Becky Watts, Deputy to the President.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Terry Burgess called the meeting to order without a quorum at 1:31 p.m.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:
Donna Richardson, of the Kentucky Public Employees' Department of Deferred Compensation, distributed materials and gave a brief overview of supplemental retirement programs available for all state employees through her organization.

Becky Watts, Deputy to the President, said that after October 11, the "all users" emails will be used to distribute only urgent/emergency information. Beginning October 12, a campus-wide email newsletter will share the same types of information formerly distributed via the "all user" emails.

Dr. Jay Morgan, Faculty Regent, updated Staff Congress on current Faculty Senate issues. Faculty Senate is seeking the removal of a censure that was placed on MSU in 1975 and 1976 by the American Association of University Professors. Regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act, Faculty Senate would like for faculty members to be able to take a full semester's leave. This would provide continuity for students in classes which would otherwise be affected by an instructor's absence during a portion of the semester. Faculty Senate is seeking a reduction in the amount that ORP participants must contribute to KTRS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No corrections were suggested for the September minutes. No action was taken on the minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Marion Hale presented the September Treasurer's Report. No corrections were suggested for the Treasurer's Report. No action was taken on the report due to the lack of a quorum.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Executive Committee Report: No report.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: Committee Chair Michael Busby presented and elaborated on the Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee's written report. He explained the Office Skills Tests used by benchmark universities (AI#0708-002); Staff Leave for Fall Break Day policies of benchmark universities (AI# 0607-023); and suspense dates for tuition waivers and insurance coverage for children of faculty and staff. The sick leave policy and sick leave bank wording changes are currently in development.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that MeLissa Cooper, Math and Statistics Department, will fill Kelly Buffington's term which ends on June 30, 2009. Michael Buckman, Office of Development and Governmental Relations, will fill Tracy Roberts' term which ends on June 30, 2010.

Staff Recognition Committee: Chair and co-Chair Rhonda Rogers and Sheri Riddle were unable to attend today's meeting. Terry Burgess reported that 12 nominations have been received for the Quarterly Staff Recognition Award.

Staff Special Events Committee: Chair and co-Chair Misty Starks and Christian Cruce were unable to attend today's meeting. Terry Burgess said that Misty has informed him that approximately 11 people are participating in the Biggest Loser program. He added that the Staff Congress Heart Walk team needs more participants. Terry reminded everyone to bring two bags of candy to the next Staff Congress meeting. The candy will be given to children at the Staff Congress' Children's Christmas Party. Phil Schooley reported that staff earned a donation from the rebate night at Mr. Gatti's on October 2. The money will be given to the Heart Walk.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Lana Jennings said that the next newsletter article deadline is Monday,

October 15. After determining which items would be included in the next newsletter, those present agreed to move the deadline to October 22.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

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

Parking and Transportation Group: Phil Schooley said that the Parking and Transportation Group will meet later in October when a meeting date has been determined.

Smoke-Free Resolution Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that the Smoke-Free Resolution Committee met with Judy Lyle in September to discuss wording of the Tobacco Use Policy. Ms. Lyle will also speak to the SGA and Faculty Senate about the policy.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:
Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: President Terry Burgess reported that the committee met September 12, and approved 2008 insurance rates which were later included in the staff newsletter. Employees should receive Benefit Enrollment Packets October 10 or 11. Open enrollment is October 15-19. This week's meeting of the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee will include discussion of the Faculty Family Medical Leave Act and other issues.

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 was unable to attend today's meeting. No report.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

NEW BUSINESS:
None.

Adjournment: President Terry Burgess dismissed the meeting at 2:45p.m.