

# Staff Congress Newsletter



## Chair Chat



Welcome to October!

I hope you all enjoyed a long weekend. We're beginning the second half of the fall semester with Homecoming, cooler weather, and holidays in front of us. I hope it's been a good semester.

In Staff Congress, we're beginning discussions with President Morgan about more staff raises. I'll make sure to let everyone know how those discussions go. We are glad to have these talks in such financially challenging times, and appreciate the commitment being made by administration in support of our staff.

As we have passed midterms, our students will be experiencing a higher degree of stress, so please be mindful of them and take some time to reach out if they are struggling.

Remember to take care of yourself! Plan (and take) your vacation days, participate in MSU's wellness activities and be kind to yourself and others.

Thank you for all that you do for MSU!

-Chair Flora

## October 2022

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# Campus Announcements

*The following events are scheduled for this month at the Morehead State University residential campus. If you have announcements that you would like to share with the MSU Staff community, please send them to [x.scott@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:x.scott@moreheadstate.edu).*

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## Employment Opportunities

In an effort to help fill open positions at MSU, we request that you view and share the employment opportunities with your peers and associates. Job postings can be found on the [MSU PeopleAdmin](#) site.

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## Homecoming

Join us for [Homecoming 2022](#) as MSU celebrates 100 years as a public institution in Kentucky! Events will be held throughout campus from Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information, visit the [2022 Homecoming Schedule](#).

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## Benefits Fair

The Office of Human Resources is hosting a Benefits Fair on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm in the ADUC ballrooms. Various benefits vendors and wellness organizations will be on site for MSU staff.

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## 2022 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk

Faculty and Staff are invited to join the Office of Human Resources in the 2022 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am, starting at the Bell Tower. Participants will receive pink swag, 20 WellPoints, and be entered to win prizes.

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## Staff Salutes

The following salutes were submitted for this month. If you know of a worthy candidate, you can submit your suggestion on the [Submit a Staff Salute](#) page.

### Nehemiah Dunn – Financial Aid Counselor

He takes it upon himself to help others without being asked. He is a huge help to his co-workers! He has helped out several times with covering the front desk so that his co-worker can take a lunch when we are short on work-study students to cover the front desk. Thankful to have him in our office!

## Staff Congress Meeting Summary

In this section, we summarize the reports from the Staff Congress monthly meeting.

President J. Morgan reported:

- Homecoming is October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- In last week's address, Dr. Morgan described enrollment retention trends and the removal of regular COVID-19 updates. A video recording should be provided soon.
- November's raises brought up the lowest paid hourly staff to \$11.50/hour. The majority of those came from Facilities Management, with a few others across campus. This move was not only to help our staff, but to be more competitive with local enterprises.
- Dr. Morgan appreciates everyone's work and service. He requests that we continue to help with retention.
- Retention rates are not rebounding, coming out of COVID-19. We are maintaining 67-69% this year, where we've hovered during the past two years with COVID-19. We need to get back up to 75-76%, where we were before.

Chair David Flora reported:

- Reminder that October 7<sup>th</sup> is a paid holiday.
- On September 1, MSU's lowest paid hourly staff were raised up to \$11.50/hour.
- In a previous meeting, Chair Flora requested that the Executive Council (EC) Chairs brainstorm topics that they feel are important to address in the coming year. He requests that the EC Chairs present those topics in the November Staff Congress meeting.

Vice-Chair Helisha Tuerk reported:

- Vice-Chair Tuerk has been working with Dr. Lesia Lennex to fill the staff vacancies in the Faculty Senate government committees.

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Benefits & Compensation Committee Chair, Rianna Robinson, reported:

- B&C met in September.
- Discussed creating goals for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Credentials & Elections Committee Chair, Toni Hobbs, reported:

- We have two Staff Congress vacancies for Area 2. Area 2 includes the following.
  - ADUC, Allie Young Hall, Button Hall, Camden-Carroll Library, Combs Building, Fields Hall, Lappin Hall, Lloyd Cassity, Reed Hall

Director of the Office of Human Resources, Dr. Caroline Atkins, reported:

- There will be a Benefits Fair on Thursday, October 20th, with a variety of vendors.
- At the suggestion of Staff Congress, the Office of Human Resources (OHR) has been working with MSU's videographer to create videos talking about why MSU is such a great place to work.
- OHR is putting together a total compensation statement that we can use for potential new employees. This statement includes salary, benefits, holidays, etc.
- Met with Employee Benefits Committee (EBC), who requested a 1-page handout that addresses rules pertaining to sick leave, such as accrual, sick leave bank, and short-term disability.
- OHR asked the EBC to review the benefits guide.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM, OHR will be hosting Coffee with a Cop at ADUC. Coffee and donuts will be provided.
- We are currently in Mental Health Awareness Month, so we challenge you to relax or meditate in a quiet place, or a place that brings you peace. Then send a picture of that place to [livewell@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:livewell@moreheadstate.edu) for a chance to win a Light Therapy Lamp.

President of Faculty Senate, Dr. David Long, reported:

- Faculty Senate (FS) has been reviewing PAc language, and the number of committees that have historically been formed over time that could have been done as ad-hoc committees.
- FS will be evaluating Deans, which was last done 3 years ago.
- FS is working with the President and Provost about the quality of First Year Seminar.

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## Staff Concerns

Comment/Concern	Response
<p>Can there be extra police patrol throughout the day near employee parking lots/crossing areas to ensure employee safety? I was in a situation today, where a van was stopped for me to walk across the street in a crosswalk. As I was crossing, a SUV tried to pass the van while I was in the middle of the crosswalk. I almost got hit! I was absolutely terrified!</p>	<p>This issue was forwarded to the MSU Police Department (MSUPD)</p>

## Thanks for Reading | Suggestions

Thanks for reading the Staff Congress Newsletter. We're proud to be a part of your community. Please send any suggestions about the newsletter to Xavier Scott at [x.scott@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:x.scott@moreheadstate.edu)

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