



Draft Minutes for May 20, 2015
304 North Applied Science Building

PRESENT: Shanna Burgess, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Ann Matheny, Chuck Plummer, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Ashley Rogers, Maria Rosa, Tressa Ross, Logan Stout, Rhonda Timmons, Stephanie Totty, Tim Williams, Dwaine Willoughby, Chad Wortham, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Robert Davies, President; Dr. Joe DeBella, Faculty Senate President; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives.

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

Laura Lohr welcomed Dr. Joe DeBella, newly-elected Faculty Senate President.

FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Bob Davies, President: Dr. Davies said that the administration is in the final stages of fine-tuning the budget. The proposed budget includes a pay increase of 1.5% for pay up to \$25,000 and 1% for the portion of pay above \$25,000.

In August 2014, the Board of Regents discussed Title IX and has been monitoring and discussing the university's implementation over the past year, primarily as it relates to sexual assault and harassment. Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, and Jackie Dudley, Vice-President of Finance and Administrative Services, are reviewing Title IX best practices across Kentucky.

Concerning the University Budget Committee Proposal, prepared and approved by the Faculty Senate, Dr. Davies asked that Staff Congress table the discussion to allow time for further discussion and refinement to the proposal.

Dr. Davies thanked staff for their service, leadership, and dedication to the university. He appreciates the staff and their work to serve students.

Dr. Davies answered questions.

Laura Lohr congratulated Renee Fister on receiving the Transylvania University 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will meet on June 5.

Debbie Griffin asked if tuition or housing will be addressed at the June meeting of the Board of Regents. Phil answered that the tuition increase of 3% was approved last year. Housing will be addressed at the June Board of Regents meeting.

Laura Lohr asked Staff Congress members to review the Staff Survey, available at www.murraystate.edu/staffcongress, and forward comments and questions to Phil. Staff may also contact Phil with questions they would like included in the next survey.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES: Stephanie Totty said her name was omitted from the Attendance section of the April minutes. John Young made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Orville Herndon seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Sheri Riddle presented the April Treasurer's Report. April expenditures included printing for the Staff Congress Election and for salary. Upcoming expenditures will include the purchase of items for the Children's Christmas Party and December Staff Reception.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Staff Congress President Laura Lohr said she has met with the Staff Congress Executive Committee. The Faculty and Staff Leadership Committee discussed the budget with Dr. Davies. She said the discussion was good and Dr. Davies welcomes input from staff.

Laura read a message from Jackie Dudley which said that several projects are in progress on campus which require re-routing of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. She asked employees to take safety precautions.

Laura said the Office of Sponsored Programs will be presenting a grant writing workshop on May 27, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in room 304 North of the Applied Science Building. Meeting attendees may bring their lunch. Drinks will be provided by Staff Congress. Persons interested in attending should contact John Roark, Director of Sponsored Programs.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Tressa Ross said she will invite the newly-elected Staff Congress members to attend the June Staff Congress meeting.

At the June meeting, current Staff Congress members will elect the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer for 2015-2016. She read the eligibility requirements for each position. Persons interested in running for any of those offices may email Tressa to be included on the printed ballot.

Laura Lohr thanked the Credentials and Elections Committee members for their work with the recent Staff Regent and Staff Congress Elections.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Ashley Rogers reported that the Staff Recognition Luncheon will be held August 11. A vendor fair will be held prior to the luncheon. Members of the university community are encouraged to nominate staff for the Staff Excellence award.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Dana Howard said the committee will issue a summer newsletter. Members may send newsletter items to Dana or the Secretary. Items can also be posted to the Staff Congress Facebook page. The Communications Committee would also like to add photos and short biographies of Staff Congress members to the Staff Congress webpage.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: No report.

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 after hearing a presentation from the Know your Prescription Coalition at the May 8, 2015 meeting of the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee, the committee recommended that MSU join the coalition. This will assist in management of overall healthcare costs to the university. The overall health care costs influence the percentage of costs passed to employees in their coverage premiums and coverage plans. The patient co-pay for medicine will continue to be directed by the policy guidelines.

The Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee discussed the possibility of conducting an insurance dependent audit to determine which dependents currently on the university's insurance no longer meet the criteria to receive university health insurance. Such an audit has not been conducted previously.

A survey was distributed the week of May 11, 2015, to staff and faculty concerning voluntary benefits. John said a report on the survey will be compiled and presented to the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee. On the survey, respondents indicated that they are in favor of expanding Health Services care to adult dependents of employees.

The committee will meet on June 19.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: Committee member Sheri Riddle reported that a subcommittee of the Intercollegiate Athletic council met to review the senior exit interviews and will compile a report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Logan Stout said the brick plaza on the north lawn of the Alumni Center will be named the Jim Carter Memorial Plaza.

Judicial Board: Stephanie Totty reported that the Judicial Board met regarding a case, the details of which cannot be discussed.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Dual Employment Committee: Debbie Plummer said the Dual Employment Committee is awaiting Dr. Davies' response to its recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ashley Rogers said she followed up with Human Resources on the request at a previous Staff Congress meeting to offer software training sessions. Due to reduced demand for large group trainings, specific groups may contact the Office of Technology Support and Consulting Services to request trainings.

Staff Congress members discussed the structure of the University Budget Committee Proposal and the number of staff to serve on the committee. No action was taken.

Dr. Joe DeBella, Faculty Senate President, complimented the staff, saying they are outstanding. He is working to facilitate communication between faculty and staff groups. He thanked Staff Congress for welcoming him to the group's meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: Shanna Burgess made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.