

Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for December 12, 2007
Curris Center: Mississippi Room

PRESENT: Cathy Bazar, Michael Buckman, Michael Busby, Melissa Cooper, Christian Cruce, Kim Griffo, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Clover Paradise, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Rhonda Rogers, Phil Schooley, Mark Shearer, Steve Thomas, and Lisa Willis. Guests: Carmen Garland, Special Assistant to Dr. Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs and Retention; Judy Lyle, Nurse, Health Services; Becky Watts, Deputy to the President; and Holly Wise, Murray Ledger and Times.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress Vice President Kim Griffo called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Becky Watts, Deputy to the President, said that at the November 30 Board of Regents meeting, the Board formed a task force to study MSU's expansion in Paducah. The meetings are open to the public.

Carmen Garland, Special Assistant to Dr. Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs and Retention, said that Dr. Robertson expressed appreciation for the staff Christmas reception. Academic Restoration Day will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the lobby of Ordway Hall. Letters have been sent to students and parents of students in good standing who have not pre-registered for the spring semester. Martin Luther King, Jr., events will be held on January 21. The schedule of events will be forthcoming. Campus Lights is scheduled for January 24-27.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the November minutes as printed. Christian Cruce seconded, and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's Report as printed. Melissa Cooper seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee Report: No report.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: Michael Busby said that the committee will meet on December 18, at 3:00 p.m., in the Geosciences reading room in Wilson Hall.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that Misty Starks has resigned her position on Staff Congress due to commitments with her job. He listed the other openings on Staff Congress. Elections will be held in April.

Staff Recognition Committee: Chair Rhonda Rogers said that nominations for the quarterly staff recognition award are due December 21. A letter will be sent to award nominees. A winner will be drawn at the January Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Special Events Committee: Co-chair Christian Cruce reported that the children's Christmas party and staff Christmas reception went well. She complimented Food Service on the food provided for the reception. Christian distributed a schedule of proposed dates and locations for upcoming staff social meals. She welcomed suggestions for meal locations. Captain D's sent a Christmas card to Staff Congress thanking the group for having a rebate night there.

Communications Committee: Co-chair Kim Griffo presented Roundabout and Staff Congress newsletter deadlines.

OLD BUSINESS:

Changes to Staff Congress Constitution and Bylaws (AI# 0607-001): Christian Cruce moved to approve the changes to the Constitution. Wade Herndon seconded. Marion Hale called for a division of the House. Fifteen members in attendance voted to approve the changes to the Constitution. None opposed. The motion failed due to the lack of the required number of members being in attendance and voting on the motion.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that according to an email reply from David Blackburn, Director of Procurement Services, the RFP for the hourly salary comparison study was issued in early December, with responses due in January.

Parking and Transportation Group: No report.

Smoke-Free Resolution Committee: Debbie Plummer introduced Judy Lyle to answer questions about the Tobacco Use Policy. Judy elaborated on the policy and answered questions about it. Debbie Plummer made a motion to accept the resolution with removal of the phrasing about shelters and with a wording change to move ash trays to 50 feet away from building entrances. The motion was seconded. Thirteen members voted in the affirmative. Two opposed. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Changes to Staff Congress Constitution and Bylaws (AI# 0607-001): Debbie Plummer made a motion to reconsider the vote which was taken earlier in the meeting regarding proposed changes to the Constitution. Christian Cruce seconded. Vice President Kim Griffo asked that all those in favor of accepting changes to the Constitution please stand. Sixteen members voted in the affirmative. None opposed. The motion carried.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: No report.

Staff Excellence Award Changes Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that the committee met earlier in December. Sharion Meloan and Joyce Gordon will also be on the committee which will meet again on December 20.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: No report.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: Michael Busby reported that Athletics Department staff, administration, and players are completing surveys as part of the NCAA re-certification process.

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. Becky Watts reported on the audit presented to the Board of Regents at its last meeting. A copy of the audit is available at the library reference desk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Debbie Plummer said that Staff Regent Gina Winchester would like to request that Staff Congress write a letter of support for Dr. Dunn. Treasurer Marion Hale will forward the request to President Terry Burgess.

Michael Busby said that many staff have expressed concern about working conditions such as poorly functioning windows which allow squirrels into offices and heat and cold to escape buildings. Becky Watts responded that a special Board of Regents committee will consider campus working conditions.

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