



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for January 18, 2017 304 North Applied Science Building

Present: Re’Nita Avery-Meriwether, Shanna Burgess, Jessica Evans, Jeff Gentry, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Jerry O’Bryan, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Maria Rosa, Brittney Stinnett, Tressa Ross, Amy Watters, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Katherine Farmer, Faculty Regent; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President of University Advancement; David Snow, *Murray Ledger*; and David Wilson, Housing

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President John Young called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Davies, President: Dr. Davies said the Presidential Lecture series for 2017 will be held on March 9. The lecture will be a panel discussion of MSU alumni who are making a difference: Dr. Walter Bumphus, Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton, and Dr. MarTeze Hammonds. He said Kentucky public university presidents prepared a proposed funding bill. Dr. Davies reported on the progress of Racer One Stop. He answered questions.

Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President of University Advancement: The distinguished alumni dinner will be held on April 21. The Office of Development is closing out the reports for 2016 contributions. Staff should notify the Office of Development of fundraising activities in order to assist with preparation of tax receipts.

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Fister said the Mission Statement Review Committee hopes to present an updated mission statement to the Board of Regents for approval in June. She thanked staff for continued work on the Strategic Plan and their work with students.

Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources: Joyce Gordon said the Healthy Lifestyles program assessment is available on-line. It is administered through Anthem, and the information isn’t given to the university. The next Lunch and Learn event is scheduled for February 8. Employees can contact Human Resources with questions about benefits. Employees will be sent a 1095C report. Human Resources is monitoring health care reform developments. University employees were sent an email today from Anthem concerning potential identity theft due to a data breach two years ago. Anthem will continue to provide free identity theft protection service to employees covered by Anthem. A second email will be sent with additional information. She answered questions.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley reported that approximately 47% of staff have completed the Staff Survey. He said approximately 84% of respondents are aware of the Staff Congress textbook scholarship. Approximately 86% aware of staff are aware of Staff Congress’ existence but want more information about the group’s work. He encouraged Congress members to talk to staff about the Congress. The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for February 24.

Credential and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon said Amy Watters was appointed at the December Staff Congress meeting to fill the vacancy created by Ann Matheny’s resignation when she accepted a faculty position. Orville made a motion to appoint David Wilson to fill the position created by Chad Wortham’s acceptance of off-campus employment. Laura Lohr seconded, and the motion carried. The remaining Staff Congress vacancy is in the Facilities Management category.

Orville said that earlier today he emailed to Congress members the tentative Staff Congress 2017 election calendar. He answered questions about the calendar. Orville made a motion to adopt the calendar as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded the motion, and the motion carried. He read the names of Staff Congress member whose terms expire June 30, 2017. He will contact those members to ask if they will be running for re-election. John Young asked if Staff Congress representation should be re-evaluated due to FSLA changes to some positions. Discussion followed.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES: Tressa Ross made a motion to approve the December minutes as presented. Laura Lohr seconded, and the motion carried.

DECEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Jessica Evans presented the December Treasurer’s Report. Marion Hale made a motion to approve the December Treasurer’s Report as presented. Jeff Gentry seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: John Young said the Faculty and Staff Leadership Council will meet with Dr. Davies on February 17.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Laura Lohr encouraged staff to nominate staff for the Staff Recognition Award. Nomination forms are on the Staff Congress webpage.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Committee Chair Robyn Pizzo said applications for the spring semester textbook scholarship are due on February 1. The applications are on the Staff Congress webpage. Phil Schooley will send a reminder email about the scholarship. Robyn has requested that Human Resources and the Bursar send textbook scholarship information to staff who have used tuition waivers this semester. John Young thanked David Snow for the article about the fall scholarship in the *Murray Ledger*.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young said the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee will meet on January 19. At the meeting, Human Resources will present information on six months of health insurance usage. Employees are welcome to attend the meeting. The committee's February meeting will be rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict with the Faculty and Staff Leadership Council meeting.

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: Laura Lohr said the committee will meet on February 8.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Mission Statement Review Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Laura Lohr distributed flyers for the March for Equality and Social Justice scheduled for January 21, and invited staff to participate. Jessica Evans said that a related march will be held in Washington, D.C., on January 20, and a bus will be traveling there from Paducah. Other buses will be traveling from across Kentucky.

Jessica said that in response to Staff Survey comments that some staff don't know what Staff Congress does, Staff Congress members may want to have an information table at the Staff Recognition Luncheon vendor fair. Discussion followed, including effectiveness of a Staff Congress information table at previous Recognition Luncheons. John Young added that Staff Congress is receiving more recognition in the community due to David Snow's articles in the *Murray Ledger*.

Brittney Stinnett said the Wellness Center has a new computer system employees can use to pay for membership and to register for group fitness classes. The system uses myGate log-ins and passwords. Participation in group fitness classes is free with Wellness Center membership or enrollment in HEA 189; otherwise, employees can attend for a \$5 entry fee when attending with a member. The link to the new system and user guide are on the Wellness Center website.

ADJOURNMENT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Gentry seconded, and the motion carried.