

Staff Congress Newsletter



Chair Chat



Xavier Scott
Staff Congress Chair

Welcome to the new academic year at Morehead State University. With cyber-attacks, network outages, and summer block parties, I think we can all agree that it has been very eventful, so far!

I am proud to announce that I will be your Staff Congress Chair for this year. My predecessor, Chair David Flora, did a wonderful job of working with administration to provide positive solutions to staff concerns. As your new Chair, I hope to continue his legacy, and work toward a new sense of community with all MSU staff, as well as the extended campus community.

As you are aware, we are currently experiencing campus-wide network outages and disrupted processes for nearly every staff member at MSU. The office of Information Technology is working long, hard hours to restore all services as quickly as possible. I applaud their hard work and dedication to us, their campus community.

Very soon, students will return, and the semester will begin. With your help, I know that this semester will start on time and with all the enthusiasm that our students deserve. Thank you all for everything you do. I look forward to serving you this year, and beyond.

July 2023

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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 h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu.

- All employees are encouraged to wait until July 27 before obtaining your parking passes for the Fall semester. If you need to obtain a pass before that time, please go by Laughlin Health Building Police Office in person.
- August 9 – Fall Convocation – All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. Location: ADUC Ballrooms beginning with breakfast at 8:00 am, a short program at 8:30, and adjournment shortly after 9:00. We look forward to seeing you there.
- August 7 - Residential hall move-in begins, with new student move-in August 10-11, and returning students August 12-13. Student Affairs will be in contact with many of you soon in hopes that you will assist us with move-in. It takes a significant effort to get all students moved in.
- August 14 – Fall semester classes begin.

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.

RISA BOYD - ADVISOR

She goes above and beyond for students to ensure they have what they need to be successful at MSU. Not only does she meet their educational needs she also looks out for other needs as well. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to get to know Risa. Advisors like her are what make MSU a great place!

ALISON COPHER - ENROLLMENT SERVICES CREDENTIAL SPECIALIST

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Alison is very good at her job. She is also very detailed in her note taking and updates information timely. She is a pleasure to work with and very helpful. She will help anyone in the office. She is very skilled in working in various situations and that is an asset to Enrollment Services.

ASIAH L. HANDLEY - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO ENROLLMENT SERVICES

Asiah is so patient with the staff, the guests, the phone calls and etc. She is a team player who will help anyone. She has a gentle and kind spirit that draws people near. She has helped me so many times with reports, questions, and etc. We need more like her on campus. She represents MSU well.

MICHAELA SMEDLEY - FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

Michaela has stepped above and beyond to help people with third party scholarships. She helps with foundation scholarships. She is very precise and punctual with responses. She will keep working until she gets an answer. I am very thankful for her.

Staff Congress Meeting Summary

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

Chair Xavier Scott reported:

- Welcomed new Staff Congress Members
 - Chad Collett
 - Mikayla Ray
 - Dieter Ullrich
 - Kelly Waite
- Met with Dr. Morgan to discuss how to market the MSU employee benefits packages.
- MSU employee benefits summary can be found at the following link:

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https://moreheadstate.edu/_files/files/about-msu/leadership/administration/hr/msu-benefits-summary.pdf” This will also need to be addressed in the Newsletter.

- Further information TBA.

Vice-Chair Jamey Carver reported:

- No new updates at this time.
- Working on subcommittee membership and committee needs.

B&C Chair Rianna Robinson reported:

- Discussed role of the Chair for the B & C Committee.
- <https://moreheadstate.edu/about-msu/leadership/staff-congress/committees>
- Changes were approved to policies related to travel expenses for interviewees coming to MSU campus.

Credentials & Elections (C&E) Chair Toni Hobbs reported:

- Discussed role of the Chair for the B & C Committee.
- <https://moreheadstate.edu/about-msu/leadership/staff-congress/committees>

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

- “Summer Block Parties” will continue throughout the Summer. Announcements will be sent soon.

Cabinet Report: Mary Fister-Tucker reported:

No report

Staff Concerns

The following concerns were submitted by staff on the anonymous [Staff Congress Questions & Concerns form](#).

Comment/Concern	Response
<p>Why are so many emails getting flagged for quarantine now? Even ones that were received in the same week can turn around and be quarantined a few days later. Even emails from MSU providers? It is very time consuming and frustrating to spend time every day going through email to clean it up when none of the process or decision making was shared with campus.</p>	<p>IT is adjusting the security settings to help reduce the number of false positives. Employees should see a reduction in non-spam emails being filtered as these settings are changed.</p>
<p>When certain staff were "fractionalized" and required to teach First Year Seminar as part of their job, it took our administration over a year to finally pay those staff for their teaching. \$2100, which at the time was the rate for adjunct pay for a 3 credit hour class, was built into their regular pay. Now, for over a year, the adjunct rate has increased to \$3000 for a 3 credit hour class, but those "fractionalized" staff are still just being paid \$2100 for teaching. There are other staff who can elect to teach FYS for adjunct pay but they are receiving the current amount. Many fractionalized staff have been asking about this pay gap for quite some time, but no one seems to be getting any answers. Can Staff Congress please mediate this issue, since supervisors and administrators do not seem to mind that there are many staff being paid less for teaching than every other adjunct teacher?</p>	<p>Staff congress EC had reached out earlier this year to administration concerning the discrepancies. It was being looked into at that time. Staff congress will continue to ask administration as to the status of any changes for those staff members affected.</p>
<p>Is there a webpage with a listing of past staff who have received the Distinguished Staff Award? If not, could that be added?</p>	<p>Staff congress is looking into an answer/solution to the concern.</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 Hlisha Tuerk @ h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu.

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