



Staff Congress

Draft Report for June 21, 2017 304 North Applied Science Building

Present: Re’Nita Avery-Meriwether, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Jeff Gentry, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr, Robyn Pizzo, Brian Purcell, Michele Sanders, Stephanie Totty, Tim Williams, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Robert Davies, President; Roy Dunaway, Staff Congress member-elect; Duane Dycus, Staff Congress member-elect; Dr. Katherine Farmer, Faculty Regent; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President John Young welcomed everyone to the meeting.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Robert Davies, President: Dr. Davies reported on Summer Orientation. The number of attendees to date this summer has exceeded the combined number of attendees for all Summer O’s held in 2016. He reported on current enrollment for the upcoming fall semester, adding that all employees are recruiters for the university, regardless of position. The Board of Regents passed the budget which includes a 1% cost-of-living adjustment. He reported on the university’s progress in the minimum wage conversion process. A report from the staff compensation study consultants is expected in May or June. Dr. Davies answered questions. He thanked staff for their work during this past academic year, welcomed new Staff Congress members, and wished everyone a good summer.

Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President of University Advancement: Dr. Adrienne King was unable to attend the June meeting. On her behalf, Dana Howard invited staff to attend the Town and Gown Community Band and Chorale concert on July 4, at 8:00 p.m., in Lovett Auditorium. Governor’s Scholars students will be part of the chorale.

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Renee Fister said the Strategic Plan reassessment comments are due June 30. John Young sent Congress members an email with a link to the comments page. The university’s revised Mission Statement was approved at the June meeting of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Fister said that she will talk to Laura Lohr, Chair of the Staff Congress Staff Recognition Committee, about having information about the Strategic Plan at the Staff Recognition Luncheon. Dr. Mark Arant will begin his position as Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs on July 1.

Faculty Regent Report: Dr. Kathy Farmer said the Board of Regents will have its advance and next meeting on August 24-25.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Credentials and Elections Committee Chair Orville Herndon reported that Leanna McClure won the Staff Congress run-off election. The other candidate, Kendrick Quisenberry, will probably be recommended by the Credentials and Elections Committee to complete an expected upcoming vacancy on Staff Congress to be created by a Staff Congress member’s job change. A vacancy exists in Group B, General/Facilities Management. He explained the procedure for filling the vacancy as directed by the Staff Congress ByLaws.

MAY MEETING MINUTES: No action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

MAY TREASURER’S REPORT: No action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: John Young said the committee has not met since the May Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Recognition Committee: Chair Laura Lohr reminded staff to complete and return their reservation forms for the Staff Recognition Luncheon.

Staff Special Events Committee: Stephanie Totty said the Children’s Christmas Party is schedule for December 2. The Staff Reception will be held on December 7.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: No report.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Staff Congress President John Young said the compensation study consultants met with John and Staff Regent Phil Schooley prior to today's Staff Congress meeting. The consultants will meet with faculty representatives concerning conducting a faculty compensation study. John said that concerns given to him and Phil by staff were relayed to the consultants. He said much of the conversation was about comparison of Murray State staff positions to those in other universities and to similar positions in industry, and the proximity to the university of employees' residences. The consultants will be in contact with Phil and John during the course of the study. Orville Herndon asked if clarification of exempt and non-exempt categorizations will be reviewed due to FLSA changes. John Young said he will seek clarification about that.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young said the committee will meet in July, with the date to be determined.

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: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Mission Statement Review Committee: Re'Nita Avery-Meriwether reported that the Mission Statement Revision proposal was approved at the June Board of Regents meeting.

Staff Regent Report: No report.

Other Discussion:

At its June meeting, the Board of Regents approved the proposed revisions to the holiday compensation and overtime policies. An administrative email was sent to all employees with the approved updates. Employees should contact Human Resources with questions concerning pay for work-related travel.

John Young announced that the K.R. Hayes Staff Professional Development Fund has been established and approved due to the efforts of Jessica Evans. The fund is not managed by Staff Congress but the Staff Congress President will serve on the fund's board.

Parliamentarian Marion Hale said that due to the lack of a quorum, any new business on the agenda for the June meeting will be heard as unfinished business at the July meeting.

Credentials and Elections Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that because officer elections were not held at today's Staff Congress meeting due to the lack of a quorum, at the beginning of the July Staff Congress meeting, the Parliamentarian will preside over officer elections before other July agenda items are heard. He suggested that Staff Congress plan to discuss revising the group's Bylaws to allow officer elections and approval of any changes to the upcoming year's meeting schedule to be held at the May meeting rather than the June meeting. Making that change can alleviate the issues caused by lack of a quorum at the June meeting when many staff members take vacations. Because the current Bylaws state that the regular monthly meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, the July Staff Congress meeting can proceed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended.