



Staff Congress

Staff Congress Retreat Minutes—Approved by Staff Congress August 19, 2026

July 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Meagan Brawner, Kristen Swisher

WELCOME: Staff Congress President Jeremy McKeel welcomed everyone.

ICEBREAKER: President McKeel asked members to introduce themselves and to share their favorite Murray State memories.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF STAFF CONGRESS: President McKeel gave a brief overview of Staff Congress. He read the paragraph from the Staff Congress Constitution which explains the purpose of the group.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE: Mr. McKeel reviewed attendance expectations.

OPEN DISCUSSION TO ESTABLISH 2026-27 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Audrey Neal, immediate past President of Staff Congress, distributed copies of the *2025-2026 Staff Survey Committee Final Recommendations* and *Staff Congress Goals and Objectives* for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026. Ms. Neal explained that the goals were developed from recommendations which were based on the Staff Survey results. She reviewed the 2025-2026 Staff Congress Goals and Objectives. Ms. Neal asked Congress members to develop three categories for possible goals for 2026-2027, based on the recommendations from the 2025-2026 Staff Survey.

After discussion, the group agreed on the following categories: 1) Foster a supported, engaged, and valued work force; 2) Promote a healthy, respectful, and sustainable work environment; 3) Strengthen institutional trust, communication, and advocacy. Staff Congress members then divided into three groups. Each group developed goals for one of the three categories.

Ms. Neal gathered the notes from each group. She will compile the notes and send them to Staff Congress members for comment. The goals developed from the notes will be presented at the August Staff Congress meeting for approval. The individual goals will be assigned to the appropriate Staff Congress committees.

APPROVAL OF 2026-2027 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: President McKeel will send a committee selection form to Staff Congress. The committee assignments will be presented for approval at a future Staff Congress meeting. He asked committee chairs/members to give an overview of their committees.

COMMITTEE CHAIR TRAINING: President McKeel discussed the duties of Staff Congress Committee Chairs. Each committee meets approximately once per month depending on the committee's need to meet. The chair organizes the meeting date and meeting agenda.

Closing Remarks: President McKeel explained that Staff Congress member Casey Workman has automated the lists Staff Congress representatives will use to communicate with constituents. The lists will automatically update when staff join or leave the university.

Mr. McKeel asked if anyone had additional comments. There were no additional comments.

The meeting ended. □