



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate

### October 2025 Regular Senate Meeting Minutes

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?

[murraystate.edu](http://murraystate.edu)



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate

- (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



## Faculty Senate

- 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