



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

April 2025 Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved at the 5/4/2025 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Curris Center Barkley Room

Public Access Zoom link: <https://murraystate.zoom.us/j/83844364068>

Senators in attendance: Oliver Beckers, Michael Bordieri, Brian Bourke, Alison Brown, Erica Brown, Michael Busby, Paul Foote, Stephanie Ford, Eran Guse, Marhsall Hayes, Jeff Genry, Amanda Joyce, Samer Khalil, Jonathan Lyon, Susan Miller, Shauna Mullins, Naveen Musunuru, Braun Oldenkamp, Heidi Ortega, Barbie Papajeski, Elena Picech, David Pizzo, Jessica Pryor, Thomas Powell, Brenda Reeves, Selise Ridolfi, David Roach, Faris Sahawneh, Cintia Segovia Figueroa, Shri Singh, Megan Smetana, Ken Sutrick, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Jenilee Williams, and Abdul Yarali.

Special Guests: Leon Owens, Chair, Board of Regents; Melony Schemberger, Faculty Regent; Bob Jackson, University President; Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Jordan Smith, Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs, and Ashley Ireland, Assistant Provost.

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Welcome and Sign-in
- 3) Approval of Minutes. Motion by Senator Pizzo to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Sahawneh. Minutes approved by 31 yes and 0 no votes.
- 4) Faculty Senate Officer Elections--- Senator Susan Miller
 1. Senator Miller announced the nomination of Senator Michael Bordieri for faculty senate president, Senator Heidi Ortega for faculty senate vice-president, and Senator Brian Bourke for faculty senate secretary. Senator Miller made an open call from the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, she made a motion to elect by acclamation, which was seconded by Senator Carol Terracina-Hartman. The slate of officers was approved by acclamation: 31 yes and 0 no votes.
- 5) Stephen B. White Award for Shared Governance --- Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Vice President Heidi Ortega announced and read brief statements in support of the following candidates for the Stephen B. White Award: Associate Provost K. Renee Fister, Senate President David Roach, and Former Faculty Senator and Chair of the Finance committee Jan Super.
 - b. Vote: Secret ballot --- current senators, including incumbent officers, voted for the award. The recipient will be announced at the Faculty Recognition Banquet held later this month.
- 6) Distinguished Guests
 - (i) Chair of Board of Regents, Leon Owens.
 1. Chair Owens thanked the senate, Regent Shemberger, President Jackson and all faculty for their service to Murray State.

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Faculty Senate

(ii) University President, Bob Jackson

1. President Jackson thanked President Roach for his service as faculty senate president since 2019 and presented him with a limited-edition portrait of the Jesse D. Jones clocktower in appreciation of his service. President Jackson also presented pens made from the reclaimed wood of the Oakhurst Heirloom Hickory tree that fell in 2019 to other senate officers. President Jackson thanked regent Owens and Shemberger and thanked the senate. He shared that this will be his last senate meeting before his retirement.
2. President Jackson thanked faculty for their service to the institution, and especially for their efforts to welcome prospective students on campus. President Jackson provided an update on SB 77, which allows for the proposal for the School of Veterinary Medicine to move forward. He also shared that a collaboration with the University of Louisville Medical school is moving forward, along with efforts to expand transfer access for community college students. He provided an update on capital improvements, including last Friday's groundbreaking of the new learning commons, progress on the school of nursing and health professions building, and planning for the new veterinary sciences building. President Jackson announced the successful completion of the centennial campaign with over \$102 million raised. President Jackson announced the formation of an internal taskforce to move forward with the school of veterinary medicine proposal co-chaired by Dean Brian Parr and Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs Jordan Smith. He shared that SB 77 contains guardrails regarding enrollment, graduation, and financial health, and indicated that Murray State meets all of these requirements. President Jackson discussed HB 4 (DEI bill) and indicated that meetings are ongoing to prepare for compliance with this law. President Jackson also discussed HB 424 and indicated that he has had discussions with President Roach regarding recommendations from the Senate.

(iii) Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, Jordan Smith

1. Assistant Vice President Smith thanked the senate for communication with him of faculty concerns and opinions regarding legislation. He shared that we are very fortunate to have had a university president who is a former state senator, and that the positive relationship matters and helps strengthen Murray State. Assistant Vice President Smith also thanked the senate for their resolution of unanimous support for the school of veterinary medicine.

(iv) Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tim Todd

1. Provost Todd thanked the senate for their work and their positive relationship with his office.

(v) Faculty Regent, Melony Shemberger

1. Regent Shemberger thanked the other distinguished guests for their attendance and noted that their attendance and engagement is a good reminder that we are all on the same team. She also took the time to congratulate the nominees for the Stephen B. White award, sharing that she believes that they are all deserving of the award. Regent Shemberger shared that at the recent board meeting Chair Owens stated that the board is "not in the business of evaluating faculty," and that it may be helpful to keep this in mind as we navigate HB 424. She shared a brief update from yesterday's budget advisory



Faculty Senate

meeting, indicating that some of the budget remains uncertain pending tuition rates approvals and performance funding metrics. She also shared that contingent on positive budget conditions, the budget may include up to 2% COLA adjustments, phase 2 of the Evergreen compensation review salary adjustments, and \$1,000 increases to the associate and full professor promotion awards. She also shared that the insurance and benefits committee will meet Friday.

- 7) Agenda Update and Rulings from the Chair --- President of the Faculty Senate, David Roach
 - (i) President Roach offered a special recognition for President Bob Jackson, declaring, with unanimous consent, that he is “the finest President we known.”
 - (ii) President Roach offered the following rulings from the chair.
 1. An FSR or FSH returned to the Senate as a “Revise and Resubmit” will be assigned to the Executive Committee for possible revisions and be eligible for a vote at the next regular Senate meeting provided it was approved for the agenda.
 2. The President of the Faculty Senate is charged with forwarding any Senate-approved FSR's to the Provost and working towards securing a response from the Provost in a timely fashion. If an FSR is approved by the Provost, a similar process is employed with the President of the University. This protocol is established by the FS President under the oversight of the Senate as a whole on an annual basis.
 3. President Roach called an emergency Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday April 22, 2025, to finalize the draft resolutions FSH 24-25-9 and FSH 24-25-10 in addition to our regular meeting on April 29, 2025. Both meetings are open to the public as part of the Open-Meetings Act.
 4. President Roach appointed Faculty Senate President Elect Michael Bordieri chair of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, effective as of the conclusion of this meeting.
- 8) Reports--- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - (i) Academic Policies –Chair, Brian Bourke
 - a. Senator Bourke shared that he did not meet with Provost Todd regarding FSR 24-25-1 at the request of President Roach. He also shared that his committee continues to explore a policy to improve transparency of tenure and promotion communications across the university.
 - (ii) Finance –Chair, Brenda Reeves
 - a. Senator Reeves shared that this will be her last meeting as she is retiring. Senator Sutrick shared that a COLA report is forthcoming, and that the committee continues to engage in advocacy for increased COLA. Senator Reeves shared that a promotion raise increase recommendation was made, and President Roach shared that the recommendation has been shared with the administration through the budget advisory committee. Senator Beckers asked if there are any plans for COLA to be adjusted to actual inflation. Senator Reeves shared that the finance committee is charged only with reporting concerns as information for the senate and budget advisory committee representative to consider.
 - (iii) Governmental Affairs – Secretary of Senate, Michael Bordieri



Faculty Senate

- a. Senator Bordieri shared an update on major legislative accomplishments (SB 77) and challenges (HB 4; HB 424). He thanked Assistant Vice President Jordan Smith for his engagement with faculty concerns, and stated that he looks forward to an ongoing partnership with the administration as we work to implement the provisions of HB 4 and HB 424 in a manner that respects academic freedom and protects tenure. Senator Bordieri also shared that 2025 administrator evaluations of chairs, deans, the Provost, and the President will be open Wednesday (4/9) through Friday (4/18). He requested that senators encourage their departmental colleagues to participate in the process, indicating that this feedback is an important component of shared government.
- (iv) Handbook and Personnel –Chair, Michael Busby
 - a. Senator Busby reported that his committee continues to explore classification of instructors within the handbook, and indicated that the effort will continue in the fall. He also shared that he has solicited feedback from current instructors to help inform policy revisions. Senator Busby also shared that he is looking at peer policies to help identify best practices.
- (v) Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Vice President Ortega requested that senators pay close attention to open nominations and consider nominating themselves or colleagues for these important service roles. She shared that her committee has received nomination petitions for four candidates for Faculty Regent: Dr. Abdul Yarali, Dr. Gary ZeRuth, Dr. Brie LaJeret, and Dr. David Roach. Each candidate was given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves to the Senate. Brief biographies prepared by the candidates will be posted on the senate website and an open forum with the candidates will be announced for later this month.
- (vi) Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - 1. Vote: FSR-24-25-1 --- Promotion Path for Instructors(revised)
 - a. President Roach explained that the core intent of the resolution remains creating a promotion pathway for instructors, indicating that revisions were made to the justification section by the executive committee. Senator Busby asked for clarification regarding whether this draft is a first reading or a second reading. President Roach clarified that this is a revised reading of a resolution previously approved by the Senate and is up for a vote. Senator Sahawneh spoke in favor of the resolution. Senator Powell asked for a summary of what changes were made. President Roach provided a brief summary of changes, including revisions to mirror the review and approval process used for tenured faculty, to clarify that promotion raises would not be retroactive, and to allow for a phased implementation. The revised resolution was approved: 26 yes, 4 no, and 1 abstention.
 - 2. Draft: FSH24-25-9 ---Annual Evaluation of Faculty & Post-Tenure Review
 - 3. Draft: FSH 24-25-10 --- Enhancing Faculty Development and Recognition
 - a. President Roach provided a brief overview of the handbook revision and resolution. He shared that the spirit of these resolutions is to protect faculty. Senator Bordieri provided an overview of the process to discuss and revise this policy during April,



Faculty Senate

including three open listening sessions, an anonymous feedback form on the faculty senate website, meetings with stakeholder groups, and an executive committee open drafting session to revise the policy on Tuesday, April 22 from 3:30-5:00pm in Wells 118.

9) Other University Committees

(i) Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits

1. Senator Pizzo shared that the next meeting is later this week.

(ii) University Budget Advisory Committee

1. Senator Pizzo shared that the next meeting is on April 28, with a budget townhall to follow.

(iii) Announcement of Listening Sessions concerning PTR:

1. All session held in the Curris Center Ohio Room and on Zoom:

<https://murraystate.zoom.us/j/83844364068>

- a. Friday, April 4 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- b. Tuesday, April 8 | 3:30 – 4:30 PM
- c. Thursday, April 17 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

10) Old Business

11) New Business

- (i) Senator Mullins expressed a concern that senior instructors don't believe they are eligible to vote in shared governance elections. Faculty senate leadership and the faculty regent clarified that any election where instructors are eligible to vote also includes senior instructors.

12) Adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 5:10pm.