
Draft Minutes for June 26, 2024
Tennessee Room, Curris Center and Zoom

Present: Jessica Arneson, Christian Barnes, Dedrick Brooks, Tami Dandeneau, Duane Dycus, Jodi Hanneman, Orville Herndon, Joshua Hutson, B.J. Johnson, Matthew Jones, Trish Lofton, Jeremy McKeel, Audrey Neal, Kim Newbern, Tressa Ross, David Shelton, Kristen Swisher, Justin Thomas

Absent: Russell Dunn, Gerry Harris, Dayna Hutchinson, Sondra Kreger, Matt Purdy, Angela Richerson, Casey Workman

Guests: Courtney Hixon, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs; Jordan Smith, Executive Director of Government and Institutional Relations; Mary Steely, Staff Congress member-elect; Joshua Tillson, Staff Congress member-elect; Dr. David Wilson, Staff Regent

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS PRESENT:

Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President of Student Affairs: Dr. Don Robertson reported on the number of students participating in Racer Nation Orientations and the number of students enrolled for the fall 2024 semester. He asked staff who interact with students to remind them to accept their scholarship and financial awards. Awards not accepted by the due date will be offered to alternate recipients.

Information will be sent to staff regarding opportunities to be involved with New Beginnings, scheduled for August 17. The fall semester begins August 20.

Health Services is closed for the summer and will re-open August 19.

Dr. Robertson thanked staff for greeting students. This has a positive effect on recruitment and retention.

Governor's Scholars students are currently on-campus, as well as students participating in various other camps.

Courtney Hixon, Director, Human Resources: Courtney Hixon said that 38 employees will be affected by the FSLA change to the salary threshold for overtime exempt status that begins on July 1, 2024. Human Resources staff have met with all of those employees and their supervisors to discuss the change. In the late summer or early fall, Human Resources will meet with the employees affected by the change to salary thresholds for overtime exempt status that will begin January 1, 2025.

The Wellness Pledge walking group will be held on Wednesdays in July from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. Wellness Coordinator Lauren Smee will be at the MSU gates at 11:00 a.m. on those Wednesdays, for staff to sign-in for the walking group. A watermelon social is scheduled for July 24, from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., at the breezeway of the Waterfield Library.

Jordan Smith, Executive Director of Government and Institutional Relations: President Lofton welcomed Jordan Smith, to the meeting.

Mr. Smith said he had no report.

Staff Regent Report: Staff Regent Dr. David Wilson encouraged staff to contact Human Resources if they have questions regarding the salary and compensation review information. He encouraged staff to participate in the Wellness Pledge

activities. Dr. Wilson thanked staff for their work with students. Their efforts help with retention. Staff may contact him with questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jeremy McKeel made a motion to approve the May 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented. Jodi Hanneman seconded, and the motion carried.

information has been received, it will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Insurance and Benefits Committee which will

Orville Herndon distributed paper ballots to Staff Congress members attending the meeting in-person. He emailed a Google form ballot