

Staff Congress Newsletter



President Chat



Xavier Scott
Staff Congress President

As we pass the halfway mark of Spring semester, we've got some fantastic news to share. Our MSU family has [snagged an amazing grant](#) of over \$36,000 from the EngageKY+ Volunteer Generation Fund, thanks to our friends at Kentucky Campus Compact. This bit of news is a big pat on the back for our commitment to spreading kindness and learning through community service.

This grant is a game-changer for our Engaged Eagles Initiative, bringing more service days like the first-year seminar and faculty-led projects to life. A huge shoutout to MSU Staff member Andrew Sexton and the team for making this happen! This funding isn't just about projects; it's also about giving our faculty and staff new chances for growth and getting our students even more involved with some cool new software. President Jay Morgan put it best when he said we're all about

making a meaningful difference. So, as we gear up for the second half of our semester, let's dive into these opportunities and keep making MSU a place where community and learning thrive together!

March 2024

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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.

- The MSU Alumni Association is excited to offer MSU Faculty and Staff a discounted individual sponsorship rate to the MSU Spring Gala Saturday, April 27. The rate for MSU Faculty and Staff is \$125. To find out more about the Gala, visit [Morehead State University, Advancement and Alumni - Annual Spring Gala](#)

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.



Matt Blanton

Job Title: Sr. Systems Administrator

Reason for Nomination:

I would like to nominate Matt for a Staff Salute to recognize his exceptional work in restoring all datacenter and institutional systems after a devastating cyber-attack. Matt demonstrated his expertise and dedication in leading the recovery efforts of our campus datacenter infrastructure and ensuring the continuity of our operations. He leveraged his many years of institutional knowledge and experience to help mitigate the damage, quickly restore services and to implement preventive measures to limit the effect and quickly recover in the event of future attacks. Matt's actions not only greatly contributed to the recovery from this devastating event, but also helped to enhance our security and resilience. He is a valuable asset to our organization and deserves to be recognized for his service



Cassie Boyd

Job Title: Travel/ Accounts Payable Specialist

Reason for Nomination:

Cassie worked with me to resolve a travel issue. She was exceptional. She provided me additional information that allowed me to be more efficient. She went above what was needed and allowed me to resolve the issue successfully. I am glad that Cassie is on our team.



Sharnetta Fritts

Job Title: Retention Specialist & Academic Advisor

Reason for Nomination:

Sharnetta has such a positive attitude and is an amazing addition to our team. She is working hard to learn the role. We are lucky to have her!



Kim Woodrow

Job Title: Buyer/ Procurement Services

Reason for Nomination:

Kim assisted me in an issue with Travel accounts and was able to provide information that allowed this issue to be resolved effectively and with minimal additional work. She was quick with responses and instructions. Even when I was unsure of next steps, she was confident and correct. Working with her made this process much simpler and efficient. This was much easier, and her assistance is appreciated.

Staff Congress Meeting Summary

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

President Xavier Scott reported:

February Faculty Senate Meetings

- Met on 2/1 and 2/15
- Reviewed Governance Committee proposal to revise the description of Employee Benefits Committee.
- Reviewed Comments by Senator Gilbert Remillard on various parts of the Governance Committee's proposal with details of proposed amendments.
- Reviewed a brief list of the proposed bills that affect higher education, including:
 - HB 228 - Faculty Senate reports that this bill could erode tenure protections.
 - HB 9 - Faculty Senate presents that this is an omnibus anti-DEI bill, replicating similar legislation passed in Florida.
 - HB 257 - which abolishes the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), transferring its roles to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.
 - SB 6 - Faculty Senate reports that this bill is an anti-DEI (Diversity Equity & Inclusion) bill that allows faculty to be sued for damages.

Credentials & Elections Meeting

- C&E Chair Toni Hobbs has withdrawn her position to focus on her work and school. We wish her luck and she will be missed.
- Met with acting Chair, Mikayla Ray, to help answer her questions and ensure a smooth election process.

PG-57 Retired Faculty & Staff Re-Employment Program

- President Morgan met with me on 2/7 to provide me the opportunity to review changes to PG-57 Retired Faculty & Staff Re-Employment Program. These changes are required to align with Teacher's Retirement System and Kentucky Public Pensions Authority.
- Staff Congress Executive Council held a special meeting on 2/15 to review the changes and provide feedback. EC approved of the changes.

Staff Issue concerning Staff Congress

A staff concern was submitted about several aspects of Staff Congress, performance (see Staff Concerns section for specific details). As this pertained specifically to Staff Congress, it was discussed during this report.

Vice-President Jamey Carver reported:

- No Update

Benefits & Compensation (B&C) Committee Chair Rianna Robinson reported:

- No Report

Credentials & Elections (C&E) Committee Vice-Chair Mikayla Ray reported:

2024 Staff Congress and Regent Election Calendar:

DATE	NOMINATION/ELECTION ACTIVITY
Monday, March 25	Nomination forms distributed via email to staff members
Friday, April 12	Deadline to submit nomination forms online: 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16 11 a.m. - Noon, ADUC 329	Staff Regent Candidate Forum
Tuesday, April 16	Sample ballot distributed by Credentials & Election Committee
Tuesday, April 23 – Wednesday, April 24	Staff Congress/Regent Online Election

Mikayla Ray, Vice-Chair of Credentials & Elections Committee, can address questions regarding the upcoming election at meray@moreheadstate.edu.

Director of Human Resources Report Dr. Caroline Atkins reported:

- Spring Wellness Fair
 - Wednesday, April 10
 - Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Location: Rec and Wellness Center
- Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic
 - Wednesday, April 24
 - Start Time: 11:30 AM
 - Location: ADUC
- Staff and Employee Performance Evaluation Period has started. The performance evaluations are due by April 12, 2024.

Cabinet Report Mary Fister-Tucker reported:

- There will be distribution in parking due to the construction of the new science building. Please take advantage of the new parking lot that is now available across from Breck.
- Morehead State University will sell bonds to help for the new residence hall soon.
- SOAR sessions will start in April.
- Going forward Morehead State University personnel rosters will be available through open records requests. For additional information please contact the Office of Budgets.

Staff Concerns

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

Comment/Concern	Response
<p>I expect more from Staff Congress. I received the newsletter for February's meeting on February 29th, why does it take so long to produce such a limited newsletter? There's no real information being shared and nothing about what is being discussed during the actual meeting. So if nothing is happening why does it take so long to releasing the newsletter? Moving forward, will you share what is being talked about during the actual meeting and what is being shared when Xavier when he attends Faculty Senate Meeting? Some on this committee are being paid a stipend to represent staff, it doesn't appear much is being accomplished or this group is not sharing the information. Either way, I'm asking for more from this body. This is what was shared: In this section, we summarize the reports from the Staff Congress monthly meeting. President Xavier Scott reported: • Attended the Faculty Senate meeting on 2/1. The next meeting is on 2/15. • Staff Congress Committees determined our current membership numbers, and we are aligned with other University Staff Congress bodies in Kentucky. Vice-President Jamey Carver reported: • The Morehead State Eagles will host a Staff Congress Night on Thursday, February 8, 2024. For more information contact Jamey Carver. Benefits & Compensation (B&C) Committee Chair Rianna Robinson reported: No Report Credentials & Elections (C&E) No Report Director of Human Resources Report Dr. Caroline reported: No Report Cabinet Report Mary Fister-Tucker reported: • The City of Morehead did not continue to lease Laughlin Gym. • Campus improvements o upgrades to the school's current Wi-Fi systems o improvements to several sidewalks around campus o multiple</p>	<p>President Scott provided the following response:</p> <p>Thanks for your feedback. I'm glad that you read our newsletter and that you're concerned for the state of MSU staff. Based on your concern, it sounds like you might not be familiar with our processes. Please consider joining Staff Congress, so that you may help us be the best we can be. Our election process begins in late March.</p> <p>I will address each of your concerns below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newsletter Release Date:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Newsletter is not required by Staff Congress bylaws and is done as a courtesy to MSU staff as a means of providing a positive way to get MSU-related news. We generally try to get the newsletter out by the 15th, but due to extenuating circumstances, the last couple of months have been later. We will consider how to improve our procedure or whether to continue the newsletter in the March Executive Council meeting.• Lack of Shared Information/Reports:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Executive council does not always have detailed reports to share. Duties of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer can be found on the Staff Congress Bylaws page under Article III, Section 5, 6, & 7, respectively.○ Subcommittee workloads vary throughout the year. Sometimes subcommittees will not have as much to share, but other times they will have more.• President's Faculty Senate Report:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Faculty Senate provides their own report during Staff Congress. I refrain from adding details as a measure of

new roofs and renovations to the gaming lounge and post office in ADUC o Funds for these projects included budgeting, private gifts, and state funding including a \$20 million Asset Preservation Fund in the 2022-23 academic year, with another \$20 million for the 2023-24 academic year. • Annual Budget TBA

efficiency, and to avoid redundancy since the President of Faculty Senate provides the same report later in each meeting.

If you would like additional information not included in the newsletter, please refer to the Staff Congress Minutes which can be found on the [Staff Congress Minutes archive](#).

The white parking stops in the Enrollment Services Center parking lot are hazardous. There are 3 white parking stops along a painted white line which prohibit vehicles from driving straight through building parking. One or two are damaged from vehicles driving through anyway. I have seen and heard about people tripping over them. Wednesday, I helped an elderly gentleman who was walking through, tripped and fell hard. Can these be painted yellow or something so that they do not blend in with the white line? Maybe remove the one that is in pieces

Forwarded to Facilities.

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 Helisha Tuerk @ h.tuerk@moreheadstate.edu

To access the Staff Congress Official Meeting Records please visit: [Morehead State University Digital Archives](#)