



Staff Congress

Draft Minutes for February 21, 2018 304 North Applied Science Building

Present: Marty Anderson, Re’Nita Avery-Meriwether, James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Duane Dycus, Jessica Evans, Jeff Gentry, Debbie Griffin, Parker Griffith, Orville Herndon, Mary-Elaine Horn, Leanna Linn McClure, Orville Herndon, Jerry O’Bryan, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Maria Rosa, Amy Watters, Tim Williams, David Wilson, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

Guests: Dr. Robert Davies, President; Jackie Dudley, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Renee Fister, Chief of Staff; Dr. Katherine Farmer, Faculty Regent; Joyce Gordon, Director of Human Resources; Abby Hensley, Director of Development, Hutson School of Agriculture.

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President John Young called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Robert Davies, President: Dr. Davies discussed information presented in the pension bill proposal released on February 20. He discussed House Bill 120, the budget bill, which was given the first of three required readings on February 20. The bill has been sent to committee for possible changes. Dr. Davies gave an update on admissions and enrollment numbers. Student Ambassadors are contacting admitted students. He encouraged staff to be involved in recruiting and retaining students. He answered questions.

Orville Herndon and Phil Schooley asked about the status of outsourcing some departments. Jackie Dudley said the RFP for Dining Services is scheduled to be released in March. The due date for the Health Services RFP is February 28. Orville asked about employment options for those close to retirement who will be affected by contracting services with outside organizations. Jackie explained retirement regulations related to such a situation. Staff can apply for other campus jobs. Orville requested a listening session with potential vendors.

Abby Hensley, Director of Development, Hutson School of Agriculture: Abby Hensley talked about Dunker’s Challenge and the history of the student giving campaign.

Dr. Renee Fister, Chief of Staff: Dr. Renee Fister said the Strategic Initiatives Plan has been reduced from 63 to approximately 23 initiatives connected to performance funding measures and what the university faculty and staff do best. The revised plan will be presented to the Board of Regents. Employees may continue to contact her with comments and questions on the plan. She thanked staff for donating to the Career Clothing Closet. Donated items are being given to students preparing for job interviews.

Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources: Joyce Gordon discussed the smoking cessation program available to employees. Program participants can change their 2018 health insurance enrollment category to non-tobacco user for a reduction in premiums and a partial refund of premiums paid for January and February 2018. Interested persons may contact Human Resources. She encouraged staff to take pictures of co-workers for Human Resources’ *A Day in the Life of a Racer* social media campaign. She answered questions.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil School said the Board of Regents will meet March 9. He thanked Jessica Evans and the Staff Survey Review Committee. The Staff Survey results will be presented to the Board of Regents.

Faculty Regent Report: No report.

Ad hoc Staff Survey Review Committee: Jessica Evans reported that the committee met on January 11 and February 19 to discuss results of the 2017 Staff Survey. The committee will meet in March and will present recommendations to Staff Congress.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Chair Orville Herndon made a motion to appoint Marty Anderson to fill the Staff Congress vacancy in the Facilities Management category. The term expires on June 30, 2020. No second was needed. John Young asked if there was any discussion. The motion carried. Terry Stalls is no longer a university employee. This brings the remaining number of vacancies on Staff Congress to two. The Credentials and Elections Committee is working to fill those vacancies.

The Staff Regent Election will be held March 6-8. Orville read the names of the Staff Regent Election candidates: Carol Brunn, SG Carthell, Tami J. Dandeneau, and Phil Schooley. Staff Regent Candidate forums are scheduled for March 1, at 10:00 a.m., and 4:30 p.m. The candidates are required to be full-time staff and may not hold positions such as Vice-President, Chair, or Dean. All regular staff may vote in the election. The Staff Regent’s term will begin July 1, 2018.

On behalf of the Credentials and Elections Committee, Orville presented proposed Staff Congress Election dates of April 24-26. The filing period will be from March 26 to April 9. Orville made a motion to approve the proposed election dates and filing period. John

Young asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion carried. Orville read the names of Staff Congress members whose terms will expire June 30, 2018.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES: Jeff Gentry made a motion to approve the December Meeting Minutes as presented. Leanna Linn McClure seconded, and the motion carried. No January 2018 meeting was held due to the university closure's for inclement weather.

DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: No report. The Treasure was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: John Young reported that he and the Staff and Faculty Regents met with the General Counsel candidates. The Shared Governance Enrollment Subcommittee met on January 29. He and Phil Schooley attended the February Faculty Senate meeting. He read an email he has received regarding a petition for the provision of a lactation room for university employees. He can forward the petition to interested persons. He encouraged employees to nominate staff for the Staff Excellence Award, noting that this would be a good time to remember those who worked during the snow closure.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: Jerry O'Bryan said the state no longer sends notification to persons whose license to drive university vehicles has expired. The university's Transportation Services office has notified employees who need to renew those licenses. He asked the committee to meet after today's Staff Congress meeting.

Staff Congress Foundation Textbook Scholarship Committee: Robyn Pizzo reported that the Textbook Scholarship Committee met to award spring textbook scholarships. The recipients are Sam Doran who works in Dining Services, and Kristen Farley, dependent of Joanne Farley, who works in the School of Nursing. A thank you note has been received from Sam. The committee would like to schedule a rebate night fundraiser for the spring semester. At the next Staff Congress meeting, payroll deduction forms will be available for staff to complete as a way to donate to the scholarship.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: John Young said that the February 16 meeting of the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee meeting, the RFP for Health Services was discussed. Random nicotine testing will begin during the spring semester. Employees who signed the Wellness Pledge may want to attend the Lunch and Learn scheduled for February 28. The committee's next meeting will be held on March 16.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: No report.

Judicial Board: Leanna Linn McClure said that a Judicial Board hearing is scheduled for March.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

John Young said the next Staff Congress meeting will be held on March 14, at 1:30 p.m.

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