



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

February 2025 Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved at the 3/4/2025 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 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, Chad Gaylord, Eran Guse, Jenifer Hart proxy for Marshall Hayes, Brian Clardy proxy for Ray Horton, Amanda Joyce, Samer Khalil, Jonathan Lyon, Susan Miller, Shauna Mullins, Naveen Musunuru, Braun Oldenkamp, Heidi Ortega, Barbie Papajeski, Jeremy Phillips, Elena Picech, Jessica Pryor, Thomas Powell, Brenda Reeves, Selise Ridolfi, David Roach, Faris Sahawneh, Cintia Segovia Figueroa, Megan Smetana, Ken Sutrick, Carol Terracina-Hartman, and Jenilee Williams.

Special Guests: Melony Schemberger, Faculty Regent; Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Katy Hancock, Council of Chairs Co-chair; Ashely Ireland, Assistant Provost; Camela Ramey, Academic Budget Coordinator.

- I. Call to Order by President Roach at 3:31pm
- II. Welcome and Sign-in
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - Senator Bourke made a motion to approve the December 2024 minutes, seconded by Senator Carol Terracina-Hartman. The minutes were approved by vote: 28 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.
- IV. Agenda Update --- President of the Faculty Senate, David Roach
 - President Roach provided a brief update on the priorities and progress of senate committees. President Roach also announced that elections for faculty senate officers will be held in April, 2025 and solicited volunteers to serve on an ad hoc election committee. Senators Susan Miller, Oliver Beckers, Jessica Pryor, and Cintia Segovia Figueroa volunteered to serve on the committee. Senator Guse asked for a rationale for why officers are selected only from current senators. President Roach and Vice president Ortega provided information regarding the recent constitutional change and noted that the intention of the change was to ensure institutional continuity of the senate. President Roach also discussed a scenario whereby a newly elected senator could be nominated as a senate officer if a certain set of conditions were met.
 - President Roach announced that he will not be seeking re-election as faculty senate president and announced his candidacy for faculty regent. He stated that he will recuse himself from all planning and oversight of the regent election conducted by the rules, election, and bylaws subcommittee of the Senate.
- V. Distinguished Guests
 - Faculty Regent, Melony Shemberger
 - Regent Shemberger shared that the President search is ongoing and that interviews with semi-finalist will be held in the coming weeks. Senator Beckers asked for the number of semi-finalists and Regent Shemberger shared that there

murraystate.edu



Faculty Senate

are 11 semi-finalists. Senator Beckers expressed a preference for a president with teaching experience. Regent Shemberger stated that she and Dr. Daniel Wann, the faculty representative to the search, have both expressed that teaching experience is an important quality.

VI. Senator Spotlight

- Senator Carol Terracina-Hartman introduced herself to the senate and shared highlights from her personal and professional history as a journalist, academic, and avid animal lover.

VII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Policies – Chair, Brian Bourke

- a. Senator Bourke indicated that there is no report. President Roach stated that FSM 24-25-1 Promotion Path for Instructors is still under review by the Provost.

B. Finance – Chair, Brenda Reeves

- a. Vote FSM 24-25-4: Faculty Salary Increases for Promotion. Senator Reeves introduced the motion and provided a rationale for minor changes to the recommended promotion amounts previously discussed in the senate. She highlighted that the requested promotion amounts are \$6,000 (up from \$3,000) for associate and \$9,000 (up from \$6,000) for full professor. President Roach opened the floor for discussion. Senator Foote asked about the anticipated 10 year cost and Senator Reeves indicated that such an analysis was not conducted. Senator Beckers asked when are we hoping it will be effective and whether it will be retroactive. President Roach indicated that promotion amount adjustments will not be retroactive and the requested implementation is for the current promotion cycle. Vice President Ortega clarified that this item is a request, and that while the administration has expressed a willingness to consider the request it is not guaranteed. Senator Foote shared that Eastern Kentucky University is currently adjusting promotion amounts to account for inflation. Senator Guse recommended that the full professor promotion include an inflation adjustment as an added incentive. Senator Reeves indicated that a CPI adjustment analysis was conducted to support the current request. Senator Guse expressed that he is worried that this request may close the door to other budget priorities, including a potential COLA adjustment. Senator Beckers expressed that he does not believe one priority should be at the cost of the other and a lively discussion ensued. Senator Reeves stated that she believes that recruitment and retention are vital to the institution moving forward, and that this request helps advance this priority. President Roach called a vote. The motion passed: 29 yes, 1 no, 2 abstains.
- b. Senator Reeves shared that there will not be a faculty engagement survey this year and that a survey may be administered next fall. Senator Reeves also shared that she has requested details regarding faculty and staff turnover from HR but has not received information beyond what was publicly reported to the board. She also shared that the committee continues to explore the potential for an ombudsperson.

C. Governmental Affairs – Secretary of Senate, Michael Bordieri

- a. Senator Bordieri provided an update on recent state legislative activity, noting that the legislative session reconvenes today. He also noted that recent changes at the federal level are of concern to many faculty, and that the committee continues to



Faculty Senate

work to better understand the potential impact to better inform our advocacy. Secretary Bordieri shared that the committee remains committed to advocating for academic freedom and support for all members of our campus community. He also highlighted the proposed legislation to allow Murray State University to establish a school of veterinary medicine as an advocacy priority.

- D. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
 - a. Senator Busby shared that efforts to integrate instructor and senior instructors within the ranked classification in the handbook remain ongoing.
- E. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Vice President Ortega reminded faculty of the open call for board of regent teaching award nominations through February 10th and Stephen B. White award nominations through March 31st. She shared that the call for nominations for faculty regent will occur in early March with forums, an election, and a run-off election (if needed) to be held in April. Vice President Ortega also reminded senators that department and at-large elections will occur in April. Senator Bourke asked what platform will be used for the election. Vice President Ortega stated that she believes it will be Vote Net and she will confirm and report back.
- F. Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - a. Vote FSM 24-25-5: Summer Compensation Task Force Endorsement. President Roach introduced the task force endorsement stating that he believes it was an effective exercise in shared governance. President Roach also acknowledged and thanked special guests in attendance who were on the task force, including the taskforce chair Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Katy Hancock, Council of Chairs Co-chair; and Camela Ramey, Academic Budget Coordinator.
 - b. President Roach introduced an amendment to add the following whereas clause to the motion: “Whereas, the recommendation removes coops and internships from the summer school model and encourages the colleges/schools to re-envision compensation plans that cover these important opportunities for our students” and it was seconded by Senator Sahawneh. Senator Bourke expressed a concern that ending funding for internships and co-ops could limit important course offerings and faculty compensation. President Roach highlighted that the summer school recommendation allows for individual course consideration. A lively discussion regarding the amendment ensued. President Roach clarified that the amendment is not to the taskforce recommendations and is instead intended to ensure that the endorsement motion fully summarizes the taskforce recommendations. Associate Provost Fister provided the senate with clarification regarding the rationale for allowing chairs and deans to request that specific internship/coop courses be covered within the summer teaching model. Senator Lyon asked about the timeline for revisiting these recommendations. Associate Provost Fister clarified that the ongoing review process will allow for future adjustments. With unanimous consent, President Roach amended the pending amendment to read: “Whereas, the recommendation removes coops and internships from the summer school model and encourages the colleges/schools to re-envision compensation plans that cover these important opportunities for our students unless agreed upon with the Provost’s office to include the



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

coop/internship in the summer school teaching model.” Vice president Ortega called a vote on the amendment. The amendment passed 31 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions. President Roach called for discussion on the full motion and hearing none called a vote. The motion passed 31 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.

VIII. Other University Committees

- A. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee
 - a. Regent Shemberger shared that there was no additional report beyond what she provided in her recent faculty regent email update.
- B. University Budget Advisory Committee
 - a. President Roach reported that the budget is not ready but that preliminary discussions have been held.
- C. Faculty and Staff Leadership Council
 - a. President Roach reported that President Jackson recently called a meeting of the leadership council to provide updates and engage in dialogue regarding core institutional priorities.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- SFR 24-25-6: Supporting the Establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine was introduced by Senator Powell and seconded by Senator Bordieri. President Roach clarified the nature of the special resolution, stating that it can be considered without the need for a drafting period. President Powell provided a rationale for the special resolution and spoke in favor the school of veterinary medicine proposal. Senator Clardy spoke in support of this resolution and indicated that he believes that it will be good for our region. Senator Guse asked a question regarding the economic feasibility and cost of the program. Senator Powell shared that the results of the recent feasibility assessment revealed that the program is anticipated to generate revenue by year five under moderate enrollment assumptions. Senator Beckers asked if this proposed program would impact our institution’s NSF primary undergraduate university (PUI) status. Secretary Bordieri replied that he did not believe so but that he would look into it and report back to Senator Beckers. Regent Shemberger spoke in favor of the special resolution and shared that the agriculture commissioner has expressed support for the school of veterinary medicine. President Roach called a vote: The special resolution passed unanimously 31 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions.
- Senator Foote shared that Murray State University is hosting the Kentucky Political Science Association on February 28th and March 1st. He requested that faculty encourage students to attend and consider having their students submit relevant research for presentation.

XI. Adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:10pm.