



Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for November 20, 2019
304 North Applied Science Building

Present: Charley Allen-Dunn, Marty Anderson, Laura Buchanan, Jami Carroll, SG Carthell, Kevin Crawford, Duane Dycus, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Trish Lofton, Matthew Jones, Jeremy McKeel, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Matt Purdy, David Wilson, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Tina Bernot, Executive Director of Development; Jackie Dudley, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services; Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Bob Jackson, University President; Brian Truskey; and Jason Youngblood.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Marion Hale called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Tina Bernot, Executive Director of Development: Tina Bernot spoke about the Racers Give campaign which will support need-based scholarships. A letter has been sent from Dr. Jackson to Murray State alumni regarding the campaign which will be held November 29-December 6. The national day of giving is December 3. A Presidential Reception in celebration of giving will be held at Pogue Library at 3:00 p.m., on December 4. The Holiday Open House will be hosted at Oakhurst on December 5, at 4:00 p.m. The Town and Gown Community Band and Choir will perform at Lovett Auditorium at 7:00 p.m., on December 6.

Dr. Bob Jackson, University President: Dr. Bob Jackson said the Kentucky public universities have agreed on a list of requests regarding university funding. The requests include changing the stop/loss from 5% to 2%; reinstatement of funding for prior years; and assistance with deferred maintenance funding. Dr. Jackson discussed the pension situation. The Request for Proposals regarding facilities services has been issued. Jackie Dudley added that open forums will be held for the outsourcing companies. Jackie Dudley, Joyce Gordon, and Dr. Jackson answered questions.

Staff Congress members expressed concerns about reducing the number of university employees.

Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources: Joyce Gordon reported on open enrollment. Participation in voluntary benefits has increased, including participation in Anthem Vision. Health savings accounts are funded at the beginning of the calendar year. Open Enrollment information has been presented to Insurance and Benefits Committee. Dr. David Durr is planning to include financial wellness presentations in the Lunch and Learn Programs. The information will also be available on-line. Human Resources asked the Insurance and Benefits committee for feedback regarding what staff would like to see in benefits. She thanked Brian Purcell's department for the single sign-in for People Admin. She answered questions.

REGENTS REPORTS:

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will meet on December 13, at 8:30 a.m. Graduation will be held on December 14.

Faculty Regent Report: Marion Hale read the Faculty Regent Report on behalf of Faculty Regent Dr. Melony Shemberger who was traveling to Frankfort to represent Murray State at the first meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education Faculty Advisory Network. Nicole Hand-Bryant, Assistant Dean in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, has been appointed to the CPE Faculty Employability Fellows. The group has been created as a method to ensure college students are equipped with skills for employment. E-campus negotiations with the OPM vendor are in-progress.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Laura Buchanan made a motion to approve the October Minutes as presented. Marty Anderson seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's as presented. Trish Lofton seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Marion Hale said the Executive Committee met with Dr. Jackson on November 19. Information discussed at that meeting was presented by Dr. Jackson earlier in today's Staff Congress meeting. Marion encouraged staff to participate in the Strategic Plan update if asked. The Staff Survey will be emailed to staff in the coming weeks.

Credentials and Elections Committee: No report.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report.

Staff Special Events Committee: Laura Buchanan said she met with Casey Rowe, Assistant Director of Residence Education. Staff Congress and the students from the Residential College Association will host the children's Christmas party and Hanging of the Greens on December 7, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., on the first and second floors of the Curris Center. The Staff Reception will be held December 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Curris Center Ballroom. Flyers for the events will be mailed to staff. Community events will be held downtown on Friday evening, December 6. The parade is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., on December 7. David Wilson added that the Casey Rowe wanted him to relay to staff that students are looking forward to co-sponsoring the December 7 event for the children. Jessica Evans thanked Jackie Dudley's office for sponsoring the staff reception on December 5.

Communications Committee: Laura Buchanan said the Communications Committee report was presented as part of the Staff Special Events Committee report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship Committee: Trish Lofton reported that the fall scholarships are in the process of being awarded.

Marion Hale said that the Office of Development will assist with fundraising for the textbook scholarship. Staff Congress can continue to schedule rebate nights and request employees to contribute via payroll deduction. Jessica Evans noted that two employees are contributing to the scholarship via payroll deduction.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young reported that at its November 8 meeting, the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee received the Open Enrollment update that Joyce Gordon presented earlier in today's Staff Congress meeting, as well as attendance figures for the October Health Fair. The committee will meet next on January 24, at 8:30 a.m., in room 304 of North Applied Science Building. He asked Joyce Gordon if any update was available on contract negotiations between Anthem and Murray-Calloway County Hospital. She said Anthem informed her that the discussions were ongoing and productive. She added that Sibson Consulting is working indirectly to assist with the negotiations. Other area organizations will also be affected by the outcome.

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: SG Carthell reported on the meeting of the International Studies Advisory Committee. A new English language proficiency requirement will be implemented for international student admission. The university is considering expanding recruitment efforts to additional countries. The international student graduation ceremony is scheduled for December 6, at 6:00 p.m., in the Franklin Residential Hall commons area. The committee will meet on February 20.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Parking Advisory Committee: Duane Dycus reported on the October 22 meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee. The committee plans to meet once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester, unless a pressing matter necessitates an additional meeting. A request for disability parking in front of Springer Residential Hall was made at the committee's meeting. Duane Dycus was elected chair of the committee.

Debbie Plummer relayed a request for an additional row of employee parking in front of the Wellness Center.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Revision Committee: No report.

Staff Handbook Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Review Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Marion Hale thanked Dr. Jackson for inviting the Staff Congress Executive Committee to join him at the November 19 Racer basketball game.

The next Staff Congress meeting is scheduled for December 11, due to the upcoming holiday break.

ADJOURNMENT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to adjourn. Trish Lofton seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.