

Staff Congress Newsletter

President Chat



Xavier Scott
Staff Congress President

Happy summer, fellow Eagles! With the students away, campus feels a little quieter, but our work continues as we prepare for the fall semester.

One of the perks of summer is the extra time off. Don't forget to make the most of those six bonus days – a well-deserved break after a busy spring!

Speaking of spring, we can't let the season fade without celebrating the huge success of our "Casino Royale" Gala. Over 400 of us came together to raise a record-breaking \$70,000 for student scholarships. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Finally, let's give a big round of applause to our recent graduates. We're so proud of them and can't wait to see where their Eagle-wings take them.

Here's to a restful and productive summer for all. Stay cool and enjoy the sunshine!

Go Eagles!

May 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.

Dates:

- Friday, May 24 – Floating MSU Holiday – University Closed
- Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day – University Closed
- Wednesday, June 19 – Juneteenth Holiday – University Closed
- Thursday, July 4 – July 4th Holiday – University Closed
- Friday, July 5 – Floating MSU Holiday – University Closed

Additional Paid Day Off on June 21 or June 28:

- To give everyone an “extra paid day off”, and another 3-day weekend, all employees may take off either Friday, June 21 or Friday, June 28. The University and all offices will remain open both days, however, staff may work with their direct supervisors to determine which day they can take off and still have their areas covered.

Employment Letters for 2024-2025:

- The Office of Human Resources will begin sending out employment/salary notification letters, as usual, for the 2024-2025 academic year. You should receive them via email on or around June 14-18. As they arrive, please check them and if there are any questions please contact your Vice President.

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.



Becki Alfrey

Job Title: Retention Specialist & Academic Advisor/ Reason for Nomination:

Becki is the epitome of "goes over and above". She genuinely cares about her students and the people of MSU. She is incredibly knowledgeable and helpful. She steps up to the plate each and every time she is needed, often without even being asked.



Brittany Dennis

Job Title: Retention Specialist & Academic Advisor

Reason for Nomination:

Brittany goes above and beyond to help her advisees in any scenario. She is a very personable advisor, who students feel comfortable in confiding in. She has a great personality and shows compassion and understanding in any situation. She's a great asset to the department!



Jana Fife

Job Title: Academic Advisor

Reason for Nomination:

Jana is always there for the students and the staff she works with. She is so helpful and pleasant to deal with on any occasion. She always puts a smile on any ones face! Thanks for being you Jana!



Lynn Handshoe

Job Title: Coordinator of Tutoring Services

Reason for Nomination:

Lynn has done amazing work to get the new Tutor Trac up and going. She is always the first to lend a hand and help our students. We are so lucky to have her!



Sherry Kelley

Job Title: Library Associate

Reason for Nomination:

This email was sent from an Eagle Scholars English faculty at East Jessamine High School: Good morning, Joel, just in case no one has bragged on your librarians there lately, please see our exchanges below. Sweet Sherry personally delivers the books our students request from the MSU Library database for their final essay research every single semester. As she began to not feel well this week, she asked Lucinda to deliver instead, and she just left our building having delivered everything we requested. I am continually blown away by the service that MSU offers. From top to bottom, you guys are bar none the Very Best!!



Teddy Lausier

Job Title: Academic Advisor

Reason for Nomination:

Teddy goes above and beyond for his students and has a great rapport in and outside of the classroom. Students love to be around him and he always has such a great attitude. The Retention and Academic office is very grateful to have him.



Mikayla Ray

Job Title: Alumni Relations & Event Officer

Reason for Nomination:

Mikayla has done a wonderful job stepping up in staff congress in the role of vice chair of credentials and elections. She has not missed a beat and made sure congress and all staff are aware of where we are with the appropriate representation for each division. She's a true asset for staff congress.



Xavier Scott

Job Title: Director - Distance Learning

Reason for Nomination:

Xavier is a great partner and colleague! He is always helpful and eager to assist when needed. He goes out of his way to ensure that faculty and staff are supported and feel confident with usage of Blackboard.



Jen Timmermann

Job Title: Director Transfer Center

Reason for Nomination:

Jen is a consistent champion on our campus for transfer and adult students. She has written 2+2 agreements, represented MSU at CPE meetings in this area as well as built a Transfer Center and recruitment staff where there was none previously. I would like to recognize her for the day to day interactions with incoming transfer students as well as adults returning to school. This is a tough population and she is providing outstanding service on a daily basis.



Lucinda Ward

Job Title: Instructional Librarian for Distance and Online Learning

Reason for Nomination:

The library staff has been giving outstanding customer service for many years. One of the library staff had made arrangements to hand deliver books to ENG 100 dual credit students in Nicholasville. After falling ill, her supervisor- Lucinda Ward- delivered these books to East Jessamine High School. How many supervisors on our campus would deliver books to a class in Nicholasville to support their staff? Librarian Ward should be recognized for her excellent work. submitted by Joel Pace



Josh Weikle

Job Title: Aramark

Reason for Nomination:

Josh Weikle in Aramark helped me out in a big way today(MARCH 4) with a catering need. This was an important meeting, and he really came to the rescue.

Staff Congress Meeting Summary

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

President Xavier Scott reported:

Faculty Senate meetings

- Attended the meeting on 4/18 and 5/2.

Staff Congress Executive Council

- Met on 4/25.
- Discussed concerns over PG-55 tech policy changes.
 - User privacy.
 - Remote wipe or confiscation of devices, including personal devices, without notice.
 - EC and Faculty Senate have met with CIO Rick Philips to discuss our issues.
 - IT has modified the policy to specify that users will be consulted before remote wipe of devices.
 - Clarified that devices would only be confiscated by local, state or federal authorities.

Staff Regent Forum

- The forum was held on 4/16 with Donna Besant, Dave Flora, and Joel Pace.
- Reasonably well attended.

New Business

President Scott requested a motion to endorse the revisions outlined in the Registration Advisory Committee document, which had been circulated to Congress members via email. The motion was put forward and accepted.

Vice-President Jamey Carver reported:

- No report

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

- No Report

Credentials & Elections (C&E) Chair reported:

Representatives, please familiarize yourself with Article III of the Staff Congress Bylaws in regard to the election of SC Officers. Staff Congress Bylaws | Morehead State University | Kentucky

- Below are highlights you need to be aware of:

- Elected officers must have at least 1 year of experience on Staff Congress.
- Staff Congress Representatives must submit any nominees to Mikayla Ray, Vice-Chair of Credentials and Elections Committee by 11:59pm on Monday, May 20.
- Representatives can nominate members, or themselves for an officer position.
- Nominations will need to include a statement from the nominee, so please make sure you reach out to the representative you are nominating before sending to Mikayla.
- Silent ballot election for new officers will take place during the June Staff Congress Meeting (Tuesday, June 4). Representatives must attend the June meeting in order to vote.
- Newly appointed officers of Staff Congress will begin duties on July 1.

Please contact the current Staff Congress officers if you have any specific questions about their duties! They'd be happy to talk with you!

- Xavier Scott, Chair
- Jamey Carver, Vice-Chair
- Helisha Tuerk, Secretary/Treasurer

Director of Human Resources Report Dr. Caroline reported:

No Report

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
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The recent downgrade to the quality of bathroom tissue provided in our restrooms is a harsh reminder that comfort of the worker does not matter at this institution. The new paper is abrasive, very similar in texture to the paper towels we are given to dry our hands. A sample was taken and compared from a restroom that hasn't been refilled yet, and there is absolutely a difference, before any denial of a change in paper is issued. Frustrating, but it feels like this is just a metaphor for how administration thinks of the worker here. We see money spent while we hear there is none, and obviously the money saved from toilet paper is going to right all the financial wrongs we have seen around here.

Same Vendor for the toilet paper is being used, we have not made any changes to what we order.

I thought the book sale at the Camden Carrol Library was a great idea. The only concern I have was that I didn't find out about it until the day before and could not adequately plan to attend with such short notice. My office is on the far east end of campus and some people who work off campus was interested but then again did not get enough notice to make plans to do so. I hope it is done again but would like more notice so I can make plans to go

Thank you for sending this, we will make this look into this.

EE new hire/ Benefits - stratification -- 1.) would there be a way to have a new hire standard process to show new staff around to most important offices on campus? Sort of a "Staff Welcome to MSU", here is the Eagle Card office, and some of the offices they may need in the first weeks on the Job? 2.) Could we know what benefits are available on a one-page document? This could contain information about the Rec. Center - is this free for employees? During the wellness fairs there have been vendors like Sam's set up with \$25 new member deals, is this something always available to us? Do we have discounted sporting event tickets as employees? Season

We'll see if a FAQ sheet can be put together with our vendors listed.

Tickets? Do we partner with any banks/credit unions for special deals/rates? Discount with Enterprise?etc.

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](#)