



## Faculty Senate

### September 2025 Senate Regular Meeting 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

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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



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- 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



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- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



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- 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