

Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for April 11, 2007
Curriss Center: Mississippi Room

PRESENT: Terry Burgess, Christian Cruce, Orville Herndon, Lana Jennings, Jerry O'Bryan, Debbie Plummer, Tracy Roberts, Phil Schooley, and Lisa Willis. Guests: Michael Buckman, Governmental Relations and Office of Development; Judy Lyle, MSU Health Services; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Becky Watts, Deputy to the President; Gina Winchester, Staff Regent; and Kristen Taylor, *Murray Ledger and Times*.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress 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, reminded everyone of the Presidential Inauguration on Friday, April 20, at 2:00 p.m., in Lovett Auditorium.

Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs, said that All Campus Sing is scheduled for April 18, at 4:30 p.m., on the steps of Lovett Auditorium. SGA election results will be announced at All Campus Sing. An SGA candidate debate will be held April 12, at 6:30 p.m., in Wrather Museum. On April 21, approximately 300 students and parents will attend the first 2007 student orientation. Scholarships award letters are being mailed. In collaboration with the Murray-Calloway Transit Authority, an experimental shuttle service has been running on Saturdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. from Regents, Clark, and College Courts to Wal-Mart and Kroger. The university is in the process of filling three college head positions. Construction of the new Clark Residential College is progressing on schedule, with the opening scheduled for fall.

Ms. Judy Lyle, MSU Health Services, elaborated on the proposed University Tobacco Policy. She answered questions regarding the proposed policy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No action was taken regarding the February and March minutes due to the absence of a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No action was taken regarding the February and March Treasurer's Report due to the absence of a quorum.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee Report: President Terry Burgess read a letter to Staff Congress from Sherry Fortner. She has resigned her position on Staff Congress due to an increase in the number of commitments she has outside of Staff Congress.

Terry said that he and Staff Regent Gina Winchester received an anonymous letter from staff regarding summer employment for Food Service staff. He has forwarded a copy of the letter to Human Resources and to the Equal Opportunity Office.

The Spring Health Fair is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, in Carr Health.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: Committee member Tracy Roberts reported that the sick leave bank policy wording changes (AI#0607-16) and the sick leave policy wording changes (AI# 0607-17) have been forwarded to the University Insurance and Benefits committee.

Because the University Insurance and Benefits committee deals with many issues concurrently, the Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee was asked to determine which requests it would like addressed first. The committee decided to request wording changes to the sick leave policy and the sick leave bank policy. Changing or amending wording to existing policies is less complicated than creating new policies as would be necessary for the tuition waiver changes and the creation of a tuition waiver bank (AI# 0607-015).

Regarding staff leave for fall break (AI#0607-023), Tracy said that under current university policy, twelve month employees may not take the fall break holiday. Nine month employees may take off the same days as students. The Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee is looking at the fall break policies of other universities. Also under discussion is the possibility of including the fall break as part of a full week for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The committee discussed the interim title limitation policy request (AI#0607-021) since there is no written policy in either the staff or faculty handbooks. The committee is researching benchmark institutions' policies.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Chair Orville Herndon passed around a sign-up for Staff Congress members to volunteer to work at the Staff Congress election polls on April 27. Orville read the names of Staff Congress members whose terms expire June 30, 2007. In addition, he read a list of open positions.

Staff Recognition Committee:

Quarterly Staff Recognition Award (AI# 0607-016): No report.

Staff Special Events Committee: Committee member Christian Cruce said that 2 people attended the April dinner night for MSU staff (AI# 0607-028). The next staff dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. at Mr. Gatti's.

Her committee is in the process of arranging the MSU Staff Day with the St. Louis Cardinals (AI# 0607-027).

Communications Committee: Committee chair Lana Jennings said that work will begin on the May newsletter which will include a list of the Years of Service Awards recipients.

Working Conditions Committee: Chair Jerry O'Bryan reported that some staff have asked him if employees who are currently paid above minimum wage will receive a wage increase when minimum wage increases.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: No report.

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 said that she continues to receive positive feedback from faculty, staff, and students regarding Dr. Dunn's work on campus.

A special-called Board of Regents meeting will be held on April 13, at 8:00 a.m. The agenda includes a request to allocate money to offset the cost of the science complex. Also on the agenda is the fee to be charged to residents of the new Clark Residential College. The next regularly scheduled Board of Regents meeting will be held on May 18. At that meeting, the board will discuss the budget and elect a new board chair.

Parking and Transportation Group: Group member Phil Schooley summarized the group's meeting held on April 4. In addition to university faculty, staff, and students, the group is comprised of Murray-Calloway County Transit staff and officials from the City of Murray. The group plans to meet every other Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in Wells Hall, Room 325. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Adjourn: Debbie Plummer made a motion to adjourn. The motion seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.