



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for March 15, 2017
304 North Applied Science Building

Present: James Barnett, Shanna Burgess, Jessica Evans, Jeff Gentry, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Laura Lohr, Jerry O'Bryan, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Tressa Ross, Amy Watters, Tim Williams, David Wilson, 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; Kim Newbern, Assistant Director of Annual Giving; Wendy Tudor, Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Recipient; and Joseph Winchester, Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Recipient.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Renee Fister said that a student tuition forum will be held on April 6. The Council on Postsecondary Education will meet on March 31, to decide on tuition increases for the universities. The performance funding bill passed the Kentucky Senate and House. Dr. Fister wished everyone a good spring break.

Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Recipients: Robyn Pizzo introduced the recipients of the Staff Congress textbook scholarship for the spring semester: Wendy Tudor who works in the Registrar's Office and Joseph Winchester, dependent of Randall Winchester in Information Systems.

Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President of University Advancement: Dr. Adrienne King said Distinguished Alumni Award recipients to be recognized at the April 21 Distinguished Alumni Banquet are W. Earl Brown, Dr. Jesse D. Jones, Dr. Vishwas Talwalkar, and Amy Bryan Watson. Dr. King introduced Kim Newbern, Assistant Director of Annual Giving. In conjunction with All-Campus Sing on April 12, the All-Campus Give Campaign will be held.

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Renee Fister reported on the progress of the Strategic Initiatives Plan and the MSU Mission Statement. The plan is being adjusted to align with performance funding. The mission statement, which has been condensed from three to four paragraphs to approximately 1 ½ paragraphs, has been presented to Dr. Davies. Feedback will be sought from constituency groups. The statement continues to meet SACS guidelines and is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Board of Regents in June.

Robyn Pizzo asked who reads the Staff Survey results. Phil Schooley said that Dr. Davies, the Deans, the Vice-Presidents, and the Board of Regents members read the survey results. John Young said he has read the entire report.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Credentials and Elections Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that Brittney Stinnett has accepted employment off-campus, creating a vacancy on Staff Congress. James Barnett received the next highest number of write-in votes in the April 2016 Staff Congress Election and has agreed to fill the vacancy created by Brittney's resignation. Orville made a motion to appoint James Barnett to complete the term vacated by Brittney Stinnett. Laura Lohr seconded, and the motion carried.

Orville said that a draft of the Staff Congress 2017 Election candidacy intent form postcard was emailed to Congress members. The final version of the postcard is scheduled to be mailed to staff on March 21, in order to arrive in staff mailboxes when the university re-opens on March 27 after Spring Break. Candidacy intent forms will also be available on-line. He added that the term for the Breathitt Veterinary Center representative is expiring and therefore will be on this year's ballot.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will have a special-called meeting on April 21. Also on April 21, the dedication will be held for the Gary W. Boggess Science Resource Center and the Timothy D. Jones Gateway.

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES: Jeff Gentry made a motion to approve the February minutes as presented. Brian Purcell seconded, and the motion carried.

FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Jessica Evans presented the February Treasurer's Report. Laura Lohr made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: John Young said that at the February 17 meeting of the Faculty and Staff Leadership Council, Dr. Davies spoke about the progress of bills in the Kentucky Legislature. The council will meet again on March 28 and May 2.

Staff Recognition Committee: Laura Lohr said she posted on the Staff Congress webpage that the deadline for Staff Recognition Award nominations is May 31. Phil Schooley will send a reminder email about the nomination deadline to his email list.

Staff Special Events Committee: On behalf of Staff Special Events Committee Chair Stephanie Totty who was unable to attend today's meeting, John Young gave the December event dates. The children's Christmas party will be held December 2. The staff reception is scheduled for December 7. The committee will need a new chair next year as Stephanie will be moving out-of-town.

Communications Committee: This Communications Committee is in need of a chair as Brittney Stinnett has accepted employment off-campus. Laura Lohr has been posting information to the Staff Congress Facebook page.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Robyn Pizzo said that in lieu of working at basketball concession to raise money for the scholarship fund, the committee has planned rebate nights at some area restaurants. The flyer with rebate dates is on the Staff Congress Facebook page and attached to a recent email Phil Schooley's sent to staff. Dr. King recommended the rebate night information be sent to *Racer Nation*.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young reported that the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee met on March 10 to review insurance activity. The committee will meet on April 28 to review insurance data by pay-plan and usage. The committee is considering the question of whether or not a loan program for exercise equipment, similar to the computer loan program, can or should be developed.

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: No report.

Budget Advisory Committee: Dr. Fister's report earlier in the meeting included information about the Budget Advisory Committee.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Mission Statement Review Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Marion Hale made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Gentry seconded, and the motion carried.