Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for May 15, 2013
304 North Applied Science Building

PRESENT: Shanna Burgess, Marion Hale, Amber Harris, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Lana Jennings, Laura Lohr-Dziekonski, Ann Matheny, Margie Miller, Jerry O'Bryan, Evan O'Neal, Chuck Plummer, Debbie Plummer, Sheri Riddle, Tressa Ross, Stephanie Totty, Daniel Williams, Tim Williams, Lisa Willis, Dwaine Willoughby, Jason Willoughby, Janeen Winters, and John Young.

Guests: James Barnett, Staff Congress member-elect; Dr. Renee Fister, Faculty Regent; Debbie Griffin, Staff Congress member-elect; Tom Hoffacker, Director, Human Resources; and Dr. Josh Jacobs, Chief of Staff, Office of the President.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:
Tom Hoffacker, Director, Human Resources: Tom Hoffacker reported on some of the upcoming changes to KERS and health insurance. More information will be available in *Personnel Matters*. Mr. Hoffacker said the Human Resources staff read the Staff Survey results. He talked about the value of communications such as the survey and expressed gratitude to those who worked with the survey.

Dr. Josh Jacobs, Chief of Staff, Office of the President: Dr. Jacobs thanked Tom Hoffacker and the Human Resources staff for their work with the upcoming insurance changes. He provided updates on campus constructions and reported on the May 10 meeting of the Board of Regents. He answered questions.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley was out-of-town.

John Young introduced Faculty Regent Dr. Renee Fister.

Faculty Regent Report: Dr. Renee Fister thanked Staff Congress for welcoming her to the meeting. She reported on some of the budget items such as graduate tuition waivers for spouses and the pay increase. She complimented Staff Regent Phil Schooley and the Staff Congress members for their work on behalf of staff. Dr. Fister, Phil Schooley, and Student Regent Jeremiah Johnson are working together on behalf of their constituents. She answered questions about the interim president position and the presidential search timeline.

Debbie Plummer thanked Dr. Fister for working with staff and welcomed her to the Staff Congress meeting.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 17 REGULAR STAFF CONGRESS MEETING MINUTES: Janeen Winters noted that on page 1 of the April 17 Staff Congress meeting minutes, under the Staff Regent Report, fourth sentence, "Staff Regent" should be changed to "Faculty Regent." Marion Hale made a motion to approve the April 17 minutes as corrected. Tressa Ross seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2 JOINT SESSION OF STAFF CONGRESS AND FACULTY SENATE MINUTES: Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2 Joint Session of Staff Congress and Faculty Staff as presented. Marion Hale seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Debbie Plummer presented the April Treasurer's Report. Daniel Williams made a motion to approve the April Treasure's Report as presented. Marion Hale seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Executive Committee: John Young reported that the Faculty and Staff Leadership Council met with Dr. Dunn earlier in May. He noted that the items discussed at that meeting have already been reported at today's Staff Congress meeting.

Debbie Plummer added that Dr. Jay Morgan has been selected as the new Provost.

Credentials and Elections Committee: JohnYoung introduced newly-elected Staff Congress members Debbie Griffin and James Barnett. Orville Herndon said everyone should have received an email with the results of the April Staff Congress election. He reported on the Staff Congress election.

Orville announced that Amber Harris has submitted her resignation from MSU and Staff Congress. Today is her last Staff Congress meeting. He said that Jessica Evans, April Staff Congress election candidate, is the next person eligible to serve in Amber's place. He has spoken to Jessica and she is willing to complete Amber's term on Staff Congress. Orville Herndon made a motion to appoint Jessica Evans to serve the remainder of Amber Harris' term on Staff Congress. Tim Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

At the June Staff Congress meeting, members will elect executive officers: President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. Orville reviewed the eligibility requirements of each position. A ballot will be prepared with the names of persons who notify him before the June meeting of their intent to run for executive officer positions. Nominations will also be accepted at the June Staff Congress meeting prior to the voting.

Staff Recognition Committee: Dana Howard said that she doesn't have the date yet for the Staff Recognition Luncheon. She hopes to know the date by the June Staff Congress meeting. She reported that Staff Excellence Award nominations have been received. The deadline for nominations is May 31.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Laura Lohr-Dziekonski said the varying campus events have affected the timing of the next Staff Congress Newsletter. The Communications Committee plans to distribute a newsletter before the end of the fiscal year.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: No report.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:
Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: No report.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: Sheri Riddle reported on the items discussed at the recent Intercollegiate Athletic Council meeting, including budget cuts, updates on the hall of champions and the softball field, the Title IX report, and student athlete graduation rates.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Christian Cruce was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting. John Young reported that two naming proposals were approved at the May Board of Regents meeting: The Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering, and Technology; and The Gene W. Ray Science Campus.

Judicial Board: Stephanie Totty reported that the Judicial Board has heard a case which cannot be discussed. She asked John Young to inquire as to whether a new representative needs to be appointed to the Judicial Board.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: John Young said that Staff Congress has a received a request to appoint a representative to replace Lana Jennings whose term to the Sick Leaves Appeals Committee has expired. He added that if the proposed changes to the Sick Leave Appeals Committee are approved, a replacement will not be needed. Lana Jennings noted that she was told that until an appeals case needs to be heard by the Sick Leave Appeals Committee, a replacement will not be needed.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:
John Young asked if the Congress members would like Staff Congress to a have course available in Canvas, in order to be able to set-up online meeting links for the monthly Staff Congress meetings. Discussion followed. The group consensus was to set up a Staff Congress course in Canvas and to continue having meetings available online.

NEW BUSINESS:
John Young thanked Amber Harris for her service to Staff Congress and noted that she will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT: Stephanie Totty made a motion to adjourn. Daniel Williams seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.