

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents
Murray State University
Friday, January 23, 2026**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, January 23, 2026, in Special Session in Room 118, Wells Hall on the Murray State University campus. Chair Robbie Fitch called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and welcomed those joining the meeting in person and via ZOOM/livestream. Secretary Jill Hunt called the roll and the following Board members were present: Andy Belcher, Robbie Fitch, Ali Khatib (via ZOOM), David Meinschein, G. L. Ovey, Leon Owens (via ZOOM), Matthew Price, Emily Roark (via ZOOM), Tom Waldrop (via ZOOM), David Wilson, and Gary ZeRuth. Absent: none.

Participants in the meeting were: Ron K. Patterson, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations, and Secretary to the Board; Dr. Bob Pervine, Senior Associate Provost; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President – Finance; Dr. Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Robert Miller, General Counsel; and other administrators and members of the University community; Information Technology staff; and members of the general public and media.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** **Chair Fitch**
2. **Roll Call** **Secretary Hunt**
3. **Committee Reports/Recommendations**
 - A. **Athletics Committee** **Chair Fitch**
 - 1) **Personnel Changes – Contract of Employment – Head Women’s Soccer Coach – Benjamin Madsen***
 - B. **Finance Committee** **Vice Chair Meinschein**
 - 1) **Personal Services Contracts – Bryanna Carroll Strategies and Enrollment Fuel***
4. **Policy Changes** **President Patterson**
 - A. ***Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution Revisions (second reading)****
5. **Personnel Changes** **President Patterson**
 - A. **Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Process Update (For Information Only)**
 - B. **Appointment of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services – Dr. Laura Foltz***
6. **Adjournment** **Chair Fitch**

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Committee Reports/Recommendations

Athletics Committee

Robbie Fitch – Chair
David Meinschein
Leon Owens
Matthew Price
Emily Roark

Athletics Chair Fitch called the Committee to order at 9:02 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Personnel Changes – Contract of Employment – Head Women’s Soccer Coach – Benjamin Madsen*

Chair Fitch reported that Ben Madsen is a former SEC and Big 12 Assistant Coach and highly-respected defensive mind that was announced as Murray State’s 5th Women’s Soccer Head Coach on December 23, 2025, pending Board of Regents approval. Coach Madsen, who spent the last 14 seasons on the sidelines at Auburn University, has guided his teams to eight NCAA Tournament appearances, including runs to the Sweet 16 and Elite 8. During his tenure at Auburn, he coached 16 All-SEC selections, including five First-Team selections, multiple Conference Players of the Year, All-Region selections and All-America selections. Coach Madsen brings in a wealth of knowledge and coaching relationships, and will continue the positive trajectory of the program as the team looks to compete for and win championships. In order to ensure consistency and to maintain competitive excellence with our Women’s Soccer program, a four-year contract for Coach Madsen is being recommended.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Dr. Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment for Mr. Ben Madsen, Head Women’s Soccer Coach, for the term January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029, as submitted. Mrs. Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Personnel Changes – Contract of Employment – Head Women’s Soccer Coach – Benjamin Madsen

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Dr. Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment for Mr. Ben Madsen, Head Women’s Soccer Coach, for the term January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029. Mr. Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #1)

Adjournment

The Athletics Committee adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Finance Committee

David Meinschein – Chair
Andy Belcher
Robbie Fitch
Leon Owens
Matthew Price

Finance Chair Meinschein called the Committee to order at 9:05 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Personal Services Contracts – Bryanna Carroll Strategies and Enrollment Fuel, approved

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that Item #11 of the Delegation of Authority stipulates that the Board: “...approve all Personal Services Contracts totaling more than \$50,000. The Board will be notified of all Personal Services Contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000 before they are submitted to the Legislative Research Commission. Upon review, individual Board members may request that these be held for approval at the next Board meeting.” The contracts on the listing provided require approval by the Board of Regents.

Regent Owens reported that he and Vice Chair Meinschein had an opportunity to meet and spend some time with Bryanna Carroll and believe she will do an outstanding job representing Murray

State and the University's interest in Frankfort and also in Washington, DC. Vice Chair Meinschein echoed that sentiment.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dr. Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the contracts as listed in the document provided – Bryanna Carroll Strategies for \$90,000 to provide legislative lobbyist services and Enrollment Fuel for \$52,750 to provide implementation and support services for Slate – as per requirements of Delegation of Authority (Item #11). Dr. Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts – Bryanna Carroll Strategies and Enrollment Fuel, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the contracts as listed in the attached document for Bryanna Carroll Strategies and Enrollment Fuel as per requirements of Delegation of Authority (Item #11).

In response to a question from Regent Waldrop, President Patterson provided clarification that this represents a 12-month contract and partnership between Murray State and Bryanna Carroll Strategies. This will get the University through the current Legislative Session and assist in preparation for Spring 2027. This also represents a fixed-price contract and does not replace the institution's relationship with Ronny Pryor of Capitol Solutions. Bryanna Carroll brings additional expertise to this work, as well as lobbyist relationships with legislative leaders in both the House and Senate. Ms. Carroll is a former Director of the Kentucky League of Cities, has been in Frankfort regularly, and resides in Lexington, Kentucky. She is on the ground in Frankfort daily and provides tremendous insight and value added to the team in terms of advocacy and championing for the University's legislative priorities but also for representing Murray State University well.

Regent Wilson requested additional information with regard to Enrollment Fuel and Slate. President Patterson reported that approximately three months ago the University embarked on a journey to enhance its student recruitment platform by transitioning to Slate (from Banner Recruit). Both platforms are being run in parallel as the transition is made. In doing so, the University requires additional support and Enrollment Fuel will help build the technological side of Slate for reports, crosswalks, and pathways. Enrollment Fuel will also set up the University's recruitment territories and communication strategies within the Slate platform. The University is unable to accomplish this work internally because it simply does not have the expertise required to make the transition. Among the three platforms considered, Enrollment Fuel was the most affordable. Enrollment Fuel is a highly respected partner within the recruitment and enrollment management space and profession.

Dr. Price seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #2)

Adjournment

The Finance Committee adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Policy Changes

Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution Revisions (second reading), approved

Chair Fitch reported that the current Constitution of the MSU Student Government Association (SGA) was reviewed last academic year by the Judicial Board to determine what the definition of a student was in relation to elections. The Judicial Board determined that the definition of a student eligible to vote in an SGA election was the same as a student eligible for SGA office (part-time enrollment status and above). The Judicial Board recommended that the Student

Senate review the SGA Constitution and provide clarification. The included Student Senate Bill (Bill 90-25-B1) was passed by the Senate unanimously on September 3, 2025, and by the student body by a plurality vote on September 17, 2025. This amendment will clarify voting eligibility to anyone taking a course at Murray State University, while excluding dual enrolled high school students, faculty, and staff.

The SGA Constitution currently does not require students to have any background or knowledge of student government before running for an executive officer position. The current SGA executive officers and Student Senate believe that it is important to have previous knowledge or involvement in a branch of SGA before running for an executive officer position. The included Student Senate Bill (Bill 90-25-B2) was passed by the Senate unanimously on October 29, 2025, and by the student body by a plurality vote on November 25, 2025. This amendment will require any student that wishes to run for SGA President/Student Regent and Executive Vice President to have one academic year of involvement in any branch of SGA to qualify for those positions. The amendment will also require one semester of SGA involvement for Vice President of Administration and Vice President of Student Connections.

Currently, the SGA Constitution specifies the four voting executive officer positions as the SGA President/Student Regent, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Administration, and Vice President of Finance. Over the last several years the Vice President of Finance role has decreased in the amount of responsibilities due to less cash transactions and increase of University financial responsibility standards. This includes requiring a staff member to approve all financial transactions and be named on a purchasing card. In order to evenly distribute responsibilities to all SGA Executive Officers and provide the best opportunities to students, the Vice President of Finance role was determined to be merged with the Vice President of Administration, and a new position – Vice President of Student Connections – created. The included Student Senate Bill (Bill 90-25-B3) which was passed unanimously by the Senate on October 29, 2025, and by the student body by a plurality vote on November 25, 2025. This amendment would merge the Vice President of Finance position with the Vice President of Administration role, while also creating the Vice President of Student Connections. This new role would work directly with Registered Student Organizations and campus recruitment events.

If the proposed SGA Constitution changes are approved by the Board of Regents, *Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution* – of the *Board of Regents Policy Manual* will need to be updated to reflect the revised Student Government Association Constitution.

Significant discussion followed and questions were answered by Student Regent and SGA President Khatib; SGA Vice President of Administration Maggie White; and Student Activities Coordinator Kade Gambill. Confirmation was provided that this action does not change the number of leadership roles available within the Executive Cabinet of the Student Government Association but instead enhances one officer position and restructuring of another. The revisions also require students to know more about the Student Government Association before being able to run for an Executive Cabinet officer position. In order to be able to run for an officer position, an individual would have to be on the SGA Roster in some capacity for one year. In order to run for one of the top two positions in SGA, a student would be required to provide one year of service in the Student Government Association. This service can include involvement in any of the executive branches of SGA – Judicial Board, Campus Activities Board, Residential College Association, or Student Senate – as many do not represent elected positions – such as a cabbie on the Campus Activities Board. Any cabbie would be able to run for the positions of Vice President of Administration or Vice President of Student Connections after one semester of service. After being a cabbie for an entire year, a student would be eligible to run for the positions of Executive Vice President or President. The policy change is not limited to students currently elected to a position but includes those who are willing to provide one year of service to SGA through involvement.

Dr. Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the changes to the Student Government Association Constitution as outlined in the attached document and approve the revision of the *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution* (second reading) – to reflect those changes. Dr. Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #3)

Personnel Changes

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Process Update, received

President Patterson provided an update to the Board of Regents regarding the search process for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position. The University conducted this search in parallel to the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services search last fall. The University was fortunate it was able to successfully identify its next Chief Financial Officer but was unfortunate in terms of being able to secure its next Provost. The search for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has been reopened utilizing the current Personal Services Contract in place with Greenwood Asher & Associates (GA&A). The process has already started and the Leadership Profile was released nationally on January 9, 2026. The Search Committee will continue as normal, and he was pleased these individuals were willing to continue serving the University in this important capacity. There is also a condensed timeline for the Provost search and the Committee held its first meeting yesterday. The recruitment process will continue over the next 30 days. Prospect review will commence February 9 and a meeting will be held the week of February 16 to discuss and identify candidates for the first round of interviews via ZOOM and finalist campus visits to occur March 2-4, 2026. It is hoped this search can be concluded by mid- to late-March.

This agenda item was submitted for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Appointment of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services – Dr. Laura Foltz, approved

Chair Fitch reported that Dr. Laura Foltz has been named Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services at Murray State University, subject to approval by the Board of Regents. Dr. Foltz brings 30 years of experience in fiscal management, operational improvement, and strategic transformation. Since 2013, she has served as Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration for Strategic Initiatives at the University of Tennessee at Martin, providing executive leadership with campus-wide fiscal initiatives and enterprise modernization.

Her responsibilities have included leading consultant engagement for the university's Master Plan, developing and evaluating auxiliary service bids, directing campus enterprise resource planning, training, and overseeing year-end closing entries. Dr. Foltz has been a campus expert and system liaison for policy, accreditation, and compliance. She has provided market analyses for tuition restructuring, building utilization for capital requests, capital funding rationale for new projects, and operations review for service units. Her professional experience includes serving as a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Accreditation Financial Reviewer, a member of the University of Tennessee Leadership Institute, as well as the Next Generation Chief Business Officer's Institute, and certification with the National Incident Management System. Dr. Foltz holds the Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University, both a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas, and is a Certified Management Accountant from the Institute of Management Accountants.

Mr. Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached employment agreement to hire Dr. Laura Foltz as Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, and to serve as Treasurer of the Board of Regents for Murray State University. Dr. Meinschein seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #4)

Regent Wilson expressed appreciation to the Campus Weather Preparedness Committee and the President for their work over the past few days to consider ways to keep the campus community – especially the students – safe. The administration made a quick decision which provided students with the ability to go home before the winter storm arrives if they chose to do so. President Patterson also expressed appreciation to the group – as many of those individuals are in this room today. Every time he asked the group to gather – including at 7 a.m. this morning –

they have responded with a willing spirit. The motto – Students First, Murray State University Always – has continued throughout the planning and decision-making process. The group will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone apprised over the next few days regarding next steps. Regent Wilson indicated that faculty and staff are also very appreciative for the action taken by the administration. President Patterson also expressed appreciation to the Board for their continued, unwavering support of the leadership and administration, the vision, and strategic planning all are embarking upon. Today represented a great day in hiring Dr. Foltz as the new Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services. The next step will be to secure a new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The leadership team will then be set for the next iteration of Murray State University over the next century.

Adjournment

Chair Fitch indicated there being no further business to come before the Board, he would entertain a motion that the Special Meeting adjourn. Mr. Ovey so moved, seconded by Dr. Meinschein, and the motion carried.

Adjournment of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents was at 9:35 a.m.



Jill Hunt
Secretary – Board of Regents



Robbie Fitch
Chair – Board of Regents

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