



**Draft Minutes for September 16, 2015
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, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Maria Rosa, Tressa Ross, Kenny Sanford, Dwaine Willoughby, Joseph Wilson, Chad Wortham, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Robert Davies, President; Jackie Dudley, Vice-President, Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Martin Jacobs, Faculty Regent; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President, Student Affairs; Dr. Tim Todd, Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Davies, President: Dr. Davies said that he has met with Mayor Jack Rose to discuss the options for the portion of 16th Street that runs through campus. He asked that additional options be presented. The safety of those who cross 16th Street is the priority. Dr. Davies also has concerns for fiduciary responsibility as well as what can be accomplished in a reasonable amount of time. He will continue to meet with Mayor Rose concerning 16th Street.

Dr. Davies plans to meet with the gubernatorial candidates to discuss higher education. He has already begun discussions with the Board of Regents concerning generation of revenues.

Dr. Davies answered questions. He invited everyone to attend the State of the University address on November 9, at 2:30 p.m., in Wrather Auditorium.

Dr. Tim Todd, Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs: Dr. Todd said a national search for the permanent Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs will begin soon. Implementation of the Strategic Plan has begun. The plan is available in myGate. He encouraged staff to be involved in the implementation process. Dr. Todd thanked Staff Congress President Laura Lohr for the invitation to speak at the Staff Congress meeting. He plans to attend all the Staff Congress meetings during his tenure as Interim Provost.

On behalf of Dr. Robertson, who had to leave for another meeting, Dr. Todd said that Family Weekend will be held September 25-27. Approximately 560 families have registered for the event.

Jackie Dudley, Vice-President, Finance and Administrative Services: Jackie Dudley said that Human Resources will be focusing on voluntary benefits. She said staff who use purchasing cards can pick up the new cards from the Accounting Office. She answered questions.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said the next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for December 11. Graduation will be held on December 12.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES: Marion Hale made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as presented. Tressa Ross seconded, and the motion carried.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Staff Congress President Laura Lohr said she met with the Staff Congress Textbook Scholarship Committee whose chair will present a report later in the meeting. She will hold a meeting of Staff Congress Committee Chairs on September 23.

Laura attended the University-wide International Studies Advisory Committee meeting. She reported to Staff Congress the number of students from various countries attending MSU. The ISAC will be promoting staff travel to other countries.

Laura said she attended the Faculty Senate meeting and appreciates Dr. Joe Bella's support of shared governance between Faculty Senate and Staff Congress.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon reported that Joshua Mathis is no longer an MSU employee and therefore no longer a member of Staff Congress. At a future Staff Congress meeting, Orville hopes to present a nominee to serve the remainder of Joshua's term on Staff Congress.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Ashley Rogers was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. Laura Lohr reported that Ashley will be scheduling a Staff Recognition Committee meeting in the near future.

Staff Special Events Committee: Committee Chair Shanna Burgess said she will schedule a committee meeting after the meeting of the Staff Congress Committee Chairs. The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 4. The Staff Reception will be held on December 10.

Communications Committee: Committee Chair Dana Howard said she will schedule a Communications Committee meeting soon. She asked staff to send her items to post on the Staff Congress Facebook page.

Working Conditions Committee: Committee Chair Rhonda Timmons was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. Laura Lohr reported that Rhonda will schedule a committee meeting soon.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Textbook Scholarship Committee Chair Jessica Evans reported that the Scholarship Committee met on September 10. To date, the committee has received six applications for the fall semester scholarship. The committee has developed scoring criteria for the applications, which it will use beginning with this semester's scholarship applications.

The committee has discussed fundraising possibilities, such as a silent auction at the December Staff Reception, fundraising at athletic events, and promotion of donations via payroll deduction. Also discussed was a textbook scholarship promotional poster to be placed in departments whose employees do not use computers as part of their jobs. The committee is going to inquire about including information about the scholarship in the Human Resources benefits booklet.

Tressa Ross asked if employee tuition waivers could include a link to the textbook scholarship information.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Committee Chair John Young said the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee will meet after the Staff Congress Committee Chairs meet.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee Chair John Young said the committee will meet on October 16. He reminded staff to attend the Human Resources Town Hall meeting regarding health insurance and other benefits. That meeting will be held after today's Staff Congress meeting, at 3:00 p.m. He noted that planning for 2016 insurance and benefits has been a long process. He said that the Strategic Plan includes some topics previously discussed by the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee such as child care and extension of services offered by Health Services. He hopes that committee can return to discussing those topics.

Laura Lohr thanked the committee members for their work.

Staff may contact members of the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee with comments and suggestions concerning insurance and benefits. John Young, James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Orville Herndon, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, and Stephanie Totty are the staff representatives on the Insurance and Benefits Committee.

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: Laura Lohr presented this report with the Executive Committee Report.

Dual Employment Committee: Debbie Plummer said that Dr. Whaley has notified the members of the Dual Employment Committee that he will be scheduling a committee meeting to discuss the feedback received from Dr. Davies concerning the committee's summary and report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Laura Lohr read a note Staff Congress received encouraging staff to remind others about the Racers Helping Racers food bank. She distributed flyers with information about URSA that staff can distribute to students.

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