

**Draft Minutes for January 17, 2024**  
**Zoom**

**Present:** Christian Barnes, Russell Dunn, Duane Dycus, Jodi Hanneman, Orville Herndon, Joshua Hutson, Casey Johnson, Matthew Jones, Sondra Kreger, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Travis Plunkett, Matt Purdy, Tressa Ross, Shyann Royalty, David Shelton

**Absent:** Dedrick Brooks, Dayna Hutchinson, Kim Newbern, Angela Richerson

**Guests:** Jackie Dudley, Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services; Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson, University President; Dr. Melony Shemberger, Faculty Regent; Dr. Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs; Dr. J. David Wilson, Staff Regent

**CALL TO ORDER:** Staff Congress President Trish Lofton called the meeting to order.

**REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:**

**Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson, University President:** Dr. Robert (Bob) Jackson provided a summary of the budget proposed by the Kentucky House of Representatives. An MSU Budget Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12. The Faculty and Staff Leadership Committee will meet on February 1.

**Dr. Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs:** Dr. Tim Todd gave an update on the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation process which occurs every ten years. The SACS Vice President will visit Murray State January 30-31. The SACS team will be on campus April 1-4.

**Jackie Dudley, Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services:** Jackie Dudley thanked the Facilities Management staff and SSC grounds crew for maintaining the buildings during the winter weather. She gave an update on new campus dining venues and campus building and maintenance projects. Racer One Stop will be available to assist students with financial aid, obtaining a student ID, and other items through January 19. Information on the Wellness Pledge was emailed to staff.

President Lofton complimented the Pinnacle crew for the Curris Center updates.

**APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:** David Shelton made a motion to approve the Decem Report. Joshua Hutson seconded, and the motion carried.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** President Trish Lofton said that Staff Congress member Matt Todd has accepted off-campus employment. She reported that at its meeting on January 10, the Executive Committee discussed which dates to open the Staff Survey for staff to respond. The committee decided to submit Jodi -wide Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee to serve in the staff vacancy created when Dr. David Wilson moved from Staff Congress member to Staff Regent. As Staff Regent, Dr. Wilson will serve as an ex-officio member of the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee. The Executive Committee will be checking with the Staff Congress committees within the next month for progress on committee goals and objectives. The committee goals were developed from the Staff Survey results. The survey results are on the Staff Congress website. Ms. Lofton reminded Staff Congress that attendance at Staff Congress meetings

**Credentials and Elections Committee:** Orville Herndon reported on the Staff Regent Election run-off. He thanked the candidates for running in the election and congratulated Dr. Wilson for being elected Staff Regent. He said that multiple staff told him they had difficulty choosing between the candidates.

At the October 2023 Staff Congress meeting, the Credentials and Elections Committee suggested the regular Staff Regent Election be held March 12-14, and the filing period be held in February. Mr. Herndon asked if Staff Congress would prefer the election to be held over three days or two days. Discussion followed. Joshua Hutson made a motion to schedule the Staff Regent Election for two days. Jodi Hanneman seconded. President Lofton asked if there was any discussion. There was none. President Lofton called for the question. The motion carried.

**Staff Recognition and Special Events Committee:** Jodi Hanneman said plans for the spring staff breakfast are complete.

President Lofton thanked Jackie Dudley, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, and Sharion Meloan, Executive Coordinator in the Office of the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, for arranging the Staff Reception held in December. Ms. Lofton complimented Sodexo and Racer Dining for the food. She thanked Dr. Jackson for assisting with the presentation of the Years of Service certificates and the Staff Recognition Awards.

**Communications Committee:** No report.

the committee is reviewing and gathering information on the grievance procedures. He will give the information to Mr. Dycus.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:** No report.

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COMMITTEES:**

**Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee:** Orville Herndon said the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee will meet on January 22, at 8:30 a.m., in the Engineering Building conference room and on Zoom. Interested persons may contact Mr. Herndon to request the Zoom link. The committee will be discussing the anticipated increase in insurance rates. Marsh McLennan, , is planning to look for cost-saving ideas. Staff may contact committee members with questions and comments.

**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:** President Lofton said the Budget Advisory Committee will meet in February.

**Shared Governance Committee:** No report.

**Parking Advisory Committee:** No report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Business List Revision Committee:** Jodi Hanneman asked if she were to create a letter inviting businesses to join the Business Discount List, could the letter be shared on social media. President Lofton replied that the letter could be shared on social media.

**Merit Pay/Years-of-Service Pay Committee:** No report.

**Staff Regent Bylaws Revision Committee:** Orville Herndon said the Staff Regent Bylaws Committee is collecting information including Staff Regent bylaws from other universities.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:** President Lofton said the next Staff Congress meeting will be held on February 21. She will ask about the availability of room 118 Wells Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jodi Hanneman made a motion to adjourn. David Shelton seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.