



Staff Congress

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

Present: Marty Anderson, Re’Nita Avery, James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Kevin Crawford, Duane Dycus, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Ladonna Hamontree, Orville Herndon, Trish Lofton, Leanna Linn McClure, Jaclyn Morgan, Jerry O’Bryan, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Matt Purdy, Tim Williams, David Wilson, and John Young and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Jackie Dudley, Vice-President for Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Katherine Farmer, Faculty Regent; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Robert Jackson, Interim University President; and Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Recipients Tony Jones and Katie Trzepacz.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Bob Jackson, Interim University President: Dr. Bob Jackson reported on the February 19 forum at Murray State with CPE President Dr. Aaron Thompson. The Board of Regents will meet on March 1. The Insurance and Benefits Committee met last week and sent to the administration a recommendation regarding summer office hours. Dr. Jackson will be traveling to Frankfort today to attend CPE and legislative meetings regarding the CPE and performance funding. In the coming weeks, budget committee meetings and discussions will be held, with dates to be determined.

Jackie Dudley, Vice-President for Finance and Administrative Services: Jackie Dudley said Woods Hall will be razed, with the start date to be determined. She asked staff to inform co-workers of the effect on parking. Curris Center parking will be updated this summer. Sodexo has re-instituted the \$5 all-you-can-eat lunches for faculty and staff on Thursdays.

Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources: Joyce Gordon said the performance appraisal process will be starting near the end of February. She said the mini-health fairs for employees, spouses, and retirees will be held on April 24, in Alexander Hall and on May 1, in the Curris Center. She encouraged employees to thank the Lourdes staff who are providing the services at both health fairs.

Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Recipients: Textbook Scholarship Committee Chair Re’Nita Avery introduced scholarship recipients Tony Jones and Katie Trzepacz. The other scholarship recipient, Caden Teneyuca, was unable to attend today’s Staff Congress meeting. Marion Hale thanked staff for donating to the scholarship through rebate nights.

REGENTS REPORTS:

Staff Regent Report: Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will meet on March 1. He gave an update on the number of Staff Survey responses received to date. The Survey will close in March, and will be presented to the Board of Regents at its June meeting.

Faculty Regent Report: No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES: John Young made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented. Tim Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT:

JANUARY TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Jessica Evans was unable to attend today’s meeting. Marion Hale said the January Treasurer’s Report was emailed to Staff Congress members and copies are available at today’s meeting. Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the January Treasurer’s Report as presented. Trish Lofton seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Marion Hale reported that at the Executive Committee’s meeting with Dr. Jackson on February 8, Dr. Jackson discussed the budget, simplification of fees, and deferred maintenance. She noted that the work is being done on Richmond Residential Hall on the weekends as well as on weekdays.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Chair Orville Herndon said the Credentials and Elections Committee is finalizing the timeline for the Staff Congress Election scheduled for April 23-25. The Credentials and Elections Committee will be notifying Congress members whose terms on Staff Congress are expiring.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: On behalf of Committee Chair Laura Lohr Buchanan who was unable to attend today's meeting, Marion Hale reminded staff to send items to Laura for posting on the Staff Congress Facebook page.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Debbie Plummer said the parking around the Wellness Center and the CFSB Center used to be blocked at 5:00 p.m. on game days but is now being blocked at noon. Employees who want to use the Wellness Center after work must park in the stadium lot even in heavy downpours or in extreme temperatures. She said that she has been told that Housing Office staff who pay for blue faculty/staff parking permits are being required to move from the parking spaces on the west side of the stadium at noon on work days that are game days. She said that although the basketball games end this week, the situation should be addressed for the future. Facilities Management staff said that when they perform maintenance work during the games, they must park in the stadium lot which means they must walk back to the stadium if they determine additional maintenance tools are needed. Marion Hale asked the Working Conditions Committee to discuss the issue with Athletics and University Police.

Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship Committee: Chair Re'Nita Avery reported that at its February meeting, the Book Scholarship Committee's vote to award spring scholarships resulted in a tie between two of the applicants for the dependent award. The textbook scholarship guidelines do not allow one award to be split between two applicants. She then read the Textbook Scholarship Committee's proposed revision to the scholarship guidelines which would allow the award to be divided between two recipients in the same category. Discussion followed. Re'Nita Avery made a motion to approve the committee's proposed change to the scholarship guidelines. Duane Dycus seconded. After discussion, Debbie Plummer called for the question. The motion carried.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young said that at its February meeting, the Insurance and Benefits Committee heard an update from Human Resources concerning health insurance and the Wellness Pledge. Based on the recommendation of its subcommittee, the Insurance and Benefits Committee made a motion to forward a proposal requesting that lactation rooms be included in building renovations. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 15.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Tim Williams reported that the committee met and approved the proposal to name the Lovett Auditorium lobby as the Charles and Marlene Johnson Lobby. The Johnsons are long-time supporters of MSU fine arts and scholarships.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: Faculty Regent Katherine Farmer said the International Studies Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting of the semester on February 27.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

ByLaws Revision Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Review Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Faculty Regent Katherine Farmer said the Faculty Senate Finance Committee is surveying faculty as to whether to provide a recommendation providing a tiered cost-of-living adjustment.

NEW BUSINESS: None. Marion Hale said the next Staff Congress meeting is scheduled for March 13.

ADJOURNMENT: Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn. Marty Anderson seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.