MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Congress

**Draft Minutes for June 17, 2026**
**Wells Hall, Room 118, and Zoom**

**Present:** Emily Asher, Ken Ashlock, Dedrick Brooks, Duane Dycus, Hannah (Durbin) Garner, Gerry Harris, Abby Hensley, Orville Herndon, BJ Johnson, Robert Koehler, Trish Lofton, David Looney, Carlos Lopez, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Tressa Ross, Amy Sanders, Mary Steely, Brandon Story, Justin Thomas, Karami Underwood, Brian Williams

**Absent:** Dayna Hutchinson, Kelsey Johnson, David Shelton, Rachel Stewart, Kristen Swisher, Lisa Willis, Casey Workman

**Guests:** Michael Bordieri, Faculty Senate President; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services; Stephanie Jennings, Director of Accounting and Financial Services; Julianne McClain, Staff Congress Member-Elect; Jillian Smith, Staff Congress Member-Elect; Taylor Snell, Staff Congress Member-Elect; Haley Stedelin, Associate Director of Human Resources; Dr. David Wilson, Staff Regent

**CALL TO ORDER:** Staff Congress President Audrey Neal called the meeting to order.

**REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:**
**Haley Stedelin, Associate Director of Human Resources:** Haley Stedelin said that as part of Phase 2 of the Wellness Pledge, the walking group will resume in July. A watermelon social for faculty and staff will be held at the Waterfield Library Breezeway. Dates for the walking group and watermelon social will be determined.

**Staff Regent Report:** Staff Regent Dr. David Wilson provided a summary of the Board of Regents meeting held on June 12. He listed the new non-scholarship sports that will be added to Athletics. At the board meeting, the budget was discussed. Reports were heard from Student Affairs and other offices. The Board of Regents retreat and meeting are scheduled for August 27 and 28.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Abby Hensley made a motion to approve the May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented. Tressa Ross seconded the motion. President Neal asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, she called for the vote. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:** The May 2026 Treasurer's Report was not available. It will be presented at the July meeting.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
**Executive Committee:** President Neal reported that at its June meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the Staff Survey. Ms. Neal will contact the 2025-2026 Staff Congress Committee Chairs for information from the committees to include in the Staff Congress Annual Report. Staff Congress Goals and Objectives for 2026-2027 will be discussed at the Staff Congress Retreat in July.

**Credentials and Elections Committee:** Orville Herndon reported that Kim Newbern has resigned from Staff Congress. Later in today's meeting, Staff Congress members will elect the 2026-2027 Staff Congress Officers. Mr. Herndon read the requirements for running for an officer position.

Mr. Herndon introduced Jillian Smith, Staff Congress Member-Elect. Ms. Smith's term on Staff Congress will begin on July 1.

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

**Communications Committee:** Jeremy McKeel said that a group photo of Staff Congress members will be taken at the July Staff Congress meeting. Staff Congress members will have the opportunity to have their individual photos taken as well. Mr. McKeel will send a message to Staff Congress members requesting they submit their bios. The Communications Committee will post the bios on Staff Congress social media.

President Neal noted that because the July meeting is the Staff Congress Retreat, which will be held off-campus, the photos will need to be taken at the August meeting.

**Working Conditions Committee:** No report.

**Staff Survey Committee:** Dedrick Brooks provided an overview of the 2025-2026 Staff Survey results. The results will be posted on the Staff Congress website. Mr. Brooks thanked the members of the Staff Survey Committee for their work.

President Neal thanked Mr. Brooks and the committee members for their work with the survey.

**Textbook Scholarship Committee:** Karami Underwood reported that a scholarship fundraiser will be held at Panera in Murray, on July 30, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent to Jeremy McKeel to post on Staff Congress social media. Presentation of the electronic or paper copy of the flyer will be required at Panera in order for a percentage of sales to be donated to the scholarship fund. A code will be available to use with online orders in order for a percentage of sales to be donated to the fund.

Discussion followed concerning promoting payroll deduction for scholarship donations.

**Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee:** Trish Lofton reported that the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee is waiting to see responses to the short survey regarding tuition waivers.

**Community Involvement and Access Committee:** On behalf of Community Involvement and Access Committee Chair Kristen Swisher, who was unable to attend today's meeting, President Neal thanked committee members for organizing Staff Success Week. Recordings of Staff Success Week presentations will be posted on the Staff Congress website.

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**

**Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee:** Orville Herndon requested staff complete the Insurance and Benefits Survey which will be open through June 30. He thanked President Neal for preparing the survey.

President Neal reported on the number of survey responses received to date.

Mr. Herndon said the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee meeting scheduled for August 28 will be rescheduled due to the Board of Regents meeting scheduled for August 28.

**Intercollegiate Athletic Council:** No report.

**Naming Campus Facilities Committee:** Dedrick Brooks reported that the following naming proposals were approved by the Board of Regents: Rudolph Family Field at Roy Stewart Stadium; Draffen Family Founder's Club at Roy Stewart Stadium; Taylor Family Park at the Baseball Stadium and Johnny Reagan Field; Pocket's Paddock at the CFSB Center; The Drs. Philip and Melissa Chapman Foundation Lobby at the CFSB Center; and the Newell Family Champions Lobby at the Gene Wells Ray Center.

**Judicial Board:** No report.

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

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

**Budget Advisory Committee:** President Neal reported that Dr. Foltz, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, plans to hold a budget town hall meeting in the fall to discuss additional information. Staff Congress sent a survey to staff before the budget town hall scheduled for April, to ask staff members for their input regarding the town hall format and information they would like included in the meeting.

Trish Lofton asked if changes to the inventory process have been approved. Assistant Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Wendy Cain said that the changes require a final reading prior to approval.

**Shared Governance Committee:** No report.

**Parking Advisory Committee:** No report.

Dedrick Brooks said that on the Staff Survey, some staff noted concerns about having to pay to park at work.

President Neal said that Staff Congress passed a resolution requesting that parking fees be tiered and free parking be available for employees who have worked at the university for 15 years. Currently, employees who have worked 20 years, receive free parking. The resolution was forwarded to Dr. Patterson. Ms. Neal will follow-up on this and other resolutions approved by Staff Congress.

Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, said the Fees Committee will discuss the parking fee requests.

**Affirmative Action Committee:** No report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Staff Regent Bylaws Revision Committee:** Orville Herndon reported that the Staff Regent Bylaws Committee is waiting for the revised Kentucky Statutes to be published. He anticipates they will be published by July. The committee is waiting for updates to the KRS website to determine if any changes have been made to the KRS statute concerning Staff Regents.

**Extended Campus Committee:** Audrey Neal said she will begin work with the Extended Campus Committee after the student summer camp organized by her department has finished.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Tressa Ross asked that an event similar to the coffee break held in January for staff be held before fall classes start. The discussion that followed included providing at the event QR codes with information about the scholarships and the staff recognition nomination form.

President Neal said that Dr. Patterson had mentioned scheduling a back-to-school event for staff before the fall semester begins. She recommended the Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee contact Dr. Patterson.

President Neal said the September Staff Congress meeting and the Strategic Planning Committee Training are both scheduled for September 16. Because some Staff Congress members will be attending the training, the Congress may want to consider changing the date of the September Staff Congress meeting. The Congress can discuss the September meeting date at the July Staff Congress meeting. She said Staff Congress can check for any other events scheduled on the same dates as Staff Congress meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of 2026-2027 Staff Congress Officers:** Parliamentarian Orville Herndon read the names of Staff Congress members who had filed as candidates for officer positions.

For the office of President, Dedrick Brooks and Jeremy McKeel filed as candidates prior to today's Staff Congress meeting. Mr. Herndon asked if there were any additional nominations for President. There were none.

For Vice President, Trish Lofton filed as a candidate prior to today's meeting. Mr. Herndon asked if there were any additional nominations for Vice President. There were none.

For Treasurer, no names were submitted as candidates prior to today's meeting. Mr. Herndon asked if there were any nominations for Treasurer. Tressa Ross volunteered to be a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Mr. Herndon asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none.

Mr. Herndon read the names of all the candidates for officer positions. He said that write-in candidates are allowed. Mr. Herndon appointed Justin Thomas and Robert Koehler as tellers. The tellers distributed paper ballots to Staff Congress members. Mr. Herndon emailed a link for the online ballot to Staff Congress members attending the meeting on Zoom.

Mr. Herndon read the names of Staff Congress members whose terms end June 30: Dayna Hutchinson, David Shelton, Rachel Stewart, and Lisa Willis.

Mr. Herndon announced the results of the Officer Election. For President, Dedrick Brooks received 3 votes and Jeremy McKeel received 18 votes. For Vice President, Trish Lofton received 21 votes. For Treasurer, Tressa Ross received 21 votes.

President Neal passed the gavel to President-Elect McKeel.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:** President-Elect Jeremy McKeel asked if anyone had any information items.

Duane Dycus led Staff Congress members in a round of applause and compliments for outgoing President Audrey Neal.

President Neal thanked Staff Congress members and complimented them for their work.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Justin Thomas seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.