Murray State University Staff Congress
Draft Minutes for January 15, 2014
304 North Applied Science Building

PRESENT: James Barnett, Terri Benton, Shanna Burgess, Jessica Evans, Debbie Griffin, Marion Hale, Orville Herndon, Dana Howard, Laura Lohr-Dziekonski, Ann Matheny, Margie Miller, Jerry O'Bryan, Evan O'Neal, Chuck Plummer, Debbie Plummer, Brian Purcell, Sheri Riddle, Ashley Rogers, Tressa Ross, Stephanie Totty, Daniel Williams, Tim Williams, Lisa Willis, Joseph Wilson, Gina Winchester, Chad Wortham, and John Young.

Guests: Beth Caldwell, Director, Facilities Finance and Administration; Dr. Renee Fister, Faculty Regent; Tom Hoffacker, Director, Human Resources; Dr. Tim Miller, Interim University President; Dr. Jay Morgan, Provost; Dr. Adam Murray, Dean, University Libraries; Dr. Robert Pervine, Interim Associate Provost; Dr. Robertson, Vice-President for Student Affairs.

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS:
Dr. Tim Miller, Interim University President: Dr. Miller thanked staff for their cooperation and assistance to students during the power outage and weather-related issues. He said he met with the governor regarding funding for the university. He noted that the governor will speak on the state budget on January 21. Dr. Miller reported on buildings which need maintenance repairs. He welcomed questions and thanked staff for all they do.

Dr. Robert Pervine, Interim Associate Provost: Dr. Pervine gave an update on the Quality Enhancement Plan. The SACS team is scheduled to arrive on campus on February 24. Campus constituency groups will be given the opportunity to interact with the SACS team. He and Dr. Adam Murray answered questions.

Dr. Jay Morgan, Provost: Dr. Morgan thanked Dr. Pervine and Dr. Murray for their work on the QEP during the last two years. He reported on the Racer Roundup recruiting program and thanked staff involved in the program. Dr. Morgan encouraged the university community to welcome the groups of students that will be on campus for recruiting visits later in the semester. He provided an update on the Assistant Provost search.

Dr. Robertson, Vice-President for Student Affairs: Dr. Robertson reported on the status of the residence halls after the power outage. He thanked Facilities Management and Housing staff for their work during the previous week in preparation for the return of students. Dr. Robertson noted that visiting delegations from international partner universities are on campus this week. He announced events from the Black History Month calendar.

Tom Hoffacker, Director, Human Resources: Tom Hoffacker reported on the presidential search. He announced upcoming informational meetings for staff. Topics to be presented at the meetings include changes to student employment, requirements for using independent contracts rather than employment, the 30-hour rule, and discretionary spending changes. He answered questions. Chuck Plummer asked questions about pay related to working when the university is closed due to weather conditions. Discussion followed. Orville Herndon asked if the university closure polices would be re-evaluated to include the extended campus sites.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Phil Schooley was unable to attend today's Staff Congress meeting due to an appointment.

Faculty Regent Report: Dr. Renee Fister reported on the Staff Survey. She listed some upcoming dates from the University Presidential Search Committee's schedule. At its March meeting, the Board of Regents plans to discuss budget topics and select the new university president. The next Adventures in Learning lecture is scheduled for February 6. Kentucky Teacher of the Year Holly Bloodworth will be the presenter.

John Young provided additional information from the Staff Survey, reading some of the suggestions for the Staff Regent and Staff Congress.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES: Orville Herndon made a motion to approve the December minutes as presented. Marion Hale seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Sheri Riddle presented the December Treasurer's Report. Marion Hale made a motion to approve the December Treasurer's Report as presented. Laura Lohr-Dziekonski seconded, and the motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: No report. John Young said the Faculty-Staff Leadership Council will meet with Dr. Miller later today.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Orville Herndon said the Credentials and Elections Committee will meet on January 22 to prepare the calendar for the upcoming Staff Congress Election. He read the names of Congress members whose terms will expire this year.

Staff Recognition Committee: No report. Dana Howard encouraged Congress members to nominate staff for the Staff Excellence Award in recognition of their outstanding deeds during the weather-related university closure.

Staff Special Events Committee: No report. Dana Howard added that a *Roundabout U* video of the Children's Christmas Party can be seen on FaceBook and on RoundaboutU.com.

Communications Committee: Laura Lohr-Dziekonski said the Communications Committee plans to distribute a newsletter near the end of March. She asked Congress members to let her know of any items they would like to have included in the newsletter.

Working Conditions Committee: Jerry O'Bryan said he would like to meet with the Working Conditions Committee to clarify issues which developed during the recent university closure caused by the weather conditions.

Staff Congress Foundation Book Scholarship Committee: Debbie Plummer reported on the Textbook Scholarship fundraiser. She is in the process of delivering the items to the silent auction winners. Debbie asked Congress members to remind co-workers of the February 1 application deadline for the spring semester textbook scholarship. Applications are available on the Staff Congress website.

Debbie noted that the University-Wide Dual Career Committee will meet later in January.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: Stephanie Totty reported on the January 14 meeting of the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee. She presented a recommendation from the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee concerning the MSU Military Leave Policy. The current policy states "…for a period not to exceed 10 working days in any calendar year." The proposed revision would be to increase the number of days of paid leave to 15 working days in any calendar year. The committee would like Staff Congress to forward the recommendation to the University-Wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee. Because the recommendation came from a committee, a second was not required. John Young asked if there was any discussion. Discussion followed. A vote was taken. The motion carried.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Stephanie Totty said the committee will meet on January 17.

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.

MSU 100: Sheri Riddle said the MSU 100 Committee will meet on the January 27.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

John young discussed appointments to the following committees.

Campus Appearance and Improvements Committee: Chuck Plummer, Dana Howard, and Laura Lohr-Dziekonski have volunteered for this committee.

By Laws Update—Addition of Textbook Scholarship Committee: Staff Congress President John Young said he has appointed Orville Herndon to the Committee to Update the By Laws to include the Textbook Scholarship. Marion Hale, Debbie Plummer, and Daniel Williams volunteered to serve on the committee.

Budget Recommendation Review Committee: John Young said Evan O'Neal, Laura Lohr-Dziekonski, Orville Herndon, and Debbie Plummer have volunteered to serve on the Budget Recommendation Review Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:
Jerry O'Bryan said the topics to be discussed at today's meeting of the Working Conditions Committee meeting will possibly need to include the Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee. John Young suggested the Working Conditions Committee meet to determine which Personnel Policies are involved and then meet with the Personnel Polices and Benefits Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: Stephanie Totty made a motion to adjourn. Dana Howard seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.