

STAFF CONGRESS

Northern Kentucky University ■ Highland Heights, Kentucky 41099

STAFF CONGRESS MINUTES

May 13, 2004

University Center Ballroom

Members Present: Linda Albert, Denny Allen, Jeff Chesnut, Jeff Cox, Sherry Cucchiara, Peggy DeJaco, Goldie Easton, Cheryl Edelen, Paul Frazier, Gail Goedel, Danielle Greene, Lakricia Kelly, Rachel LeJeune, Jim McCulley, Jeanne Papania, Kathy Perkins, Pat Radank, Rosanne Rawe, Diana Schneider, Royleen Seibert, Glenn Strausbaugh, Don Vasko, Maureen Woods, Carole Ziegler

Members Absent: Sonny Barker, Mary Berkemeyer, Gina Bray, Mark Edgley, Jada Marcum, Jennifer mason, Becky Miller-Thomas, Marilyn Siry, Ron Vasko

V.P. Administration & Finance: Ken Ramey; **Liaison:** Martha Malloy; **Staff Regent:** Bev Beck - absent; **Student Government Association Representative:** Trey Orndorff - absent; **Secretary:** Rita Thomas

Call to Order: President Jeff Chesnut called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Minutes: Motion to accept the April 8, 2004 minutes was made by Don Vasko, seconded by Cheryl Edelen. Motion carried.

Staff Regent: Bev Beck - absent

Liaison: Martha Malloy

1. MetLife will be in UC Lobby today for anyone interested in Short Term Disability coverage. Human Resources will begin taking applications tomorrow. Need to have a certain number of participants or the coverage won't be offered. Jeff Chesnut stressed the reasonable rates and that you can collect up to 60% of your base pay tax-free.
2. Evaluation process went well and all but a very few have been turned in. Martha expressed her appreciation for the efforts of everyone to complete this process.
3. Merit salary increase process is complete and the letters will be distributed during the first week of June.

Vice President for Administration & Finance: Ken Ramey

1. Board of Regents Report: approved 16.7% tuition increase effective 2004/2005 academic year. This amounts to approximately \$640 increase for in-state students and \$1,000 increase for out-of-state students. SGA President Chris Pace spoke on behalf of the students. Approximately 30 students protested the proposed tuition increase. These students conducted themselves admirably. It's an unfortunate situation but unavoidable. NKU students pay approximately 62% of their education costs. Merit salary pool of 2.5% was approved. Funding was approved for academic quality for the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 academic years.
2. Several projects occurring on campus this summer include painting & carpeting work in Old Science, parking lot repaving/patching/resealing.
3. Move in date for the new power plant is soon. In the process of moving certain equipment out of old power plant so it can be installed in the new facility.
4. Cost cutting suggestions submitted to Staff Congress have been received but due to the work that is being done to compensate for the lack of a budget from the Governor, Ken, Mike Baker & Gerald Hunter have not had the opportunity to discuss those suggestions and report to President Votruba. Every effort will be made to study these suggestions to determine validity.
5. Mr. Ramey thanked everyone for their continued support during this trying time of budget crises.

Standing Committee Reports:

Benefits: Maureen Woods—No report

Constitution & By-Laws: Pat Radank—No report.

Credentials & Elections: Rosanne Rawe & Glenn Strausbaugh

Letters congratulating the newly elected members of Staff Congress have been sent out. Out of 664 staff members eligible to vote only 134 voted. This is a very serious issue. Nomination committee for officers consists of Jeff Chesnut, Rosanne Rawe, Glenn Strausbaugh and Ron Vasko. Please send your nomination to any committee member by the June 10, 2004 meeting.

Policies: Marilyn Siry & Don Vasko—No report

Salary/Budget: No Chair—No report.

Liaison: Sherry Cucchiara

1. Received 21 responses to Time Survey. Staff Congress participation includes approximately 10.8 meetings a year and 1.6 hours a month.
2. Still compiling notes from the open forums. Thank you to Cheryl Edelen for her assistance as official “note taker” during the forums.
3. Professional Clothing Drive to benefit Dress for Success will be held September 20, 2004 thru October 1, 2004. Drop off points include Human Resources and the Information Desk located in the University Center.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Health Utilization: Mary Berkemeyer

Will meet on May 24 to discuss renewal process.

Transportation Advisory: Kathy Perkins—no report.

Food Service Advisory: Cheryl Edelen—No report.

Ken Ramey advised he is getting ready to begin bid process for new food service. Sodexho still has one year left on their contract but may leave in six months.

Human Resources Advisory: Royleen Seibert—No report.

Scholarship Committee – Don Vasko, Peggy DeJaco, Kathy Perkins.

Have made decisions regarding scholarship recipients. Please respond as soon as possible to Rita Thomas when you receive your invitation for the meal at the June meeting. No response, no meal.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Cost Cutting: Jeff Chesnut—No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

1. Diana Schneider – Albright Health Center renovations to begin soon. Will be complete by start of Fall semester. Employee walk will be May 19 & Jeff Chesnut will lead the walk.
2. Denny Allen – Re-iterated the Sam’s Club membership opportunity. Discount coupons for Newport Aquarium available.
3. Jeff Chesnut – Cincinnati Bell offers discounts to NKU employees. Check out www.cincinnatiatibell.com for available discounts.

Closed Session:

Staff Congress did not go into closed session.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Peggy DeJaco, Secretary