



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

March 2025 Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved at the 4/1/2025 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, March 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, Brian Clardy proxy for Ray Horton, 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, Megan Smetana, Ken Sutrick, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Jenilee Williams, and Abdul Yarali.

Special Guests: Melony Schemberger, Faculty Regent and Renee Fister, Associate Provost

- I. Call to Order by President Roach at 3:31pm
- II. Welcome and Sign-in
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - Senator Guse made a motion to approve the February 2024 minutes, seconded by Senator Pizzo. The minutes were approved by vote: 27 yes, 0 no, an indeterminant number of abstentions.
- IV. Agenda Update --- President of the Faculty Senate, David Roach
 - President Roach shared that we are navigating challenging times and noted that the governmental affairs subcommittee will provide a more detailed update. President Roach also welcomed faculty to engage in private advocacy and highlighted a recent email from Ray Horton as an example of effective advocacy. President Roach noted that it is important for faculty to use personal emails and phones when engaged in private advocacy.
 - President Roach provided an update on FSM 24-25-1 Promotion Path for Instructors, sharing that the provost has requested revisions to the proposal.
 - President Roach also shared that work to better integrate instructors within the handbook continues, but that the work will likely require more substantial revisions across chapter 2 of the handbook. He also shared that because of the extensive nature of the revisions required the proposal would likely not come forward until the next academic year.
- V. Distinguished Guests
 - Faculty Regent, Melony Shemberger
 - Regent Shemberger shared that Racer Nation Orientations registrations and scholarship applications are up compared to the same time last year while housing applications are slightly down. She also cautioned that these numbers are preliminary and will change. Senator Beckers asked for the timeline on the presidential search. Regent Shemberger shared that the committee is waiting for the call for a special board meeting, which will be announced in accordance with open meeting laws. She reported that faculty feedback in

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Faculty Senate

extremely important and that she appreciates faculty taking the time to provide feedback on each candidate. Senator Segovia Figueroa asked how the feedback will be used to inform the president search committee. Regent Shemberger reported that all members of the search committee will be provided with all the feedback.

VI. Senator Spotlight

- Senator Michael Busby introduced himself to the senate and shared highlights from his personal and professional history.

VII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Policies – Chair, Brian Bourke

- a. Senator Bourke reported that academic policies has been exploring language modifications to improve communication paths for tenure and promotion candidates. Senator Bourke shared that he requested a meeting with Provost Todd to gain feedback on the instructor promotion policy draft.

B. Finance – Chair, Brenda Reeves

- a. Senator Reeves reminded senators that the committee has been focused on priorities identified in the 2023-2024 faculty engagement survey. She shared that some of the items have been enacted, including the recommendation to increase faculty promotion amounts recently shared with the administration via the budget advisory committee. Senator Reeves reported that the committee has received only limited information from human resources regarding faculty turnover. Senator Reeves noted that efforts to improve faculty resources for grievances and policy concerns has recently involved discussions with the provost office to enhance resources for faculty professional development in this area. Senator Pizzo asked about resources for staff, and Senator Reeves shared that the current efforts from her committee are focused on faculty. Senator Reeves reported that the committee's final major priority is increasing faculty input on recruitment efforts, and recommended that the senate increase engagement in this area. Senator Bordieri shared that all funding proposals submitted by faculty to the president's office for recruitment and retention efforts received at least some funding. Senator Clardy offered some recommendations for questions to guide the senate's inquiry, including a focus on best practices and outcomes. President Roach clarified that the president's initiative was based on department-level submissions, allowing faculty expertise to guide specific recruitment and retention activities within our respective disciplines.

C. Governmental Affairs – Secretary of Senate, Michael Bordieri

- a. Senator Bordieri provided a committee update on recent state legislative activity, noting that today is day 21 of 30 of the legislative session. He briefly updated the faculty on the status of pending legislation, including HB 4 (DEI restrictions), HB 424 (performance and productivity requirements for faculty), and HB 499 (School of Veterinary Medicine proposal). In addition, he briefly discussed to ongoing changes and challenges at the federal level. Senator Bordieri shared that the administration, including President Jackson and Assistant Vice President Smith had been engaged in frequent advocacy in Frankfort, including direct discussions on major bills of concern. He highlighted recent changes to HB 4, including the removal of the proposed private right of action and waiver of sovereign immunity,



Faculty Senate

as examples of successful advocacy. Senator Bordieri also shared information as to how faculty can effectively engage in advocacy as private citizens should they desire to. Senator Foote asked about the likelihood the HB 424 is passed by the Senate and senator Bordieri replied that we will know by mid-next week whether passage likely. Senator Beckers asked about the any objections to the school of veterinary medicine proposal and Senator Bordieri replied that a recent feasibility study conducted as part of SJR 170 was favorable. Senator Oldenkamp asked about why the post-tenure review policy discussed last year was stopped. Senator Bordieri clarified that the draft policy is still accessible and that the senate is poised to continue to work on refinements should it be necessary. Senator Oldenkamp also asked whether our institutional accreditation requires a post-tenure review policy. Senator Bordieri clarified that the SACSCOC calls for regular review of all faculty, and that our current annual evaluation policy applies to all faculty.

- 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. He elaborated that his committee has recently obtained information from the provost office and human resources to guide their work, and that additional time is needed for this complex effort.
- E. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Vice President Ortega shared that nominations for the faculty regent are open with details sent to all faculty via email on 3/4/25. She also shared that nominations for the Stephen B White award are open until 3/28. Finally, she reported that nominations for faculty senator officers will be sent on 3/10 and will be overseen by the ad hoc officer election committee. Elections for officers will be held at the April Senate meeting (4/1).
- F. Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - a. President Roach shared that the senate will need to work quickly on the draft post-tenure review policy should HB 424 become law. He also shared that the provost has continued to give the senate the charge to develop a faculty driven review policy should HB 424 become law. President Roach also shared that Regent Shemberger led a delegation with faculty senate officers with all four presidential finalists to discuss their approaches towards and commitment to shared governance.

VIII. Other University Committees

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- Senator Bourke shared that staff congress sent a ranked-voting survey to all staff asking for their input on presidential candidates and made a motion for faculty senate to do the same. Senator Pizzo seconded the motion. Secretary Bordieri recommended that the senate engage in such a survey only after consultation with HR. A Motion to consult with HR prior to launching a survey was approved with unanimous consent.

XI. Adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:09pm.