



Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for December 11, 2019
304 North Applied Science Building

Present: Charley Allen-Dunn, Marty Anderson, Laura Buchanan, Jami Carroll, S.G. Carthell, Kevin Crawford, Duane Dycus, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, LaDonna Hamontree, Orville Herndon, Matthew Jones, Trish Lofton, Leanna Linn McClure, Jeremy McKeel, Evan O'Neal, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Matt Purdy, Kendrick Quisenberry, Tim Williams, David Wilson, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Kayla Allen-Dunn; Lester Buckner; Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources; LaDawn Hale, U.S. Bureau; Dr. Bob Jackson, University President; Mark Schwind; Brian Truskey; Gina Winchester, Calloway County Deputy Judge/Executive; Brian Verkamp, CIO.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

David Wilson introduced LaDawn Hale of the U.S. Census Bureau and Gina Winchester, Calloway County Deputy Judge/Executive.

Gina Winchester spoke about the census. She thanked employees for any part they can play in the census.

LaDawn Hale spoke about the history of the census. She explained that census results influence funding for heating assistance, grants for university students, and construction of roads, stores, and schools. The census results also affect the number of seats in the House of Representatives.

Dr. Bob Jackson, University President: Dr. Bob Jackson said the Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for December 13. Items to be discussed at the board meeting include the pilot program for online programs, the strategic planning process, facilities deferred maintenance and asset preservation, the fall enrollment report, pension overview, and outsourcing. The Kentucky legislative session starts in January. Graduation is Saturday, December 14. Laura Buchanan said the reception at Oakhurst on December 6 was very nice.

Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources: Joyce Gordon introduced Brian Verkamp, the new Murray State CIO.

Mr. Verkamp said he worked at the University of Cincinnati prior to his new appointment at MSU. He has spent his career in IT.

Regarding outsourcing of Facilities Management services, Joyce Gordon said four vendors were on campus during the previous week. She said contract negotiations between Anthem Insurance and Murray Calloway County Hospital are ongoing. Human Resources will notify employees of the contract status. No new information is available regarding pension funding. An information-only update about pensions will be given to the Board of Regents at its meeting on December 13.

REGENTS REPORTS:

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley thanked Marty Anderson for the information he compiled listing KERS contributions rates from 1956 to present. Marty Anderson encouraged staff to write legislative representatives concerning retirement funding and to offer encouragement to the director of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.

Faculty Regent Report: Marion Hale read the Faculty Regent report from Dr. Melony Shemberger, who was giving a final exam during the Staff Congress meeting. The report provided an update on the online degree program and the Racers Give Campaign. The campaign has surpassed the original goal of \$100,000, and has a new goal of \$200,000.

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's as presented. Laura Buchanan seconded, and the motion carried. Trish Lofton reported on the silent auction held at the staff reception. Jessica Evans said the number of payroll deductions toward the scholarship has increased. She encouraged staff to donate and to encourage others to donate to the scholarship.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: The committee will meet after the spring semester starts. Marion Hale thanked those who assisted with the staff reception and the children's party. Marion said positive comments have been received concerning the children's party which was presented in collaboration with the Residential College Association.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon said this was Jami Carroll's last Staff Congress meeting. He welcomed Lester Bucker, a visiting staff member from Breathitt Veterinary Center.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report.

Staff Special Events Committee: Laura Buchanan thanked staff who assisted with the reception and the children's party. She also thanked staff who delivered door prizes from the reception. She has heard positive comments regarding the children's party. The committee welcomes feedback regarding the events.

Communications Committee: Laura Buchanan said the Communications Committee report was presented as part of the Staff Special Events Committee report. Marion Hale added that items related to Staff Congress can be sent to Laura Buchanan for distribution.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship Committee: Trish Lofton introduced Kayla Allen-Dunn, the staff recipient of the textbook scholarship. The recipient of the dependent scholarship was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. The Scholarship Committee will work to promote the spring scholarship which has an application due date of February 1. The Office of Development will assist with fundraising for the scholarship.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young said the committee will meet January 24, at 8:30 a.m., in room 304 Applied Science Building North.

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: S.G. Carthell said that approximately 10 students were recognized at the international student graduation ceremony held on December 6.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Parking Advisory Committee: Duane Dycus said the committee members have received concerns from employees. The concerns will be discussed at the committee's spring semester meeting. The meeting date has not yet been determined.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Revision Committee: No report.

Staff Handbook Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Review Committee: Jessica Evans said the committee will meet January 21, at 9:00 a.m., in the Curris Center Tennessee Room.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Jessica Evans asked about the status of the motion Staff Congress passed at its September 18, 2019 meeting which encourages the University to pursue the use of electronic signatures on appropriate documents. Marion Hale responded that Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources is looking into the use of electronic signatures.

NEW BUSINESS: S.G. Carthell said for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service, the Multicultural Center is collecting items for community needs. He noted that a majority of people affected by the closing of Briggs and Stratton Murray location will not be able to relocate.

Trish Lofton added that the Racers Helping Racers food pantry is available for students.

Marion Hale said the next Staff Congress meeting is scheduled for January 15.

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