

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents
Murray State University
March 28, 2025**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, March 28, 2025, in Quarterly and Committee Session in the Hall of Benefactors in Heritage Hall on the Murray State University main campus. Chair Leon Owens called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those joining in person and via livestream. Secretary Jill Hunt called roll and the following Board members were present: Andy Belcher, Robbie Fitch, Brendan Hawkins, David Meinschein, G. L. Ovey, Leon Owens, Matt Price, Emily Roark, Melony Shemberger, Tom Waldrop and David Wilson. Absent: none.

Participants in the meeting were: Robert L (Bob) Jackson, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jackie Dudley, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer to the Board; Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Robert Miller, General Counsel; Bob Pervine, Senior Associate Provost; Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Ashley Ireland, Assistant Provost and Director for Online Learning; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President, Finance; Roslyn White, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management; Jordan Smith, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs; Tina Bernot, Executive Director of Advancement; Shawn Touney, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication; Courtney Hixon, Director of Human Resources; Stephanie Jennings, Director of Accounting and Financial Services; Annie Dukes, Internal Auditor; Jason Youngblood, Director of Facilities Management; Angela Lampe, Associate Director of Facilities Design-Construction; Academic Deans; faculty, staff and students; Information Technology specialists; news media and members of the general public.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair Owens

Roll Call

Secretary Hunt

Public Participation

Chair Owens

Consent Agenda

Chair Owens/President Jackson

A. Minutes

- 1) **Minutes of the Quarterly and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on December 13, 2024***
- 2) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on January 10, 2025***
- 3) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on January 31, 2025***
- 4) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on February 10, 2025***
- 5) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on February 11, 2025***
- 6) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on March 10, 2025***

B. Report of the Registrar (Winter 2024 Conferral of Degrees)*

C. Audit and Compliance Committee (For Information Only)

- 1) **Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report for Year-to-Date Ended December 31, 2024 (For Information Only)**

D. Finance Committee

- 1) **Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)**

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens

Report of the President

President Jackson

Report of the Treasurer*

(Quarterly Financial and Investment Report)

Sr. Vice President FAS Dudley

Committee Reports/Recommendations

- A. Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Regent Shemberger
- 1) New Academic Initiatives Update (For Information Only)
 - 2) Faculty Rank Change Report (For Information Only)
 - 3) Academic Administrative Appointments Update (For Information Only)

NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.

- B. Athletics Chair Owens
- 1) Racer Athletics Update (For Information Only)
 - 2) Contract of Employment – Head Men’s Basketball Coach – Ryan Miller*
 - 3) Resolutions of Appreciation*
 - a. Coach Rechelle Turner and the Women’s Basketball Team
 - b. Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team

- C. Audit and Compliance Regent Waldrop
- 1) Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds*
 - a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024
 - 2) Audit Engagement Letter*

- D. Buildings and Grounds Regent Roark
- 1) Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update (For Information Only)
 - 2) Program Statements:
 - a. Wells Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements*
 - b. Wilson Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements*
 - c. Electrical Utility Upgrades*
 - d. Hogancamp General Services HVAC Upgrades*
 - e. Business North, Faculty Hall and Wells Hall Elevator Upgrades*
 - 3) Disposition of Structure – College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016)*

11:15 a.m. (Approx.) Break for the Learning Commons/Residence Hall Groundbreaking

11:30 a.m. (Approx.) Learning Commons/Residence Hall Groundbreaking

12 noon (Approx.) Lunch (Heritage Hall – Hall of Benefactors)

1 p.m. (Approx.) Reconvene

- E. Enrollment Management and Student Success Regent Meinschein
- 1) Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Update (For Information Only)

- F. Finance Vice Chair Fitch
- 1) Establishment of the *Children of J.D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment**
 - 2) *Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment Guidelines Revision**
 - 3) Annual Lease Report*
 - 4) Personal Services Contracts*
 - 5) Projects*

- G. Legislative and Economic Development Regent Price
- 1) Legislative and Economic Development Update (For Information Only)

NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.

- H. Marketing and Community Engagement Regent Ovey
- 1) University Advancement Update (For Information Only)
 - 2) Gifts-in-Kind:
 - a. Miscellaneous Laboratory Equipment – Chemistry Department – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology*
 - b. Stallion Breeding Fees – Equine Program – Hutson School of Agriculture*
 - 3) Naming Opportunity:
 - a. *Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge* – School of Nursing and Health Professions*

NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.

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| <p>9. <u>Personnel Changes</u></p> <p>A. Faculty Sabbatical Leaves*</p> <p>B. Salary Roster*</p> | <p>President Jackson</p> |
| | |
| <p>10. <u>Supplemental Materials (For Information Only)</u></p> <p>A. “Good News” Report (Winter 2025)</p> <p>B. Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (October - December 2024)</p> <p>C. Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report</p> | <p>President Jackson</p> |
| | |
| <p>11. <u>Other Business</u></p> | <p>Chair Owens</p> |
| | |
| <p>12. <u>Adjournment</u></p> | <p>Chair Owens</p> |

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Public Participation

Chair Owens reported there were no signees for the Public Participation portion of the meeting.

Consent Agenda, approved, ratified and reports received

Chair Owens reported that the following action and “For Information Only” items were included on the Consent Agenda for approval/acceptance (action items denoted with an asterisk):

- Minutes*
 - Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on December 13, 2024
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on January 10, 2025
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on January 31, 2025
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on February 10, 2025
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on February 11, 2025
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on March 10, 2025
- Report of the Registrar (Winter 2024 Conferral of Degrees)* (See Attachment #1)
- Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report for Year-to-Date Ended December 31, 2024 (For Information Only)
- Finance Committee
 - Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)

Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Consent Agenda items as submitted. Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens reported that he would like to yield time to the Board’s former colleague and esteemed Chair of the Board – Dr. Don Tharpe. Dr. Tharpe received a round of applause. He expressed appreciation to Chair Owens, the Board and the administration for allowing him to be present today. When he served as Chair of the Board in 2022, a Dedication Ceremony was held for the National Panhellenic Council Plaza on the Murray State campus. That was a very energetic day on campus and representatives from the Divine Nine fraternities and sororities were on campus to celebrate the event. Since that time, he has been working to identify a way to memorialize the Plaza dedication and a plaque was presented in this regard to be displayed in an appropriate location on campus. Appreciation was expressed to President Jackson for his vision to bring this initiative to fruition. President Jackson expressed appreciation to Chair Tharpe for his thoughtful gift to the University. Dr. Tharpe’s vision during his tenure on the Board was to make sure the National Panhellenic Council Plaza was completed since it had represented a 25-year discussion. This represents a very kind and gracious gift. Chair Owens also expressed appreciation to Dr. Tharpe for his service to the Board and for his friendship over the years. Dr. Tharpe received another round of applause.

Chair Owens recognized Mr. Smith who has done a yeoman’s job to ensure legislation passed that will enable Murray State University to provide a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Jordan was asked to stand and be recognized and he received a round of applause. The Board sincerely appreciates all that he has done in this regard.

Chair Owens expressed appreciation to each member of the Board, Board Secretary and Senior Executive Coordinator Hunt, Executive Director Touney, General Counsel Miller and Director Hixon for all the work that was done in regard to the presidential search. They gave of their time and talents and the Board greatly

appreciated their work. Appreciation was expressed to General Counsel for all of the evening phone calls and to Secretary Hunt for everything she has done as they are greatly appreciated.

Student-athletes and Coaches will be recognized during the Athletics Committee later this morning but teams are performing well. Appreciation was expressed to Regent Hawkins who just got back into Murray after visiting the State Capitol lobbying on behalf of the University.

Director Youngblood and Associate Director Lampe will provide an extensive report of campus construction projects that are underway or upcoming. Appreciation was expressed to President Jackson for his leadership on all these activities.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Report of the President

President Jackson reported the following:

- Dr. David Roach, who has served as Faculty Senate President for several years, was recognized. Dr. Roach's term as Faculty Senate President is expiring. He is not only an excellent Professor but he has been an exceptional Faculty Senate President and has represented the faculty extremely well. He has been a steady hand, working closely with the administration, the Board, this University and his fellow colleagues. During his tenure, President Jackson has served with two Faculty Senate Presidents and both were excellent. Dr. Roach was asked to stand and be recognized and he received a round of applause.
- During his 30 years working with the Legislature, this has been the busiest non-budget Session he has seen with an exceptionally large number of higher education bills. Appreciation was expressed to Executive Director Smith for his good work in this regard. Today marks Day 30 – or the last day – of this Legislative Session. This work will start again in nine months as part of a Legislative Budget Session. A lot of good work was done in the current Legislative Session and many individuals helped in Frankfort in this regard, including Regents Waldrop and Hawkins and other Regents and MSU student Silas Jackson and other Student Government colleagues who made rounds regularly in regard to the enabling language for Murray State University to have the ability to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Senate Bill 77 amended Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 164.295 to allow comprehensive universities to offer doctorate programs in various areas. This represents the pathway for Murray State to pursue a School of Veterinary Medicine (SOVM). The Senate and House unanimously approved the KRS language change and the Governor signed it into law. Appreciation was expressed to the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch of the state government for their efforts in this regard. Key provisions are included in the final version of this legislation that were negotiated and put in place – such as student success factors which Murray State far exceeds. The University received funding for a Veterinary Sciences building and this will hopefully represent Phase 1 of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University. A Task Force will be appointed soon to determine how best to advance this initiative. Appreciation was expressed to Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture – Dr. Brian Parr – for his excellent work in providing testimony for all areas of the endeavor. Appreciation was expressed to Executive Director of Advancement Bernot and Director of Alumni Relations Carrie McGinnis and their respective offices for helping to lead an alumni initiative to garner support for a School of Veterinary Medicine at MSU. Regent Hawkins led a similar initiative with students from across the state, particularly those in pre-veterinary, medical science and animal technology areas. These efforts proved to be especially helpful. There are currently only 32 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States and 22 states do not have a vet school – Kentucky is one of them. Kentucky is the largest agriculturally-focused state without a school of veterinary medicine and care must be taken to protect this vitally important multi-billion-dollar industry. The Deloitte Study that was undertaken by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) revealed that in 2023, 160 Kentucky applicants applied to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programs. Only 67 students were accepted, forcing those who were not to find placements in other states or outside the country. A map was provided showing underserved areas, particularly those in the rural areas of Kentucky. There is a shortage of large animal Veterinarians in Kentucky and any group that says these issues do not exist do not have all the facts or do not understand the issue. The University regularly hears about this issue from agriculture-related groups and across the Commonwealth.
- Regent Price has been involved in discussions which have occurred for some time regarding the University of Louisville (UofL) School of Medicine and Murray State University 2+2 program. That Memorandum of Understanding was signed a few months ago by the Presidents of these two respective universities. There was a sudden change in leadership at the UofL this week and the new President is the previous Provost who has been involved with this particular topic. Appreciation was expressed to Dean of the UofL School of Medicine Dr. Jeff Bumpous. Dr. Bumpous helped co-Chair a Task Force with UofL and Murray State administrators and others. Provost Todd also served as a co-Chair of the Task Force. Their efforts to advance this initiative are very much appreciated in regard to the ask to be made during the 2026 Legislative Session.
- Yesterday, Murray State signed a new transfer agreement re-establishing a statewide Memorandum of Understanding with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). KCTCS includes the 16 community colleges across the Commonwealth and appreciation was expressed to Dr. Ryan Quarles who serves as President who came to the Murray State campus for the signing ceremony. This helps establish a pathway to Murray State for students enrolled in all of the community colleges in Kentucky in a more streamlined manner.
- The Murray State University Speech and Debate Union was recognized, under the direction of Coach Ryan Goke. The team recently competed in the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) Tournament. NPDA is the largest national intercollegiate debate organization in the United States, with over 200 participating schools. Dr. Goke reported this marks his third year as Director of the Speech and Debate

team at MSU. This year he has an all first-year team which is what the novice reference indicates. Students Sam Harless, a sophomore from Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and Samuel Miller, a sophomore from Island, Kentucky, recently took home the national championship in novice NPDA competition. Caleb McCurren, a junior from Paducah, Kentucky, and Zack Benz, a sophomore from Eureka, Missouri, also placed 5th in the nation in the Open NPDA division. Debate speaker awards went to Mr. Benz who ranked 5th speaker overall in NPDA debate and 3rd novice speaker, Mr. McCurren who ranked 8th NPDA debate speaker overall and 4th in the novice division and Mr. Harless who ranked 6th novice NPDA debate speaker. Mr. McCurren's After Dinner Speech was ranked top 24 in the nation. Only seven of the top 24 competitors in quarterfinals were at the novice level. Dr. Goke added that the team's showing was particularly impressive because they only had four competitions. Appreciation was expressed to the two Assistant Coaches, Jillian Rosa and Ana Moyers, who worked tirelessly for this success. This represented the largest Pi Kappa Delta tournament since 2016. More than 50 schools from across the nation attended and there were almost 2,000 entries. The Speech and Debate team received a round of applause. Regent Roark expressed appreciation to the University for providing this opportunity to students.

- The SSC Grounds Department was recognized and congratulated for recently being named the Grand Award Winner for a Green Star Award by the Professional Grounds Management Society representing a national recognition. Their work is vitally important to this University in terms of campus appearance and the maintenance of Athletic playing fields for recruiting and retention purposes. The SSC team members who were present received a round of applause. Their good work is very much appreciated.
- The Board will receive an extensive Athletics update later today. Many in this room attended the Press Conference yesterday in regard to the new Head Men's Basketball Coach – Ryan Miller. All are proud of the Lady Racers Basketball Team, Coach Rechelle Turner and the Assistant Coaches on winning the Missouri Valley Conference Championship and participating in the National Collegiate Athletics Association Tournament (NCAA). Congratulations was also expressed to the Rifle Team on winning the Ohio Valley Conference Championship and participating in the NCAA Tournament. Alan Lollar has served as the long-time Coach of the team and has been extremely successful throughout his career. Appreciation was expressed to these teams for the pride they bring to this institution.
- The Board will receive a detailed report from Facilities Management later today. This will include information on new projects, deferred maintenance and future planning. The Board will also participate in the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Learning Commons/Residential Hall which is greatly needed to replace current housing stock.
- Appreciation was expressed to all for their great work when, on February 15, 2025, at approximately 4 a.m., the campus suffered a lightning strike. Facilities Management, Housing, MSU Police, administrators, contractors and others immobilized their staffs to assist during this emergency on campus. Appreciation was expressed to students during this unavoidable act of nature which greatly damaged campus infrastructure. During the storm the temperature was in the 70s but then dropped into the single digits over the course of the next couple of days.
- The Board will also be provided with a Centennial Campaign update from Dr. Bernot. Funds raised as part of the \$100 million campaign will be designated for scholarships and need-based aid (50 percent) and academic support/enhancements/campus improvements and Athletics (50 percent). Appreciation was expressed to thousands of Murray State alumni and friends who contributed to this effort. The University received some record gifts as part of the campaign.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Enrollment Management team. A report will be presented to the Board later today in regard to success in this area. Also shown was a photo of the newest member of the Racer family – Wells Elliott Jackson – in Washington, DC, who was decked out in Murray State gear as part of a recruitment effort from the Alumni Relations office.

Regent Waldrop expressed appreciation to Regent Hawkins for his recent student leadership efforts in Frankfort as it is making a difference. Regent Hawkins added that the School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University has a large amount of campus-wide student support and outpouring from those who wanted to know how to help bring this initiative to fruition. The Student Government Association also passed a Resolution in support of the SOVM.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Report of the Treasurer (Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports), accepted

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that Kentucky Revised Statute 164.420 stipulates “The treasurer of each governing board shall receive and disburse all money under the control of the board, perform all acts that pertain to his office under the direction of the board, and make timely reports to the board on a schedule established by the board.” The second quarter financial statements being considered today were provided in the Board materials, along with the dashboard which was highlighted as follows:

- The University is busier and typically spends more money during the second half of the fiscal year and the Board was encouraged to keep this in mind. Departments are just now beginning to determine what they need to purchase for next year and projects that need to be started.
- Cash is essentially flat but being able to maintain this level is important for the institution.
- There has been a fairly large increase in Accounts Receivables – \$11 million. The bulk of this increase is due to gifts and pledges but a small percentage comes from student fees. These represent gifts to the University.
- Working capital is also flat due to the receivable balances. Working capital for Murray State is a factor of inventory and receivables. When receivables go up, working capital is going to increase proportionally at the same rate.
- There is an increase in net position as an impact of receivables.

- With regard to Education and General Revenues and Expenditures, the percentage of actual to budget is pretty much where the University was last year. This is positive with no large fluctuations in Education and General or Auxiliaries and is consistent with prior year at this time.

Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the attached quarterly unaudited Financial and Investment Reports for the period of July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #2)

Committee Reports/Recommendations

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee

Melony Shemberger – Chair
Andy Belcher
David Meinschein
G. L. Ovey
David Wilson

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Chair Shemberger call the Committee to order at 9:13 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

New Academic Initiatives Update, received

Provost Todd provided an update from Academic Affairs on two new important academic initiatives in regard to health care.

♦ Murray State University – University of Louisville School of Medicine Partnership

This initiative is possible due to President Jackson's vision. Appreciation was expressed to the former President of the University of Louisville for her vision in this regard as well. This represents a partnership between the UofL School of Medicine and Murray State University to offer medical education in west Kentucky. Meetings and visits have occurred over the last 18 months. This initiative involves key leaders at the University of Louisville, as well as Murray State University, including President Jackson; Dean Claire Fuller, Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology; Dean Dina Byers, School of Nursing and Health Professions and faculty from Biology and Chemistry. Key partners in the region are also essential to this work in terms of medical providers – Baptist Paducah, Mercy Health, Murray-Calloway County Hospital and the Jackson Purchase Medical Center, along with others. This represents a multiorganizational collaborative partnership which is designed to address physician shortages in the region and Commonwealth. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the number of primary care physicians in the state of Kentucky ranks 44th nationally and 107 of 120 Kentucky counties are designated as health professional shortage areas. Appreciation was expressed to Regent Price for his leadership in helping this public comprehensive university partner with a metropolitan institution to align together to address this need. Provost Todd is honored to serve as the Murray State lead on the team which has been put together to undertake this work, along with Dean Bumpous. Dr. Bumpous is a native of west Kentucky as he is from Paducah. He is very passionate about this endeavor. Work is continuing in this regard in preparation to present the initiative to the General Assembly which will represent a game changer for healthcare in this region.

♦ Dental Hygiene Program Implementation

Appreciation was expressed for the leadership of Dean Byers and Chair Kemaly Parr, Department of Adolescent, Career and Special Education in the College of Education and Human Services, for orchestrating and choreographing a Dental Hygiene program. There is a documented need for registered Dental Hygienists in rural western Kentucky and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2021, employment of Dental Hygienists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030. This rate is faster than the average for all occupations. It is projected there will be about 15,000 openings for Dental Hygienists each year. Discussions with local dental providers led to Murray State conducting a needs assessment in 2018 and again in 2021. The Murray State administration approved the development of the Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene program which the MSU Academic Council approved last fall. In 2024 the University also received a \$1 million grant from the USDA Health Services to provide initial assistance for a Dental Hygiene program. This grant includes the hiring of the Program Director and start-up equipment. Several positive meetings have been held with KCTCS system leaders and West Kentucky Community and Technical College program leaders regarding the program and the University's plan to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Council on

Postsecondary Education in this regard. KCTCS is also working on a partnership with Murray State going forward once the program is approved. The NOI was submitted to the CPE and Dean Byers will present to that body on April 14. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges application for accreditation will then be sent and preliminary work will commence with the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Once Jackson Hall has been completed, Mason Hall will be renovated utilizing asset preservation funds and will include a state-of-the-art clinic that provides clinical education experiences to students but will also serve as a fully-operational dental clinic. Murray State has partnered with Southern Family Dental/Drs. Randy Taylor and Richard Vonnahme. Southern Family Dental will serve as the clinical site until Mason Hall renovations have been completed. The University is extremely thankful for its additional dental supporters, including Drs. Zak Taylor, Matthew Milliner and Regent Robbie Fitch and Anna Jaycock and Christian Duncan. This initiative will address a key need in the region and Commonwealth. The goal is to have this program up and running by Fall 2026.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Faculty Rank Change Report, received

Provost Todd reported that currently, faculty members holding the rank of Instructor may, after six years of service, be recommended for appointment to the rank of Senior Instructor for demonstrating distinguished teaching performance.

The following faculty members have been recommended for appointment from the rank of Instructor to Senior Instructor:

Ramona Smith	Computer Science and Information Systems
Todd Broker	Economics and Finance
Mary Reed	Economics and Finance
Holly Bloodworth	Early Childhood and Elementary Education

These appointments have the support of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Academic Administrative Appointments Update, received

Provost Todd reported that appointments for the following academic administrative positions have been approved for the 2025-26 fiscal year:

- Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Dr. Bassil El Masri – Chair**
Chair Robin Zhang has requested to return to a 9-month contract as a faculty member.
- Department of Educational Studies, Leadership and Counseling Dr. Stephanie Sullivan – Chair**
Dr. Sullivan has served as Interim Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- Department of History..... Dr. Marjorie Hilton – Chair**
Chair Kathy Callahan has requested to return to a 9-month contract as a faculty member.
- Department of Mathematics and Statistics Dr. Donald Adongo – Chair**
Chair Ed Thome has requested to return to a 9-month contract as a faculty member.

These appointments have the support of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Regent Shemberger indicated that she realizes Athletics is the front door to a university’s presence. However, academics are the heart of any institution – essentially the living room – from which everything should be built.

Adjournment

The Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Adjournment

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents adjourned for a break beginning at 9:24 a.m.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents at 9:40 a.m.

Athletics Committee

Leon Owens – Chair
Robbie Fitch
Matthew Price
Emily Roark
Tom Waldrop

Athletics Chair Owens called the Committee to order at 9:40 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Resolutions of Appreciation

Chair Owens introduced Head Women's Basketball Coach Rechelle Turner and players Halli Poock and Haven Ford. All received a round of applause.

Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation – Coach Rechelle Turner and the Women's Basketball Team, accepted

Chair Owens read aloud the following:

***MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS
RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION
COACH Rechelle Turner and the Women's Basketball Team
2025 Season***

WHEREAS, Coach Rechelle Turner has faithfully served since being named as the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Murray State University; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Basketball Team finished the season as the Regular Season Champions and the Conference Tournament Champions of the Missouri Valley Conference; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Basketball Team was selected as a participant in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Young and Haven Ford were named to the Missouri Valley Conference All-Scholar Team; and

WHEREAS, Katelyn Young was named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference First Team; and

WHEREAS, Halli Poock, Ava Learn and Haven Ford were named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference Second Team and Ava Learn was named the Missouri Valley Conference Most Improved Player.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Murray State University Board of Regents unanimously express their appreciation for the achievements and service of Coach Turner and the Women's Basketball Team;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Murray State University Board of Regents that this recognition of the contributions and dedication of Coach Turner and the Women's Basketball Team be preserved in the minutes of the Board after having been read aloud and passed unanimously by the Board on this, the 28th day of March 2025.

Signed Robert L Jackson, Ed.D., President and Leon Owens, Chair of the Board of Regents.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Owens stated he would entertain a motion that the Board of Regents accept the Resolution of Appreciation for Coach Rechelle Turner and the Women's Basketball Team. Regent Ovey so moved, seconded by Regent Roark, and the motion carried. Coach Turner and the Women's Basketball Team received a standing ovation.

Full Board Action – Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation – Coach Rechelle Turner and the Women's Basketball Team, accepted

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents accept the Resolution of Appreciation for Coach Rechelle Turner and the Women's Basketball Team as just read aloud. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation – Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team, accepted

Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Coach Lollar not only for his years of service but for his dedication and commitment to the Murray State University Rifle Team. The Rifle Team is nationally recognized and has been long before there were any NCAA basketball teams making the Tournament. He exemplifies what this type of leadership means and all greatly appreciate Coach Lollar and the team. Chair Owens read aloud the following:

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPRECIATION COACH Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team 2025 Season

WHEREAS, Coach Alan Lollar has faithfully served since being named as the Head Rifle Coach at Murray State University; and

WHEREAS, the Rifle Team finished the season as the Champions of the Ohio Valley Conference standings; and

WHEREAS, the team earned their 5th consecutive Ohio Valley Conference Championship; and

WHEREAS, Coach Alan Lollar was named Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Rifle Team qualified and participated in the NCAA Rifle national Championships, placing as a top eight team nationally and

WHEREAS, Carlotta Salafia and John Blanton were named the OVC Co-Athletes of the Year in Air Rifle, Zach Jackson was named the Smallbore OVC Athlete of the Year, Carlotta Salafia was named the OVC Freshman of the Year and the team took the top four places individually in conference competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Murray State University Board of Regents unanimously express their appreciation for the achievements and service of Coach Lollar and the Rifle team;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Murray State University Board of Regents that this recognition of the contributions and dedication of Coach Lollar and the Rifle team be preserved in the minutes of the Board after having been read aloud and passed unanimously by the Board on this, the 28th day of March 2025.

Signed Robert L Jackson, Ed.D., President and Leon Owens, Chair of the Board of Regents.

Chair Owens reported that a Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation for Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team was included in the eBoard book and he would entertain a motion for the Board of Regents to accept the Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation for Coach Lollar and the Rifle Team as presented. Regent Price so moved, seconded by Regent Roark, and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation – Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team, accepted

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents accept the Resolution of Acknowledgment and Appreciation for Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team as just read aloud. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried. Coach Alan Lollar and the Rifle Team received a standing ovation.

Contract of Employment – Head Men's Basketball Coach – Ryan Miller, approved

Director Yantko reported that Murray State University is pleased to welcome Coach Ryan Miller as its new Head Men's Basketball Coach. Coach Miller is regarded as one of the nation's top recruiters and boasts a winning pedigree that includes stops at Creighton, Texas Christian University and Auburn, among others. He most recently served as a top assistant for the Creighton Bluejays, has coached in eight NCAA Tournaments, won five regular-season championships and has one league tournament title on the sidelines over the course of his career. All are excited to welcome Coach Miller, his wife Marna, and their daughters Melia and Halle, to the Racer Family.

Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Coach Miller and thanked him for the opportunity to get to know him and his family. All have followed his distinguished career and know he will do great things at Murray State and appreciate the family's willingness to come to Murray. They are welcomed into the Racer Family.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment for Mr. Ryan Miller,

Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 18, 2025, to March 17, 2029, as presented. Regent Price seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Contract of Employment – Head Men's Basketball Coach – Ryan Miller, approved

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment for Mr. Ryan Miller, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 18, 2025, to March 17, 2029. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Coach Miller received a standing ovation. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be the 18th Head Men's Basketball Coach for Murray State University. He also appreciates the confidence and support of the Board and administration over the next three to four years as he builds the team. He is excited about the process and happy to be at Murray State University.

(See Attachment #3)

Racer Athletics Update, received

Director of Athletics Nico Yantko provided a Racer Athletics update with the following highlights:

- Athletics serves as a marketing vehicle for the institution – not the most important activity that happens at Murray State University but it is the most visible – and all involved take the responsibility very seriously. The Athletics ecosystem is evolving at a breakneck pace and all are excited about what they are building together to provide engagement and serve as a gateway to Murray State, the region and the community.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Board for allowing the hiring of such a high quality and tenacious competitor as Coach Ryan Miller. He is not only a tremendous communicator but also truly believes in transformative relationships. He has cultivated relationships with those he has served and many have a legacy of their own. Coach Miller has already been helpful as Athletics continues to lay out its plan to not be reactive but proactive in this changing landscape. It is an Athletics expectation that all continue to lean forward in this area.
- The Murray State Women's Basketball Team won its first conference championship in over 15 seasons. The Murray State Rifle Team also won another conference championship. Both programs were able to compete at the NCAA level for a national championship. Rifle finished Top 8 in the country. Appreciation was expressed to all who contributed to the shared philosophy that Athletics teams should be competing at this level – starting with the Board of Regents and President Jackson, the Vice Presidents, President's Executive Council, Directors Hixon and Youngblood, the fan base and key investors.
- Murray State Baseball beat #24 University of Kentucky, as well as rival Western Kentucky University, this year.
- An update was provided on the life skills component of Athletics – the Dennis Jackson Leadership Program. Since its inception due to the work of Chair Owens, there has been a belief that the University can serve its student-athletes from recruitment through retirement. This represents a transformative experience that occurs on campus and prepares young people for a lifetime. For many, it has changed their life course trajectory. Since the launch of the Dennis Jackson Leadership Program, numerous times the highest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) record has been broken. This semester the GSR is the highest ever at 94 percent. Also, the Athletics' Grade Point Average (GPA) is the highest ever. Each Athletics team achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher. Additionally, athletic teams continue to break and shatter every community service impact hours and resource opportunities records as well as dollars generated through the Dennis Jackson Leadership Program – with 22 organizations being impacted annually. Appreciation was expressed to Chair Owens and also the student-athletes.
- Murray State Athletics has announced a seven-year contract extension with Nike and BSN Sports as the official apparel provider. This agreement includes enhancements with very competitive offerings that create brand opportunities through the Ja Brand. This helps align Athletics with not only peer institutions but also some aspirational peers. Appreciation was expressed to Senior Vice President Dudley, General Counsel Miller and Director of Procurement Beth Ward for their assistance throughout this process. Their work has helped position Murray State to maximize these offerings and opportunities to align the University with the industry standard of brand through Nike, particularly within this Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) era.
- The Vision for Excellence Fund has been established. As Murray State adapts to the new era of college athletics, all contributions to the Vision for Excellence Fund will be dedicated to enhancing student-athlete Roster Management resources, specifically revenue share opportunities. As the House Settlement continues to be addressed, the University is trying to anticipate what may occur within the next three to six months because it represents the adoption into a new era of collegiate athletics with revenue sharing and a completely new model of governance from the Division I Council. He appreciates President Jackson's steady hand throughout these conversations and process to guide the program and University into a new era. Opportunities are also being presented through the Disruptive Marketplace where student-athletes are presented with the ability to recognize themselves sooner rather than later. The Vision Fund for Excellence provides a way for the University to navigate the changes which are occurring, particularly with regard to Racer Basketball. The Vision for Excellence Fund will be a 100 percent tax-deductible contribution to the institution as a donation to allow new resources to be allocated for student-athletes as part of revenue-sharing opportunities.

- A transition will also be made to all of the Roster Management resources. Anticipated Roster Management resources expected post-House settlement include Alston Academic Incentives (Dennis Jackson Leadership Program), In-Lieu (money student-athletes receive as part of the grant-in-aid process to either live in campus housing and have meal plans or live off campus), Cost of Attendance (dollars based on an algorithm relative to the cost-of-living to be a student on campus and other expenses outside of tuition and room and board), NIL (the Blue and Gold Standard partnership set up as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit focusing on marketing abilities through non-profit efforts) and Revenue Share (Excellence Fund). Revenue Share is a new category for institutions that was set by the House Settlement where the Power 4 conferences share a budget of nearly \$20.5 million to distribute back to student-athletes as revenue share. The allocation of that is based on the institution's preference and the market drives a lot of these decisions. Many of the programs at the Power 4 level are receiving nearly \$15 million to allocate towards Football at that level. Director Yantko believes this is creating a serious disruption in the marketplace that gives Murray State an opportunity to present itself in rapid fashion to catch up in this category, particularly in relation to Basketball. The Murray State Football Program participates in a much more sustainable model – Football Championship Subdivision – and is not pursuing championships at the Football Bowl Subdivision level. This will present an enhanced ability to emphasize revenue opportunities for the Men's Basketball Program. A chart was provided and explained in regard to Men's and Women's Basketball in terms of Roster Management Resources and Educational Benefits broken down by the categories outlined earlier.

Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Director Yantko for the presentation and also for staying on the forefront of the ever-changing Athletics landscape. Director Yantko is very modest but he will be speaking in front of the NCAA Finals Committee. Director Yantko reported he is fortunate that Murray State is being represented on a national stage within the NCAA Brethren – the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). This represents the second consecutive year Murray State has been invited to speak before the NABC. Additionally, there is a separate convention occurring simultaneously with the Final Four peer Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and many who are helping navigate this new era. The fact that Murray State has been invited to share its perspectives, philosophies and approaches is really exciting at the national level within two separate conferences as this can only benefit the University for years to come. Regent Waldrop added that MVC Commissioner Jeff Jackson was genuinely excited about the momentum behind Coach Turner and Coach Miller and what is occurring at Murray State. The relationships that have been built between Chair Owens, President Jackson and Commissioner Jackson are invaluable. Commissioner Jackson believes with conviction that Murray State is a good fit for this league and seeing the University's competitiveness come along much sooner than most anticipated produces an invaluable stakeholder in MSU's success.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Adjournment

The Athletics Committee adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Audit and Compliance Committee

Tom Waldrop – Chair
Brendan Hawkins
Leon Owens
Emily Roark
David Wilson

Audit and Compliance Chair Tom Waldrop called the Committee to order at 10:12 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds, accepted

Senior Vice President Dudley indicated that the Federal Funds audit report has been prepared by an independent external auditing firm – Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) – and addresses the University's compliance with federal requirements as stipulated in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement. The report is distributed as required to the Federal Audit Clearing House and the State Auditor of Public Accounts. This represents a clean audit with no findings reported. The report provided in the eBoard book contains a listing of all the University's federal grants and aid.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following report for 2023-24:

- a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds, accepted

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following report for 2023-24:

- a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #4)

President Jackson expressed appreciation to Senior Vice President Dudley and her team. Every year there are numerous audits undertaken at the University and for the last several years those have been clean. This is not an accident and is due to the good work of those individuals involved in this process. Murray State is in an excellent financial position due to the hard work of Senior Vice President Dudley, Assistant Vice President – Finance Wendy Cain, Director of Accounting and Financial Services Stephanie Jennings and Internal Auditor Annie Dukes, among others.

Audit Engagement Letter, approved

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that at its February 24, 2017, meeting, the Board of Regents approved the issuance of a contract to Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) for the performance of the University's financial and compliance audits for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. At its meeting on December 8, 2023, the Board of Regents approved a three-year extension of the auditing services contract with Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) based upon the following pricing:

Fiscal Year 2024 – \$145,000

Fiscal Year 2025 – \$149,300

Fiscal Year 2026 – \$153,600

At its meeting on December 13, 2024, the Board approved the contract for the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) audit. The cost for the FY25 audit contract is \$149,300, including the financial, compliance and up to four single audit programs. This pricing includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. The attached Audit Engagement Letter outlines the scope of work and parameters of the audit by Dean Dorton.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Audit Engagement Letter for the June 30, 2025, audit by Dean Dorton as submitted. Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Audit Engagement Letter, approved

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Audit Engagement Letter for the June 30, 2025, audit by Dean Dorton. Regent Belcher seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, not present for the vote; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

(See Attachment #5)

Adjournment

The Audit and Compliance Committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Emily Roark – Chair

Robbie Fitch

David Meinschein

G. L. Ovey

Tom Waldrop

Buildings and Grounds Chair Roark called the Committee to order at 10:20 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update, received

Director Youngblood and Associate Director of Facilities Design and Construction Angela Lampe provided an update on Facilities Management projects as follows:

- An outline of events surrounding the 4:11 a.m. lightning strike on Saturday, February 15, 2025, near Payne Street was provided. The system surge created by the lightning strike caused power on the entire campus, as well as part of Murray, to go down. Once a determination was made in terms of where the actual damage occurred, and as efforts to bring the power back online were underway, priorities were #1 to protect life and #2 to protect property. Weather conditions experienced on that Saturday and in the several days following included rain, hail, wind, snow and an extreme temperature swing. Flash flood, thunderstorm and tornado warnings, as well as winter weather and sub-zero wind chill advisory warnings, were sent out. During this period, internal meetings occurred regularly and multiple campus daily updates were distributed. Following the lightning strike on February 15, it took some time to determine where the actual damage was and what would be required to restore power to that area. Work took place on Sunday to continue to diagnose the issue, locate parts/supplies for repairs while also preparing for extreme cold temperatures. On Monday, efforts were focused on ensuring that buildings without power or heat were protected from freeze damage and fuel deliveries were set up for rental equipment. This equipment and the University's own generator were consuming over 200 gallons of diesel per hour. On Tuesday, February 18, contractors began removing all of the damaged wiring and preparations were undertaken to install new wiring. A sample of the wire cable that arrived from Atlanta, Georgia, that was being pulled in and weighed three pounds per square foot was shown to the Board. On Wednesday, contractors continued to pull wire while snow removal efforts were underway utilizing additional ground equipment. On Thursday, contractors finished pulling the new wire and on Friday all the terminations were completed and power was restored at approximately 11 a.m. On Saturday, work began to dismantle all of the temporary heating installed in Regents and White residence halls and the CFSB Center. On Sunday, February 23, students started returning to Regents and White residence halls. A Record of Climatological Observations was provided and on Sunday, February 16 it was 60 degrees. By Thursday, the temperature had dropped to six degrees and remained below freezing until Saturday while the temporary heating sources were being dismantled. On that Saturday and Sunday, the area received six inches of rain and from Tuesday evening to Wednesday morning Murray had six inches of snow.
- An update was provided on Murray State's electrical infrastructure. The MSU Substation receives 69,000 volts from its provider – Murray Electric – which is transformed down to 13,200 volts and 4,160 volts, respectively, for two different circuits. The campus average usage is six to nine megawatts of electricity with a maximum limit of 11 megawatts. During the peak summer cooling load, usage is closer to the 11 megawatts maximum. If the University exceeds this maximum, it incurs penalties from the provider which is why usage is monitored closely. The University does have a two-megawatt generator but it can only serve the housing buildings, Winslow Dining Hall, the Wellness Center and the CFSB Center, but not all at the same time. The CFSB Center alone uses approximately 1.5 megawatts of power. Most every major building on campus has an emergency standby generator but those units are reserved only for life-safety components such as egress lighting, fire alarm systems, communications and selected elevators for those who are mobility impaired. As part of future planning, contingency scenarios are being undertaken to create portable generator docking stations which will provide more quick-connect options for Regents and White residence halls, the Curris Center, the Wellness Center and the CFSB Center, etc. These latter spaces can also be utilized as needed by the community. A photo was shown of the main substation on campus, representing the one point of entry for the provider. The campus electricity is then fed from this substation. Also shown was the two-megawatt generator located on Waldrop Drive with an accompanying 6,000-gallon diesel tank that feeds into this generator, as well as others across campus. Having this extra fuel on site proved to be especially beneficial as it was used for almost one full week during the lightning strike to provide power to the residence halls. Contingency planning includes a 100-kw generator the University has on a trailer and can be used as a standby generator but cannot power an entire building. It can only hold 200 to 300 gallons of diesel so contingency plans include installing docking stations and creating ports for either a 500-kw generator or a 1.5-megawatt generator (which would include a full tank of fuel next to it). These docking stations will allow for much quicker options when emergency events occur on campus due to unforeseen circumstances. Regent Waldrop asked whether the copper conductor that was passed around is what melted when the lightning strike occurred which was confirmed. The end result would have happened even with a brand new conductor. It melted due to being hit by lightning and not because maintenance had been deferred in any way. Director Youngblood confirmed this to be the case and the conductor that got hit was not that old. Regent Wilson added that workers were having to bend the wiring in below-freezing temperatures in wet conditions and their efforts were truly heroic. The use of the kerosene heaters saved Regents and White residence halls by preventing the pipes from freezing. It was unfortunate that media reporting in this regard was not accurate in terms of what was actually occurring in these facilities. He also expressed appreciation to his staff for their efforts during this time, as well as staff from many other areas on campus, who helped move student residents to other campus locations within three hours. Once the repairs had been made, staff also helped move the students back to their respective residence hall. Regent Meinschein stated he appreciates how this weather event was handled. He is also a parent of a Murray State student and appreciated the University's sense of urgency to protect his child. His son needed to know how to handle this situation and it was clear that he was being very well protected by the University. Appreciation was expressed to all the contractors and partners, vendors and rental companies who responded to the need at Murray State. Everyone stepped up to help the University get what it needed to protect its students and their efforts are very much appreciated. Work is currently underway with a design firm to plan for the quick-connect units that are part of the contingency plan for emergency power and ways to make them more beneficial for the entire campus are being considered.
- An outline of 2022-24 asset preservation projects was presented, along with their respective percentage of completion. First on the list is the electrical project. When the initial 2022-24 Asset Preservation Plan was submitted to the Board, \$600,000 was originally designated for the electrical project. Those monies have now been moved to the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Plan. A Program Statement and project approval for an additional \$11

million – total of \$11.6 million – will be presented to the Board for approval later today. Plans in this regard were delayed due to the pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues and other electrical and HVAC upgrade projects were undertaken instead. In addition to the electrical utility project, the 2024-26 Plan includes Mason Hall renovations, and other projects that are in design. Given overages on a lot of these projects due to the higher inflation costs, the Mason Hall project was moved to the 2024-26 Plan. This frees up asset preservation monies that can be used for Wells Hall building upgrades. Lead times for supplies has improved somewhat but are still not good. Approval of these plans today will allow the University to purchase needed supplies given the long lead times and also secure necessary Council on Postsecondary Education approval. Program Statements will be presented later for several new projects on the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Plan as part of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Funding for these projects will also be addressed by the Finance Committee.

- An update was provided on housing-related projects that are in progress. The Hester Hall chiller replacement is almost completed with start-up planned for next week. The Regents Hall boiler replacement represents an active project and during the lightning strike in February it was still running on a rental unit. The rental boiler has now been removed and the Regents Hall boiler replacement was completed. White Hall hydronic piping replacement (Phase II) and Regents Hall vanities and closets replacement (Phase III) projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer.
- Other projects in progress include the Learning Commons/Residential Rooms; the Veterinary Sciences Building which is in design; the electrical contingency projects for White and Regents Halls, the CFSB Center, Wellness Center and Curris Center; future phases for the Cherry Exposition Center; sidewalk replacements and repairs; Athletic venue improvement projects and the Curris Center roof replacement.
- Associate Director Lampe expressed appreciation to her team – Space and Projects Planner Bobby Koehler; Project Managers Joe Tucker, Kyle Robertson and Travis Brown and their Design Technician. Without these individuals she would not be able to keep track of all of the projects that are currently underway. Photos were shown of the new Nursing Building site work that is ongoing, along with a rendering of the building. Footings are 90 percent complete and the site has been tied into stormwater drainage. Weather permitting, an effort will be made to tie into temporary power onsite tomorrow. The Murray State website has a link to live cam footage of ongoing construction. There is no longer a Phase II planned for this project because funding for this purpose was denied during the Legislative Session. Mason Hall renovations cannot start until Nursing is moved into the new facility. Once Mason Hall is completed and fully renovated, there will be an increase in the percentage of usable space available for new initiatives – such as the Dental Hygienist Program.
- Photos were shown of the second floor South Tower renovations, chiller demolition and chiller pump replacement and freezer demolition in the Applied Sciences Building. Work has started in the North Tower of the Applied Sciences Building with anticipated completion before the Fall Semester begins. Work has also started in the main entrance and corridor areas of this facility.
- Photos were also shown of various projects across campus, including the men's and women's restroom renovations in the Carman Animal Health Pavilion; College Courts (Buildings 100 – 400 and 1000 pending Board approval today) and other campus location demolition projects; future boiler mechanical room (HVAC) in the Old Fine Arts Building; Pogue Library HVAC project in the former Law Library area; Carr Hall boiler replacement and the new mechanical room on the site of the old pool; Racer Arena HVAC steel frame installation for the roof-top units which are currently in route with anticipated project completion in October/November; Hancock Biological Station HVAC and switch gear repairs and replacements; Science Complex rooftop cooling tower removal; Regents Hall agency bond boiler and flue pipe replacement; Waterfield Library lower-level upgrades; CFSB Center Murray Room refresh; Wrather Hall kitchen renovation and Wrather Balcony (Charles and Anne Wrather Hoke Mezzanine) refurbishment; West Farm – future site of the Veterinary Sciences Building with renderings for the facility provided and the Curris Center roof replacement. Design documents are currently being finalized for the window replacement projects in Blackburn and Wrather Hall. The Blackburn project is ready to go out for bid pending Board approval of additional funding. Options for Wrather Hall window restoration or replacement options are being considered and it is hoped the project will be ready to go out for bid shortly. A local church in town also replaced its stained-glass windows and utilized a more economical replicated stained glass replacement process which allowed for the appearance of the space to remain essentially the same at a significantly more economical cost.
- An update and rendering were provided for the new Learning Commons/Residence Hall project which will include a dining option. The facility will be 83,370 square feet of space and will provide several options for study spaces, meeting rooms, a large classroom (capable of seating 120 or divided into smaller spaces) and student activities areas. Support areas will include restrooms and a lounge with soft seating and 1,500 square feet of dining space (including back of house preparation space). Current plans include 254 beds on four floors. Rendering boards were shown and included the site plan for the old Springer Hall footprint for this facility, as well as plans for an additional residence hall right across from it. Renderings were also provided and outlined for each of the floors. The design team is trying to keep the furniture and walls as flexible as possible so they can be manipulated as needed for certain events. It is hoped this project can be out for bid by the summer. Regent Hawkins asked what type of dining options will be available in this building and Associate Director Lampe indicated counter service is anticipated. Racer Dining Services has been polling students in terms of what they would like to be included. It is anticipated the dining option will be open through lunch and dinner but that has not been finalized for sure. Confirmation was provided that students from the other residential colleges will also be able to utilize the Learning Commons area in the new facility but the logistics relative to the remaining spaces still need to be worked out. Confirmation was provided that the plan is to expand parking to the site of the old Franklin and Richmond halls sites. This will more than offset any parking spaces that are lost as a result of this project and will allow for future planning – including construction of another residence hall and the demolition of Hart Hall.

Regent Roark thanked Mr. Youngblood, Mrs. Lampe and the entire Facilities Management team; Executive Director of Auxiliary Services David Looney and the entire Auxiliary Services team and Regent Wilson for

their efforts in regard to the campus emergency. They all have a lot going on every single day, including Saturdays and Sundays, all hours of the day, and they are always very responsive. These individuals cannot be recognized enough for the work they do. The University cannot control an act of nature.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Program Statements

Wells Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements, approved

Regent Roark reported that Wells Hall was constructed in 1925 and is the third oldest building on campus. This 68,000 square foot building houses many entities, a few of which are executive offices for the President and two Vice Presidents and the Psychology Department. Wells Hall underwent an extensive architectural renovation in 1977 to convert it from a dormitory to an academic administration building. The most recent large building renovation was completed in 2022; the project consisted of window replacement and building envelope repairs.

The proposed scope of this project includes building systems upgrades to mechanical, plumbing and electrical equipment which are mostly original from the 1977 renovations. This includes moving this building off of central steam with stand-alone hot water boilers for heating. Also included within the proposed scope are stair tread replacements throughout and repair to the building envelope in the form of masonry tuckpointing with moisture mitigation being the intended outcome to complete the work started with the window replacement project in 2022. This project will be funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool provided in the 2022-24 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$4,116,000, including design and construction. Planning and design for these upgrades is currently being undertaken with long-lead items anticipated to be procured beginning Summer 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Wells Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements. Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Wells Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Wells Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements just read aloud. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Wilson Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements, approved

Regent Roark reported that Wilson Hall was constructed in 1925 and is the second oldest building on campus. This 47,900 square foot building houses the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications and the *Murray State News*. Major interior renovations were completed in the early 1980's which included the HVAC system, all of which remains in operation today, over 40 years later. The building received new windows in 2022 and most recently renovation occurred on the second floor consisting primarily of interior finish upgrades.

The proposed scope of this project includes building systems upgrades to mechanical, plumbing and electrical equipment. This includes moving this building off of central steam with stand-alone hot water boilers for heating. Also included within the proposed scope is repair to the building envelope in the form of masonry tuckpointing with moisture mitigation being the intended outcome to complete the work started with the window replacement project. This project will be funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool provided in the 2024-26 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$3,818,000, including design and construction. Design for these upgrades is expected to begin in Summer 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Wilson Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Wilson Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Wilson Hall Building Systems and Envelope Improvements as just read aloud. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Electrical Utility Upgrades, approved

Regent Roark reported that Murray State University receives high voltage source of power at 69,000 volts to its own substation located directly adjacent to the Central Heating and Cooling Plant. Within the Substation, voltage is transformed down to two different distribution level voltage classes (13,200 volts and 4,160 volts) and is then sent throughout the campus to feed electrical services as required by buildings and other infrastructure. The Substation was originally built in 1976, along with a comprehensive renovation of the Power Plant and Central Heating and Cooling Plant. Previous Capital Plans included upgrades to the main campus electrical distribution system, including the Central Plant Substation. Studies of the campus infrastructure have been done culminating with a new Arc Flash Study completed in January 2025.

The Board was presented with the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Funds Plan on September 9, 2022, and this included a large electrical project, internally designated for \$9.5 million. The Curris Center switch replacement has been completed and the Pogue Library switchgear replacement is in progress at this time. As the infrastructure has been studied with electrical consultants, the next step is to design and build a new Substation for redundancy purposes. Major work within the Substation since its original construction includes rebuilding of both large power transformers and the addition of modern solid-state transformer and circuit protection relays, both occurring within the last 10-12 years. There have been many changes to campus over the past 25 years with buildings being added, older buildings being razed and other building modifications that have altered electrical needs. As with years of changes, a multi-year, phased approach is planned to continue upgrading and modifying this infrastructure.

The proposed scope of this project includes the installation of a new 69,000-volt Substation located on the North side of campus to help provide more redundancy and circuit routing options. In the current Substation, the project scope also provides for replacement of the existing 69,000-volt disconnect switches, 69,000-volt circuit breakers, 13,200-volt circuit breakers, 13,200-volt switchgear and other ancillary equipment. The project would also include the upgrade of several components of the distribution equipment in various locations of campus and the upgrade of the 4,160-volt to more modern voltage class equipment for the older academic buildings. This project will now be funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool funded in the 2024-26 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$11,600,000, including design and construction. Planning and design for these upgrades is currently being undertaken with long-lead items planned to be procured beginning Summer 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Electrical Utility Upgrades. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Electrical Utility Upgrades, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Electrical Utility Upgrades as just read aloud. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Hogancamp General Services HVAC Upgrades, approved

Regent Roark reported that the Hogancamp General Services Building was constructed in 1971. This 64,079 square foot building houses the Murray State Procurement Department, including Receiving and Postal Operations and Surplus Property, University Printing Services and leased space to the West Kentucky Educational Cooperative. The chiller and cooling tower are both housed inside the building. The building has been modified over the years to house more offices and personnel who now contend with the noise of a large chiller running during the cooling season. Also, the cooling tower holds large amounts of water that tends to cause leaks or flooding issues to other finished spaces.

The proposed scope of this project involves HVAC upgrades, including replacement of the existing chiller and cooling tower, which are housed inside the building, with an air-cooled chiller installed outside of the building footprint. Other upgrades will be planned as funds allow to help increase efficiency and energy savings opportunities with integrated controls and variable frequency drives for high output pumps and air handling equipment. This project will be funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool funded in the 2024-26 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$1,440,000, including design and construction. Design for this replacement project would begin in Spring 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Hogancamp General Services HVAC Upgrades. Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Hogancamp General Services HVAC Upgrades, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Belcher moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Hogancamp General Services HVAC Upgrades as just read aloud. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Business North, Faculty Hall and Wells Hall Elevator Upgrades, approved

Regent Roark reported that Business Building North was constructed in 1962 and is roughly 47,682 square feet with the square footage for North and South Business totaling 109,024. The Business Building houses the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business. There was an addition to the building in 1965 to add more floors to the South building and again in 2000 with an expansion to the North building and a new front-facing entrance on 16th Street. There are two elevators that serve the six-story South building and one elevator that serves the four-story North building.

Faculty Hall was constructed in 1970 and is 111,200 square feet in seven occupied floors and houses the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and a portion of the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, with class offerings in English, History and Mathematics. Faculty Hall received some ADA upgrades in 1991, fire alarm upgrades in 1997 and several minor interior renovations to office suites and classrooms over the years. Faculty Hall hosts hundreds of occupants each day, all utilizing its four elevators to travel throughout this building.

Wells Hall was constructed in 1925 and is the third oldest building on campus. This 68,000 square foot building houses many entities, a few of which are executive offices for the President and two Vice Presidents and the Psychology Department. Wells Hall underwent an extensive architectural renovation in 1977 which included the addition of an elevator to access all four floors of the building and several minor architectural renovations since then to various office suites. The last large renovation to Wells Hall was the window replacement in 2022.

The proposed scope of this project consists of elevator upgrades for the three buildings listed above: Business North (1 – 4-stop), Faculty Hall (1 – 8-stop and 3 – 7-stop) and Wells Hall (1 – 4-stop). The upgrades include updated finishes to the cab interiors, modernized controls and the hydraulic and hoist systems for elevators within each building. This project will be funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool funded in the 2024-26 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$2,500,000, including design and construction. Design for these upgrades would begin in Spring 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Business North, Faculty Hall and Wells Hall Elevator Upgrades. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Business North, Faculty Hall and Wells Hall Elevator Upgrades, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Business North, Faculty Hall and Wells Hall Elevator Upgrades as just read aloud. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Disposition of Structure – College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016), approved

Regent Roark reported that College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016), was acquired in 1966 at a cost of \$127,818. This facility has twelve (12) apartments containing approximately 7,575 square feet and is fully depreciated. Building 1000 is currently partially occupied and will be vacated at the end of the 2024-25 academic year. Due to the cost of needed repairs and the return on investment, the building is being razed.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Resolution and Order presented authorizing the disposition of the structure known as College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016) at an estimated cost of \$40,000. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Disposition of Structure – College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016), approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Resolution and Order authorizing the disposition of the structure known as College Courts Building 1000 (Building #0016) at an estimated cost of \$40,000. Regent Belcher seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #6)

Adjournment

The Buildings and Grounds Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents and Committee Meetings adjourned for the Learning Commons/Residence Hall Groundbreaking. The Board will then have lunch in the Heritage Hall – Hall of Benefactors and is expected to reconvene at approximately 1 p.m.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents at 12:45 p.m.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee

David Meinschein – Chair
Robbie Fitch
G. L. Ovey
Melony Shemberger

Enrollment Management and Student Success Chair Meinschein called the Committee to order at 12:45 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Update, received

Vice President Robertson and Assistant Vice President White provided a Student Affairs and Enrollment Management update on Spring 2025 enrollment, Racer Nation Orientation, predictive analysis, Fall 2024 to Spring 2025 First-Time Freshmen Persistence Rate, recruitment and retention activities, mental health resources and Career Services with the following highlights:

- Spring Semester 2025 headcount is up 4.3 percent over this time last year. Credit hours are also up by 2.6 percent. This success is due to the good work of many individuals from Enrollment Management, as well as retention staff and the Office of Student Engagement and Success. Numbers are up for both undergraduate and graduate students.
- As of this morning, 1,470 students have registered for Racer Nation Orientation (RNO) which is above this time last year. Total application numbers are actually down by 20 percent but this past Wednesday, Racer Days had the largest number of participants on campus based on at least the last four to five years and many of those students signed up for RNO. Appreciation was expressed to faculty and staff who helped to make this event successful as students were able to talk with someone from their academic area of interest.
- Dr. Fister created the Predictive Analysis Model utilized by the University to identify the right students for Murray State. She helps predict final enrollment numbers. As part of the scoring process, it is known that students in the 2.75 range or above are more likely to enroll. Currently, 50 percent of applicants are in that 2.75 range, compared to 34 percent in Fall 2024 and 35 percent in Fall 2023 which were two record classes. There may be less applicants but if they are the right applicants, they are more likely to enroll and be successful Murray State students. As a result, the University's yield rate will be higher and that will partially offset the lower number of applications.
- In terms of retention, consideration is given to the persistence rate based on the students who were enrolled in the Fall Semester and how many of those return for the Spring Semester. The Fall 2024 Semester to Spring 2025 Semester persistence rate for first-time freshmen is higher than last year at 94 percent, representing yet another positive trend. One of the main initiatives to emerge from the work of the *President's Task Force on Retention* was creation of the Professional Advisors Program to work with freshman students. The persistence rate for all students was 93 percent but for those students with a Professional Advisor, it was 94.25 percent. This shows that the professional advising model is working and efforts are currently underway to have available in all of the academic areas by the Fall 2025 Semester. This year the Academic Advisory Academy has also been launched in conjunction with the Provost's Office and the initial test of this new initiative occurred within the College of Education and Human Services. This initiative will also be expanded to the other academic areas. The *Racers Empower* initiative was outlined with a focus on mental health wellness for Murray State students. The University also offered expanded study table hours, ongoing leadership workshops and a College and Career Readiness Conference which was well attended. This past Saturday a financial literacy

workshop was offered on home ownership. Appreciation was expressed to Regent Waldrop who led the workshop which was very informative and well attended. Feedback received from workshop attendees has been very positive.

- Recruitment activities include Racer Days. Recruitment staff are also exploring new areas from which to recruit. Students who completed applications for housing but did not sign up for RNO have been contacted which has further increased numbers in this regard. Continual contact with high school Guidance Counselors is maintained and meetings have been held with Branding, Marketing and Communication in terms of recruitment materials needed to be ready for the July and August recruitment cycles. Focus will then be placed on signing ceremonies in the high schools to increase yield activity even further. This represents an interesting time as staff are continuing to focus on yield for the Fall 2025 Semester but also starting to focus on the Fall 2026 Semester. This means staff are essentially recruiting two classes simultaneously.
- Regent Waldrop indicated that Guidance Counselors are very accustomed to seeing President Jackson in their schools and they consider him to be a friend. He asked how the transition to Dr. Patterson is being handled. Vice President Robertson confirmed this was a major topic of discussion when he met with President-elect Patterson who indicated he also wants to be actively involved in the recruitment process. Visits will be set up with the individual schools and several counselor workshops will be held. Assistant Vice President White confirmed that this has been discussed with Director of Recruitment Shawn Smee, Executive Director Bernot and several other offices in regard to coordinating a road trip to introduce Dr. Patterson to the region and this is currently in the planning stages. High school visits and community events are being planned in this regard. Regent Waldrop expressed appreciation as the importance of ensuring continuity in this regard was a priority of the Presidential Search Committee.
- Mental health resources that are available on campus for students, faculty and staff were outlined. As is true everywhere, more and more students are coming to college with mental health needs. As a result of President Jackson's leadership, the University has been able to expand its resources in the mental health arena both in person and via a virtual format. The Counseling Center on campus represents a traditional model and an additional full-time Counselor will be added for the 2025-26 academic year. The Counseling Center provides both in-person and virtual sessions for students. The Center offers individual, couples and group therapy and has an on-call service. All services are provided free of charge to students from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and after hours as needed. TimelyCare was added to the available mental health resources to fill the after-hours gap once the Counseling Center closes for the day, as well as on weekends and holidays. There is also the Psychological Center on campus offering primarily in-person sessions. The Center offers individual and couples counseling and family therapy. The Psychological Center also offers on-call services primarily for students but can be used by faculty, staff and community members. Counseling is free for students, faculty and staff but they will also conduct assessments if needed which may have an associated minimal cost. Virtual counseling sessions are provided through TimelyCare 24 hours per day, seven days per week. TimelyCare also offers individual therapy and psychiatric services. All services are provided free of charge for students. The Talk Now service (on demand) is available 24/7. A lot of marketing is provided informing the campus community about these mental health resources which are critical to recruitment and retention. Materials are also being provided in the classrooms in support of mental health resources. A Student Intervention Team meets every two weeks and keeps a record of students who are on the University's radar in terms of potential mental health concerns. Welfare checks are also conducted. The Department of Athletics has its own care team that helps support student-athletes due to their travel schedules. There is an early alert system through Starfish and a student basic needs website has been developed.
- An Employee Assistance Program is available for faculty and staff through Human Resources. This represents a voluntary, confidential program that provides professional help to employees and their household members who may need assistance through counseling and work-life balance. Anthem also has a health app that provides access to in-network providers and virtual care for mental health for faculty and staff that are covered by the Murray State health plan. Human Resources also has a very comprehensive Racer Wellness Program which encourages, supports and assists employees in taking a proactive approach to improve their overall well-being. Workshops and speakers are offered on a regular basis and cover a variety of topics. Employees are also encouraged to join the Wellness Center or they can sign the Wellness Center Pledge and be able to use the facility free of charge. Confirmation was provided that the administration receives a report every month in regard to TimelyCare usage and when that occurs. All were asked to remember that this is the first year since the TimelyCare resource has been available. The availability of mental health resources for students is a very important topic for parents and families and the University must be proactive in this regard. The mental health arena has changed significantly and students are more upfront about seeking out professional help.
- MSU Health Services provides care to students, faculty and staff in partnership with the Murray-Calloway County Hospital (MCCH) and Murray Medical Associates. This has represented a great partnership and the number of students, as well as faculty and staff, who are utilizing MSU Health Services is significantly higher. This shows that it is meeting a need. Health Services is located on the first floor of Wells Hall and is open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Services are available after hours at Murray Medical Associates or the MCCH Emergency Room. Health Services are equally important to parents, families and students as mental health resources.
- Career Services helps prepare students for interviews and successful employment or professional school admittance. Last week three Career Fairs were held. The first was the All-Majors Graduate School Fair and 86 employers were present, with 299 Murray State students participating – a record number for the Spring Semester. The STEM/OSH Career Fair had 91 employers participating, with 319 Murray State students attending – the highest number of students in attendance since spring of 2017. The Teacher Career Fair had 48 school districts in attendance, one as far away as Alaska. There were 135 Murray State students who participated. Director of Career Services Matt Purdy and his staff do an outstanding job and their efforts are very much appreciated. Dean of the College of Education and Human Services David Whaley reported that the reason there was a recruiter from Alaska in attendance is because a Murray State student did go to that school district and they are looking to hire another MSU graduate which speaks to the quality of the program. Regent Meinschein confirmed that discussions have occurred among the Superintendents about hiring outside of education majors to recruit more English, science, social studies

and math teachers. There is potential for employment of students from other disciplines as well. Vice President Robertson confirmed that all Career Fairs are open to any student who wants to attend.

- The 67th Annual All Campus Sing event will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 (eventually postponed to April 30, 2025, due to inclement weather) and all Regents were invited to attend.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Adjournment

The Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Legislative and Economic Development Committee

Matthew Price – Chair
Andy Belcher
Brendan Hawkins
Emily Roark
Tom Waldrop

Legislative and Economic Development Chair Price called the Committee to order at 1:13 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Legislative Update, received

Assistant Vice President Smith provided a legislative update with the following highlights:

- Today is the last day of the Legislative Session or *Sine Die* (Day 30).
- Murray State staff have participated in weekly advocacy meetings with the Legislature to discuss the authorization for the University to offer a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM), representing an over two-year process. Weekly meetings also occurred with regard to performance funding, although a bill was not passed this Legislative Session. Staff actively monitored all bills impacting Murray State and higher education and met as needed in this regard.
- Key events during the Legislative Session included Murray State University's presentation to the Council on Postsecondary Education Board in regard to the Strategic Agenda. West Kentucky Thank You Night, which Murray State sponsored, was held on February 13 and regional Chambers of Commerce, Judges and Mayors came together in Frankfort. Posters-at-the-Capitol, which Murray State hosts every year, took place on March 6. Most recently, Regent Hawkins and other Student Government Association leaders from across the state participated in the Higher Education Student Rally on March 27.
- Senate Bill 77 is the vehicle that will allow comprehensive universities to establish new performance criteria to submit a proposal for a new doctoral program, including Murray State University to begin pursuing a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. This bill requires that the proposed program be included in the CPE's budget request for the next Biennial Budget if there is a funding ask. Work to make this determination is currently underway for Murray State. There are also specific criteria or guardrails for the CPE to review the proposed program but Murray State is confident it will meet or exceed those requirements. The CPE must also review the proposal and issue a recommendation to the General Assembly on the proposed program but this represents the pathway forward. Kentucky Revised Statute 164.295 specifically did not allow comprehensive universities to offer doctorate degrees but Senate Bill 77 opens the floodgates for all comprehensive universities to offer doctoral degrees. Senate Bill 77 passed both Chambers on a bi-partisan basis and was signed into law by the Governor. The University received so much support for this initiative not only from various statewide organizations but also at the federal level. Appreciation was expressed to Congressman James Comer for his efforts on behalf of the University. He has supported a vet school at Murray State since he was a state legislator and has been championing the University's efforts in this regard since day one. United States Senator Rand Paul was also very vocal in this effort and even issued a letter of support for Murray State in regard to the DVM. Appreciation was expressed to Speaker Dave Osborne, Senate President Robert Stivers, House Floor Leader Steven Rudy, Senators Robby Mills and Max Wise, Speaker Pro-Tem David Meade, Representative Mary Beth Imes who filed the original bill this Session and constantly monitored its progress, Senator Jason Howell who was very supportive and many other lawmakers who took an active role in the bi-partisan support for this initiative.
- Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55) directs the governing board of each public postsecondary institution to adopt policies to combat antisemitism and require implementation until June 30, 2028. Murray State would be required to submit data to the CPE which, in turn, would report the information to the Legislature. SJR 55 passed the Senate 35 to zero but is still awaiting action in the House and may not make it through the process.
- House Bill 4 (HB 4) is the DEI bill which increases oversight of public colleges/universities to ensure they do not spend dollars on or have employees solely devoted to advancing DEI initiatives. By June 30, 2025, university boards must adopt a policy on viewpoint neutrality that prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's political or social ideology and promotes intellectual diversity within the institution. Universities are banned from having DEI-specific offices/employees and cannot provide DEI training. By October of each year, universities must submit reports to the Legislative Research Commission that include a list of policies and programs that are "designed or implemented to promote or provide differential treatment or benefit to individuals on the basis of religion, race, sex, color or national origin." HB 4 also prohibits the CPE from approving a degree, certificate or diploma program that includes discriminatory concepts or DEI. The bill further directs the Auditor of Public Accounts to conduct an audit at least once every four years to determine whether an institution spent money in

violation of the Act. The bill does retain the University’s sovereign immunity, provides protections regarding accreditation, academic freedom and any trainings required by Title IX and ADA. The bill passed both Chambers but was vetoed by the Governor. It is likely the Governor’s veto will be overridden by the General Assembly. As one legislator indicated, this provides a roadmap for the universities to follow to align with all of the new federal Executive Orders that are forthcoming and keep the institution from being sued. Confirmation was provided that the name of the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access has been changed back to the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX.

- House Bill 424 (HB 424) was monitored very closely during this Legislative Session. HB 424 requires the boards of each public postsecondary institution to approve a performance and productivity evaluation process for presidents and all faculty members by January 1, 2026. The bill also requires faculty evaluations to be completed at least once every four years and permits the removal of employees for failure to meet performance and productivity requirements, regardless of status. The bill also removes the allowance of six-year employment contracts. HB 424 passed both Chambers but was vetoed by the Governor. The Governor’s veto was overridden yesterday by the General Assembly and it is now a law of the state. Regent Shemberger indicated the tenured faculty members are already evaluated every year by their respective departments and a process in this regard has always been in place. The Faculty Senate has been working diligently to craft a proposed policy that could be submitted to the Board for approval, pending other administrative approvals. This work began over a year ago when it was thought this might be passed by the Legislature. She believes there should be some protections in place for tenured faculty to be able to have the academic freedom they need in the classroom. Faculty Senate member Dr. Michael Bordieri has provided significant support in this regard. Confirmation was provided that Murray State was not the target with this bill and legislators were actually very complimentary in terms of policies and procedures that are already in place at MSU. Chair Owens indicated he does not believe the Board needs to be involved in evaluating faculty, only in approving the process by which this is done.
- Senate Resolution 216, which is the confirmation of Board of Regents appointee Dr. Andy Belcher, was filed on March 12 and has now passed the Senate. Regent Belcher received a round of applause.
- Senate Resolution 102 recognizing President Jackson upon his future retirement was filed on February 28 and was adopted by voice vote on March 4, 2025. Senate President Stivers was very passionate about this as he served with President Jackson in the Senate. The House also approved a citation recognizing Dr. Jackson. President Jackson received a round of applause.
- Senate Bill 237 amends KRS 164.952 to remove the limitations on the number of retired police officers a public postsecondary education institution may employ without paying into the retirement system. The bill passed both Chambers and has been signed into law by the Governor.
- House Bill 251 requires the Educational Professional Standards Board, rather than the CPE, to ensure teacher education programs provide highly-skilled teachers. The bill passed both Chambers and has been signed into law by the Governor.
- Senate Bill 3 updates state law to permit universities and affiliated athletic organizations to enter into direct compensation agreements with student-athletes. The bill enables universities to sublicense an athlete’s NIL to third parties and establishes legal protections for contract disputes to protect student-athletes. The bill passed both Chambers and has now been signed into law by the Governor.
- Photos were shown from the Legislative Session; the CPE Board meeting and a visit to the Kentucky Educational Television studio where President Jackson, Assistant Vice President Smith, Regent and SGA President Hawkins and Silas Jackson met with Renee Shaw.

Assistant Vice President Smith expressed appreciation to everyone at Murray State who provided assistance during the Legislative Session, including legislative members and leadership, staff and Field Representatives. President Jackson expressed appreciation to Assistant Vice President Smith for his work. This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Adjournment

The Legislative and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Finance Committee

Robbie Fitch – Chair
Matthew Price
David Meinschein
Leon Owens
Melony Shemberger

Finance Chair Fitch called the Committee to order at 1:42 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Establishment of the Children of J.D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that the *Children of J.D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment* is being established by a generous estate gift to Murray State University from Mrs. Virginia Barfield as a way to memorialize her loving spirit and to assist students at Murray State University in obtaining an education to prepare them for a career in the business field.

Mrs. Barfield was the fourth of eight children born to James David Grant and Ina Malone Grant of Farmington, Kentucky. She graduated from Murray State University in 1941. For the next nine years, she continued her teaching in Paducah, Kentucky, and in Columbus, Georgia. Having married William H. Barfield, a pharmacist, in 1945, she and her husband moved to Richland, Georgia, in 1950. Mr. Barfield had purchased the Little's Drug Store in Richland. During the next 15 years, Mrs. Barfield worked about 60 hours a week in the drug store. In 1965, Mrs. Barfield was appointed as Executive Director of the Enrichment Services Program, Inc., a community action agency and for 38 years she served the poor and disadvantaged. This agency served low-income residents within an eight-county area of the lower Chattahoochee Valley. The agency tries to help the poor and disadvantaged to get on their feet and learn to help themselves. Mrs. Barfield gave untiringly of herself as the Executive Director until 2003. The agency started the Stewart County Rural Health Center and initiated and funded the establishment of Westville. Mrs. Barfield made a significant contribution by serving on national committees, such as OEO, the Poverty and the Integration committees. She received national recognition for her community action. She also established trust funds to Murray State University, the University of Kentucky and the University of Georgia. She found great satisfaction in supporting institutions of higher education. Her family remembers her especially for her personal sacrifice to achieve an education, love of family, hard work, generous spirit, appreciation of antiques, loving concern for the poor and her faithful stewardship of her total life and resources. Her well-spent life will continue to inspire and encourage the poor and disenfranchised for many years to come.

Vice Chair Fitch reported it is the wish of the University leadership that this gift be used to establish a quasi-endowment. The actual number of the awards may vary based on growth of this fund and available investment earnings. The total amount of the proceeds from the estate is unknown at this time; however, the entirety of this gift will be considered an asset of the University, but will be held by the MSU Foundation for investment and administration purposes in accordance with the *Murray State University Board of Regents Policy 2.9 – Investment Policies and Agreement Section II.G*. Any student with a minimum GPA of 2.75 can apply for an award and financial aid may also be considered. Recipients from a previous year can reapply as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the establishment of the *Children of J.D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment* to be administered in accordance with the guidelines provided. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Establishment of the *Children of J. D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment*, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the establishment of the *Children of J. D. Grant Endowment for Excellence in Business Quasi-Endowment* to be administered in accordance with the attached guidelines. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #7)

Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment Guidelines Revision, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported that at its meeting on June 6, 2014, the Murray State University Board of Regents approved the establishment of the *Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment* in recognition of the many contributions the Crisp Family and Pepsi Mid-America have made to Murray State University. The annual student scholarship award was originally designated at a maximum of \$1,000 and the total amount of the awards vary based on growth available through interest earnings – as these awards are made from interest earnings.

The restrictive nature of the original guidelines with regard to the dollar amount of the awards presents challenges in fully utilizing the earnings of the endowment. Therefore, the guidelines have been modified to allow more flexibility in the award amount and to allow the University President and the Office of Development to update this as needed without bringing such changes back to the Board of Regents for approval. The MSU Foundation serves as the administrator of the funds with the original corpus for the quasi-endowment established at \$560,000.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the updated *Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment* guidelines as presented. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment Guidelines Revision, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the updated *Crisp Family/Pepsi Mid-America Scholarship Quasi-Endowment* guidelines as presented in the attached document. Regent Price seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #8)

Annual Lease Report, accepted

Vice Chair Fitch reported that as per Item #16 of the Delegation of Authority, the Board is to approve University real property and facilities' leases under which 1) the University is the lessee if the annual rental is in excess of \$100,000 or 2) the University is the lessor of the University real property or facilities and the lease has a non-cancellable term exceeding one year. No additional approval will be required if an approved lease is renewed pursuant to the same terms and conditions but the Board will be advised of any such renewal. A listing of all leases is provided to the Board annually.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the annual Lease Report as presented. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Annual Lease Report, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the attached annual Lease Report. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #9)

Personal Services Contracts, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported 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 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.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent 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 per requirements of the Delegation of Authority Item #11. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the contracts as listed in the attached document per requirements of the Delegation of Authority Item #11. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #10)

Projects, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported Delegation of Authority Item #20 states that “...Prior to moving forward, all projects, including price contracts related to capital projects, costing over \$500,000 and up to the threshold denoted by Kentucky statute should be reviewed by the Board Chair and the President and a determination made in terms of those projects requiring further Board approval.” A schedule listing new projects or projects with a total estimated cost of over \$500,000 was provided to the Board.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the projects outlined on the listing provided. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Projects, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the projects outlined on the attached listing. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch,

yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #11)

Adjournment

The Finance Committee adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Marketing and Community Engagement Committee

G. L. Ovey – Chair
Andy Belcher
Brendan Hawkins
Tom Waldrop
David Wilson

Marketing and Community Engagement Chair Ovey called the Committee to order at 1:53 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

University Advancement Update, received

Executive Director Bernot introduced the entire University Advancement team members who were present and they received a round of applause. Executive Director Bernot shared a University Advancement Campaign Update with the following highlights:

- In 2018 when President Jackson took the reins of the University, the Office of Development set was tasked with exploring the possibility of undertaking a \$100 million Capital Campaign. It was recognized at the time that this would be the most significant fundraising effort in the history of the University. There was also a desire to have the campaign align with the University's Centennial Celebration in 2022. The pandemic had other plans but did not derail efforts to proceed with a vision and strategy of the University according to the Strategic Plan and all of the priorities that have been set for Murray State. A Campaign Readiness Study was undertaken and donors and prospects agreed that the University could reach a \$100-million goal. Of the funds raised, 50 percent would be reserved for student access and support and 50 percent would be utilized for academic excellence and the strategic modernization of campus which includes support for Racer Athletics.
- Through March 10, 2025, gifts totaling \$7.2 million have been raised from 2,911 unique donors (8,793 gifts) and more than \$12.6 million in new commitments have been received year-to-date. This does not include Give Bold: Day of Giving results. The \$7.2 million represents dollars that have been received and the \$12.6 million signifies pledges and planned gift commitments. Donors have made this another tremendous year of giving.
- To date, the University has received \$50,269,000 in pledges and commitments and \$51,214,000 in gifts (cash) received – representing nearly 25,000 donors and more than 110,000 gifts for a grand total of \$101,483 – making this the most successful campaign in the history of Murray State University. Work in regard to the campaign will continue through June but the \$100 million goal has already been exceeded.

The Office of Development team received a round of applause and standing ovation. Executive Director Bernot expressed appreciation to the Board for their support; faculty and staff who have also been tremendously generous; students who are giving and the MSU Foundation partners who are processing, managing and investing these monies wisely to benefit students.

This report was presented for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Gifts-in-Kind

Miscellaneous Laboratory Equipment – Chemistry Department – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, received, accepted and approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that the Board of Regents is being asked to accept the gift of laboratory equipment and supplies to the Chemistry Department in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University for classroom and lab use. There is a faculty connection between Chair and Professor of the Department of Chemistry Kevin Miller and the Stine family in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, which made this gift possible.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Hawkins moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of miscellaneous laboratory equipment with a value of \$101,548.41 from Matthew and Brooke Stine of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, for use in the Chemistry Department in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Miscellaneous Laboratory Equipment – Chemistry Department – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, received, accepted and approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of miscellaneous laboratory equipment with a value of \$101,548.41 from Matthew and Brooke Stine of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, for use in the Chemistry Department in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Murray State University. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Stallion Breeding Fees – Equine Program – Hutson School of Agriculture, received, accepted and approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that the Board of Regents is being asked to accept the gift of Stallion Breeding Fees to be utilized in the Equine Program in the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University. There is a faculty connection with donor Stephen Stephens in Weatherford, Texas, which made this gift possible.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Belcher moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of Stallion Breeding Fees with a value of \$6,750 from Stephen Stephens of Weatherford, Texas, for use in the Equine Program in the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Stallion Breeding Fees – Equine Program – Hutson School of Agriculture, received, accepted and approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of Stallion Breeding Fees with a value of \$6,750 from Stephen Stephens of Weatherford, Texas, for use in the Equine Program in the Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Naming Opportunity

Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that Dr. Jesse D. Jones graduated from Murray State University in 1964 with a double major in chemistry and mathematics. A native of Marshall County, Jones was a nontraditional student and earned his degrees while he was married with two young children and working evenings at a plant in Calvert City. While his schedule prevented him from enjoying daily activities on campus, Jones considers his classes at Murray State University to be an incredible experience that led him to future success.

After graduating, Dr. Jones moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and started work for Ethyl Corporation, which in 1994 was divided into Ethyl and Albemarle. Both companies had facilities in Baton Rouge. For over thirty years, Dr. Jones performed chemistry, engineering and sales assignments for the corporation. Early in his career, he worked as a plastics engineer and helped develop the technologies to use PVC piping in cold water systems. His contributions to research and development in polymers, plastics and materials were the basis for 19 patents to the Ethyl and Albemarle Corporation. As his career continued, his responsibilities shifted to technical support for manufacturing and sales. Dr. Jones supported projects such as the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals like Ibuprofen and of bromine-based chemicals that are used in a broad range of applications. Throughout his tenure, he had the opportunity to travel the world with the Ethyl and Albemarle Corporation to promote its manufacturing facilities and customer operations.

Since his retirement from Albemarle Corporation in 1999, Dr. Jones has dedicated his time and resources to Murray State University by generously supporting student scholarships, endowing professorships and contributing to faculty honors and funding state-of-the-art research facilities. Dr. Jones made the lead gift in our previous University capital campaign, Hold Thy Banner High, and has continued to give over three decades toward projects including the Jesse L. Jones Family Clocktower, named for his late father; the creation of a satellite library in Jesse D. Jones Hall; the Hattie Mayme Ross Science Library; support for science equipment and technology through the naming of the Timothy D. Jones Gateway, named for his son; the Racer Writing Center; support for Murray State's annual Math Day; established scholarship and professorship funds in the sciences, helping the University secure funds from the state *Bucks for Brains* program, and was instrumental in the development of Heritage Hall and the Hall of Benefactors.

Dr. Jones has also been recognized as a Murray State University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni and in recognition for his commitment and contributions to the fields of mathematics and chemistry, was awarded the Doctor of Science Honoris Causa degree from Murray State University in May of 2010. Dr. Jones has been previously honored over the past several years by Murray State University, including receiving the Golden Horseshoe Award. In 2013, the Board of Regents unanimously voted to rename the College of Science, Engineering and Technology in his honor.

Dr. Jones’ lifetime giving of over \$4 million has been amazingly impactful for Murray State University, our facilities, students and faculty. Most recently, he has made gifts in support of equipment and technology for the new nursing building – Jackson Hall. It is in appreciation of Dr. Jones’ loyal support to the University that approval of the naming of the Faculty Lounge in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions academic building as the “*Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge*” is being recommended. The naming will be commemorated with a Dedication and signage located on Level 2 of the Nursing Building.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the Faculty Lounge in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions academic building, as the “*Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge*,” located on Level 2 of the Nursing Building, in appreciation of Dr. Jones’ generosity and loyal support of Murray State University. The naming will be commemorated with a Dedication and signage. Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the Faculty Lounge in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions academic building, as the “*Dr. Jesse D. Jones Faculty Lounge*,” located on Level 2 of the Nursing Building, in appreciation of Dr. Jones’ generosity and loyal support of Murray State University. The naming will be commemorated with a Dedication and signage. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Marketing and Community Engagement Committee adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents adjourned for a break beginning at 2:05 p.m.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents at 2:15 p.m.

Personnel Changes

Faculty Sabbatical Leaves, approved

Provost Todd reported that the following Sabbaticals have been approved by all appropriate recommending levels. Academic sabbaticals are awarded for either two semesters at one-half salary or one semester at full salary.

▪ Marcie Hinton	Journalism and Mass Communications	Fall 2025
▪ Michael Martin	Art and Design	Fall 2025
▪ Judy Crofton	English and Philosophy	Fall 2025
▪ Olga Koulisis	History	Fall 2025
▪ Christopher Lennon	Biological Sciences	Fall 2025
▪ Omer Yayenie	Mathematics and Statistics	Fall 2025
▪ Jacob Hildebrant	School of Engineering	Fall 2025
▪ Naveen Musunuru	Agricultural Science	Fall 2025
▪ Azaher Molla	Public and Community Health	Fall 2025
▪ Melony Shemberger	Journalism and Mass Communications	Spring 2026
▪ Danielle Nielsen	English and Philosophy	Spring 2026
▪ Justin Walsh	Global Languages and Theatre Arts	Spring 2026
▪ Jie Wu	Global Languages and Theatre Arts	Spring 2026
▪ Eric Swisher	Music	Spring 2026
▪ Paul Foote	Political Science and Sociology	Spring 2026

▪ Andrea Darracq	Biological Sciences	Spring 2026
▪ Robin Zhang	Earth and Environmental Sciences	Spring 2026
▪ Tan Zhang	Mathematics and Statistics	Spring 2026
▪ Joshua Easterling	English and Philosophy	Academic Year 25-26
▪ Juyoung Song	English and Philosophy	Academic Year 25-26

Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, grant the requests for Sabbatical Leaves for the individuals and periods indicated above. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, pass; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Salary Roster, approved

President Jackson reported that in compliance with state statutes and the responsibilities of the University Treasurer as identified in the *Bylaws* of the Board of Regents, the attached Salary Roster outlines the amount paid to each professor, teacher or official of the school. The Salary Roster is presented to the Board at the meetings following June 30 and December 31 each year.

Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Salary Roster as of December 31, 2024, which includes new employment, retirements, resignations and terminations. Regent Roark seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #12)

Supplemental Materials, received

President Jackson reported that supplemental materials were included in the eBoard book as follows: “Good News” Report (Winter 2025); Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (October – December 2024) and Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report – Awards by College/Department and Awards by Funding Source.

President Jackson expressed appreciation to Executive Director Touney and his team for their excellent work as it is very much appreciated. Chair Owens echoed this sentiment, particularly with regard to the advertisements that are showing on television. They are very well done.

These reports were provided for informational purposes only and required no Board action.


Other Business/Adjournment

Chair Owens indicated there being no further business to come before the Board, the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings stand adjourned.

Adjournment was at 2:20 p.m.



 Secretary Jill Hunt



 Chair Leon Owens

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