



Draft Minutes for July 22, 2015
304 North Applied Science Building

PRESENT: James Barnett, Shanna Burgess, Jessica Evans, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Robert Long-Mendez, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Ashley Rogers, Maria Rosa, Tressa Ross, Kenny Sanford, Logan Stout, Tim Williams, Joseph Wilson, Chad Wortham, John Young; and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: David Burdette, Director, Facilities Management; Dr. Davies, President; Dr. Joe DeBella, Faculty Senate President; Jackie Dudley, Vice-President, Administration and Finance; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Martin Jacobs, Faculty Regent; Jerry Rhoades, Board of Regents Member; Jordan Smith, Director of Governmental Relations; Gina Winchester, Director of Regional Stewardship and Outreach.

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

FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Davies, President: Dr. Davies thanked Staff Congress members for serving their co-workers and looks forward to working with them throughout the upcoming academic year.

At the Strategic Initiatives open forum held earlier in July, the goals and measurement matrix measures of the plan were discussed.

He said the fall enrollment and new student numbers are good.

Dr. Davies introduced the newly appointed Board of Regents member, former State Senator Jerry Rhoades from Madisonville. Mr. Rhoades' term as Regent began July 1, 2015.

Regent Jerry Rhoades: Jerry Rhoades thanked staff for their service to MSU.

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Renee Fister said the Strategic Initiatives Plan is on the MSU home page under Quick Links. Brief updates will be given in October, February, and May, and will be presented to the Board of Regents. Several elements of the plan have been initiated. Facilitators have been appointed to lead teams on which employees will be asked to participate.

Laura Lohr added that staff can look through the Strategic Initiative Plan to find areas that interest them. Dr. Fister said that employees can email her about the areas that interest them. She will put them in contact with the corresponding facilitators.

Jackie Dudley, Vice-President, Administration and Finance: Jackie Dudley said the new CIO Keith Weber began work on July 20. She thanked Brian Purcell for service as Interim CIO since the fall of 2014.

Public Safety has purchased new security app for use on campus. It will be introduced at Great Beginnings and will be available for students and employees to download.

Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources: Joyce Gordon reviewed the items being addressed by Human Resources. Wellness Coordinator Lauren Smee will be moving back the Human Resources office. Human Resources is working to minimize the impact to employees of the continued cost increases of insurance. Human Resources is taking into consideration recommendations made by the university-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee, such as conducting a dependent audit to determine which persons receiving MSU insurance coverage no longer meet the eligibility requirements for the insurance. She appreciates the committee members' work and for meeting throughout the summer which they normally don't do.

Open Enrollment will be held in October.

James Barnett and John Young added that the Insurance and Benefits Committee has recommended the insurance premium be based on tobacco use. Human Resource will make the final decision regarding that.

Tressa Ross said she appreciated that the sign-up process for HEA 189 has been made simple.

Jordan Smith, Director of Governmental Relations: Laura Lohr introduced Jordan Smith, Director of Governmental Relations. Jordan Smith explained that he attends committee meetings and follows legislation that affects MSU, including Human Resources and Academics. He hopes to have legislative representatives visit MSU to meet staff, faculty, and students. He distributed copies of the MSU Institutional Profile and University Report which he and Dr. Renee Fister prepared and distributed to legislative representatives.

David Burdette, Interim Facilities Management Director: David Burdette said Franklin Hall is expected to be complete by approximately July 2016. The anticipated completion date for the Engineering and Physics Building is January 2017. He provided an update on the Breathitt project and on Murray campus maintenance and classroom improvement projects. He thanked Dr. Davies, Dr. Todd, Dr. Robertson, and Jackie Dudley.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will hold its retreat on August 27 and will meet on August 28.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES: John Young made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as presented. James Barnett seconded the motion and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MAY AND JUNE TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Sheri Riddle was out-of-town and therefore unable to attend the Staff Congress meeting. Copies of the May and June Treasurer's Reports were distributed. The June Treasurer's Report is preliminary. It will be updated pending the final report.

Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the May and June Treasurer's Reports as presented. Orville Herndon seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Staff Congress President Laura Lohr thanked the 2014-2015 officers, Marion Hale and Sheri Riddle, and welcomed the 2015-2016 officers, Tressa Ross and Jessica Evans. She welcomed new Staff Congress members Robyn Pizzo and Kenny Sanford, as well as guests.

Laura thanked 2014-2015 Staff Congress Committee members for their service. She distributed 2015-2016 Staff Congress committee preference forms. Congress members can email Laura with committee preferences or questions.

She thanked Faculty Senate President Dr. Joe DeBella and Faculty Regent Marty Jacobs for keeping the compensation for staff and faculty in focus as part of the Strategic Initiatives Plan. The staff and faculty representatives are working as a team on behalf of employees.

Credentials and Elections Committee: No report.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Ashley Rogers reminded staff that the Staff Recognition Luncheon is scheduled for August 11. Reservations are due on July 24. She asked Dana to send a reminder on Facebook. A vendor fair will be held before the luncheon. She received several requests after last year's luncheon without a vendor fair that a vendor fair be held at future appreciation luncheons.

She reported that 25 nominations have been received for the Staff Excellence Award.

Staff Special Events Committee: Committee Chair Shanna Burgess said that the Murray Christmas parade has been confirmed for Friday night, December 4. The Staff Congress Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 5.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Dana Howard said she will try to arrange to have head shots taken of Staff Congress members at the Staff Recognition Luncheon.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: No report. Laura Lohr added that information about the Staff Congress textbook scholarship will be available at the Staff Recognition Luncheon.

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 said that its June 19 meeting, the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee discussed the insurance and benefits survey sent to employees in June. At its July 31 meeting, the committee will continue its discussion about whether or not spouses of university employees should be required to accept the insurance offered by the spouses' employers.

Staff are encouraged to 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: Debbie Plummer reported that Dr. Davies will discuss with Dr. Whaley language clarification of the Dual Employment Committee's recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015-2016 Staff Congress Meeting Schedule:

Laura Lohr presented the proposed 2015-2016 Staff Congress meeting schedule. The meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month with the following exception: The August meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday, August 26.

She asked for discussion. Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2015-2016, Orville Herndon seconded, and the motion was approved.

Other:

Faculty Senate President Dr. Joe DeBella said that he was on the Strategic Initiatives Plan Committee which asked employees for input as to what health and wellness programs and financial wellness programs they want. Laura Lohr was also on the committee.

Dr. DeBella complimented the staff who work on his building, saying they are prompt and polite.

Laura Lohr said Staff Congress was well represented at the July 21 CPE town hall meeting.

Gina Winchester, Director of Regional Stewardship and Outreach, thanked those who attended the CPE meeting. She said that over 100 staff, faculty, and students attended. The CPE's website is located at www.cpeky.gov.

ADJOURNMENT: James Barnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Logan Stout seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.