



Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for March 10, 2021 On-line Meeting via Zoom

Present: Charley Allen-Dunn, Kala Allen-Dunn, Marty Anderson, Laura Buchanan, Dr. S.G. Carthell, Duane Dycus, Dr. Jessica Evans, Angela Guyton, LaDonna Hamontree, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Matt Jones, Sondra Kreger, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Jerry O'Bryan, Evan O'Neal, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Matt Purdy, Kendrick Quisenberry, Brett Shather, Brian Truskey, Dr. J. David Wilson, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson, President; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs; and Dr. Melony Shemberger, Faculty Regent.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Dr. David Wilson called the meeting to order.

Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson, President: Dr. Bob Jackson encouraged staff to receive the covid-19 vaccine. He thanked the Health Department and others involved in scheduling vaccination appointments. He spoke about plans for smaller, outdoor, in-person commencement ceremonies in May. He discussed efforts to have an in-person component for upcoming events including summer camps, Honors Academy, student activities, and recruitment activities. He spoke about pending legislation concerning performance funding, pensions, and the budget. The university is awaiting federal guidelines for covid stimulus package funds.

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs: Dr. Don Robertson reported on enrollments for the fall semester and incoming student orientations. He asked staff to welcome prospective students who are visiting campus. They will be carrying the yellow MSU bags. He spoke about student retention efforts. Dr. Robertson reported on current and upcoming events including the SGA Election, Black History Month events to be held in March, International Women's Awareness month, and career fairs.

Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources: Joyce Gordon reported on Wellness Lunch and Learn events. Recordings of the Lunch and Learn sessions can be found on the Racer Wellness website. She said performance appraisal information has been sent to department heads.

Dr. Melony Shemberger, Faculty Regent: Dr. Melony Shemberger said the summer and fall course schedules are now live and advising sessions will begin soon. She attended the Staff Regent forum. She complimented Orville Herndon and the Credentials and Elections Committee for their work on the event.

Phil Schooley, Staff Regent: Phil Schooley said graduate student registration starts April 4. Senior registration starts on April 6. The Staff Survey Committee is preparing the next Staff Survey. The Board of Regents will have a special meeting on April 23 to discuss the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Trish Lofton made a motion to approve the February 2021 Staff Congress meeting minutes as presented. Jeremy McKeel seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: Laura Buchanan made a motion to approve the February 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Dr. David Wilson encouraged staff to remind their constituents to vote in the Staff Regent Election. Voting instructions are included on the yellow Staff Regent Elections postcards mailed to staff.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Co-Chair Orville Herndon reported that 275 staff have voted in the Staff Regent Election to date. In 2018, 235 staff voted in the election. This year's election continues until 11:59 p.m., on March 11. He said a video with voting instructions is available on the Staff Regent Election webpage.

Mr. Herndon made a motion that the Staff Congress Election be held April 20-22, 2021. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried. Candidacy intent postcards will be mailed to staff. He read the names of Staff Congress members whose terms expire June 30, 2021.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report. Dr. Wilson said he has some planning information for the committee regarding recognition of Years of Service employees and Staff Excellence Award recipients.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report. Dr. Wilson said he has talked to Jackie Dudley about the possibility of having a staff activity toward the end the semester.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Charley Allen-Dunn said the committee has been discussing via email the Staff Congress newsletter. The conversation includes distributing the newsletter quarterly in a digital format. Approximately 13 Staff Congress members have completed the contact information form she has emailed them. She encouraged Staff Congress members to complete the form. The information will be posted to the Staff Congress webpage. Staff Congress President Dr. David Wilson encouraged staff to contact the committee with suggestions of what information they would like to see in the newsletter.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Committee: Committee Chair Dr. Jessica Evans thanked the committee members for their work. She explained that the committee updates the Staff Survey each year for distribution. The committee then reviews the results and presents to Staff Congress for follow-up the information and comments in the survey responses. The 2021 Staff Survey will be sent to Information Systems to be emailed to staff in April. The tentative open dates for the survey are April 5 through May 7. Dr. Wilson ask staff to encourage their constituents to complete the survey. He thanked Dr. Evans and the committee members for their work on the survey. He added that the Staff Survey results are presented to the Board of Regents and to the university administration.

Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship Committee: No report.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Dr. Wilson said he will appoint a committee chair.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Orville Herndon said the committee will meet on March 12, at 8:30 a.m. The meeting can be viewed live on the committee's Facebook page. Questions can be submitted during the meeting via Facebook. Agenda items include the bereavement policy and tuition waivers. Interested person can email Mr. Herndon to request the meeting agenda.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: No report.

Judicial Board: Dr. Wilson said he informed Judicial Board Chair Jen Caldwell that Matt Jones has volunteered to serve on the Judicial Board to fill the vacancy created by Lindsey Powers' acceptance of off-campus employment.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Parking Advisory Committee: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Revision Committee: No report.

Staff Handbook Committee: Dr. Jessica Evans said Matt Purdy sent her a message that the handbook revisions have to been sent to Staff Congress President Wilson for his review.

Diversity Committee: Dr. Wilson said the Diversity Committee will meet on March 11.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Dr. Wilson said he has received questions about how Staff Congress members can communicate with constituents. The executive officers have been discussing how to reach constituents. He encouraged Congress members to talk to co-workers to learn their concerns, and to inform them of the Staff Congress webpage for information. The Staff Congress webpage also includes a form staff can use to notify Staff Congress of comments, concerns, or suggestions.

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