



## Staff Congress

### Draft Minutes for September 20, 2017 304 North Applied Science Building

**Present:** Re’Nita Avery-Meriwether, James Barnett, Jami Carroll, Duane Dycus, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffith, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Leanna Linn McClure, Jerry O’Bryan, Robyn Pizzo, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Amy Watters, Tim Williams, David Wilson, John Young, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley.

**Guests:** Kalea Anderson, student, Dr. Mark Arant, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Robert Davies, President; Dr. Katherine Farmer, Faculty Regent; and Dr. Renee Fister, Chief of Staff; Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources; Lauren Smee, Wellness Coordinator; Susan Spier, Assistant Director of Benefits, Human Resources; and Gerald Washington, Director, United Way.

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

**REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:** Staff Regent Phil Schooley presented Beth Sloan with a certificate of recognition for her work preparing and distributing the Staff Survey.

Gerald Washington, Director of the United Way, spoke about the various groups which receive assistance from United Way. He encouraged staff to donate to United Way.

Robyn Pizzo introduced Kalea Anderson, one of the recipients of the fall 2017 Staff Congress textbook scholarship award.

**Dr. Robert Davies, President:** Dr. Davies thanked staff for attending the Open House for Health Services on September 14. Several RFP bids from potential health services providers have been received and will be examined to determine which will be considered. The goal is to continue having health services on-campus for students and employees while using resources carefully. Dr. Davies complimented the Health Services staff for their work.

Dr. Davies said he has received the memo from John Young, Chair of the University-wide Insurance and Benefits Committee, with the Insurance and Benefits Committee’s recommendations concerning health insurance. He compared MSU’s employer/employee premium payment percentages and coverages to that of other universities. Dr. Davies said that while HEA 189 will no longer be offered after this semester, a new Wellness Center-use incentive program will offer employees a health insurance premium discount.

The City of Murray payroll tax will be implemented on January 1, 2018. MSU Human Resources is compiling an FAQ sheet regarding the payroll tax. Questions may be directed to Human Resources and Payroll.

Dr. Davies discussed the latest information from the Governor’s Office concerning state funding reduction, the pension situation, and taxes. He also discussed enrollment and retention figures. He reported on the status of Richmond Residential College. In approximately June 2018, more information is expected about the cause of the explosion and the future of the building. He answered questions.

John Young introduced Mark Arant, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Arant said that has enjoyed his time at MSU. He said the university can be as efficient as private universities and more efficient than other public universities. He said that MSU has opportunities to serve the region.

**Dr. Renee Fister, Chief of Staff:** Dr. Renee Fister said that work continues on the Strategic Initiatives.

**Staff Regent Report:** Staff Regent Phil Schooley reported that Staff Survey has been emailed to staff. He thanked Jessica Evans and the Staff Survey Revision Committee members for their work updating the survey questions. The survey results will be presented to Dr. Davies and the university administration. The Board of Regents will meet on December 8.

**University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee:** John Young said that its meeting on August 28, the University-wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee heard three proposals for insurance. The committee also met on September 8 to provide a recommendation to the university administration regarding health insurance premiums. Open Enrollment will be held October 13-27. Human Resources staff will be available at the Health Fair on October 19 to answer questions. A pre-draw is scheduled for September 26 to reduce waiting time at the Health Fair.

**Joyce Gordon, Director, Human Resources:** Joyce Gordon introduced Lauren Smee, Wellness Coordinator, and Susan Spier, Assistant Director of Benefits. Joyce said that as with other universities, a large portion of MSU’s budget is going toward retirement. Human Resources is actively involved in advocating for employee concerns regarding the impact of state budget issues on retirement.

**Susan Spier, Assistant Director of Benefits, Human Resources:** Susan Spier discussed current ideas concerning health care, such as a wellness program to reduce claims. She explained the Wellness Pledge to be introduced during open enrollment.

**Lauren Smee, Wellness Coordinator, Human Resources:** Lauren Smee said the bloodwork pre-draw is scheduled for September 26, 7:00-9:00 a.m., in the Mississippi Room of the Curris Center. She listed the resources and screenings that will be available at the Health Fair and provided additional information about the Wellness Pledge. The Health Fair is open to employees and spouses.

**Credentials and Elections Committee:** Credentials and Elections Committee Chair Orville Herndon said that at the October Staff Congress meeting, the committee will present plans for the spring Staff Regent Election. Suggestions and comments can be sent to him.

**AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:** Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the August Meeting Minutes as presented. James Barnett seconded, and the motion carried.

**AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Laura Lohr presented the August Treasurer's Report. She will be submitting the appropriate paperwork to transfer the unused Flower Fund balance to the Book Scholarship Fund. Marion Hale made a motion to approve the August Treasurer's Report as presented. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** The Faculty and Staff Leadership Committee will meet with Dr. Davies on September 26, October 17 and December 5.

**Staff Recognition Committee:** Chair Laura Lohr said she, John Young, Jessica Evans, and Staff Regent Phil Schooley attended the Breathitt Veterinary Center's Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Staff Congress member Jami Carroll received a Years of Service Award.

**Staff Special Events Committee:** Jessica Evans said the Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 2. The Staff Reception will be held on December 7.

**Communications Committee:** Laura Lohr said she has posted to the Staff Congress Facebook page pictures of the Breathitt Staff Appreciation Luncheon and information about the upcoming Health Fair.

**Working Conditions Committee:** Jerry O'Bryan said he forwarded an email from Meaghan Cheatham to John Young.

**Staff Congress Foundation Text Book Scholarship Committee:** Text Book Scholarship Committee Chair Robyn Pizzo said the staff recipient of the fall textbook scholarship, Madison Lane, was unable to attend the Staff Congress meeting due to being in class at the time of the meeting. In order to raise funds for the scholarship the Committee is organizing rebate nights for the spring semester. If each Congress member donated \$1 per month, the total contributions would fund one scholarship. Contributions may be made at the Staff Congress meetings or via payroll deduction. The question was asked if donations can be made via the Kroger rewards program.

**Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee:** No report.

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**

**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:** Laura Lohr is working to arrange a meeting of the Shared Governance Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jessica Evans made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Plummer seconded, and the motion carried.