



Draft Minutes for August 21, 2024
Curris Center Mississippi Room and Zoom

Present: Dedrick Brooks, Tami Dandeneau, Duane Dycus, Jodi Hanneman, Gerry Harris, Orville Herndon, Joshua Hutson, B.J. Johnson, Matthew Jones, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Amanda Mansfield, Audrey Neal, Kim Newbern, Tressa Ross, David Shelton, Mary Steely, Kristen Swisher, Justin Thomas, Joshua Tillson, Casey Workman

Absent: Dayna Hutchinson

Guests: Dr. Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Dr. Robert (Bob Jackson), University President; Camela Ramey; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dr. Tim Todd, Provost; Dr. David Wilson, Staff Regent

CALL TO ORDER: Staff Congress President Audrey Neal called the meeting to order.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:

Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson, University President: Dr. Bob Jackson welcomed staff to the beginning of the fall semester. He gave an update on enrollment. Staff interested in assisting with recruitment through the Road Scholars Program may contact Enrollment Management. The number of first-time students entering college with some college credit earned in high school is increasing. Those students earn their college degrees in less time and, as a result, they are at the university for less time.

The President's Office will offer matching grants for recruitment and retention. Some of the university's academic departments, colleges, and schools are involved in recruitment and retention efforts. Dr. Jackson encouraged them to continue those efforts. Departments and offices not currently participating in recruitment and retention are encouraged to do so.

Dr. Zou in the Institute for International Studies will be visiting academic departments to discuss international programs. Dr. Jackson discussed some of the university's initiatives for international students.

Dr. Jackson listed mental health service options available for students. The campus health services provider will change from Village Medical to Murray Medical Associates.

Dr. Jackson reported on the School of Nursing, a learning commons residence hall to be located north of Hart College, and other projects. The university is developing a partnership with the University of Louisville to provide a 2 + 2 school of medicine. Dr. Jackson reported on the Centennial Campaign that was launched in 2022, the year of Murray State's one hundredth anniversary.

Dr. Tim Todd, Provost: Dr. Tim Todd welcomed staff to the start of the semester.

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs: Dr. Don Robertson thanked staff for their work with Great Beginnings. He thanked Trish Lofton for her leadership with Great Beginnings. He reported on sorority and fraternity recruitment. Dr. Robertson said information about mental health service options has been presented to students at various student group meetings and through publicity. Faculty and academic advisors have also been given the information.

Dr. Renee Fister, Associate Provost: Dr. Renee Fister presented information on performance funding. She said that undergraduate hours taken at Murray State by Kentucky residents age 25-64 count towards the performance funding the university receives.

Joshua Hutson said because the university's performance funding is affected by the number of undergraduate hours taken by residents in that age group, restoring tuition waivers to part-time and retired university employees could be beneficial to the university.

Dr. Fister said that some universities offer tuition waivers for persons age 65 and older.

President Neal will send to Staff Congress the document Dr. Fister discussed in the presentation about performance funding.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Dr. David Wilson said that Phase 2 of the Wellness Pledge ends September 30. Racer One Stop will be open for the rest of the week and will re-open on August 26. The Hire-a-Racer part-time career fair will be held on August 29, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Waterfield Library Breezeway. The women's soccer team will play at home on August 22, at 4:00 p.m. The first home football game is scheduled for September 7, at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Regents will have a quarterly meeting on September 13. The Board of Regents retreat will be held on September 12. On September 14 and 15, Dr. Wilson will attend a trustee training, which is required for new Board of Regents members.

Staff may contact Dr. Wilson with questions or concerns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 2024 Staff Congress Monthly Meeting Minutes: Trish Lofton made a motion to approve the July 2024 Staff Congress Monthly Meeting Minutes as presented. Jeremy McKeel seconded. President Neal asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

July 30, 2024 Staff Congress Retreat Minutes: Tressa Ross made a motion to approve the July 30, 2024 Staff Congress Retreat Minutes. Mary Steely seconded. President Neal asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: The July Treasurer's Report was not available due to delays in being able to access the report. It will be presented for approval at the September 2024 Staff Congress meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: President Neal reported that at the Executive Committee's August meeting, the officers prepared the presentation of the Staff Survey Results they will be giving at the Board of Regents retreat on September 12. Staff Congress members may contact the officers with questions.

Credentials and Elections Committee: No report.

Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: No report.

Working Conditions Committee: No report.

Staff Survey Committee: No report.

Textbook Scholarship Committee: Joshua Hutson reported that applications have been received for the textbook scholarship. Applications for the fall textbook scholarship and professional development fund are due October 1. The committee will meet after the October 1 application due date to select scholarship recipients. He asked staff to inform co-workers of the scholarship application deadline.

Personnel Policies and Benefits Committee: No report.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: No report.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:

Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee: Orville Herndon reported that the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee will hold an organizational meeting on August 23, at 1:00 p.m. At that meeting, the committee will select a chair and a secretary for the 2024-2025 year. Marsh McLellan will present insurance information at the meeting. Information regarding changes to Sharecare will be sent to employees.

Intercollegiate Athletic Council: No report.

Naming Campus Facilities Committee: Dedrick Brooks said a naming proposal will be presented to the Board of Regents for approval. The item cannot be announced until it is approved by the Board of Regents.

Judicial Board: No report.

Sick Leave Appeals Committee: No report.

International Studies Advisory Committee: No report.

Budget Advisory Committee: No report.

Shared Governance Committee: No report.

Parking Advisory Committee: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Business List Revision Committee: President Neal said a letter will be sent to Staff Congress members that they can present to businesses in the community and in extended campus communities to ask if those business offer discounts to university employees. The Business Discount List Revision Committee is working to downsize the list so that it contains only regional businesses that offer discounts specific to Murray State employees. Persons with questions may contact Business List Revision Committee chair Jodi Hanneman or President Neal.

Staff Regent Bylaws Revision Committee: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting Dates for December 2024 and March 2025: President Neal said the university will be closed on the third Wednesday of December, when the Staff Congress monthly meeting is usually scheduled. She recommended the meeting be moved to December 11. She asked for a motion. Trish Lofton made a motion to move the meeting from December 18 to December 11, 2024. Amanda Mansfield seconded the motion. President Neal asked if there were any questions or discussion. There were none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

President Neal said the university will be closed on March 19, 2025, which is the third Wednesday of the month. She suggested moving the meeting to either March 12, or March 26, 2025. Discussion followed. Orville Herndon made a motion to move the meeting to March 12, 2025. Tami Dandeneau seconded. President Neal asked if there was any discussion. There was none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

Approval of 2024-25 Goals and Objectives: President Neal referred to the 2024-2025 Staff Congress Goals and Objectives for approval. Staff Congress members discussed and updated the draft document at the July 30, 2024 retreat. The final draft of the 2024-2025 Goals and Objectives was emailed to Staff Congress members. Joshua Hutson made a motion to approve

the Staff Congress 2024-2025 Goals and Objectives. Tressa Ross seconded. President Neal asked if there was any discussion. There was none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

Approval of 2024-25 Committee Chairs and Members: President Neal referred to the 2024-2025 Staff Congress Committee Chairs and Members document that was emailed to Staff Congress members. She explained that the Staff Congress committee chairs arrange committee meetings which are usually held via Zoom. Ms. Neal will inform the appropriate contact persons for the university-wide committees of the Staff Congress appointments to those committees. She asked for the motion. Trish Lofton made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Staff Congress Committee Chairs and Members document. Kristen Swisher seconded. Ms. Neal asked if there was any discussion. There was none. She called for the vote. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Orville Herndon made a motion to adjourn. Jeremy McKeel seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.