

Draft Minutes for September 20, 2023
118 Wells Hall and Zoom

Present: Marty Anderson, Christian Barnes, Dedrick Brooks, Russell Dunn, Duane Dycus, Jodi Hanneman, Orville Herndon, Dayna Hutchinson, Casey Johnson, Matthew Jones, Sondra Kreger, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Kim Newbern, Travis Plunkett, Matt Purdy, Angela Richerson, Tressa Ross, Shyann Royalty, David Shelton, Matthew Todd, Dr. J. David Wilson

Absent: Joshua Hutson

Guests: Dr. Jessica Evans, Staff Regent; Dr. Melony Shemberger, Faculty Regent

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Dr. Jessica Evans said she emailed to staff a summary of the Board of Regents retreat and meeting held on August 24 and 25. The Board of Regents approved the changes to the Staff Congress Bylaws regarding representation categories. The Board of Regents approved a second reading of a new policy concerning drones and remotely controlled aircraft on campus, and approved the first reading of the policy for flexible and remote work. The second reading of the policy for flexible and remote work is expected to be held at the December 8 Board of Regents meeting.

The Faculty and Staff Leadership Council will meet with University President Dr. Robert Jackson on September 21. The

The Executive Committee discussed the Staff Excellence Awards. Clarification regarding the Staff Excellence Award stipend is needed to determine if the award stipend stays with the person who receives the award or if the stipend stays with the position. Another clarification is needed to determine if the stipend is a one-time award or if it is applied to the employee's base pay. Staff Excellence Award nominations are due September 30.

The committee has scheduled listening sessions for the fall semester. Tentative dates are November 1, at 2:00 p.m., and November 3, at 9:00 a.m. The sessions will be held via Zoom. Questions can be submitted anonymously before the meeting. Immediate feedback and polling will be available during the meeting.

The officers discussed the need for an ombudsman. The committee will gather information on the process needed to establish an ombudsman position. The position would be a neutral party and not affiliated with the university. President Lofton noted that most Kentucky universities have an ombudsman.

Ms. Lofton distributed printed copies of the Staff Congress 2022-2023 Annual Report. Copies will be given to the upper administration and to the chair of the Board of Regents. She complimented Staff Congress members for their accomplishments during the previous year. She thanked Jeremy McKeel for his assistance in distributing a digital newsletter earlier in September.

Credentials and Elections Committee: Prior to today's Staff Congress meeting, Orville Herndon emailed to Staff Congress members a list of Staff Congress members in the new representation groups which were approved by the Board of Regents on August 25. He asked members to contact him if they think they have been placed in the wrong

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Business List Revision Committee: No report.

Merit Pay/Years-of-Service Pay Committee: Matt Purdy said the committee met on August 31. The committee plans to research how other universities address merit pay and years-of-service pay. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 28, at 10:00 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None