

STAFF CONGRESS

Northern Kentucky University ■ Highland Heights, Kentucky 41099

STAFF CONGRESS MINUTES

January 8, 2004

University Center Ballroom

Members Present: Denny Allen, Gina Bray, Jeff Chesnut, Peggy DeJaco, Gail Goedel, Danielle Greene, Jennifer Mason, Becky Miller-Thomas, Jeanne Papania, Kathy Perkins, Rosanne Rawe, Diana Schneider, Royleen Seibert, Marilyn Siry, Don Vasko, Ron Vasko, Maureen Woods, Carol Ziegler

Members Absent: Linda Albert, Leland Bennett, Mary Berkemeyer, Jeff Cox, Sherry Cucchiara, Goldie Easton, Cheryl Edelen, Mark Edgley, Paul Frazier, Doug Hardebeck, Shannon Hatfield, Lakricia Kelly, Rachel LeJeune, Jada Marcum, Jim McCulley, Pat Radank, Glenn Strausbaugh

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

Call to Order: President Jeff Chesnut called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. .

Minutes: Motion to accept the December 11, 2003 minutes as written. Changes to December minutes: The following people were present: Becky Miller-Thomas, Denny Allen, Gail Goedel. Motion to accept the minutes with the changes carried.

V. P. Administration: Ken Ramey

1. Governor Fletcher has implemented a 2.5% budget reduction on higher education institutions. NKU has been hit with a 4.6% budget reduction that took our benchmark funding which amounted to \$2 million. We had budgeted \$1.4 million for potential budget cuts but now may have additional budget cuts. KERS employer rate went up from 8.5% to 10.29% (approximately \$1 million). NKU administrators are looking at different options of dealing with this budget crisis.
2. Martha re-iterated that if you are going to contact your state government representatives, please do so from your home computer as you are not permitted to use University equipment for that purpose.
3. President Chesnut – the Cost Cutting Committee will meet next month. Please submit any ideas to Rita Thomas in the Staff Congress Office, AC 105, until an idea hot line is set up.

Liaison: Martha Malloy

Reported a possible tentative agreement reached between Anthem and The Health Alliance. If no agreement is reached by 1/9/04, there are several options open to policyholders which may include, but are not limited to: switching Primary Care Physicians, switching health plans (you could switch back to your original plan when/if there is a settlement), coverage thru spouse's health insurance carrier, etc. Martha thanked everyone for their patience and their ability to not panic during this period of negotiations.

Standing Committee Reports:

- *Benefits:* Jennifer Mason - Will try & keep people informed regarding the health situation.
- *Constitution & By-Laws:* Pat Radank, absent. No report.

- *Credentials & Elections:* Rosanne Rawe & Glenn Strausbaugh – still working on redistribution of numbers
- *Policies:* Marilyn Siry & Don Vasko – no report
- *Salary/Budget:* Leland Bennett, absent– no report.
- *Liaison:* Shannon Hatfield, no report. Meeting next week.

Ad-Hoc Committees

- *Health Utilization* – Mary Berkemeyer, no report.
- *Transportation Advisory* – Kathy Perkins, will meet on 2/4/04.
- *Food Service Advisory* – no report. Meeting next week.
- *Human Resources Advisory* – Royleen Seibert. Still discussing domestic partner coverage. Looking at the Bereavement policy. With the budget crisis, looking at “soft” benefit changes.
- *Mentoring Program Committee* – Ron Vasko. Meeting later in the month.
- *Scholarship Committee* – Don Vasko, Peggy DeJaco, Kathy Perkins. Don as spoken with Penny Asalon, Kathy will put notice in Midweek reiterating the February 1 deadline for scholarship applications.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

Diana Schneider - Campus Recreation is conducting an Open House on January 12, 13, & 14 to showcase changes and renovations.

Diana Schneider – Annual Chili Cook-off will be on February 24. Need volunteers to help with set- up & clean-up

Closed Session:

Staff Congress did not go into closed session.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1.50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Peggy DeJaco, Secretary