The Faculty Senate of Murray State University met in regular session on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, in the Barkley Room of the Curris Center.

**Present:** Senators Bates, Beaver, Brewer, Durr, Gannon, Gesler, Graham-Schneider, Hall, Hereford, Herr, Holliday, Homsey, Landini, Lanier, Liljequist, McCreary, Muscio, Navan, Nygaard, Payne, Pittman-Munke, Porter, Rose, Saint-Paul, Smith, Swisher, Vance, S. White, Williams, Yarali, and Regent Strieter. **Absent:** Senators Begley, Driver, Gupta, Koren, Morgan, Papajeski, Robertson, and Thome. **Media:** Kristin Taylor, *The Murray Ledger & Times*, and Amanda Crider, *The Murray State News*. **Guest:** Dr. Randy Dunn, president. The minutes of December 5, 2006, were unanimously approved.

Dr. White, FS president, welcomed Dr. Dunn. Dr. Dunn thanked everyone for the great welcome to campus. He appreciates the cooperation and willingness to assist him. He values shared governance and is committed on that as it defines his relationship with faculty. Dr. Dunn thanked faculty for their many kindesses. He asked faculty to share their questions and concerns as he looks forward to a great relationship.

**REPORTS**

**Board of Regents** – Dr. Terry Strieter presented his last report as regent. He reported on international education initiatives and the council established to advise the president. Dr. Jim McCoy, associate provost, chairs the council. The board met on December 8. Agenda items included: construction updates, relocation of ROTC and TRIO programs, gifts to the university, and faculty/staff appointments.

The board reviewed the master facilities plan. Capital construction priorities for the university are: 1) science complex, 2) BVC, 3) library, and 4) additional farmland. A new facilities study for a new library is underway. The board voted to evaluate the president yearly. The last two contracts have rolled over automatically. A sub-committee voted to establish an annual system. The board was presented a study of how the nine-month faculty contract has benefited the university. The study supports the change from ten-month faculty contracts.

The board heard a report from the president on the new regional stewardship initiative offered to institutions by CPE. The university will be eligible for an initial $200,000 to set up an office and $300,000 the second year. CPE liked the original proposal and asked for minor changes. A regional advisory board must be established.
Tuition rates were discussed. The CPE has set a cap of 9.5%. Tuition, housing, and dining rates will be set at the February 23 meeting of the board. Historical data will be used to set housing and dining fees early to help with recruitment.

The board heard a report from Vice President Robertson on African-American students at MSU. Our efforts are being reviewed in light of increased competition for students. The University of Kentucky has hired four new recruiters. Murray now enrolls 601 African-American students for approximately six percent of the student population.

The audit committee asked for advance information on financial/budget items.

Dr. Jay Morgan, newly elected Faculty Regent, thanked Dr. Strieter for working with him on a good transition and complimented Dr. Dunn for his willingness to listen to faculty issues. He sees that relationship being good as well.

The recommendation to change the percentage of employer contributions to KTRS for those enrolled in an optional retirement plan (ORP) has moved out of the KTRS Board and introduced to legislators. Language for a bill will be reviewed/recommended by the Legislative Research Commission (LRC). The recommendation includes a 5.1% fixed rate and a mid-career transition program.

Dr. Morgan shared some of his initiatives as he begins his tenure on the Board of Regents. He is recommending another way to accomplish summer orientation in lieu of faculty being required to be on campus on Sundays. He and Dr. Strieter continue to look at the salary study to roll out more of the recommendations made. He is also working on inviting individual board members to campus more to look at the life of faculty in and out of the classroom.

Academic Policies – No report.

Finance – Have not met. Scheduled to meet next Tuesday.

Governmental Affairs – CPT Bates, chair, reporting that the committee continues to track several state-wide issues; such as, a student bill of rights and use of surplus funds. A resolution will be drafted for senate approval to support applying surplus monies to KTRS. CPT Bates met with Regent Morgan yesterday to discuss the issue. CPT Bates will supply links to information on a student bill of rights.

Handbook and Personnel – Chair McCreary reported that the committee is considering ramifications of stopping the tenure clock and procedures to implement across campus. He will try to have a committee meeting prior to the next senate meeting.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Vice President Pittman-Munke presented the guidelines and timeline for this year’s teaching award process (posted to the Faculty Senate website). The board of regents recommends that a student serve on each collegiate selection committee. The status of military science faculty will be researched in regard to voting status. The committee will be meeting by email to review procedures for this
spring’s university governance elections. Another election for faculty regent must be held (per state statute). Dr. Morgan’s present term expires June 30, 2007.

Executive – The committee met last week to plan today’s agenda. Ted Porter was nominated and elected as a new at-large member to the executive committee. President White announced that the senate will elect a new representative to the University Intercollegiate Athletic Council beginning July 1, 2007, for a three-year term. Dr. Wattier has informed him that he will not seek re-election.

Academic Council – The undergraduate studies committee has reviewed 14 items on first reading and double/triple that on second readings getting ready for the new catalog this summer. Nine courses had international components. The graduate committee will meet on January 25 at 2:30 p.m. The library and academic support committee has not met.

Insurance and Benefits – Senator Porter, SET representative to the university committee, reported that the committee met and approved recommendations routed through administrative services. The committee approved expanding the definition of immediate family for sick leave eligibility for temporary medical conditions to include grandparents and custodial children. The committee also approved a Staff Congress proposal to create a tuition waiver depository for use in the future. This would be limited to two courses per year with a maximum of ten and eight could only be used each year with a 50% reduction for the rest of tuition. These would be an addition to the current tuition waiver benefit. A question was raised if this waiver bank could be accessed if no longer employed at the university.

Residential Colleges – Senator Muscio noted that faculty and staff participation reports are due in to college heads with a significant amount of money attached to those reports. He also announced that two positions will be open for 2007-08 for Springer-Franklin and Regents Colleges.

President White reminded senators to check for and pay attention to pending emails. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.
The Faculty Senate of Murray State University met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, in the Barkley Room of the Curris Center.


REPORTS

Board of Regents – Regent Morgan distributed a brief report with updates on enrollment and the KTRS/ORP issue. The Governor has established a task force to look at all of the state’s retirement plans and indicates that he will ask for $25 million to help meet medical insurance needs of KTRS. A bill relating to optional retirement plan employer contributions has made it to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) and will be forwarded to the house/senate education committees. The amount will be reduced to 5.1% and will sunset in 2047. He has a copy of the bill.

Issues he will be dealing with include stopping the tenure clock for significant life events, altering the calendar for summer orientations, finding new monies for faculty development, implementing recommendation of the Salary Equity Committee, and getting his fellow regents on campus for an academic tour.

Academic Policies – No report.

Finance – Chair Lanier announced a meeting for Tuesday, February 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs – Senator Gesler presented the report for CPT Bates. A state-wide student bill of rights will likely die in committee as it has in 14 other states. COSFL has received reports on two developmental programs in the state; one to make K-12 students better prepared for higher education; the other to require math and science for all four years of high school. The committee recommends a resolution in support of the KTRS system. The resolution was amended and approved (on file in the senate office).

Handbook and Personnel – Chair McCreary presented three sections for approval after suspension of the bylaws. The first included the new president in the historical section of Chapter 1. The second (a new section, 2.7.3.2) extends the probationary period for tenure by one
year if a faculty member experiences an extended life-changing event, and the third allows for that extension in the annual performance review (2.7.3.3). All three were approved. Dr. McCreary also asked faculty to submit suggestions for any other revisions.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Vice President Pittman-Munke presented the guidelines for spring governance elections. A Regents’ Forum will be held on April 12 in the Barkley Room of the Curris Center. It was noted that statute prohibits instructors and lecturers from voting for faculty regent and that the senate should pursue legislation to change it.

Executive – President White thanked the Handbook and Personnel Committee for all their efforts in resurrecting handbook revisions. Dr. White will serve on the search committee for registrar. He and Vice President Pittman-Munke met with the president and apprised him of general senate action and updates to the handbook. Dr. Dunn concurs that the handbook is an active and vital document. They talked of a system to facilitate future changes. Dr. White requested other items to raise with the president.

Faculty asked for updates on promotion stipend resolutions passed by the senate and salary equity recommendations for this budget cycle.

Academic Council – Dr. Pittman-Munke reported approval of new course readings for the new undergraduate catalog; those in process will be considered. Dr. Brewer reported routine passage of new courses, approval of graduate faculty, and time extensions in graduate studies. The Library and Academic Support Committee has not met.

Insurance and Benefits – No report.

Residential Colleges – Dr. Landini asked that senators remind their colleagues to submit their service reports within the next week in time for this budget cycle. She also reported that there will be three residential college head vacancies for next year in Springer-Franklin, Elizabeth, and Regents. She encouraged faculty to apply and stated that this was the best job she has ever had.

New Business – The senate took a moment to honor Dr. Gary Brockway, Provost. President White read the resolution passed earlier in the meeting (on file in the senate office) and presented him with a plaque in heartfelt thanks on behalf of the MSU Faculty and his support of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Brockway responded that he appreciates all the faculty do for the university to provide opportunities for students through creation of a learning environment on campus and that these accomplishments are noted at CPE and national meetings. He noted that it was the faculty that attracted him to the university and thanked everyone in continuing their work.

Dr. Mark Wattier, CPE faculty representative, reported on the Regional Stewardship funding recently received by the institution. First year funding will be used to set up an office, hire a director and support staff, and provide operating funds. The office will report directly to the president and serve the region, and provide opportunities for additional funds. He sees this initiative as having the most potential of anything done by the CPE in a long time. Dr. Wattier updated the senate on the CPE presidential search. Faculty should take this seriously and provide qualified applicants for the position. President White thanked him for his representation and hard work on behalf of faculty across the state.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Absent: Senators Gannon, Hall, Koren, Morgan, Nygaard, Papajeski, and Thome.


President White recognized Dr. Dunn who took the opportunity to introduce Ms. Becky Watts as a liaison with the president’s office to be responsive to the work of the senate. She will participate in Faculty Handbook discussions and act as a resource for the senate as appropriate. The minutes of February 6, 2007, were approved as written.

REPORTS

Board of Regents – Regent Morgan presented a summary of board agenda items (on file with these minutes in the senate office). In addition, Dr. Morgan asked if anyone in the senate would be interested in working with parking and planning issues. The board approved a new graduate degree in nutrition. Faculty Handbook items have been approved and Dr. Dunn has begun a comprehensive update of handbook language to be approved at the May Board meeting. Ms. Watts and Dr. Brockway will meet with the Handbook and Personnel Committee routinely throughout the remainder of the semester. Senators stressed the obligation of the board to follow the policies and procedures of the handbook.

Items mentioned at the last board meeting included a review of summer orientation scheduling to possibly limit exposure on Sundays and the stopping of the tenure clock. Dr. Morgan would like to invite other regents to campus to tour the academic environment. A special racer fund was established to help students recoup from increased tuition who are not helped by grants and scholarships. The board authorized the president to work with the City of Murray to acquire additional land for additions to the west side Fire Station on 16th Street.

The KTRS/ORP bill continues to be debated in Frankfort. It includes additional funds for the medical care side of KTRS and a mid career transition program. Another bill has been discussed to change all public employees to defined contribution programs but does not include K-12 or university teachers.

President Dunn has projected raises of 3 ½ percent with 1% of that merit. The Faculty and Staff Regents have consulted on the less than expected salary increase for next year. Regent Morgan has copies of university audits. Discussion then focused on funding of the science complex.
Dr. Dunn is pursuing language changes in Frankfort to allow for continuation of this project through Phase 3. It was suggested that a faculty member be included in all university budget decisions to allow for more faculty input.

**Academic Policies** – President White reported that Chair Koren has shared discussion on a survey on plus/minus grading systems and extended breaks for the fall with the executive committee. The committee is interested in receiving more feedback from faculty before any action is taken.

**Finance** – Chair Lanier reported that the committee will review the university audits at its meeting on March 13. The committee will consider a resolution in regard to salaries. Competitive benchmarks and variations from information shared last year with increased appropriations/tuition will be reviewed.

**Governmental Affairs** – No report.

**Handbook and Personnel** – Chair McCreary reported that the committee had not met in February but expects several meetings this month and next with real progress being made on an updated handbook.

**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws** – Vice President Pittman-Munke reported that nominations are being accepted for university governance positions. A forum is being planned for regent candidates to share their strengths as they would deal with board issues. If Dr. Morgan is uncontested, he would like to share a forum with President Dunn.

**Executive** – President White noted that the senate has heard several items discussed at last week’s committee meeting. He shared letters of condolence that were delivered to Mrs. Chrissy Bowman and Mrs. Sue McNeary on the loss of their husbands. This is an established policy of the senate. He asked that they be remembered at the faculty recognition banquet in April.

The executive committee looks forward to getting major changes made to particular pieces of the handbook. He asked that faculty contact any on the committee with items they would like to receive attention to.

Dr. White is representing the senate on the search committee for registrar.

**Academic Council** – Routine items were reported approved for undergraduate and graduate studies committees. There have been many readings on items for the new undergraduate catalog. No report from library and academic support committee.

**Insurance and Benefits** – No report.

**Residential Colleges** – Senators Muscio and Landini reported that the selection of new college heads is underway with a number of applicants. The council continues to accept applications. The council is reviewing proposals for classes to be offered in each residential college.
**Old Business** – Senator Navan asked of the status of the salary equity recommendations in relationship to budget discussions. She noted the hard work of Dr. Terry Strieter and Dr. Ken Bowman. Regent Morgan noted there is a pool of money to address the recommendations and a proposal to stop the tenure clock is being discussed, which was one of the twelve recommendations.

Dr. Rose asked that the resolution on promotion stipends be followed up on with the president. Vice President Pittman-Munke noted that the president seemed supportive of the idea.

**New Business** – Cell phone usage and university policy was discussed. It is also being discussed in Academic Council.

Dr. Wattier, CPE Representative, noted that our policies must reflect service for promotion and tenure as defined by regional stewardship. Dynamic changes are being made that will change the character of the regional institutions through this initiative.

President White explained the importance of getting an up to date handbook in place in order to facilitate revisions as procedures for regional stewardship are established. Substantial changes will be forwarded to the senate for consideration as they are incorporated.

The senate adjourned at 4:40 p.m.


The minutes of March 6, 2007, were approved as written.

REPORTS

Board of Regents – Regent Morgan presented updates since the last senate meeting. The raise pool will remain at 3.5 percent. KTRS legislation may be taken up in special session. Nothing was approved during this legislation session. A report is on file in the senate office.

Academic Policies – A plus/minus grading system is dependent on two things: the ERP and a new registrar. No support is seen from the administration at this time. The committee has tabled discussion on this issue.

The committee has looked at variations to the current fall and Thanksgiving breaks. Senator Yarali has offered suggestions that are available from Dr. Koren, chair of the committee.

Finance – Chair Lanier introduced studies on the university audits. Senator Hereford prepared an analysis of the athletic budget that showed increased subsidy from the university budget. Senator Rose prepared comparative analyses of the general budget and the university audit. All of these are available for review.

Governmental Affairs – No report. COSFL will meet in April.

Handbook and Personnel – Chair McCreary reported that the president expressed his willingness to move forward on a new policy document for faculty. The HP Committee will meet with Ms. Watts from the president’s office, Provost Brockway, and the Faculty Regent to draft a revised edition to be presented to the Board of Regents on May 18.

The committee has met and will meet routinely during March and April to bring the new document to the senate in May for approval. It would then go to the president and provost to be presented to the BOR. Dr. McCreary noted that it may not be a perfect document but is an acceptable starting point for a document that describes shared governance at Murray State that as faculty you would like to see with the administration. Vice President Pittman-Munke suggested that the senate should share a vote of utmost appreciation for the work accomplished by Dr. McCreary, his committee, and the administration.
**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws** – Vice President Pittman-Munke announced the recipients of the 2007 Teaching Excellence Awards as given by the Board of Regents. Administrative assessment packets were distributed and the timeline was given. Nominations are being accepted for university governance elections. The committee will monitor the process. Information will be shared by email. There is only one candidate for faculty regent. The regent forum is cancelled for April. The president will be out of town and Regent Morgan doesn’t want to take up faculty time at this busy time of year. The senate looks forward to continuing its working relationship with Dr. Morgan.

**Executive** – President White acknowledged the importance of the efforts of the Handbook Committee. The committee is neither trying to lose nor gain anything of significance in these initial discussions, but wants a document that is recognized by the administration and the Board of Regents at this time. The main focus is to incorporate a backlog of changes routed over the past few years.

Dr. White is representing the senate on the registrar’s search committee. The committee will meet on April 6 to review the qualifications of the ten applicants.

Ballots were then distributed to elect a new senate representative to the Intercollegiate Athletic Council. There are three candidates; Dave Gesler, James Hereford, and Dwight Holliday. Dr. Holliday was elected to serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2007.

**Academic Council** – Nominations will be accepted for three senate representatives to be elected at the May meeting.

**Insurance and Benefits** – No report.

**Residential Colleges** – Senator Muscio reported that one hour seminar courses will be offered in each residential college for the fall.

**New Business** – Dr. Crofton, proxy for engineering and physics, asked if there was any discussion of a new system for faculty evaluations to be conducted with the ERP. The senate is not aware of anything being considered. It was noted that the senate representing faculty has the largest interest in this process and was reminded that the evaluations are part of faculty personnel files.

Regent Morgan and Chair McCreary asked that senators forward any comments regarding handbook changes to any member of the committee prior to the vote on May 1. A corrected copy will be circulated.

The senate appointed a nominating committee of CPT Bates and Senator Porter to develop a slate of officers for 2007-2008. Senators were asked to give their input. Officers will be elected at the May 1 meeting.

The senate adjourned at 4:45 p.m.
Murray State University
Faculty Senate
May 1, 2007

Absent: Senators Beaver, Begley, Muscio, Papajeski, and Smith.

The minutes of April 3, 2007, were approved as written.

REPORTS

Board of Regents

Regent Morgan reported that the board will meet on May 18 to consider budget approval and an updated *Faculty Handbook*. Eric King was elected as the student government president and will serve as student regent beginning July 1. Olivia Burr’s term ends June 30; the governor will make that appointment.

Dr. Morgan reported on the science construction and that the board had approved a $500 per semester “surcharge” for residents of the new Clark Hall.

An initiative is being made and will be considered by the KTRS board in early June to hold ORP contributions to KTRS at 2006-2007 rates.

President’s Office

Rebecca Watts representing the president congratulated the faculty on its hard work moving the institution forward not only in teaching and learning but all the other things faculty do and asked that faculty continue to support the university through their service. She presented a special thanks to Dr. Terry McCreary and the Handbook Committee.

Academic Policies – No report.
Finance – No report.
Governmental Affairs – No report.

COSFL

Vice President Pittman-Munke noted that Western is implementing an institutional response to make up the contribution to KTRS that comes out of the faculty raise pool.
At the last COSFL meeting there was considerable discussion on summer teaching pay.

COSFL members will be invited to participate in the selection of the new CPE President.

**Handbook and Personnel**

Chair McCreary thanked the committee, Ms. Watts, Donna Miller, Dr. Brockway, Dr. White, and Regent Morgan for their assistance in drafting the first of the revisions to be made to all policy documents on campus. The current copy to be presented to the board on May 18 is posted to the Faculty Senate website. The handbook has been condensed into three chapters with appendices with numbered pages. The university attorney was involved in the entire procedure. The Office of Equal Opportunity, Academic Affairs, and Human Resources have also been given the opportunity to review the document. Some additional changes may be made to include current procedures and technology. The committee asked that the senate trust the committee in these additional updates with a motion to approve a working document of policy. The senate unanimously supported the work of the committee.

**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws**

Vice President Pittman-Munke reported a 39% participation in the senate’s annual administrative assessments.

She reported the results of the spring’s university governance elections. Two academic council positions are to be appointed by the BPA Dean and one at-large senator by the Faculty Senate president.

**Executive**

President White reported on an outstanding faculty banquet last Thursday and asked that senators help in getting next year’s date on departmental calendars (April 24, 2008). Presentations were made on behalf of academic affairs and the Faculty Senate to Chrissy Bowman and Sue McNeary in memorial of their husbands, Dr. Kenneth Bowman and Dr. Paul McNeary.

Dr. White shared a letter of condolence to Mrs. Rachel Hendon on the loss of her husband, Mr. Bob Hendon, professor emeritus.

**Academic Council**

The undergraduate studies committee completed business with informational items presented to it for the year and passed agenda items on to the council for approval into the new catalog.

The committee will continue to work on restructuring of the university studies curriculum.

Senator Gannon reported that the graduate studies committee approved two honors courses and accepted two faculty into full-time status.
Senators Hereford, Pittman-Munke, and Porter were elected to represent the senate on academic council through April 2009. They will serve as follows: Hereford, library and academic support committee; Pittman-Munke, undergraduate studies; and Porter, graduate studies.

**Insurance and Benefits** – No report.

**Residential Colleges**

Dr. Landini, residential head, reminded faculty that each college has some kind of activity planned around graduation and that students really appreciate it when faculty show up. She also reminded faculty to get their service reports in to the college heads by the end of the semester.

**New Business** – Senator Rose asked that the senate invite Mr. Allen Ward, athletic director, to address the senate on issues regarding athletics. Specifically, the senate had suggested that the university attempt to hold the subsidy for athletics to $3.2 million. The subsidy has risen to almost four million. He asked that the senate bring that recommendation to the attention of current university officials.

**Nominating Committee**

CPT Bates reported that the committee met and selected a slate of officers for next year. President White and Vice President Pittman-Munke were reelected.

**Registrar’s Search**

President White reported that he has been active on the search committee for registrar. There are two more interviews scheduled with one finished. There is one internal candidate and two external. After the first interview he is confident that it is a good pool of strong candidates.

**Recognition**

President White noted that this meeting begins the new term of the senate. He introduced new senators, Scott Locke, at-large; Tim Miller, accounting; Cheryl Guyer, Breathitt Veterinary Center; Alan Bakes, educational studies, leadership, and counseling; and Jonathan Awori, theater and dance; and recognized service to the senate. Betty Driver was recognized for 16 years of service and Ed Thome for seven with one term as senate president. Dr. Ramesh Gupta, Dr. Joy Navan, and Dr. Ed Brewer were also recognized. He then appointed temporary committee chairs who are charged to convene the first meeting in the fall to elect chairs and set meeting schedules. He reminded senators to sign up for at least one committee.

Senator McCreary noted that scheduling committee meetings on Tuesdays during the senate time facilitates attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.
Murray State University
Faculty Senate
September 4, 2007


The minutes of May 1, 2007, were approved as written. President White reminded the senate as recognized to announce their name and affiliation. He reminded senators to sign up for at least one senate committee assignment.

REPORTS

Academic Policies – Chair Koren noted that the committee meets the third Tuesday of each month and the first meeting of the year is scheduled for September 18. Items that the committee continues to work on are plus/minus grading scales, an honor code/cheating, and fees for on-line courses.

Finance – Chair Lanier reported that the committee will continue to work on contributions to optional retirement plans with Regent Morgan. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. The first meeting will be on September 11 in the BPA Dean’s Conference Room.

Governmental Affairs – President White thanked CPT Bates, interim chair, for his good service to the Faculty Senate. CPT Bates has been reassigned to Frankfort. CPT Bates noted that the committee meets as needed and will need to meet to elect a new chair. The committee keeps faculty informed of state-wide discussions of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Coalition of Senate/Faculty Leadership (COSFL), and any other issues affecting faculty. Murray senate representation is very involved. He introduced the new senator from Military Science, CPT Jonathan Ballard.

President White noted that the committee will be quite busy during this legislative year.

Handbook and Personnel – Chair McCreamy, at-large senator, reported good news that the Board of Regents in May approved a revised Faculty Handbook and that a reference to the Faculty Handbook was reinstated on faculty contracts.

Dr. McCreamy noted that the institution now has a policy document to work with and that the Board is interested in reviewing it once a year for all changes submitted during that
year. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month. The committee will review some clean up items noted during the last stages of revision.

**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws** – Vice President Pittman-Munke noted that the committee will review the senate’s bylaws in relationship to the new *Handbook*. Items to be reviewed are election procedures and status of faculty. ROTC faculty are not able to vote as they are not employed by the university. The committee will review how they are appointed and paid with Human Resources. Agenda items will be distributed by email, and senators were encouraged to join the committee. Senators were also asked to share items of concern with the senate leadership.

President White noted that each senate chair serves on the executive committee and that later in the meeting the senate will elect three at-large members to the executive committee. He asked senators to reflect on nominations.

**Executive** – President White reported that he had been asked to make a number of recommendations for appointments to university committees. Appointments to the Residency Appeals Committee are made by the president, and the senate was asked to make recommendations on three faculty vacancies. Upon advice of the executive committee, he appointed Vice President Pittman-Munke to serve as the senate representative to the Faculty Development Council, chaired by the associate provost. The senate has been asked for a representative to a special committee being put together on wellness. The committee will have input on wellness fairs, screenings, and healthcare benefits in efforts to enhance wellness opportunities to the campus community.

President White looks forward to a good and productive year. He yielded the floor to Regent Morgan.

**Board of Regents** – Regent Morgan announced quarterly board meetings on September 14 and November 30 and that these are open meetings. Committees meet in the morning with the general meeting at 1 p.m. Becky Watts, deputy to the president, added that time will be set aside at board meetings for public participation. Total allotment of thirty minutes will be allowed with a five minute cap on each speaker.

Dr. Morgan distributed an outline of agenda items (an addendum to these minutes). The board will approve a new process for presidential review. Dr. Dunn has provided input and set in on a number of meetings. Regent Morgan has arranged a campus tour for regents on Thursday, September 13. The regents will participate in the Governor’s Trustees Conference September 16-17 in Louisville.

Senator Rose, government, law, and international affairs, asked if the controversy surrounding the student regent election had settled and encouraged that action be taken to avoid future situations.

Senator Hereford, engineering and physics, inquired on the intent of an external audit. Regent Morgan noted external validity/closure to internal/finance cabinet reviews and
that an outside audit offers validity for requests of additional capital construction monies in the future. Senator Hereford suggested a concern that not enough funding is being asked for that contributes to replacement and overflow problems. Dr. Morgan will share that concern with the president.

**Executive** – Dr. White continued with the executive report. He congratulated Dr. Morgan in being elected vice chair of the Board. The floor was opened for nominations to the executive committee. The committee meets the last Tuesday of each month to set the agenda for Faculty Senate. Stephen Herr, Winfield Rose, and Pat Williams were elected by acclamation to serve for this academic year.

**Academic Council** – Undergraduate Studies meets September 6, and the Graduate Studies Committee is scheduled to meet September 13. Senator Gannon chairs graduate studies. He reminded faculty that this is a graduate catalog year. Course changes should be submitted as soon as possible to avoid deadline problems in January. The Library and Academic Support Committee has not met.

**Residential Colleges** – Senator Muscio, college head, thanked everyone that helped with Great Beginnings. Senator Porter joins Dr. Muscio and Senator Landini as a college head this fall. Dr. Landini serves as council chair.

**New Business** – President White asked for departments to return any unused handbook binders to the senate office. A few faculty did not receive one.

A review of athletic spending and general budget guidelines has been suggested.

Senator Porter has asked to resign as senate representative to Academic Council. He serves on graduate studies committee. Senator Koren expressed an interest in moving committees. Vice President Pittman-Munke nominated Senator Herr to replace Dr. Porter.

Regent Morgan acknowledged the dedication of Ms. Kristin Taylor, news reporter for The Murray Ledger and Times, and thanked her for outstanding coverage of university and community meetings. She has announced her resignation.

The senate adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

President White introduced Dr. Navan as proxy from the Department of Educational Studies, Leadership, and Counseling. He also welcomed Jenny Oleen as the new senator from the University Libraries. The minutes of September 4, 2007, were approved as written.

REPORTS

Staff Congress – Gina Winchester, staff regent, gave an update of Staff Congress activities. Items being considered include changes to the sick leave bank. Fall break options for staff are being looked at in the form of a personal/discretionary day. This would be in addition to vacation/sick leave. Dr. Jay Morgan, faculty regent, will give the regents report at the October 10 Staff Congress meeting.

Regional Stewardship – Ms. Winchester also serves as the Regional Stewardship Director. This program gives the university many opportunities to partner with resources in our 18 county service region. Digital Measures software package will be utilized.

Board of Regents -- A president’s work group to review parental leave policy has recommended a revision as it relates to semester employees. The Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee is reviewing their recommendation. The work group was comprised of five to six faculty and Becky Watts.

Regent Morgan announced changes to the summer orientation calendar that only includes one Sunday in 2008.

The KTRS Board met in August and voted to send the ORP proposal back to the legislature for reconsideration which lowers the university’s KTRS contribution for ORP members to 5.1%.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 30.

Academic Policies – Chair Koren and Vice President Pittman-Munke will speak to the provost on several items including grading systems and cheating. The committee is floating a mini-survey on plus/minus grading systems.

Finance – Chair Lanier reports that the committee continues to study university budgets including that of athletics. The committee will meet next Tuesday.

Governmental Affairs – No report. Chair Gesler will schedule a meeting before the next senate meeting.

Handbook and Personnel – Dr. McCreary reported his reelection as chair. The committee is approving minor cleanup changes. Revisions will be presented to the senate once or twice a year. The committee has noted that faculty should be made aware of the paperwork needed for tenure and promotion at the
departmental/collegiate level. Documentation should be placed in the *Faculty Handbook* or online. Notification of individual/committee decisions is required in seven days.

The committee is also looking at workload based on concerns of several faculty that pressure is being placed on them to participate in activities outside of their assigned requirements of teaching and service. The committee recommends the dissemination of grievance policies to all faculty at least once a year.

**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws** – Vice President Pittman-Munke announced that agenda items will soon be distributed by email. A meeting may be necessary in November.

**Executive** – President White has made several appointments. Senator Durr will serve on a new ad hoc committee to study wellness. At the request of the finance and executive committees, Dr. White has extended an invitation to Mr. Allen Ward, athletic director, to speak to the senate on November 7 about the athletic program.

Efforts to lift the AAUP Censure are being discussed by the administration. The primary responsibility of the senate is to affected faculty that led to the censure. Dr. White and Regent Morgan met with the president today to discuss various items.

New faculty were given senate background information on athletics and the censure listing.

**Academic Council** – Vice President Pittman-Munke reported that the undergraduate studies committee discussed the academic rigor of residential college seminars and recommended a lower course number. The committee is reviewing the format and process for new course proposals.

Senator Gannon, chair of the graduate studies committee, reported that the committee approved six time extensions for masters students and reviewed special certification of special education. Dr. Sharon Gill was elected vice chair to replace Senator Porter. The committee is still in need of another representative from the Faculty Senate. Dr. Joy Navan expressed a desire to serve and was elected by acclamation.

The library and academic support committee had no report.

**Residential Colleges** – Senator Muscio acknowledged the three active college heads serving on the senate. Senator Landini serves as chair of the Council Heads. Senator Porter is the new head of White College.

**Old business** – It was asked if the senate was aware of what salary equity increases were addressed as priorities in this year’s budget. It was suggested that the committee remain as an oversight committee to review data and other issues during budget formation. It was noted that the ad hoc committee was appointed by the president. The salary equity report is posted on the senate website.

**New business** – Vice President Pittman-Munke introduced the campus United Way campaign. Letters will go out soon to departments. This year the president will offer incentives to participants. Murray State has lagged behind the other state institutions. Faculty senators were asked to collect cards and follow up with their faculty.

Ms. Watts noted Dr. Dunn’s willingness to meet with members of faculty committees. President White received a letter from Dr. Dunn and believes that it is productive to meet with him. The senate leadership appreciates the offer and the good working relationship that he is building with the faculty. President White thanked Ms. Watts for attending each senate meeting on behalf of the president.

The senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The minutes of October 2, 2007, were approved as written.

REPORTS

Athletics

President White introduced Mr. Allen Ward, athletic director, who welcomes any feedback from faculty in the relationship of athletics to the student mission of the university. He introduced Mr. Bill Whitaker, faculty representative to the OVC/NCAA, and chair of the campus Intercollegiate Athletic Council, as the voice of the faculty to the president on athletic matters. Mr. Ward acknowledged his appreciation for the tremendous resources Mr. Whitaker brings to the program. Mr. Ward noted the value that an athletic program can bring to a campus providing opportunities for the institution to tell its story. He believes that a campus must position its coaches, administrators, and athletes to represent the university in a positive way and to expect accountability. He added the expectation of academic excellence and said that the university’s well on its way of achieving its goals. The university has increased its academic score as measured by the NCAA; correlating into higher graduation rates of athletes. The program has developed an academic recovery plan and enhanced its computer labs. He thanked the faculty in assisting and supporting the programs/students in the athletic department.

Revenues through ticket sales have increased over the past three years making MSU the highest in revenues among the OVC benchmarks. Corporate sponsors and annual donations have also contributed. The university continues to support the athletic department as in other areas of the university.

The OVC requires four sports and the NCAA requires 14 in order to be a Division I member. In compliance with Title IX requirements, the university will need to increase women’s sports as a proportionate share of the student body on campus. Softball may be added as the 11th women’s sport.

In response to a question, Mr. Ward reported that the new football field came in $120,000 under budget. One-half was paid by the university and the other through the foundation. The field is already paid for. He noted the success of the Racer Club. New money will be sought in support of Title IX initiatives. Mr. Ward wishes to continue revenue growth and to win in the right way in benefiting the university and not being a detriment. He broke down the total budget.
Mr. Ward invited faculty to solicit any information from the Intercollegiate Athletic Council. Part of NCAA certification is operations responsibility. He wants the faculty to be supportive and proud of what the athletic program is doing. The athletic program recognizes the faculty as a vital component and appreciates the support of every faculty member. He mentioned Matt Kelly as their connection and hopes that he is working effectively with faculty in support of what they do.

President’s Report

Senate President White asked that the agenda be suspended and recognized President Dunn. Dr. Dunn extended personal greetings and best wishes to faculty.

He briefed those in attendance on discussions regarding the Paducah campus. Expansion will be considered for the next legislative session. The university is addressing the facility/faculty needs of the extended campuses in order to expand degree production particularly of adult students under CPE direction. Higher online fees are a concern for students. The university is transferring scholarship monies to non-traditional students for support.

Completion of the science complex remains as the university’s first capital needs priority. New facilities at Breathitt Veterinary Center, renovation of Blackburn Science Building, and a new library are among other needs. Conversations continue on UK’s medical school expansion to facilitate rural healthcare.

Board of Regents

Regent Morgan reminded faculty of the public forums added to the beginning of each board meeting. Agenda items for the November 30 meeting include an external science complex audit and the president’s annual evaluation. He is sure that the Paducah campus will be discussed along with other issues.

He spoke with Dr. Dunn concerning the recommendations of the salary equity report. The senate had suggested an ongoing committee. He mentioned the possibility of a professional consultant. A staff salary review is being conducted. The study will offer a specific set of outcomes that will be recommended to the administration.

A new initiative of Dr. Morgan’s is the alignment of the university calendar with those of local school systems.

Academic Policies—No report. The committee leadership is still hoping to meet with the Provost on several issues.

Finance—Chair Lanier reported that the committee is reviewing items for future presentation.

Governmental Affairs –No report.

Handbook and Personnel—No report.

Rules, Elections, and Bylaws—No report.
Executive

President White reported that the executive committee met last week and discussed the removal of AAUP censure of the university and the university president’s annual review. The committee, at the request of the faculty regent, will prepare a letter of review by the senate leadership. He invited and encouraged input on impressions of the faculty to be incorporated into a letter to be delivered to the Board of Regents.

Academic Council

Undergraduate Studies has approved routine items. The committee has not received much for the next catalog at this time. Dr. Pittman-Munke encouraged departments to forward proposals.

Graduate Studies approved two courses in chemistry and accepted several associate and full appointments of graduate faculty.

The Library and Academic Support Committee met and reviewed departmental journal budgets. Monies from underutilized journals will be redistributed for those programs with additional needs.

Residential Colleges

Senator Landini, council chair, announced that in October the Academic Council approved residential college seminars to be offered in each of the residential colleges. Students from each college will select spring seminars this week. Proposal requests for fall 2008 will be out the first of December. The college heads welcome all proposals.

International Studies Advisory Board

Senator Koren reported that the committee met to discuss increased scholarships, recruitment studies, and staffing questions.

United Way Campaign

Vice President Pittman-Munke announced the campus United Way campaign. She noted that faculty can designate donations for different communities and asked senators to follow-up with their departmental faculty. Many university families/individuals benefit from United Way agencies. Community needs are numerous.

Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)

Dr. Mark Wattier, state Faculty Representative to the CPE, reported on budget recommendations. The main initiative is to increase the state’s degree production. The Kentucky Postsecondary Education 2008-10 Biennial Budget Request is available on the CPE website (http://cpe.ky.gov/)

The senate adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

The minutes of November 6, 2007, were approved as corrected and are posted to the senate’s website: [http://campus.murraystate.edu/org/fac senate/](http://campus.murraystate.edu/org/fac senate/).

REPORTS

Board of Regents—Regent Morgan routed an email to all faculty with an overview of the November 30 Board meeting. Noted briefly for the senate were approval of international tuition rates and an outside facility use policy for groups external to the university. He reported that the letter of support of Dr. Dunn was well received by Board members during their review of the president.

The Board discussed achieving state priorities, particularly using the business plan to double the state’s number of college graduates and limited capacity of the university due to our demographic location.

The Board accepted general university and athletic program audits. No improprieties were found by the auditors. Internal financial reporting structure has been addressed by the president. Senator Rose requested that copies of the audits be placed in the university library.

Academic Policies—No report. The committee will focus on an honesty/cheating policy with references to plagiarism and other areas in January. Faculty should forward input to Chair Koren.

Finance—No report and will not meet in December.

Governmental Affairs—Chair Gesler noted results will be released today of a Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Study on Higher Education. Preliminary release suggests greater collaboration among the institutions, regional stewardship, better use of funds, and increased job opportunities. The CPE has submitted its 2008-2010 budget recommendations with an increase of $174 million for post-secondary institutions. Eight hundred million was requested for capital projects across the Commonwealth.
Vice President Pittman-Munke, who also serves as the vice president of COSFL, added that COSFL will meet on January 12. An ITV connection will be arranged for those interested in attending here at Murray. President White defined COSFL as the state-wide faculty forum.

**Handbook and Personnel**—No report.

**Rules, Elections, and Bylaws**—Vice President Pittman-Munke presented guidelines to be used in this year’s teaching excellence awards sponsored by the MSU Board of Regents which were unanimously approved.

A motion from the committee to only assess the administrative performance of the provost and the president was defeated. Senators were urged to take steps to increase participation in the yearly process. Only 1/3 of the academic departments had a 50% response rate in last year’s administrative assessment conducted annually by the Faculty Senate. The senate did approve moving the assessments to the fall semester for 2008-2009 to coincide with the board’s presidential evaluation. A spring assessment will be conducted for the 2007-2008 year. Guidelines will be established by the REB Committee.

**Executive**—President White thanked faculty for their input into the letter sent to the board regarding the evaluation of the university president. A number of items were listed commending his performance. Dr. White met with the president and talked about difficult issues still needing attention as noted by faculty in the process. Dr. Dunn was appreciative of the letter. He will meet with the senate’s executive committee on January 15 in his effort to keep communications open and ongoing.

Dr. White thanked the finance committee for studying the issue of sick leave credit for retirees which is offered by most of the other universities in the state. Human Resources has been asked to review its policies.

**Academic Council**—The Undergraduate Studies Committee has passed a number of items on first and second readings. Dr. Pittman-Munke encouraged programs to submit catalog changes as soon as possible. President White shared a report submitted by Dr. Gannon, chair of the Graduate Studies Committee. Twenty appointments have been made to graduate faculty; ten time extensions granted for students; and two graduate courses in chemistry were approved by the committee and since approved by the full Academic Council.

The Library and Academic Support Committee will meet tomorrow (12/5). An idea of a new library building being explored by the administration and board will be placed on the committee’s agenda. Senators Koren and Hereford serve on the committee. Regent Morgan added that the university has prioritized capital requests in its campus plan for facilities. There are four sites that could be used for a potential new library.
Senate members informally discussed library resources and academic/student affairs facility needs and the integration of online tools. The Academic Policies Committee of the senate will study any proposals and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate as appropriate.

**Residential Colleges**—Senator (and residential college head) Porter invited faculty to attend the Hanging of the Green ceremony tonight sponsored by the residential colleges. There will be a booth contest among the colleges from 7-9 p.m.

**International Studies Advisory Committee**—Senator Koren, senate representative, reported that the committee has worked out a proposal to offset the staffing problems that have resulted from the effort to increase study abroad participation to 5% of student enrollment by 2011 by increasing the current level of 267 participants to 500. The proposal, which includes creation of a Director of Education Abroad and encouraging one faculty member at the college or department level to become a Study Abroad Ambassador, was sent to the president. An international tuition rate was discussed by the committee before being approved by the Board of Regents.

The committee will next meet on Wednesday, Feb. 6th.

**New Business**—

**Campus United Way Campaign**—Vice President Pittman-Munke encouraged faculty participation in the university’s United Way campaign and asked senators to follow up within their departments asking faculty to take the lead and contribute an hour’s pay. She reminded faculty of the various community agencies that offer programs to employees’ families. Noting real administrative support of the campaign, departments with highest participation will be recognized at the faculty banquet in the spring. She has more pledge cards along with designation cards. She reported that faculty and staff at Western contributed $55,000 last year. Senator Durr added that the various agencies make a huge difference in this community. Dr. Pittman-Munke reiterated the opportunity for faculty to directly make a difference in Murray and their respective communities. Local banks have partnered to give away a house to raise funds. The residential colleges and the President have bought tickets. Senator Rose asked if annual renewal of a payroll deduction was necessary. Dr. Pittman-Munke reported that it is at the present time but will check on possible options.

**International Affairs Committees**—Senator Saint Paul, modern languages, inquired about the composition of the international relations committee. It was shared that there are actually two committees dealing with internationalization of the campus. The International Affairs Executive Council is board appointed and chaired by Dr. Jim McCoy, associate provost for research, innovation, and global affairs. Its charge is to promote internationalization of the campus and to review and make recommendations to the provost and the president concerning procedures, policies, organization, resource allocation, and future priorities.
The Institute for International Studies Advisory Committee is an advisory body to the provost and the director of the Institute for International Studies on international activities on campus, as well as, the policies and procedures of the Institute, ESL, and other special programs. Dr. Fred Miller chairs the advisory committee to IIS and represents this committee on the International Affairs Executive Council. Dr. Michael Basile, Director of the Institute for International Studies is also a member of the executive council.

The Faculty Senate will suggest increased faculty representation on the executive council to enhance the visibility of international issues on campus.

Roads Scholars—Senator Porter noted changes to the Roads Scholars Program. He asked that the Faculty Senate respond to those changes noting the importance of the program. Senator Saint Paul reported that she had met with Robin Taffler, coordinator of Roads Scholars, and that she has been charged with the reorganization of the program in context of service learning and community initiatives being developed. The whole implication is shifting responsibility of visiting schools to outreach. Dr. Porter noted that he is a member of Roads Scholars but has never been contacted by a team captain.

Dr. Pittman-Munke also noted that Ms. Taffler is meeting with team captains to discuss outreach with out of state schools as the focus becomes our service region. Regional principals have been asked to submit requests on what they need. Schools will be encouraged to visit campus and the Roads Scholarship program has somewhat changed its focus.

The executive committee will discuss faculty concerns and consider an invitation to Ms. Taffler to update the senate on the program.

The senate adjourned at 5:03 p.m.