Regular Meeting Agenda
MINUTES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025
3:30 – 5:00 pm

I. Call to Order
    A. 3:31 PM FS President Michael Bordieri
II. Welcome and Sign-in
    A. The following were present: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS VP Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Shri Singh, Ken Sutrick, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Jeff Henry, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, Elana Picech, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Paul Foote, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Ray Horton, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, Megan Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
    A. Motion to approve made by Carol Terracina-Hartman, seconded by Faris Sahawneh
    B. Approved unanimously
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
    A. Faculty Nominees for VP for Finance & Administrative Services Search
        1. FS President Michael Bordieri provided update on process of submitting two names, Senator Eran Guse and Senator David Pizzo for consideration to be appointed by President Patterson
    B. Community Bridge Event (October 7, 2:30-3:30)
        1. Part of a series of informal gatherings designed to encourage discussion and collaboration. 10/7 event is immediately before Senate meeting to encourage our participation.
    C. Business Updates: FS President Michael Bordieri provided vocal updates on the following:
        1. Needs Revision: FSH 24-25-9 - Post-Tenure Review
            a) We've been asked to provide a more simplified version to aid the BOR in their review and subsequent vote. As the draft stands now, we are close to being able to share more widely.
        2. Approved: FSH 24-25-10 - Enhancing Faculty Development & Recognition
            a) This accompanies PTR to create streams to recognize faculty accomplishments and developmental needs
        3. Needs Revision: FSR 24-25-1rev2 - Promotion Path for Instructors
            a) This has been a long-standing priority for the FS Senate

V. Distinguished Guests

A. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson

1. Comments on PTR: Multiple representatives, including KY Sec of State, Rep. Comer, Governor, Lt. Governor have been on campus since Dr. Patterson's July 1 start date. Committed to being a champion and advocate to help FS Senate get PTR policy across the finish line.
2. Jordan Smith has resigned, last day is Sept. 3, 2025. President Patterson is meeting with an alum (Johnny Pryor) who is a lobbyist, to game plan.
3. FS will be asked to provide names to serve on search committee for Provost.
4. Search for VP of FA is progressing quickly; intention is to run both searches in parallel.
    a) Sen Powell – ideal start date?
        (1) January answer
    b) Sen Venter – asks for clarity on interim people to ensure continuity of processes
5. SONHP building progressing with steel work
    a) Mason Hall will be used for dental hygiene and exercise science programs
6. DVM program
    a) Founding dean has been named at last BOR meeting
    b) Looking at November date for degree proposal in front of CPE
7. Sept 18 or 19 state of the University Address
8. Partnership MOUs recently signed with area community colleges
    a) Freshman are not the demographic we can rely on for new enrollments
    b) Need to look at adult learners, international students (4+0 arrangements)

B. Provost Office Representatives, Dr. Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Ashley Ireland, Assistant Provost

1. Fister shared information about the community connection events
2. Certificates will have to be approved through CPE
    a) Existing certificates don't have to be reviewed through CPE process
3. She has chocolate in her office, so please visit
4. Thank you to Officers on working on PTR with them
5. Question from Sen Beckers about APR
    a) Dr. Fister responded they've been going on for 2 years, and is happy to have conversations
    b) Deans and chairs have document

C. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary Zeruth

1. Sent out an email report
    a) Let him know if there are any problems with receiving those emails following merging of listservs

b) Ready to work with faculty

VI. Overview of Senate Operations, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri

A. Overview to provide framework of Senate Operations

1. If you're unsure how to bring something up, ask how
    a) We're pretty friendly
2. Exec Committee retreat was held (first time in at least past 7 years)
    a) The question of "what is shared governance?" was asked
3. FS is one of multiple shared governance organizations, including standing committees and advisory committees
4. FS President Bordieri offered an overview of the distinct functions of the FS Senate as outlined in the Board Policy Manual
5. FS could follow the example of Staff Congress with a regular survey and report to the BOR
6. We follow Constitution, Bylaws, and Roberts Rules
    a) FS Secretary Brian Bourke provided overview of creation of 2 page Roberts Rules handout
    b) FS President Michael Bordieri highlighted that rulings of the chair can be appealed
7. 3 primary ways we do our business
    a) Faculty Senate Motion
        (1) Does not require additional action, e.g. Provost/President/BOR
        (2) Do not require reading period
    b) Faculty Senate Resolution
        (1) Advising the University to act in a certain way
        (2) Drafting period is required for transparency and open communication (regular meeting interval)
            (a) Assumption is that Senators take FSRs to constituents and gauge feedback
    c) Faculty Senate Handbook Revision
        (1) Same as Faculty Senate Resolution, except:
            (a) Directly amends the Faculty Handbook
            (b) Requires BOR review and approval

VII. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. None

B. Comment by FS President Michael Bordieri - Executive Committee is prioritizing discussion/voting items earlier in the agenda

VIII. Reports

A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees

1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
    a) Most important things are floating: PTR & Instructor Promotion
    b) Will call together committee soon to strategize future agenda
2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
    a) Main priority is to discuss how to fix our budget problem

        (1) Sen Guse discusses tuition revenue vs. discount rate
            (a) What students pay over past 15 years is flat, despite tuition increases, due to discount rate increases
                (i) Current discount rate is approximately 47%
                (ii) Q from Sen Horton – has administration explained rationale for using discount rate in this way?
                    (a) Sen Guse stated that prior administration as proud of discount rate as a way of offering scholarships
                    (b) Demand for higher education is largely inelastic to tuition
    b) Committee plans to meet on 3rd Tuesday of each month
3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
    a) Promises to be an intriguing year for the committee. Closer look at federal policy, e.g. funding from federal agencies
    b) Priorities (first draft): 1. Budget year in Frankfort, 2. MSU funding priorities – a. emergency vet clinic as part of new facility, b. asset preservation, c. medical sciences building, d. renovation of Pogue, 3. Legislative proposals that could directly affect higher ed in KY, 4. Possible push to freeze tuition, 5. International student logistics disaster (could affect enrollment numbers)
    c) Timely updates will be provided throughout the year
        (1) Share areas to lookout for with committee members
        (2) Monitoring needs to stay grounded in what matter the most to Murray State
4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
    a) Work for the handbook that's needed is extensive
    b) Exploring possibility of ad hoc committee to explore interplay between faculty handbook and HR policies
    c) Suggests including the faculty senate email address in reports out to constituents
    d) There is an existing form for submitting suggestions for handbook revisions
5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
    a) Encourage participation in all committees (in FS and University Standing Committees)
    b) College/school elections might not happen when there aren't nominations, and then rely on dean/chair appointment
    c) Provost Office has asked for an earlier calendar for BOR Awards for Teaching Excellence

6. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
   a) No additional report beyond what has been shared throughout the meeting
   b) All Executive Committee meetings are open, so feel free to attend
      (1) Please feel free to share feedback by taking Michael up on his coffee invitation

B. Other Committees
   1. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee
      a) Meeting has not been scheduled
         (1) Will happen in September

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
   A. Sen Powell moves to direct exec committee to consider resolution of appreciation for Dr. Tim Todd. Second by Senator Sahawneh
      1. Vote: yes: 22, no: 4, abstain: 5

XI. Adjourn
   A. Pizzo moved to adjourn, Guse seconded
   B. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM by FS President Michael Bordieri

Regular Meeting
Mintues

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order at 3:00 PM by FS VP [Heidi Ortega]
II. Welcome and Sign-in
    A. The following were present:FS VP Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Shri Singh, Ken Sutrick, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Jeff Henry, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, Elana Picech, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Paul Foote, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Ray Horton, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, Megan Megan Smetana , Amanda Mollett (proxy for Naveen Musurunu)
III. Approval of Minutes
    A. Unanimous consent to approve
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
    A. VP Ortega shared information about FS representatives to active search committees
V. Distinguished Guests
    A. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
    B. Provost Office, Associate Provost Dr. Renee Fister, Assistant Provost Ashley Ireland
        1. Dr. Fister shares thanks for work on PTR. She and MB met with legal counsel
        2. Riza is working on a procedure to make the process user-friendly for department chairs
        3. BOR intends to suspend rules at Dec 12 meeting to advance the policy prior legislatively mandated deadline
        4. Next bridge event Nov. 19
    C. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary Zeruth
        1. No report or updates to share
VI. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
    A. Executive – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
        1. **VOTE:** FSM 25-26-3 Reschedule November Regular Meeting
            a) Move that the November regular meeting of the Faculty Senate be rescheduled from November 4 to October 28, 2025, so as to allow consideration of the revised Post-Tenure Review policy prior to October 31.
            b) Motion: Heidi, Pizzo second

        c) Y: 28, N: 0 A: 0
    2. **FIRST READING**: FSH 25-26-1 Annual Evaluation of Faculty & Post Tenure Review (Revised)
        a) VP Ortega opens the floor for discussion
            (1) Senator Foote - asked questions about wording on Page 3 - should board be department, and about the timeline for establishing criteria?
                (a) Sec Bourke offered clarification about timeline and that the chairs have been discussing in Council of Chairs
            (2) Sen Beckers asked about movement of review of cases and applicability of departmental expectations being honored at higher levels.
    3. **FIRST READING**: FSR 25-26-2 Post-Tenure Review Procedures and Implementation Guidelines
        a) VP Ortega opened the floor for discussion
            (1) No discussion

VII. Reports

A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
    1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
        a) AP plans to meet to work on implementation
    2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
        a) Sen Guse shared that the committee met. Sen Sutrick talked to the library about the budget, and was advised to google it. Guse shared the issue of tuition being flattened by discounting.
            (1) We need to solve the COLA issue, noting that the handbook specifies that COLAs are supposed to happen annually, and later if the University is unable to in that year.
    3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
        a) Sen Powell shared that the committee met in September with next meeting in November. Gearing up to monitor legislative developments for the upcoming session.
        b) Search for AVP role well underway.
            (1) Sen Foote made a comment about directives for teaching certain subjects in other states, affecting academic freedom, and we need to watch for the possibility of that happening in KY.
            (2) School of VM is still moving forward, waiting on outcome from CPE. Dean has been appointed to begin in January.
    4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
        a) Sen Busby committee met in September. Examining Chapter 2 of handbook for needed updates/edits.

b) President Patterson has noted inconsistencies with handbook and other policies, and has formed a task force with FS Prez Bordeiri serving as FS representative.

5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
    a) No report
6. Executive – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
    a) FDC Faculty Shared Governance Roundtables
        (1) Wednesday October 22, 1:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.
        (2) Tuesday, November 11, 3:30 p.m. - 4:20 p.m
    b)

B. Other Committees
1. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee, David Pizzo
    a) Sen Pizzo committee met to discuss options to get the university more inline with industry standards of 80/20 split of insurance costs.
    b) Sen Foote - he asked Prez Patterson about raising tuition waiver as a retention strategy
    c) Sen Pizzo shared that sick days cap at six weeks - only Murray State and Morehead State.
    d) Sen Beckers asks where 80/20 split comes from. Sen Pizzo responded that it's from the consultants.
    e) Sen Foote pointed out that fees have increased when tuition hasn't.
    f) Sen Terracina-Hartman shared that departments aren't getting course fees anymore.
    g) Fister noted that CPE passed a two year tuition, which means we know what our tuition will be for next fiscal year.
2. Parking
    a) Sen Powell shared they will meet next month

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Adjourn

A. Unanimous consent to adjourn at 4:45 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 28, 2025
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Mississippi Room

I. Call to Order
   A. FS President Bordeiri called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
   A. Present at the meeting: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Shri Singh, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Jeff Henry, Katelynn Mollett (proxy for Naveen Musunuru), Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Marshall Hayes, Eran Guse, Michael Busby, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Paul Foote, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Ray Horton, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, and Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
   A. Motion made to approve by Senator Pizzo
   B. Seconded by Senator Terracina-Harman
   C. 30 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
   A. Updated regarding current searches for open positions. The Senate was asked to provide names of representatives three current searches. The representatives chosen are as follows:
      1. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost - FS President Michael Bordieri & FS Vice President Heidi Ortega
      2. Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services - Senator Eran Guse
      3. Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs - Senator Thomas Powell
   B. FS President Michael Bordieri thanked President Patterson for engaging and involving the Senate in the searches
   C. On October 29, members of the FS Executive Committee are meeting with search firm to discuss priorities for VP searches
   D. Presentation about upcoming vote for PTR, and report on engagement on the policy, and that no changes have been made during the open drafting period.
      1. Slides discussed outlining implementation of PTR policy, to aid in addressing those questions separately from the policy to be voted on.
      2. May 15, 2026 is the deadline for departments to have established standards approved by their Dean in consultation with the Provost.
      3. July 1, 2026 is the effective date of the evaluation policy, i.e. PTR.
      4. Spring 2027 will be when the system kicks in.
      5. Details about initial guidance on PTR implementation.

a) Senator Venter asked about being able to share information from TAPPS to the PTR system for someone who is slated for evaluation at the same time they choose to apply for promotion.
    (1) FS President Bordieri shared that could be a conversation with the developer, Riza Marjadi
6. There will be a staggered implementation over 4 years for initial reviews
    a) Senator Foote - what if someone is awarded promotion to professor, does that impact if they still have to go through scheduled review?
        (1) FS President Bordieri: yes, because HB 424 mandates a four year review cycle.
    b) FS President Bordieri: 2031 will be the full implementation
    c) Senator Horton - question about how will staggering of years happen within departments
        (1) FS President Bordieri - assignments based on year of tenure

V. Distinguished Guests
  A. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
    1. Opened the floor to questions about the searches
      a) Senator Venter - what is the goal for having new people in place
        (1) President Patterson - we have to be flexible in terms of start dates, perhaps allowing someone to go back and forth between here and current institution to help us get the best candidates
      b) Senator Trzepacz - when will they close?
        (1) President Patterson - open until filled
          (a) We've had 30 confirmed candidates for Provost
          (b) 8 confirmed for VP FA
          (c) 8 confirmed for AVP
      c) Senator Foote - will we bring in 3 candidates for each committee?
        (1) President Patterson: Yield to search committee guidance
      d) Senator Beckers - any internal candidates
        (1) President Patterson, I don't know
      e) Irvin - both VP positions have pivotal roles in determining budget for next fiscal year. How will we navigate that process without those positions filled?
        (1) We have a budget advisory committee, and we'll use the expertise we have
    2. SONHP beam topping ceremony upcoming
    3. This is Homecoming Weekend
  B. Provost Office, Dr. Renee Fister and Ashley Ireland
    1. Dr. Fister - thank you for all of the work on PTR
  C. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary ZeRuth
    1. Reminder about 10/29 listening session for searches

VI. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri

1. **VOTE**: FSH 25-26-1 Annual Evaluation of Faculty & Post Tenure Review (Revised)
    a) Yes, 29, 1 no, 0 abstention
2. **VOTE**: FSR 25-26-2 Post-Tenure Review Procedures and Implementation Guidelines
    a) Yes, 29, 1 no, 0 abstention

VII. Reports

A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees

1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
    a) Haven't met, but will meet in November to discuss role of committee in aiding/assisting with PTR implementation
2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
    a) Committee met via email. Discussed the idea of meeting with Dr. Patterson about discount rate. Then exploring RisePoint to examine ROI.
3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
    a) Will meet in November to discuss ramping up preparations for legislative session beginning in January 2026.
4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
    a) Will meet in November to discuss integration of PTR
5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
    a) Working on adjustment to timeline for nominations for BOR Teaching Awards to increase the calls for nominations, along with moving up the deadlines for determining winners from each College/School by about 2 weeks.
    b) Hope is to draw in more robust nominations.
        (1) Senator Venter - having deadlines more spread out would help collegiate committees
6. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
    a) FDC Faculty Shared Governance Roundtables
        (1) Tuesday, November 11, 3:30 p.m. - 4:20 p.m
    b) We were invited to participate in listening sessions for searches
    c) Executive Committee discussed priorities for VP searches during their meeting on October 21, 2025.
        (1) Slides with details shared out to Senators following the meeting
        (2) Senator Stemke - open and clear communication about decisions made and the why
        (3) President Patterson - please ask for concrete examples during interviews

(4) Senator Horton - prioritize consensus building especially within difficult situations and compounding constraints
(5) Senator Pryor - meaningful experiences as an educator will be critically important
(6) Senator Terracina-Hartman - appreciates emphasis on innovation in the list of priorities
(7) Senator Williams - evidence of tough decision making; from the perspective of a smaller program, ensuring adequate representation in decision making
(8) Senator Irvin - both VPs are accountable to one person, but we need people who are willing to be accountable more broadly
(9) Senator Foote - VP FA needs to be aware about our parking situation
(10) Senator Beckers - VPs should help faculty realize their full potential, e.g. seeking grants, providing seed money that then benefit competitiveness for grants

B. Other Committees
   1. Senator Pizzo offered a reminder to complete Open Enrollment on behalf of the Insurance and Benefits Committee

VIII. Old Business
   A. No old business

IX. New Business
   A. No new business

X. Adjourned at 4:47 PM

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting Mintues

Tuesday, December 2, 2025
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order
    a. FS President Bordieri called to order at 3:30 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
    a. In attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Katelynn Mollett (proxy for Naveen Musunuru), Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Marshall Hayes, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, David Pizzo, Elana Picech, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Paul Foote, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, and Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
    a. Motion - Senator Pizzo
    b. Second - Senator Guse
        i. Approved 26-0-1
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
    a. Business Updates:
        i. **To BoR:** FSH 25-26-1 Annual Evaluation of Faculty & Post Tenure Review (Revised)
            1. Provost Todd and President Patterson have signed, and it goes before the Board of Regents on Dec 12, 2025
            2. Email to all faculty early the following week after BOR approval.
        ii. **Approved**: FSR 25-26-2 Post-Tenure Review Procedures and Implementation Guidelines
            1. Signed by PResident Patterson and is now approved.
    b. MB acknowledged current litigation of former provost against the University
    c. Thank you for everyone who has engaged in the Provost search thus far as candidates are on campus this week. Feedback links for each candidate are open until 5PM the day following their visit. Town Hall links are available online for viewing.
    d. No updates available for the VP FAS or AVP searches
V. Distinguished Guests
    a. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
        i. Shared his hopes for restful Thanksgiving break
        ii. Encourages everyone to finish the semester strong
        iii. Thanks everyone for serving with him during his first 6 months
        iv. Budget Advisory Committee meeting upcoming on Dec 3, 2025
        v. Question from Senator Lyon about the hour delay that was communicated on Dec 1 for Dec 2
            1. Recommends reviewing policies, putting together policy task force
            2. Question from Senator Beckers about choice of the word delay

- c. Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
    - i. Dr. Fister encouraged attendance at commencement, especially with it being Dr. Patterson's first commencement ceremony
    - ii. Dec 15 Tech the Halls at Waterfield 11:30-1:00
    - iii. VP FAS search will begin next week with visits after finals
- d. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary ZeRuth
    - i. Regent ZeRuth thanked faculty for engagement in Provost search, and reminded everyone to share feedback.

VI. Action Items --Faculty Senate Standing Committees (none)

VII. Reports

- a. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
    - i. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
        1. Scheduling meeting for January
    - ii. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
        1. Last scheduled meeting was preempted by University closure
    - iii. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
        1. Haven't met since last Senate meeting
            - a. Will start meeting as the legislative session begins in January 2026
            - b. Fister - approval from CPE has been delayed
    - iv. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
        1. Spring 26 will be busy for the committee
            - a. Need to address some areas that are incongruent with each other
    - v. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
        1. CAll for nominations for BOR teaching awards have gone out; next reminder going out before Winter Break
    - vi. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
        1. Exploring an Annual Faculty Engagement Survey
            - a. Topic for high-level at Senate today
                - i. Prior effort by past Senator Jan Super put in a lot of work in what resulted in a high quality survey
                - ii. Staff colleagues are showing us up with the Staff Congress survey, which results in a report to the Board of Regents at their retreat in August each year.
                - iii. Administering an engagement survey is fairly common practice
                - iv. President Bordieri shared slides outlining faculty engagement survey rationale
                - v. MB opened floor to discussion
                    1. Senator Busby - could we mirror US Census - not annual, but at
                    2. Senator Panchuk - how does staff congress manage resources?
                        - a. It's run in-house without external resources

3. Senator Beckers - it's important, especially now, to conduct survey, as we have new leadership
4. Senator Venter (in Zoom chat) - I think a first step would be to reach out to the administration to assess their interest in learning and working to address the issues we'd identify if we did a survey. That response would either empower or defeat this before effort is put into its development, if we conducted one.
5. Senator Foote - we should do it, because resources are dwindling, and we need to know if that affects decisions to stay or leave?
6. Senator Irvin - do we need a survey to substantiate that taking money from departments is bad? People are tired of taking surveys and not seeing changes/results. Existing issues raised from the last survey have not been addressed.
7. Senator Trezpacz - do we have any indication that changes have been made as a result of the staff survey?
8. Senator Hayes - Maybe having a new administration is the right time to administer a survey
9. Senator Powell - Evergreen study was an outcome of past survey efforts
10. FS President Bordieri - past efforts gave great top-level snapshot; new survey could help analyze data through layers/nuances
11. Senator Sahyoun- survey can be good tool, but need something to help understand roots causes of unhappiness, e.g. focus groups
12. Senator Hayes - maybe we can identify issues that are common and find ways to address them through empowerment rather than relying on the president to fix things.
13. Senator Pizzo - need something sooner rather than later, but then perhaps more periodic approach
14. FS President Bordieri - this conversation will now shift to Exec in January to get the ball rolling
15. Senator Beckers - we could structure a shorter survey that includes a subset of questions from previous survey efforts
16. Regent ZeRuth - have to balance with hard data
17. Venter (in Zoom chat) - I think that this could be pitched as a good complement to the President's "listening tour" to provide those unspoken commentaries that many may not feel comfortable expressing out in the open.

b. Other Committees
    i. Insurance and Benefits meets on Friday, Dec 5 - Senator Pizzo
        1. Plan redesign is on the task list for the committee in Spring 26
    ii. Parking - Senator Powell
        1. More pain before it gets better
            a. Question from Mullins - why do handicap sticker have to be approved by the university
            b. Foote - can't get through fish tank because of big trucks from construction
    iii. AVP for Public Affairs search has been suspended and closed
        1. Position to be redesigned by President Patterson, potentially split into multiple positions

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Adjourn at 4:37 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order
   a. FS President Bordieri called to order at 3:31 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
   a. In attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Ken Sutrick, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Naveen Musunuru, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Marshall Hayes, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Paul Foote, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, and Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
   a. Senator Pizzo moved, Senator Sahawneh second
      i. Approved by majority consent
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
      i. Appointments
         1. HR director search, appointment to search committee, Senator David Pizzo
            a. Unanimous consent
         2. COSFL (Coalition of Faculty Senate Leadership)
            a. Based on COSFL constitution:
               i. FS Senate President Bordieri
               ii. Regent ZeRuth
               iii. AAUP Rep Peggy Pittman-Munke
            b. Additional allowed fourth rep:
               i. Governmental Affairs Chair, Senator Thomas Powell
      ii. Updated on Provost search
         1. Search is being relaunched with Greenwood Asher and Associates search firm
         2. FS President Bordieri and Regent ZeRuth are serving on the search committee
         3. Planning to have finalists on campus during the first week of March
         4. Question from Senator Irvin about what happened with last search. FS President Bordieri shared what has been stated publicly previously
         5. Full Executive Committee should be prepared to engage in interviews
      iii. President Patterson's inauguration is coming up in April.
         1. Inauguration committee includes representation from shared governance bodies, with FS President Bordieri representing the Faculty Senate
      iv. Handbook updates information items
         1. 2.9.5
         2. 2.3.1

V. Distinguished Guests
   a. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
      1. FY27 budget process is going well. Dr. Laura Foltz is engaged with that process.
      2. Discussion around budgeting model going forward
      3. Input from various constituent groups shaping budget priorities
      4. 3rd Phase of Evergreen
      5. Committed to COLAs, beyond the typical 1% that has been common
      6. Budget Advisory Committee meetings have been going well.
      7. Strategic planning process – met with co-chairs on 2.2.2026
         a. Next Presidential Communique will include more details, including committee makeup
            i. Committee will be large
            ii. Has reached out to Michelle Bundren from
         b. Will not try to rush and get it done in 10 months
         c. Trying to arrive at 3-5 pillars with 15-20 metrics
      8. Provost search
      9. DVM was approved by CPE on 1.30.2026
         a. This will be monumental for the history of the University
         b. Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman has done a phenomenal job
         c. Accreditation process is the next step
            i. Aiming for a Fall 2028 cohort launch
         d. Ground breaking for the new building should be soon
      10. Legislative Updates
         a. Today is day 19 of the legislative session
         b. More than 700 bills have been filed
         c. Please provide input on bills when given the opportunity
      11. Question from Senator Irvin – what went wrong, and how is that informing the 2nd wave.
         a. Individual changed their mind. Nothing we did wrong.
      12. Question from Senator Venter – do you anticipate being able to find a good pool?
         a. Yes, we're in the national timeline for when people are generally searching
      13. Question from Senator Irvin – question about the budget – can you speak to "taking funds from academic units"?
         a. Trying to find out where things are, how decisions have been made
      14. Question from Senator Pizzo – any preliminary thoughts on latest anti-tenure bill
         a. I don't support the bill
         b. It would decimate the academic enterprise
         c. University presidents meet on 2.4.2026
      15. Question from Senator Powell – first draft of budget published, shows lots of cuts.
         a. Panicked when he saw it. Response from Frankfort was not to panic
      16. Question from Senator Pizzo – are we resuming the search for a new governmental affairs position
         a. Taking time to do a job function audit
         b. We have a special services contract with a lobbyist
         c. Goal is to post position in next 7-10 days
         d.

17. Question from Senator Venter – what percent of the startup for new vet school are committed vs. future sustaining
    a. Startup funds from Foundations
    b. Differentiated tuition model
        i. Look to be in the plus in the 2nd year
18. Question from Senator Beckers – is there any plan for existing faculty to be involved in vet program?
    a. Yes. Lots of sharing and collaboration
19. Question from Senator Williams – timeline for townhall, budget, etc.?
    a. Yes, all of that will be communicated.

b. Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
    1. Assistant Provost Ireland
        a. AI Task force
            i. Link to document shared in meeting
                1. Includes links for submitting feedback, asking questions
            ii. Focus of the task force shifted from definitional to policy development
            iii. No distinct timeline
            iv. Unclear where this policy would live, if approved/adopted
            v. Task Force recommend section 8.3 be added to the syllabus template
                1. General Counsel is not on board with it as written due to 1st Amendment concerns
            vi. Senator Panchuk asked about environmental concerns being addressed in the policy
                1. Yes, there is a section that addresses that issue
    2. Associate Provost Fister
        a. Great Colleges to Work For survey
            i. If you receive it, please take the time to complete it
            ii. Middle of spring semester
        b. Promotion of Instructors
            i. Ready to help make this push forward
            ii. Wouldn't be retroactive
        c. Academic Council
            i. Lots of courses coming up with Vet School
            ii. Time is of the essence for getting program/course proposals
    3. President Patterson
        a. Feedback on winter closure communication?
            i. Rousing applause

c. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary ZeRuth
    1. Nothing to add

VI. Action Items --Faculty Senate Standing Committees (none)

VII. Reports
  a. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
    i. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
      a. Met in January to set priorities, including instructor promotion
      b. Looking for avenues to engage with/support department chairs in creating departmental guidance for PTR
      c. Also looking at policy language for promotion to full professor
    ii. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
      a. Report from University Budget Committee
        i. Current discount rate is unsustainable
        ii. Looking at Risepoint – are benefits higher than the costs?
    iii. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
      a. Shared updates about current bills that are being tracked (20-30 current bills)
        i. HB490 – Faculty Employment and Tenure
      b. Website for the tracker – http://sites.google.com/murraystate.edu/billtracker
      c. Question from Senator Irvin – HB376
      d. Comments from Senator Horton providing more context on HB490
    iv. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
      a. Looking at clearing up language for promotion
    v. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
      a. Call for nominations extended for BOR Teaching awards by Friday, February 6, 2026
      b. Call for nominations forthcoming for Stephen B. White Award for Shared Governance
    vi. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
      1. Committee priorities for Spring
  b. Other Committees
    1. Budget Advisory Committee
      a. Everything already covered
    2. Presidential Task Force on Policy and Procedure
      a. Inaugural meeting has happened
    3. Insurance and Benefits Committee
      a. Plan design has started
      b. Looking forward to key positions to be filled in order to get movement on important elements
    4. Parking
      a. No report

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business
  a. Senator Papajeski – Samantha Dalton student death – bench presentation February 16 at the Arboretum

X. Adjourned at 5:08 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
3:45 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order
   a. 3.44 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
   a. In attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Ken Sutrick, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Shri Singh, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Naveen Musunuru, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Jenifer Hart, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Susan Miller, Jenilee Williams, Ihsan Alkatib, Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Marcie Venter, Aaron Irvin, and Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
   a. Senator Papajeski noted a correction to the February minutes
      i. Approved with noted correction, 29 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
   a. Confirm Secretary Brian Bourke as faculty representative on the search committee for the Director of Procurement
   b. Save the date for President Patterson's inauguration – April 14, 11am-Noon
   c. Faculty Research form April 13, 2-3:30pm
   d. More events will take place across the two days, with more details to follow
   e. Great Colleges to Work For survey – if you received this invitation (as part of the sample), please participate
   f. Senator Sahawneh shared about a cybersecurity speaker on April 16, 9:00 – 11:30am, Curris Center Theater
V. Distinguished Guests
      i. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
         1. Please complete Great Colleges to Work For survey – it's an important assessment tool
         2. Budget Town Hall, March 10, 3:00-4:30 PM, Wrather Hall
            a. He accepted the job March 10, 2025
         3. Please engage and provide feedback in Provost search
         4. CVM groundbreaking in April
         5. Legislative updates – we're in day 38 of 60
            a. Yesterday, March 2 was deadline for senate bill filing
            b. March 4 is deadline for house bill filing
            c. House budget committee cancelled President Patterson's testimony
            d. Is scheduled to meet with Senate budget committee next week
         6. Question from Senator Beckers – there were areas where money was pulled that was more than web fees amount, and departments haven't gotten their share
            a. Will address during Budget Town Hall

b. Web fees were returned to colleges/schools (topic was asked about during February Senate meeting)

7. Question from Senator Powell – anticipate movement on budget bill?
   a. No clear movement, with no concrete answers for reasons for budget reductions

8. Had a spirited conversation with Dr. Foltz about the budget

ii. Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

1. Commencement will be in Racer Arena due to CFSB Center renovations
   a. Please park behind science complex
   b. Need between 50-60 volunteers
   c. Additional accessible lavatory facilities will be placed outside Racer Arena
   d. Question from Senator Pizzo – how are students being assigned to different ceremonies?
      i. First come first served.
   e. Question from Senator Tzrespac – what if there's a time conflict for a student who has a final at the time of their chosen commencement?
      i. We'll need to work on those individually
   f. Senator M. Smenata – can faculty attend more than one?
      i. Yes, provided you sign up, and there's space
   g. Senator Tzrespac – question about stage party seating for College Heads?
      i. Seating is limited due to smaller stage that Racer Arena can accommodate
   h. Secretary Bourke – shuttles for faculty to get from science complex to Racer Arena?
      i. No

iii. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary ZeRuth

1. Quarterly meeting was February 27. Dr. ZeRuth sent out a report over the weekend. Next quarterly meeting is in June

VI. Action Items --Faculty Senate Standing Committees

i. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri

1. **FIRST READING**: FSR-25-26-4 Compensation Associated with Assignment of the Senior Instructor Title (PDF)
   a. President Bordieri provided an explanation of the text of the resolution
   b. Question from Senator Guse – if this were to pass, how would this apply to those already with the title?
      i. It is not retroactive
   c. Senator Irvin – Brought up point that instructors do not have a guaranteed contract year to year, and shared the opinion that making the $2,000 a mute point. He shared the view that this ultimately harms instructors, and longer contracts should be explored
   d. President Bordieri shared that the language of the Faculty Handbook does not the reality of today when it comes to the roles instructors play in the institution

   e. Senator Pizzo – given many of our peers have this, it's time we catch up
   f. Senator Venter – If there were a pathway to convert adjuncts to faculty lines, that would be huge, given our geography
   g. Senator Williams – there's confusion based on language used to describe these positions
2. **FIRST READING**: FSH-25-26-5 Senior Instructor Title Assignment (PDF)
   a. President Bordieri provided an explanation of the text of the resolution
   b. Senator Beckers – do instructors actually do the things listed in the resolution
      i. The goal of the language was to capture the roles of instructors broadly.
   c. Senator Post – the wording does imply a strict expectation around service
   d. Senator Panchuk – agree that the wording needs to emphasize teaching effectiveness.
      i. Amended wording was suggested, with President Bordieri modifying the handbook resolution for all present to observe
         1. Amendment seconded by Senator Post
         2. Senator Irvin – concern with reference to section 2.6.2 of the Faculty Handbook
            a. Senator Busby – as an instructor, he doesn't find the service activities listed in 2.6.2 as limiting
         3. Vote on the amendment – 31 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstentions
3. Motion to suspend the rules
   a. Senator Pizzo moves, Senator Guse second
   b. Vote on suspending the rules – 29 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstentions
4. Vote on FSR-25-26-4
   a. Motion whereas close to match language in handbook resolution
      i. Motion made by Senator Post
      ii. Motion seconded by Senator Pizzo
      iii. 31 Yay, 0 Nay, 0 Abstention
   b. Vote: 30 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention
5. Vote on FSH-25-26-5 with amended text
   a. Vote: 31 Yay, 0 Nay, 1 Abstention

VII. Reports
   a. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
      i. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
         a. Looking to get a special meeting on March 10 for a joint meeting with the Handbook Committee for guidelines on promotion to Associate Professor and Professor
      ii. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
         a. Finance Committee met with President Patterson and VP Foltz about discount rates
      iii. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
         a. Bill tracker link will be shared to Senators
         b. Almost 1,200 bills have been introduced

c. Senator Horton – HB 490 – senator education committee is chaired by a senator who represents the district home to Morehead State, so if you know anyone at Morehead, encourage them to reach out in their capacity as private citizens.

iv. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby

v. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega

vi. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri

b. Other Committees

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a. Senator Mullins – faculty have asked about accessibility on Canvas

i. Associate Provost Fister – information was sent to faculty in summer 2025. Academic Affairs can provide help. All instructional materials need to be accessible.

X. Adjourn

a. Motion made by Senator Pizzo at 5:20PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order
   A. FS President Michael Bordieri called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
   A. In attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Stephanie Ford, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers,Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Naveen Musunuru, Jonathan Lyon, Jenifer Hart, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, David Pizzo, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Shauna Mullins, Jenilee Williams, Ihsan Alkatib (Proxy), Amanda Joyce, Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Chris Trzepacz, Ray Horton, Marcie Venter, Chad Gaylord, Aaron Irvin, and Megan Smetana
III. Approval of Minutes
   A. FS President Michael Bordieri requested unanimous consent to approve the minutes of the March Senate meeting.
      1. No objection, the March minutes were approved
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
   A. FS President Michael Bordieri gave updates on previously approved items that have been signed by the Provost Office and forwarded to the President for his signature
   B. Campus fee advisory group task force. The Senate was asked to put forward two faculty names. The following were selected during the last meeting of the Executive Committee:
      1. Brian Bourke
      2. Eran Guse
   C. Provost search concluded successfully, and Dr. Twigg has been on campus, and his contract was confirmed at the last special meeting of the Board of Regents
   D. Presidential Inauguration events on April 13 and 14
      1. Wells 118 by 10:40 AM on April 14 for all faculty participating in the processional
      2. MB highlighted the web mosaic connected to the inauguration events
V. Distinguished Guests
   A. University President, Dr. Ron K. Patterson
      1. Expressed excitement to close out the academic year
      2. Budget planning is going well
         a) Next budget town hall Apr 28, 2026
         b) MSU was held harmless in budget cuts from the legislature
         c) HB 490 was passed, and we have until October 2026 to have a policy and process in place

            d) HB 500 still being monitored while it is with the Governor
            e) Federal dollars - submitted 3 proposals
                (1) Emergency vet clinic
                (2) Medical Sciences building
                (3) 10 million dollars across different buildings and regional campuses
            f) Fee task force - still receiving names
                (1) Opportunity to address student concerns about fees
                (2) Provide transparency about where fees go
            g) April 22 2 PM vet school ground breaking
            h) Questions:
                (1) Senator Tzrepasz - how many students on fee task force?
                    (a) About 6 students
                (2) Senator Musurunu - What can we expect in terms of getting rules in place for HB 490?
                    (a) Confident we'll have something ready to present, which will come directly from the Faculty Senate
                (3) Senator Beckers - any insight why we were spared from cuts?
                    (a) Relationships. President Patterson has made many trips to Frankfort to build relationships since joining Murray State

B. Office of the Provost
    1. Associate Provost Fister
        a) Commencement - Wendy Longworth is waiting until after the Presidential Inauguration to send out information about signing up for one of the ceremonies. Saturday afternoon ceremony is exclusively for graduate students. Deans and chairs will send out a google sheet to sign up to help separately from marching.

C. Faculty Regent, Dr. Gary ZeRuth
    1. No report

D. Facilities Management, Jason Youngblood, Angela Lampe, & Drew Milburn
    1. Aaron Irvin - our buildings have been transformed into Ninja pressure cookers. What's going on?
        a) Central steam is being phased out
        b) A new central chiller is being installed
            (1) Will allow us to begin chilling earlier and end chilling later
        c) Chillers are being started up to begin the flow of chilled water to buildings
    2. Senator Williams - Wilson Hall leaks from roof
        a) roof being repaired this summer
        b) Senator Terracina-Hartman - schedule for the roof?
            (1) Beginning in May, should be completed during the summer months

3. Senator Panchuk - any plan to replace windows in Faculty Hall?
    a) It is on the list, but lower down
4. SEnator Venter - question about Blackburn status
    a) Work continues, near completion on windows
5. VP Ortega - what is the status on SSC?
    a) FM has been in discussions with SSC to address ongoing concerns. New campus director starting Apr 8, 2026
6. VP Ortega - what about grounds?
    a) Email Angela if we see contractors smoking
7. President Patterson - because of neglect over decades, we're at a significant deficit in deferred maintenance
8. FS President Bordieri - how many active projects?
    a) Over 200
9. Senator Irvin - question about timing of turning on climate control systems
    a) There are lot of steps
    b) Sometimes delays occur as work is done to replace or upgrade systems
    c) Central plant was built in the 1970s. Current chillers were installed in 1990s. Boilers were installed in late 1960s and early 1970s
10. Senator Williams - will communication come out as work is set to begin in each building?
    a) We work with building coordinators, who should then communicate out to building occupants

VI. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
- A. Executive Committee – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
    1. FSM-25-26-6 Motion to welcome Dr. Patterson on the Occasion of his Investiture as the 15th President of Murray State University
        a) FS President seeks unanimous consent
            (1) Approved without objection
    2. FSH-25-26-7 - HB 490 alignment
        a) FS President seeks motion to suspend the rules to allow to be read on the floor
            (1) Senator Horton moved, Senator Terracina-Hartman seconded the motion
            (2) Senator Post asks if the intention is to bring this for a vote in May?
                (a) Intention is not to move that quickly. The intent from Exec was to not have a first reading at the May meeting, which falls during finals week
            (3) Vote to suspend the rules
                (a) Yay 27
                (b) Nay 0
                (c) Abstain 0
            (4) Discussion

(a) FS President Bordeiri provided overview of HB 490, and what carefully crafting a policy represents
(b) Policy draft is brought forward as a starting point to help us address constraints of an October deadline
(c) Every Senate subcommittee should meet this month to discuss the policy draft to help capture as much broad feedback as possible
(d) Listening sessions: April 10, April 15, April 16
(e) Open drafting session: April 21
(f) Senator Powell invited forward to provide a framework
    (i) Powerpoint shared, which will be posted online
(g) Discussion
    (i) Senator Beckers - what happens if a future president ignores this policy
        (a) It's a tricky question. We can only hope that a president, board follows the policies laid out in the handbook. Specificity in the policy with clear guardrails helps
    (ii) Senator Panchuk - Question about the stipulation about faculty separated have priority for future hiring. Can we have a provision to bar the university from enacting policy to wipe a program, we have a wait a certain amount of time
    (iii) Senator Terracina-Hartman - what is the window to bring back a suspended program?
        (a) Associate Provost Fister - 5 years to reinstate without going to process that mirrors instituting a new program
    (iv) Senator Stemke - impact on students, e.g. teachout?
    (v) Senator Joyce - encourage sabbaticals or furloughs rather than jumping directly to dismissal
    (vi) Senator Pryor - restoring faculty at the same tenure status? Would they have to start over?

(vii) Senator Irvin - There is a disconnect between the way HB 490 is written and the way academia functions

(viii) Senator Horton - long term strategy - pursue opportunities to talk with faculty leadership at other public institutions in KY

VII. Reports
   A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
      1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
         a) Pause on promotion from associate to full - need to engage Promotion and Leave Committee, Provost, and other constituent groups
      2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
         a) Done with discussions on discounting practices for now
         b) Exploring strategies to promote low cost benefits that could promote faculty retention
      3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
         a) Bills continue to be monitored
         b) Session concludes Apr 15, 2026
      4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
         a) Committee has been working in tandem with Academic Policies on associate to professor promotion
      5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
         a) Stephen B. White Shared Governance Award
            (1) Jan Super
            (2) Barbie Papajeski
      6. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
         a) PTR departmental guidelines are due Apr 15, 2026
   B. Other Committees
      1. Budget Advisory Committee
         a) Senator Guse - most recent meeting went well. It was a good meeting, and feeling good about forward direction
         b) Regent ZeRuth - transparency has been welcomed
         c) President Patterson - There will be a budget advisory committee meeting before the April 28 town hall meeting
      2. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits
         a) Insurance plan design continues
      3. Senator Powell - AI task force met last week, and they are close to the end of producing a guiding document

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business
   A. Senator Panchuck - UCW has an active campaign going, and folks are gathering for drinks at TAP 216 immediately following the Senate Meeting

X. Adjourn

A. FS President Bordieri sought unanimous consent to adjourn at 5:08 PM

Organizational Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026
3:30 – 5:00 pm
Curris Center Barkley Room

I. Call to Order
   A. FS President Michael Bordiericalled the meeting to order at 3:31 PM
II. Welcome and Sign-in
   A. The following were in attendance: FS President Michael Bordieri, FS Vice President Heidi Ortega, FS Secretary Brian Bourke, Senators Najib Sahyoun, Thomas Powell, ZB Smetana, Oliver Beckers, Shri Singh, Jessica Pryor, Landon Clark, Ash Stemke, Faris Sahawneh, Kelly Taylor, Jeff Henry, Alison Brown, Jonathan Lyon, Jenifer Hart, Eran Guse, Michelle Panchuk, Michael Busby, Ben Post, David Pizzo, Shauna Mullins, Melburn Dayton, Jenilee Williams, Thomas Crawford, Brie LaJaret, Chris Trzepacz, Marcie Venter, Aaron Irvin, and Melanie McCallan Seib
III. Approval of Minutes
   A. Motion by Senator Pizzo, Second by Senator Sahawneh
      1. Approved with unanimous consent
IV. Report from the Chair, Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
   A. FS President Michael Bordierishared updates about the final approval by President Patterson of FSR-25-26-4 and FSH-25-26-5, the latter is routed to the BoR for final approval.
   B. Appointments approved with unanimous consent:
      1. Fac/Staff Degree Agreements Working Group
         a) Senator Michael Busby
      2. Performance Funding Working Group
         a) Senator Faris Sahawneh
   C. Senate Year in Review
      1. Policy
         a) All completed major policy initiatives put forth have been approved
         b) One pending policy, bona fide financial reasons, is progressing
      2. Representation
         a) Senate has been represented in places where meaningful decisions are made, including key search committees, along with several working groups and tasks forces
      3. Institutional Leadership
         a) Across all committees, work has been undertaken to solve problems and keep moving forward
V. Recognition Ceremony – Faculty Senate Certificates & Cords
   A. FS President Michael Bordieri presented a certificate of appreciation to the following Senators whose terms are ending and are leaving the Faculty Senate:

        1. Erica Brown, Barbie Papajeski, Elana Pichech, Susan Miller, Amanda Joyce, Megan Smetana
    B. Cords were presented to all new Senators.

VI. Distinguished Guests
    A. Office of the Provost
        1. Associate Provost Renee Fister - Thank you for work now that we're here at the end of the year. We need help with managing parking for Commencement. Budget information is being finalized.
            a) Question from Senator Williams - is summer compensation the same this year? Yes, and paid from Academic Affairs.

VII. Action Items --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
    A. Executive Committee – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
        1. Second Reading: FSH 25-26-7 Dismissal for Bona Fide Financial Reasons (pdf)
            a) Discussion - Carol Terracina-Hartman - Question about the 30 dismissal window? This comes directly from the HB 490. FSH 25-26-7 puts forth a 12 month notice period of dismissal
        2. Vote: FSM 25-26-8 Motion to Endorse Guiding Principles and Authorize Continued Development of FSH-25-26-7 (pdf)
            a) Motion Senator Powell, Second Senator Sahawneh
                (1) Question from Senator Irvin - shares concern about the way low enrollment has not been defined.
                    (a) FS President Bordieri shared efforts to avoid strict definitions of metrics
            b) Vote Y 25 N 1 A 0

VIII. Faculty Senate Appointments
    A. University Committee on Naming of Facilities, Programs and Activities (one recommendation; one-year term)
        1. VP Heidi Ortega
            a) Appointed by acclamation

IX. Faculty Senate Elections
    A. At-Large Members of the Executive Committee (three positions; one-year terms)
        1. Melanie McCallon Seib
        2. Chris Trzepacz
        3. Faris Sahawneh
            a) All three appointed by acclamation
    B. Faculty Senate Representative to Academic Council (one position; three-year term)
        1. Alison Brown
            a) Appointed by acclamation
    C. Budget Advisory Committee (one position; three-year term)
        1. Eran Guse
            a) Appointed by acclamation
    D. Parking Services Advisory Committee (one position; three-year term)

1. Thomas Powell
    a) Appointed by acclamation

X. Faculty Senate Meetings 2025-2026 Schedule
    A. Approved by unanimous consent

XI. Reports
    A. Faculty Senate Standing Committees
        1. Academic Policies – Chair, David Pizzo
            a) Policy for promotion to full professor
        2. Finance – Chair, Eran Guse
            a) Look at changing policy for tuition reimbursement for family members, compensation, other low-cost items
        3. Governmental Affairs – Chair, Thomas Powell
            a) Tracks policies that affect faculty, particularly in Frankfort
        4. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
            a) Take care of all things handbook
        5. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
            a) Most of the work is around elections, which take place in the spring semester
        6. Executive – Faculty Senate President, Michael Bordieri
            a) Serves as the agenda-setting body
            b) Administrator evaluations were recently completed
                (1) 17% response rate of the President
                (2) Lower engagement across department chair evaluations
                    (a) 15 chairs did not receive a sufficient number of responses to report results
            c) Carol Terracina-Hartman - have you ever thought about adding a communications committee to the Senator?
            d) Senator Mullins - how many chairs are there?
                (1) Around 30
            e) Senator Williams - be explicit about the purpose and use of the evaluation, who sees the information
    B. Other Committees
        1. Budget Advisory Committee
        2. Presidential Task Force and Policy and Procedure
            a) Creating a centralized list (e.g. policy mall) of all policies and procedures
        3. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits
            a) Working over the summer on finalizing a plan
        4. Parking Advisory
            a) Last meeting of semester was cancelled

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XIV. Adjourn

A. Motion Senator Pizzo Second Sahawneh
B. Adjourned at 4:54 PM

XV. Subcommittee Meetings and Chair Elections followed Adjournment