

PRESENT: Cathy Bazar, Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, Christian Cruce, Kim Griffo, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Jerry O'Bryan, Debbie Plummer, Tracy Roberts, Phil Schooley, Mark Shearer, and Misty Starks. Guests: Kristin Taylor, Murray Ledger and Times; Becky Watts, Deputy to the President; and Gina Winchester, Staff Regent.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Terry Burgess called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Becky Watts, Deputy to the President, reported that because the Kentucky House of Representatives adjourned during the special session of the state legislature, funds were not designated for the completion of the MSU Science Complex. Dr. Dunn is working with other administrators to determine how much work can be completed with the current allotted funds.

In response to a Staff Congress member's question, Terry Burgess reported that the speed limit has been increased from 25 mph to 35 mph on Chestnut Street/Highway 121 between 12th and 16th Streets because the speed limit on a state highway cannot be set below 35 mph.

Staff Congress members told Becky Watts that they appreciate Dr. Dunn's early closing of campus offices for the Memorial Day weekend and on July 3.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Cathy Bazar noted that in the June minutes under Old Business, in the report on the Smoke-free Policy Resolution, the first sentence should read as follows: "Sheri Riddle made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to review the proposed tobacco policy and provide any suggested wording changes to be considered by Staff Congress members." Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Jerry O'Bryan second, and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Marion Hale presented the June Treasurer's Report and the preliminary Year-end Budget Report. The final Year-end Budget Report will be presented at the August Staff Congress meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee Report: President Terry Burgess reported that the Executive Committee met on June 27. The committee would like to post the Staff Congress Treasurer's Reports and pictures of Staff Congress members on the Staff Congress web page. The committee also discussed a memo from Joyce Gordon, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, regarding the effect the minimum wage increase will have on employees whose pay is currently near the new minimum wage rate. Terry assigned this issue to the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee.

Via an email, a Staff Congress member asked if Staff Congress would purchase three-ring binders for Staff Congress members to store meeting notes and minutes. Orville Herndon made a motion for Staff Congress to purchase a three-ring binder for each Staff Congress member. Tracy Roberts seconded, and the motion carried.

Terry said that Staff Regent Gina Winchester will be conducting another staff survey.

The Executive Committee will meet monthly at 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month to discuss known issues and set agendas for upcoming meetings. Committee chairs will need to attend the August and January Executive Committee meetings. Meetings will be held in the Tennessee Room of the Curris Center or in the office of Treasurer Marion Hale. Specific meeting locations will be announced prior to the meetings.

Terry will meet with Faculty Regent Jay Morgan, Faculty Senate President Steve White, and Staff Regent Gina Winchester in August or September.

Terry asked that each committee chair describe his committee's responsibilities for the benefit of newly elected Staff Congress members.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: Committee Chair Michael Busby reported that the Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee is working on the Interim Title Limitation Policy Request (AI# 0607-021) and Staff Leave for Fall Break (AI# 0607-023).

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that the following Staff Congress representative positions are vacant: 1 in the Secretarial/Clerical category; 3 in the General category; and 1 in the Facilities Management category. The Credentials and Elections Committee will be updating campaign rules and procedures. The next Staff Regent election will be held in March 2009.

Staff Recognition Committee: Marion Hale presented the Staff Recognition Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Rhonda Rogers and co-chair Sheri Riddle who could not attend today's meeting. The Staff Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for August 14. Coldwater Barbeque will cater the luncheon. The luncheon expense has been approved by Tom Denton, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services. Staff Congress members will greet staff at the luncheon by serving drinks and desserts.

Quarterly Staff Recognition Award (AI# 0607-016): To receive this award, staff may be nominated for good deeds of service to co-workers, staff, faculty, students, and visitors to campus. Award recipients will receive a copy of the nomination form submitted on their behalf and a certificate of award. The new award will be announced at the Staff Recognition Luncheon.

Staff Special Events Committee: Chair Misty Starks said that the committee is seeking donations from local businesses to be given as prizes to the winners of the campus-wide "Biggest Loser" weight loss contest. She distributed copies of a flyer that explains the contest to potential prize donors.

Christian Cruce reported that a staff social gathering was held at Captain D's on July 10 during lunch. Tracy Roberts noted that many staff who attended the lunch commented that they like having the staff social gathering during lunch. The next staff meal is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, at Nick's from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Christian said that the Staff Special Events Committee will meet after today's Staff Congress meeting. The committee is gathering details on arranging a group rate for staff to purchase tickets to a Southern Illinois Miners baseball game. The committee welcomes ideas for future outings.

Communications Committee: Co-chair Kim Griffo said that the Communications Committee is planning to visit the extended campus sites. The Henderson Chamber of Commerce has sent to Staff Congress tickets for a baseball game in Henderson. The Communications Committee welcomes any suggestions. The committee will begin work on the next newsletter.

Working Conditions Committee: Chair Jerry O'Bryan said that job descriptions are being updated in preparation for the salary and benefits equity study.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee: Committee Chair Debbie Plummer reported that Joyce Gordon, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and David Blackburn, Director of Procurement Services, are writing the request for bid proposals to research hourly salaries and benefits.

Parking and Transportation Group: Group member Phil Schooley said that the parking and transportation pilot survey has been distributed. Full distribution is planned for late August or early September.

Smoke-Free Resolution Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that the committee met to discuss the Smoke-Free Resolution. She distributed copies of the resolution with proposed additions and changes. Staff Congress members commented that they would like to leave section 1b as originally written and include all proposed additions.

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 reported that the Board of Regents retreat will be held on July 14. She will meet with Faculty Regent Jay Morgan to discuss faculty and staff concerns to present to the Board of Regents at the retreat. She will meet with the Staff Congress Executive Committee after today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Adjournment: Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn. Jerry O'Bryan seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.