



**Draft Minutes for May 18, 2016
304 North Applied Science Building**

Present: Shanna Burgess, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Ann Matheny, Jerry O'Bryan, Chuck Plummer, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Ashley Rogers, Maria Rosa, Tressa Ross, Logan Stout, Rhonda Timmons, Stephanie Totty, Tim Williams, Dwaine Willoughby, Joseph Wilson, Chad Wortham, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Re'Nita Avery-Meriwether, Staff Congress Member-elect; Dr. Bob Davies, President; Jacki Dudley, Vice-President of Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Renae Duncan, Acting Provost; Dr. Kathy Farmer, Faculty Regent-elect; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Jeff Gentry, Staff Congress Member-elect; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Marty Jacobs, Faculty Regent President; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President of Student Affairs; Terry Stalls, Staff Congress Member-elect; and Brittney Stinnett, Staff Congress Member-elect.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Laura Lohr called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Robert Davies, President: Dr. Davies said everyone should have received an email this morning explaining how the university is working to address the budget deficit. Concerning the individuals whose positions were eliminated due to the budget, the university administration is working with them to find employment opportunities throughout the campus. The budget will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at its June meeting. Campus building constructions are on schedule with the Physics Building expected to be ready for spring 2017 classes and new Franklin Hall expected to be ready for the fall 2016 semester. Dr. Davies answered questions.

Concerning the Spousal Employment Policy, Dr. Davies said he has the proposal approved and recommended by Staff Congress and the proposal approved and recommended by Faculty Senate. He will present to the Board of Regents for approval the Faculty Senate version which allows the spouse of an employee to apply for university employment as an internal candidate. He added that he and Staff Regent Phil Schooley will make clear to the Board that Staff Congress does not approve of the version that Dr. Davies will be presenting. Joseph Wilson said that temporary university employees must apply for permanent positions as external candidates. Dr. Davies said that issue can be explored. Dr. Davies answered other questions concerning the internal and external candidate hiring process.

Dr. Davies presented Racer Pins to the following newly elected Staff Congress members for their commitment to shared governance: Re'Nita Avery-Meriwether, Jeff Gentry, Terry Stalls, and Brittney Stinnett.

Dr. Renee Fister Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Renee Fister said the some of the initiatives in the Strategic Plan have been re-focused due to budget constraints and forthcoming performance-funding requirements, but the plan still exists. She thanked staff for all the work they do. She reported numbers on items such as graduation, articulation agreements, and the number of faculty and staff submitting grant funding requests.

Staff Congress President Laura Lohr welcomed Acting Provost Dr. Renae Duncan.

Jacki Dudley, Vice-President of Finance and Administrative Services: Jackie Dudley said the non-exempt regulations are better than expected and will be effective on December 1. Some positions will be re-classified due to the regulations. A portion of the budget was designated for the effects of the non-exempt regulations. She and Human Resources Director Joyce Gordon answered questions.

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President of Student Affairs: On behalf of Dr. Robertson who was called away from the meeting, Acting Provost Dr. Renae Duncan said the Office of Student Affairs will begin its persistence campaign to contact students who attended MSU this past academic year but have not registered for the fall semester. His office will be encouraging those eligible students to enroll in fall classes. Commonwealth Honors Academy and Governor's Scholars students will be on campus during the month of June. She encouraged staff to greet and recruit the students.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the Board of Regents will meet on June 10. Summer Orientations are scheduled for June 2, 4, 22, and 24.

APRIL MEETING MINUTES: Staff Congress President Laura Lohr said that the April draft minutes have been updated to include Marion Hale and Sheri Riddle in the attendance section. Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Tressa Ross seconded, and the motion carried.

APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Jessica Evans presented the April Treasurer's Report. Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Laura Lohr encouraged Staff Congress members to run for Staff Congress officer positions. Elections will be held at the June Staff Congress meeting.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon introduced newly elected Staff Congress members attending today's meeting: Re'Nita Avery-Meriwether, Jeff Gentry, Terry Stalls, and Brittney Stinnett. Although not able to attend today's meeting, Michele Sanders is also a newly elected member of Staff Congress. Orville is waiting for a reply from the Facility Management staff member elected as a write-in candidate.

Staff Congress officer elections will be held at the June Staff Congress meeting. Staff who have been a member of Staff Congress for one year may run for office. More information on the positions can be found in the Staff Congress ByLaws. Members may contact him with questions about the officer elections.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report. Laura Lohr thanked Jackie Dudley for approving the Staff Recognition Luncheon which will be held on August 3.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: Committee Chair Rhonda Timmons reported that the Working Conditions Committee will meet with the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee immediately following today's Staff Congress meeting. The joint meeting is being held to discuss the issue of closure pay.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Committee Chair Jessica Evans reported that in order to receive institutional aid, including the Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship, all applicants, including staff, will have to complete the FAFSA.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Laura Lohr read the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee report sent to her by Committee Chair John Young who was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 29.

The following Staff Congress members serve on the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Orville Herndon, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Stephanie Totty, and John Young.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: Sheri Riddle reported on the May 5 meeting of the Intercollegiate Athletic Council. The scoreboard will be re-wired which will be less expensive than replacing it. Due to the budget restrictions, resurfacing of the softball and tennis courts has been postponed. The cost of some other items will be paid with private gifts. The new regulations for the overtime threshold may affect some of the athletic coaches.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Committee member Logan Stout read a memo from Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President, Marketing and Outreach, with the naming proposal for the physics office suite in the physics building. The naming proposal will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Dual Employment Committee: Debbie Plummer said Dr. Davies reported earlier in today's meeting that he will be presenting to the Board of Regents the Dual Employment Proposal approved by the Faculty Senate.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Laura Lohr reminded outgoing Staff Congress members to attend the June Staff Congress meeting. She thanked them for their work as Staff Congress members.

ADJOURNMENT: Debbie Plummer made a motion to adjourn. Marion Hale seconded, and the motion carried.