



**Draft Minutes for August 26, 2015  
304 North Applied Science Building**

**PRESENT:** James Barnett, Shanna Burgess, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Ann Matheny, Jerry O'Bryan, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Ashley Rogers, Tressa Ross, Kenny Sanford, Rhonda Timmons, Stephanie Totty, Tim Williams, Dwaine Willoughby, Joseph Wilson, Chad Wortham, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

**Guests:** Dr. Robert Davies, President; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Martin Jacobs, Faculty Regent; Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President, Marketing and Outreach; and Gina Winchester, Director, Regional Stewardship and Outreach.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Staff Congress President Laura Lohr called the meeting to order.

**REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**Dr. Davies, President:** Dr. Davies introduced Dr. Adrienne King, the new Vice-President of Marketing and outreach. He elaborated on her work experience and its application to MSU.

Dr. Davies said student move-in went well. He said that at its meeting on August 28, the Board of Regents will discuss the Strategic Plan and enrollment.

**Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President, Marketing and Outreach:** Dr. King thanked everyone for the welcome, saying she felt at home during her first visit to the campus. She is currently developing the university's integrated marketing plan and will be asking faculty and staff for input.

**Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives:** Dr. Renee Fister distributed printed copies of the Strategic Initiatives Plan. The plan is also available on myGate. The implantation phase has begun. A facilitator has been appointed for each measure within the plan. She requested that any staff asked to assist in supporting a measure, please consider the request. Dr. Fister thanked staff for their involvement in the plan's development. Plan implementation review dates are scheduled for October 1, February 1, and May 2. At the end of the year, Dr. Davies will provide an update on the plan.

**Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources:** Joyce Gordon said that proposed health insurance and benefits changes for 2016 will be presented to the Board of Regents at its August meeting. She explained that MSU has not made changes to the plan design in several years, although health insurance costs have continued to increase. Open Enrollment will be held in October, with specific dates to be determined. A session will be offered for employees to learn more about the proposed health insurance plan changes. She answered questions.

**Staff Regent Report:** Staff Regent Phil Schooley said he emailed to his recipient list, the agenda for the Board of Regents retreat, or "advance" according to Dr. Davies, to be held on August 27. When he receives the agenda for the August 28 Board of Regents meeting, he will email it to his recipient list.

**APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES:** John Young made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF JULY TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Jessica Evans presented the July Treasurer's Report. James Barnett made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report as presented. Dwaine Willoughby seconded, and the motion carried.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** Staff Congress President Laura Lohr reported on her recent meeting with the Strategic Initiatives Health and Wellness Task Force. She will be scheduling a meeting of the Staff Congress Committee Chairs. Laura would then like each committee to begin meeting. She asked if anyone had questions about the committees. Laura made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Staff Congress Committee assignments. John Young seconded, and the motion carried.

**Credentials and Elections Committee:** No report.

**Staff Recognition Committee:** Committee Chair Ashley Rogers thanked everyone for welcoming staff at the Staff Recognition Luncheon. She said she has received good feedback concerning the vendor fair. The Staff Recognition Committee will meet soon to discuss the recent luncheon and vendor fair.

Laura Lohr asked Staff Congress members for their input and for comments they have received from other staff concerning the luncheon and vendor fair. Discussion followed. Some staff said they missed the vendors on the second floor because they did not know part of the vendor fair was located on the second floor this year.

**Staff Special Events Committee:** No report.

**Communications Committee:** No report.

**Working Conditions Committee:** No report.

**Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee:** Textbook Scholarship Committee Chair Jessica Evans thanked the Textbook Scholarship Committee members for their work on the committee. She will schedule a committee meeting soon. To date, two applications have been submitted for the fall textbook scholarship. The application deadline for fall scholarships is October 1. The University Store will display a poster about the Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship.

Laura Lohr said she has received a letter asking if Staff Congress would like to host a tent at homecoming. She asked if Congress members would like to host a tent to raise funds for the textbook scholarship. Discussion followed. Some Congress members have other tent duties at Homecoming. Those present decided not to host a tent at this year's homecoming.

**Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee:** No report.

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**

**Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee:** Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee Chair John Young distributed copies of the 2016 Proposed Plan Design Updates for health insurance which will be presented to the Board of Regents at its August meeting. John Young and Human Resources Director Joyce Gordon answered questions regarding the 2016 Proposed Plan Design Updates.

John said staff may contact members of the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee with comments and suggestions concerning insurance and benefits. John Young, James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Orville Herndon, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, and Stephanie Totty are the staff representatives on the Insurance and Benefits Committee.

**Intercollegiate Athletic Council:** No report.

**Naming Campus Facilities Committee:** No report.

**Judicial Board:** No report.

**Sick Leave Appeals Committee:** No report.

**International Studies Advisory Committee:** No report.

**Dual Employment Committee:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Laura Lohr distributed flyers from Gina Winchester for the Soup for Soul meal kitchen. She encouraged staff to assist with the soup kitchen.

Tress Ross said confusion exists concerning approved smoking locations around the campus perimeter. Discussion followed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** John Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie Totty seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.