



**Draft Minutes for January 20, 2016
304 North Applied Science Building**

PRESENT: Shanna Burgess, Jami Carroll, Jessica Evans, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Jerry O'Bryan, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Maria Rosa, Tressa Ross, Logan Stout, Chad Wortham, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Robert Davies, MSU President; Jackie Dudley, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Martin Jacobs, Faculty Regent; Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President, Marketing and Outreach; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President for Student Affairs.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress Vice-President Tressa Ross called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Robert Davies, MSU President: Dr. Davies thanked Facilities Management staff for the work done to move the snow and ice to prepare the campus to open today. He also thanked Dr. Adrienne King and the Branding, Marketing, and Communication Office for relaying information to the university community.

On January 26, Governor Bevin will present the State of the Commonwealth address and the proposed Commonwealth budget. Dr. Davies noted that the Governor has publicly stated that he favors performance-based funding. Dr. Davies said MSU has worked to keep tuition low. Expenses have continued to increase over the years while funding from the Commonwealth has decreased.

Dr. Davies thanked staff for participating in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events on campus. The Presidential Lecture on February 8 will be given by Martin Luther King, III. Dr. Davies answered questions.

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice-President for Student Affairs: Dr. Robertson thanked Facilities Management staff for their work with the ice and snow removal. He gave an update on the work being done by Student Affairs to encourage students from the fall semester who have not enrolled in spring courses to return to the university. He encouraged employees to attend Campus Lights scheduled for January 22-24 in Lovett Auditorium.

Dr. Adrienne King, Vice-President, Marketing and Outreach: Dr. Adrienne King said the Holiday Giving Campaign raised over \$19,000 for scholarships. She appreciates those who contributed and those who distributed information to promote the campaign.

The text alert system has been moved from myGate to the Public Safety webpage. Those who were signed up for the alerts prior to the change to Public Safety have been transferred to the new system and will continue to receive text alerts when they are issued.

Regarding campus closings and delays caused by weather, the MSU website will have the most current information which will include a time stamp.

The new campus events calendar is active. Users can subscribe to various categories of information and submit events for the calendar. She encouraged staff to send Racer Proud stories to her. She answered questions.

Dr. Renee Fister, Senior Presidential Advisor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Fister said that a Strategic Plan update will be given on February 1. An update will also be presented to the Board of Regents. Dr. Fister said she appreciates the work staff are doing with the Strategic Initiative Plan.

Dr. Martin Jacobs, Faculty Regent: Dr. Jacobs said the Faculty Senate Finance Committee received an update on January 19. Tressa Ross added that at the recent Faculty Senate Finance Committee meeting, Vice President of Administration and Finance Jackie Dudley and Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Management Fred Dietz presented the proposed tuition model. They also presented this information at the December 2015 Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley said that the Staff Survey was emailed to staff earlier in January. Approximately 40% of staff have responded during the first two weeks. He distributed a copy of responses received. Reminders will be sent each week to email addresses of staff who haven't responded to the survey. Some staff have expressed concerns to him about health insurance and about the cost of prescription medications. The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for February 26.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES AND DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: Due to the lack of a quorum, no vote was taken on the December Minutes and Treasurer's Report. They will be presented again at the February Staff Congress meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: No report.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Committee Chair Orville Herndon said an email with tentative dates for the 2016 Staff Congress Election has been sent to Staff Congress members. Comments and corrections may be sent to Orville.

A vacancy exists on Staff Congress in the Facilities Management category. The vacancy is due to the change in employment status of a now former Staff Congress member. The list of Facilities Management staff who ran in the 2015 Staff Congress election has been exhausted. Orville will talk to Staff Congress President Laura Lohr about asking past Staff Congress members employed in Facilities Management to fill the vacancy.

Staff Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Ashley Rogers was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Special Events Committee: Shanna Burgess asked for assistance contacting Facilities Management staff who won door prizes at the Staff Reception whom she has been unable to reach. Congress members volunteers to assist with the distribution of the door prizes.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Textbook Scholarship Committee Chair Jessica Evans asked Congress members to encourage staff to apply for the spring textbook scholarship. The application deadline is February 1.

Tressa Ross complimented Jessica and the Book Scholarship Committee for their fundraising efforts.

Staff Congress is scheduled to work at the basketball game concessions on January 21 to raise funds for the scholarship.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee member Sheri Riddle said the committee met on January 15. Orville Herndon said the committee's Flexible Work Sub-committee has been re-established. Employees with questions about prescriptions should contact Know Your Rx. An employee has contacted Orville about an issue with Wage Works. Employees with comments about insurance should communicate with members of the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee. The committee will soon begin discussing 2017 insurance. 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: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: No report.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Dual Employment Committee: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Tressa Ross said the next Staff Congress meeting is scheduled for February 17

ADJOURNMENT: Due to the lack of a quorum, no motion was made to adjourn. Tressa Ross dismissed those in attendance.