

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

PRESENT: Cathy Bazar, Terry Burgess, Michael Busby, Christian Cruce, Kim Griffo, Orville Herndon, Wade Herndon, Lana Jennings, Tresa Jones, Jerry O'Bryan, Jane Page, Debbie Plummer, Rhonda Rogers, and Phil Schooley. Guests: Carmen Garland, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs for Retention; 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, said that Dr. Dunn asked that she relay to staff his wishes for continued success and thanks for all that the staff have done for the university. She added that Dr. Dunn sent a written letter to the Staff Congress leadership expressing appreciation for work done and wishes for staff members' continued success. In the letter, he requested that Staff Congress contact him if the Executive Committee wants to meet with him or if staff would like for him to attend a Staff Congress meeting in order to hear discussion on a specific item.

Terry Burgess responded that Staff Congress is pleased with the communication between Staff Congress and Dr. Dunn.

Carmen Garland, Special Assistant to Dr. Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs for Retention, attended today's Staff Congress meeting on behalf of Dr. Don Robertson. She announced that the Annual Unity March will begin on the walkway between the Curris Center and the IT building on September 13. The Career Fair will be held on October 3, in the Curris Center. Child care is available from 4:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at the Ruby Simpson Child Development Center. Children ages 2 through 9 whose parents are university faculty, staff, or students may attend on a drop-off basis. Pre-registration is not required. The center is a licensed child care center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: In the August minutes, under New Business, the last sentence is incorrect and should be omitted.

Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Terry Burgess presented the August Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Marion Hale who was unable to attend today's meeting. Debbie Plummer made a motion to accept the report as presented. Jerry O'Bryan seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee Report: President Terry Burgess reported that the Executive Committee met with Staff Congress chairpersons in September to review committee structures and functions.

Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee: Committee Chair Michael Busby reported that the Personnel Policies/Benefits Committee met on August 23. He presented and elaborated on a written summary of that meeting.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that Staff Congress now has an at-large position open due Tracy Roberts' resignation from Staff Congress. She resigned her Staff Congress position due to the increase in her workload while implementing ERP. Terry Burgess added that Tracy hopes to re-join Staff Congress after her workload with ERP lessens.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Rhonda Rogers reported that the Staff Recognition Luncheon went very well. She asked for written comments and suggestions from staff regarding the luncheon. The suggestions will be presented to university administration when planning for next year's luncheon.

The Quarterly Staff Recognition Award (AI# 0607-016) nomination forms are at the printer and should be available by October 1. All award recipients will have a chance to win a gift certificate for a university t-shirt or sweatshirt valued at \$25. The first drawing for a shirt will be held at the January Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Special Events Committee: Co-chair Christian Cruce reported that the university "Biggest Loser" contest has held two meetings. Approximately 8-10 employees are currently participating. Interested persons may still join the contest. Various speakers address the meetings which are held every two weeks.

The Special Events Committee plans to schedule additional group events for staff. Possible events include an October trip to a zoo and a November or December outing to a Broadway play in Nashville.

Staff Congress is organizing a team for the Heart Walk to be held on Saturday, October 20. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. before the walk which starts at 9:30 a.m. Any staff member interesting in joining the team should contact team captain Christian Cruce.

The next staff social meal is scheduled for October 2, 5:00-9:00 p.m., at Mr. Gatti's. If at least 25 people attend the dinner at Mr. Gatti's, Staff Congress will earn a 10% rebate. The rebate will be donated to the Heart Walk.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Lana Jennings distributed a schedule for newsletters for the academic year. She asked for volunteers to assist with labeling newsletters for mailing.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Salary and Benefits Equity Research Committee: Debbie Plummer reported that the request for bids to research salary and benefits equity is in development.

Parking and Transportation Group: Phil Schooley said that the Parking and Transportation Group will meet later in October to discuss the results of the transportation survey.

Smoke-Free Resolution Committee: Debbie Plummer said that the committee will meet with Judy Lyle to further discuss the Smoke-Free Policy Resolution (AI# 0607-017).

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Terry Burgess reported that the committee met on September 7. He distributed a schedule of proposed health insurance rate changes for 2008. The committee will meet again on September 12, at 3:15. Orville noted that Dr. Dunn is making efforts to keep health insurance increases affordable. Other Staff Congress members expressed agreement with Orville's statement. The committee will begin meeting monthly to address other insurance issues such as setting premiums based on pay and opting out of health insurance.

A health fair will be held October 10, in Carr Health.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: Michael Busby said that the committee will meet in October after a meeting date has been determined.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: No report.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Gina Winchester referred to a recent article in the *Murray Ledger and Times* in which the U.S. Tennis Tournament director made positive comments about the university. Gina thanked the staff at the Curris Center, Facilities Management, and Food Service for their hard work during the tournament.

She has received over 300 completed staff surveys so far. She hopes to have the results compiled by mid-October.

Gina will be attending some Faculty Senate and SGA meetings. She will inform those groups of current topics within

Staff Congress, such as the sick leave bank wording change.

Gina read the agenda for the Friday, September 14 Board of Regents meeting. On Thursday evening before the meeting, Gina and Faculty Regent Jay Morgan will lead the Board of Regents members on a walking tour of campus.

OLD BUSINESS:

Changes to Staff Congress Constitution and Bylaws (AI#0607-001): Kim Griffo made a motion to accept the changes to the Staff Congress Constitution as presented at previous Staff Congress meetings. Jerry O'Bryan seconded. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken. The first reading passed unanimously (13-0).

Christian Cruce made a motion to accept changes to the Staff Congress Bylaws as presented at previous meetings. Debbie Plummer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A roll-call vote was taken. The first reading passed unanimously (13-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

Terry asked for a volunteer to serve on the naming Campus Facilities Committee to fill the vacancy left by Tracy Roberts. Christian Cruce volunteered to serve on the committee. Kim Griffo made a motion to appoint Christian Cruce to the Naming Campus Facilities Committee. Phil Schooley seconded, and the motion passed.

Adjournment: Jerry O'Bryan made a motion to adjourn. Wade Herndon seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.