MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Congress

Minutes for February 18, 2026--Approved by Staff Congress March 25, 2026
Wells Hall, Room 118, and Zoom

Present: Emily Asher, Ken Ashlock, Dedrick Brooks, Hannah Durbin, Duane Dycus, Gerry Harris, Abby Hensley, Orville Herndon, Dayna Hutchinson, BJ Johnson, Bobby Koehler, Trish Lofton, David Looney, Carlos Lopez, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Kim Newbern, Tressa Ross, Amy Sanders, Mary Steely, Rachel Stewart, Kristen Swisher, Justin Thomas, Brian Williams, Lisa Willis, Casey Workman

Absent: Kelsey Johnson, David Shelton, Karami Underwood

Guests: Michael Bordieri, Faculty Senate President; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Laura Foltz, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Ron K. Patterson, University President; Camela Ramey; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs; 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:
Dr. Ron K. Patterson, University President: Dr. Ron Patterson gave on update on the Provost search. Candidates will be on campus March 2, 3, and 4. He encouraged staff to attend the candidate town halls and provide feedback. Dr. Patterson provided an update on the Kentucky Legislative Session. A budget town hall will be held in March. The School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State has been approved. The AI chatbot platform EdSights was launched on February 17.

Dr. Laura Foltz, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services: Dr. Laura Foltz said an announcement was made last week that travel requests no longer require approval from vice presidents. Details of the procedural change can be found in the *Updated Travel Procedures* email from Finance and Administrative Services that was sent to employees on February 13. Other processes are being evaluated for improvements to increase efficiency. Dr. Foltz said she welcomes input. Her office has been meeting with Dr. Patterson regarding the budget.

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs: Dr. Don Robertson discussed the career fairs being held February 17 and 18. He complimented Career Services staff for their work arranging the career fairs. Dr. Robertson gave an update on enrollment for the spring and fall 2026 semesters and for Racer Nation Orientation.

Haley Stedelin, Associate Director of Human Resources: Haley Stedelin said cholesterol screenings are being held on campus on February 17 and 18. All the appointments have been filled. She thanked Murray Calloway County Hospital for providing the screenings. Job audits are in the process of being conducted. Staff can contact Human Resources with questions. Performance evaluations will begin soon. Training sessions for performance evaluations will be offered. The *Great Colleges to Work for* survey will send an email to some employees asking for feedback.

Dedrick Brooks said the registration form has been completed and the email addresses have been submitted for the *Great Colleges to Work for* survey. Emails with be sent to random employee email addresses approximately March 2-27.

President Neal said an email will be sent to Staff Congress representatives to send to their constituents to remind them to complete the *Great Colleges to Work for* survey if they receive the email with the survey link.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Dr. David Wilson said the Board of Regents will meet on February 27. He will send the meeting link to staff. He thanked staff with Sodexo, SSC, Housing, and Facilities Management for their work during the weather closure. The Staff Survey is open until February 27.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Abby Hensley made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes. BJ Johnson seconded. President Neal asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, she called for the vote. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:
Approval of December 2025 and January 2026 Treasurer's Reports: Tressa Ross made a motion to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 Treasurer's Reports. Trish Lofton seconded. President Neal asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, she called for the vote. The motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Executive Committee: President Neal reported on the February meeting of the Executive Committee. The committee discussed the *Resolution Regarding Late Fee Penalties for Delinquent Timecards and Leave Report* that will be presented for approval later in today's Staff Congress meeting. The committee also discussed the Provost search and the Staff Survey. She asked Staff Congress members to encourage staff to complete the Staff Survey. Positive feedback, ideas, and constructive criticism can be submitted in the survey.

BJ Johnson said he will print paper copies of the Staff Survey for Facilities Management staff to complete.

Dedrick Brooks and BJ Johnson added that university administrators read the Staff Survey Results.

President Neal said an email will be sent to staff to remind them to complete the survey.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon said the Staff Congress Election will be held April 21-22. The filing period for the election is scheduled for March 23 through April 6. He read the names of Staff Congress members whose terms expire June 30, 2026.

Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Jeremy McKeel asked Staff Congress members to send him photos of presentations of Racer Spirit Awards. The pictures will be posted on the Staff Congress Facebook page.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Committee: Dedrick Brooks reported on the number of responses received to date for the current Staff Survey.

Textbook Scholarship Committee: On behalf of Karami Underwood, who was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting, Audrey Neal reported that the committee has received applications for the Textbook Scholarship and Professional Development Fund Scholarship. The committee will meet to select recipients of the scholarships.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Trish Lofton reported that the proposed amendment to the callback policy, the *Overtime and Exceptional Compensation Policy*, is being reviewed by the university administration.

Community Involvement and Access Committee: Kristen Swisher reported that the schedule has been finalized for the Staff Success Week to be held May 18-22. She listed some of the sessions that are scheduled for Staff Success Week. Some sessions will be held in-person and some will meet on Zoom. The Community Involvement and Access Committee

will meet to discuss publicity for Staff Success Week. The committee will partner with the Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee to plan a social event for staff during staff Success Week.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:
Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Orville Herndon said the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee will meet February 20, at 9:30 a.m., on Zoom. He will email the meeting link to Staff Congress members. During the committee meeting, he will monitor chat and email for questions to relay to the committee. The university's health insurance consultant, Marsh McLennan Agency, will attend the meeting on February 20. Staff can send Mr. Herndon feedback regarding insurance to relay to the committee.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Dedrick Brooks reported that the Naming Campus Facilities Committee discussed naming proposals. The details cannot be reported until they are approved by the Board of Regents.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Parking Advisory Committee: No report.

Affirmative Action Committee: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:
Staff Regent Bylaws Revision Committee: Orville Herndon said the Staff Regent Bylaws Revision Committee has been contacting other universities to request current information regarding their Staff Regent Bylaws.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:
Late Penalty Resolution: President Neal presented the *Resolution Regarding Late Fee Penalties for Delinquent Timecards and Leave Reports* that was sent to Staff Congress before today's meeting. She explained that she drafted the resolution from the information sent to her by Assistant Provost Ashely Ireland. Ms. Ireland asked if Staff Congress would consider drafting a resolution to request that the university end the practice of charging penalties for late timecards and leave reports. The information has also been sent to Faculty Senate for consideration. President Neal opened the floor for discussion of the resolution.

Staff Congress members discussed changes to be made to the resolution.

President Neal will make the changes and send the resolution to Staff Congress members. The revised resolution will be presented for approval at the next Staff Congress meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS: Abby Hensley said Homecoming has been scheduled for the October 16-18.

ADJOURNMENT: Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn. Trish Lofton seconded, and the motion carried.