

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents**  
**Murray State University**  
**August 29, 2025**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, August 29, 2025, in Quarterly and Committee Session in the Hall of Benefactors in Heritage Hall on the Murray State University main campus. Chair Robbie Fitch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those joining in person and via livestream. Board Secretary Jill Hunt called roll and the following Board members were present: Andy Belcher, Robbie Fitch, Ali Khatib, David Meinschein, Leon Owens, Matt Price, Emily Roark, Tom Waldrop, David Wilson, and Gary ZeRuth. Absent: G. L. Ovey.

Participants in the meeting were: Ron K. Patterson, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; 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; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President, Finance; Roslyn White, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management; Jordan Smith, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs; Cami Duffy, Executive Director of Equal Opportunity/Title IX; Tina Bernot, Assistant Vice President 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, Assistant Vice President 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 Fitch**

**Roll Call**

**Secretary Hunt**

**Public Participation**

**Chair Fitch**

**Consent Agenda**

**Chair Fitch/President Patterson**

**A. Minutes:**

- 1) Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings on June 6, 2025\*
- 2) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on July 18, 2025\*

**B. Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report (For Information Only)**

**C. Finance Committee – Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)**

**Report of the Chair**

**Chair Fitch**

**President's Delegation of Authority Reaffirmation\***

**Report of the President**

**President Patterson**

**Report of the Treasurer\***

**Sr. Vice President FAS Dudley**

**(Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports)**

**Committee Reports/Recommendations**

**A. Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Regent ZeRuth**

**1) Appointment of Dean – School of Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman\***

**B. Athletics**

**Chair Fitch**

1) **Personnel Changes:**

- a. Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Tennis Coach Jorge Caetano\*
- b. Contract of Employment Extension – Assistant Baseball Coach Steve Adkins\*
- c. Contract of Employment Amendment – Head Women’s Basketball Coach Rechelle Turner\*

2) **Governing Board Certifications**

- a. Missouri Valley Conference – Academic Year 2025-26\*
- b. Missouri Valley Football Conference – Academic Year 2025-26\*
- c. Ohio Valley Conference – Academic Year 2025-26\*

C. **Audit and Compliance** Regent Waldrop

- 1) Office of Internal Audit – Internal Audit Charter Reaffirmation\*
- 2) Office of Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026\*

D. **Buildings and Grounds** Regent Wilson

- 1) Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update (For Information Only)
- 2) Program Statement – Curris Center Chick-fil-A Refresh\*

E. **Enrollment Management and Student Success** Regent Roark

- 1) Enrollment Management and Student Success Update (For Information Only)

**12 noon (approx.) Break for Board of Regents Group Photo – Outside Heritage Hall**

**Lunch – Heritage Hall – Hall of Benefactors (approx. 12:10 p.m.)**

**1 p.m. (approx.) Reconvene**

F. **Finance** Vice Chair Meinschein

- 1) Leased Fleet Vehicles Agreement\*
- 2) Projects\*
- 3) Personal Services Contracts\*
- 4) Surplus Property Disposition\*

G. **Legislative and Economic Development** Regent Price

- 1) Legislative Update (For Information Only)

H. **Marketing and Community Engagement** Regent Ovey

- 1) Naming Opportunities:
  - a. Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse – Department of Athletics\*
  - b. The Murray Bank Baseball Videoboard – Department of Athletics\*
- 2) Gift-in-Kind – Supplies for Woodshop, Departments of Global Languages and Theatre Arts and Art and Design – College of Humanities and Fine Arts\*

**NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.**

**Personnel Changes** President Patterson

- A. Salary Roster\*

**Policy Changes** President Patterson

- A. *New Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 2.20.1 – Equal Opportunity/Addressing Antisemitism (first reading)\**

**Resolution of Appreciation** Chair Fitch/President Patterson

- A. Jackie Dudley – Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services\*

**Supplemental Materials (For Information Only)** President Patterson

- A. “Good News” Report (Spring/Summer 2025)
- B. Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (April – June 2025)

**C. Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report**

- **Awards by College/Department**
- **Awards by Funding Source**

**Other Business**

**Chair Fitch**

**Adjournment**

**Chair Fitch**

**(\*Requires Board of Regents Action)**

**Public Participation**

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

**Consent Agenda, approved, ratified and reports received**

Chair Fitch 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 of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on June 6, 2025\*
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on July 18, 2025\*
- Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report (For Information Only)
- Finance Committee – Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)

Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Consent Agenda items as submitted. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Report of the Chair**

**Delegation of Authority, reaffirmed**

Chair Fitch reported that on December 4, 2014, the Murray State Board of Regents approved the Delegation of Authority for the President of the University. The Delegation of Authority delegates the authority to conduct University business to the President, except where the Board reserves specific authority. The Delegation of Authority has been reaffirmed by the Board of Regents each year since its adoption and was last amended and reaffirmed at the Quarterly Board of Regents Meeting on September 13, 2024.

One amendment to Delegation of Authority Item #11 is being proposed for Board approval in regard to Personal Services Contracts. This change does not apply to revenue sharing/NIL agreements between the University and student-athletes. The Board delegates authority to the President to sign or have his delegee sign such arrangements up to \$500,000.

Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Board, reaffirm the attached Delegation of Authority for the President of Murray State University with the one noted revision. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment#1)

**Report of the President, received**

President Patterson reported that during the Retreat yesterday he provided an update to the Board on the Racer Spirit Listening and Learning Tour. During that presentation, he also highlighted recent accolades and in the interest of time will not repeat that report today.

## **Report of the Treasurer (Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports), approved**

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services Dudley presented the Report of the Treasurer (Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports) with the following highlights:

- The Quarterly Report being presented to the Board is as of June 30 and it is not final because the audit paperwork has not been completed. Any changes made during the audit process are not expected to be significant.
- Cash is down by about \$10 million and this is for multiple reasons that were anticipated. The University has started spending down more of its asset preservation bond proceeds that it sold a few years ago. These represent the matching dollars that are being used primarily for the 2022-24 state asset preservation account. As these projects are being finished, that cash is being spent down.
- The University also received gifts in 2024 that were transferred to the MSU Foundation, Inc. this year – primarily the Garrett gift. The gift was received in 2024 but for investment purposes was transferred to the Foundation this year.
- Accounts receivable are up by a significant amount. This is related to an increase in tuition and fee rates which causes accounts receivables to go up by the same amount. This is common and is an occurrence which will continue. The University also recorded as a receivable the CFSB Center gift at the end of the year. There was also quite a bit of receivables during the year due to many of the Athletic pledges coming into the University. These are recorded in 2025.
- Working capital is also up. Working capital is a component of primarily two items – inventory (Bookstore, Facilities Management) and the receivables factor.
- The University's net position is up by \$35 – \$38 million. This change represents approximately \$20 million in appropriations for capital projects. The University receives revenue for these capital projects. As it spends down it draws funds from the state and records those as capital/appropriation revenue but then the University capitalizes the building so there is no expense to offset revenue. The project will be expensed over the 40-year lifespan of the building as it is depreciated. If nothing else changes, the net position will go down as the University depreciates the building.
- Institutionally, revenues are up for the reasons just cited. Expenditures are up slightly due to significant increases in property insurance premiums from the state. There was also a debt service increase with the state due to increased expenditures. The variance is not widely different.
- In terms of the Education and General (E&G) Fund, the percent of budget at year-end was very close to where the University was for the last two years – representing a flat trend. Trends with revenue, expenditures, and auxiliaries are much the same. Auxiliaries were better off this year from a budgeted amount compared to actual expenditures because there were not as many larger projects. The excess has been transferred to deferred maintenance for future housing projects.
- The balance sheet and income statement for the overall institution was presented and changes were outlined. The tuition analysis presented shows where the University was budget compared to actual and this year actual was short of budget but a \$2 million contingency is in place in the budget and will offset this shortfall in tuition. Confirmation was provided that funding was budgeted for 2026 for the leases for the power docking stations for the residence halls. At the June 2025 meeting, the Board allowed funding to undertake the electrical and connection work. The design work has not yet been done and funds will not be transferred from reserves until the University starts spending in order to take advantage of as much interest as possible.
- The Education and General Fund represents operational dollars for salaries, utilities, operations, insurance, etc. This is how the University pays its bills. There was a \$2 million loss this year in the E&G Fund due primarily to transfers out. There was also a loss in Athletics and some project management fees. Some CERR funds were transferred over to the Plant Fund, representing the \$2 million loss. There was also an increase in the University's pension and OPED costs compared to prior year. Net position in the Education and General Fund actually went down from prior year for these reasons.
- In terms of whether there are any trends which cause concern, Senior Vice President Dudley reported that from a tuition perspective the trend is getting tighter – which is positive. In Fiscal Year 2026, the University will be reaching the fourth year of its scholarship model and it will be totally budgeted in the current budget. Trend wise, fluctuations in tuition and fees are expected to be minimized more in the future. As time goes on, however, there could be additional changes made to the scholarship and tuition models. Operationally, the University is spending more revenue than it is taking in. Departments are allowed to carryover and spend their revenues. This is not negative but as carryovers diminish, if they don't grow, this is going to lead to operational issues that will need to be addressed in future budgets. Academics is using carryovers as operational monies for renovations of office space and palatable purchases. As those start to trickle down, there is going to be a need to adjust that in the operating budget moving forward. This does represent a trend line that must be addressed over the next three to four years. If the department has state funds (appropriated monies), those do not carryover but fall out to cover deficit balances at the end of the year. There are programs generating revenue through course or online fees that are considered to be departmental. Up to this point, those have been permitted to carryover to be used in future years for expenditures the departments do not have one-time funds to cover. In this area, focus must be maintained on meeting budget projects. Accounting works with the department to budget revenues and care must be taken to ensure those

budgets are being met. When these are not met or were set to high, this amounts to a loss in that current year, in addition to spending down carryovers.

Regent Roark 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 June 30, 2025, as presented. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #2)

### **Committee Reports/Recommendations**

#### **Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee**

Gary ZeRuth – Chair  
Andy Belcher  
Ali Khatib  
David Meinschein  
G. L. Ovey

Chair ZeRuth called the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee to order at 8:46 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

#### **Appointment of Dean – School of Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, approved**

Regent ZeRuth reported that the Murray State University Board of Regents approved pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at its June 6, 2025, meeting. To begin discussions with the American Veterinary Medical Association on the development of an accredited program, the appointment of a Founding Dean is necessary. Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Murray State University in 2006 and her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University in 2010. Dr. Hoffman joined Murray State in 2013 and is presently serving as the Department Head for Veterinary Technology/Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hoffman is an experienced Veterinarian with an extensive record of teaching, research, service and administrative work.

Confirmation was provided that Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Dr. Brian Parr was involved in this discussion and supports the recommendation. Dr. Parr reported that per the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines, the Dean required for the School of Veterinary Medicine will need to be independent from the Hutson School of Agriculture. Dr. Hoffman has been involved in these discussions from the beginning and has worked with the design team for the building. Confirmation was provided that this action is contingent upon approval for the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) by the Council on Postsecondary Education. Provost Todd reported that Dr. Hoffman is a wonderful faculty member and academic leader and all should be thankful she is already on board.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Belcher moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the appointment of Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, effective January 5, 2026, at a fiscal year salary of \$200,000, contingent on successful Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine program approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education. Regent Khatib seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Full Board Action – Appointment of Dean – School of Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, approved**

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent ZeRuth moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the appointment of Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, effective January 5, 2026, at a fiscal year salary of \$200,000, contingent on successful Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine program approval by the Council on Postsecondary Education. Regent Owens seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr.

Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee adjourned at 8:51 a.m.

### **Athletics Committee**

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

Chair Fitch called the Athletics Committee to order at 8:51 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

### **Personnel Changes:**

#### **Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Tennis Coach Jorge Caetano, approved**

Chair Fitch reported that under Head Coach Jorge Caetano, the Women’s Tennis Program has won two regular season titles, a Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) tournament title and made an appearance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament over the last two seasons. Last season, the Racers posted an impressive 16-7 overall record and a perfect 8-0 record against league opponents, extending their regular season conference winning streak to 18 matches, and saw six student-athletes earn All-MVC honors. Coach Caetano was also named the MVC Coach of the Year for the second-straight season.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment extension for Mr. Jorge Caetano, Head Women’s Tennis Coach, for the term August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, as submitted. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Full Board Action – Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Tennis Coach Jorge Caetano, approved**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment extension for Mr. Jorge Caetano, Head Women’s Tennis Coach, for the term August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. Regent Roark seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #3)

Director Yantko expressed appreciation to the Board for their continued focus on helping to elevate another women’s sport program. Coach Caetano does a phenomenal job representing Murray State University not only in the classroom and community but in back-to-back championships in the Missouri Valley Conference. Coach Caetano is an alumnus of Murray State and it is exciting to see him continue to lead this program. Appreciation was also expressed to the donors who stepped up and put their time, talent, and treasures into this sports program.

#### **Contract of Employment Extension – Assistant Baseball Coach Steve Adkins, approved**

Chair Fitch reported that Assistant Baseball Coach Steve Adkins played a critical role in Murray State University’s run to the 2025 Men’s College World Series, leading the Racers’ pitching corps. In 2025, he coached First Team All-Missouri Valley Conference performers Isaac Silva and Nic Schutte and Second Team All-League selection Dylan Zentko. Having coached the

teams' pitchers since 2022, he has now coached three All-Conference pitchers in back-to-back seasons.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment extension for Mr. Steve Adkins, Assistant Baseball Coach, for the term August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027, as submitted. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Contract of Employment Extension – Assistant Baseball Coach Steve Adkins**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment extension for Mr. Steve Adkins, Assistant Baseball Coach, for the term August 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Regent Belcher seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #4)

**Contract of Employment Amendment – Head Women's Basketball Coach Rechelle Turner, approved**

Chair Fitch reported that Coach Rechelle Turner led the Murray State University Women's Basketball team to the program's first Missouri Valley Conference regular season and tournament titles. The championships earned the Racers their second trip to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament. Under Coach Turner, the Racers set the school record for the most wins in school history with 25 victories. The team saw four players earn All-Conference honors, including Katelyn Young's inclusion on the First Team. The University is pleased with Coach Turner's commitment to the Women's Basketball Program and to Murray State University.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment amendment for Mrs. Rechelle Turner, Head Women's Basketball Coach, for the term June 1, 2025, through March 31, 2029, as submitted. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action - Contract of Employment Amendment – Head Women's Basketball Coach Rechelle Turner, approved**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment amendment for Mrs. Rechelle Turner, Head Women's Basketball Coach, for the term June 1, 2025, through March 31, 2029. Regent Price seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #5)

**Governing Board Certifications**

**Missouri Valley Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

Chair Fitch reported that consistent with National Collegiate Athletic Association requirements related to institutional control of intercollegiate athletics, the Board of Regents is asked each year to consent that the authority for the administration of the Athletics Program is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the Governing Board Certification as it pertains to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Missouri Valley Conference for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action –Missouri Valley Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the attached Governing Board Certification as it pertains to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Missouri Valley Conference for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #6)

**Missouri Valley Football Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

Chair Fitch reported that consistent with National Collegiate Athletic Association requirements related to institutional control of intercollegiate athletics, the Board of Regents is asked each year to consent that the authority for the administration of the Athletics Program is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the Governing Board Certification as it pertains to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Missouri Valley Football Conference for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Missouri Valley Football Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the attached Governing Board Certification as it pertains to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Missouri Valley Football Conference for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #7)

**Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

Chair Fitch reported that as required by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and administered by the Ohio Valley Conference, the Board of Regents is asked each year to consent that the authority for the administration of the Athletics Program is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification – Academic Year 2025-26, consented**

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, consent to the attached Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification for Academic Year 2025-26. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #8)

On behalf of the Board, Regent Owens expressed appreciation to Director Yantko and his team for continuing to elevate the Murray State Athletics Department. The vision they have working in this changing environment is very much appreciated. All are doing a phenomenal job and the Board is looking forward to the upcoming Athletics' sports season. Director Yantko thanked Regent Owens for his comments and indicated he is grateful for the opportunity and the team believe excellence can instill excellence in each of the Athletics' programs and represent Murray State University in the highest manner. All are thankful to be part of Racer Nation.

### **Adjournment**

The Athletics Committee adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

### **Audit and Compliance Committee**

Tom Waldrop – Chair  
Ali Khatib  
Leon Owens  
Emily Roark  
David Wilson

Chair Waldrop called the Audit and Compliance Committee to order at 9:03 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

### **Office of Internal Audit – Internal Audit Charter, reaffirmed**

Internal Auditor Annie Dukes reported that the Internal Audit Charter is a formal document that defines the internal audit activity's purpose, authority, and responsibility. The Board is required to review and reaffirm the Internal Audit Charter annually.

The Internal Audit Charter establishes the internal audit activity's position within the University; authorizes access to records, personnel, and physical properties relevant to the performance of engagements and defines the scope of internal audit activities. The *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* (Standards), issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors, require annual review and approval of the Internal Audit Charter. The following mandatory elements are contained within the Internal Audit Charter:

1. Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
2. The Code of Ethics.
3. The Standards.
4. The Definition of Internal Auditing.

**Core Principles** – The Core Principles, taken as a whole, articulate internal audit effectiveness. For an internal audit function to be considered effective, all Principles should be present and operating effectively.

- Demonstrates integrity.
- Demonstrates competence and due professional care.
- Is objective and free from undue influence (independent).
- Aligns with the strategies, objectives, and risks of the organization.
- Is appropriately positioned and adequately resourced.
- Demonstrates quality and continuous improvement.
- Communicates effectively.
- Provides risk-based assurance.
- Is insightful, proactive, and future-focused.
- Promotes organizational improvement.

**Code of Ethics** – The Code of Ethics states the principles and expectations governing behavior of individuals and organizations in the conduct of internal auditing. It describes the minimum requirements for conduct and behavioral expectations rather than specific activities.

**The Standards** – The Standards contain the fundamental requirements for the professional practice of internal auditing and the principles against which to evaluate the effectiveness of the internal audit activity's performance.

**The Definition of Internal Auditing** – Internal Auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operation. It helps an organization accomplish its objective by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, reaffirm the Internal Audit Charter for Murray State University as submitted and in compliance with standards for the internal audit profession established by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Office of Internal Audit – Internal Audit Charter, reaffirmed**

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, reaffirm the attached Internal Audit Charter for Murray State University as submitted and in compliance with standards for the internal audit profession established by the Institute of Internal Auditors. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #9)

**Office of Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026, approved**

Internal Auditor Dukes reports that the Annual Audit Plan is a description of the audit activities that are to be completed by the Office of Internal Audit during the fiscal year. The Audit Plan is developed each year by the Internal Auditor with input from the President of the University and requires Board approval. The Audit Plan details work to be performed in seven areas:

- Internal Reviews
- Compliance Reviews
- Operational Reviews
- Follow-Up Projects
- Audit Assistance
- Internal Audit Department Projects
- Unplanned Projects

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 Office of Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026 as submitted. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Office of Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026, approved**

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, approve the attached Office of Internal Audit – Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #10)

**Adjournment**

The Audit and Compliance Committee adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

David Wilson – Chair

Robbie Fitch

G. L. Ovey

Emily Roark

Tom Waldrop

Chair Wilson called the Buildings and Grounds Committee to order at 9:06 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

### **Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update, received**

Assistant Vice President Youngblood and Associate Director of Facilities Design and Construction Angela Lampe provided an update on the status of current facilities projects with the following highlights:

- The Facilities Management team is comprised of General Maintenance and Operations (includes the Business Office led by Lisa Morgan); Building and Equipment Maintenance (led by Drew Milburn), and Custodial and Grounds Services through SSC, a contract vendor (led by Jackie Morgan, Contract Manager); the Design and Construction Office (led by Associate Director Lampe and her team); and the Environmental Safety and Health Office (led by Assistant Director Christina Spicer and University Fire Marshal Howard Blythe). Appreciation was expressed to these individuals for the work they do. Regent Wilson added that these individuals play a large role in maintaining safety for Murray State students.
- A listing of 2022-24 asset preservation projects was presented to the Board and the percentage towards completion was indicated for each project. Some projects were completed over the summer and a listing of those projects was also provided. Sidewalk replacements and things of that nature will continue through the semester.
- A listing of 2024-26 asset preservation projects was also presented to the Board. Many of these projects are still in design to some degree while others are underway with some percentage of completion. Some projects that are just now getting underway were funded as part of the 2022-24 asset preservation projects.
- For some time moving forward there will be a large number of projects occurring on campus but this is a good problem to have – although inconvenient at times. Along these lines, effective next Tuesday, changes are being made behind the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building and in the corridor from Faculty Hall to Blackburn, with a defined pedestrian pathway to help keep students safe while allowing for the operation of large equipment and ease of materials delivery for the contractors. A message was sent to campus this morning in regard to this change.
- A diagram of the parking reconfiguration on North 16<sup>th</sup> Street was provided and explained. The reconfiguration will yield 100 new parking spaces on the West side of 16<sup>th</sup> Street when it is completed at the end of September 2025.
- The renovations to the South and North towers in the Applied Science building have now been completed and work has started on the center sections of the building. It is anticipated this project will be completed in November 2025.
- The Waterfield Library basement is now open and contractors were able to bring some of the original terrazzo flooring back to life.
- Jackson Hall is well underway and steel is still going up. The scheduled completion date for this project is Fall 2026.
- Carr Health and Racer Arena projects are progressing nicely and the new transformer is in place. Racer Arena has HVAC for the first time ever and all are pleased to now have conditioning in that building.
- The Pogue Library HVAC project is progressing nicely and expected completion was November but Facilities Management should be out of the building by the end of October. Carpet will be installed on the second floor Breathitt, War and Diplomacy, and Jesse Stuart rooms after the spaces are conditioned.
- The HVAC project in Doyle Fine Arts building is substantially complete and the fire alarm project is progressing floor-by-floor. It is hoped all fire alarm devices can be replaced by December 2025.
- The Curris Center roof project occurred over the summer and was completed in early August 2025. The skylights will be replaced next as they have continued to leak over the years and need to be addressed.
- The Fine Arts projects are on schedule for substantial completion by late August/early September.
- Hydronic HVAC Piping that distributes hot and cold water for heating and cooling has been completed in RH White Hall. This represented the second of a two-phase project.
- Work continued in Regents Hall as part of a multi-phase project for closet replacement and updated lighting.

- The Faculty Hall landing and stair treads project has been completed. The old flooring was replaced with rubber flooring and stair treads.
- Work on the cooling towers in the Science Complex has now been completed and this included creation of a new mechanical yard and the addition of safety fencing around the area.
- The boiler project in the Central Utility Plant is expected to be completed by the end of September and the chiller water upgrades will be done in April 2026.
- Design work has started again for Mason Hall and the schematic design process is underway. Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions Dr. Dina Byers and her team have been integrally involved in this work to ensure their needs for this facility are being met.
- The Blackburn window replacement project is underway and is anticipated to be completed in a relatively short amount of time.
- The Wrather Hall window and outer door replacement project is scheduled to begin on September 15, 2025, and materials have already been ordered. There will also be some drainage work and tuckpointing of masonry undertaken.
- Design work is well underway for Building Automation System, air handler, and life-safety-emergency generator replacements in the Industry and Technology building.
- The University is still waiting on approval from the state for the Wellness Center HVAC replacement, particularly for the pool unit. The current unit is located within a step-down area on the roof of this building and it has become difficult to keep it cooled in the summer so that it works properly.
- The chiller and stair treads have been replaced in Alexander Hall over the summer. The chiller project is completed and one side of the stair tread replacement has been finished in the older section of the building. Exterior window trims have also been replaced and work is underway to waterproof the South entrance to this building.
- The air-cooled chillers project at Hester Hall has been completed and air coil chillers are now being used. This project reached conclusion in May.
- Bids just opened for Phase III work in the Cherry Exposition Center to upgrade the public and back-of-house restrooms. Once this project has been awarded, a start date will be determined. Future Phase IV projects in this facility include door and window replacements.
- Stormwater and sidewalk repair work focused on the Quad over the summer and has now been completed.
- The Learning Commons/Residential Housing Facility project has been put out for bid. Bids are due by October 18, 2025.
- Design development is currently underway for the Veterinary Sciences building to be located on the West Farm. It is anticipated construction documents will be completed by January 2026 and a bid awarded by the end of February. Anticipated construction dates are February 2026 through October 2027. Examples of floor plans to this point were provided and have actually progressed more to date based on input received from Dean Parr and Dr. Hoffman. The project is progressing well.

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

#### **Program Statement – Curris Center Chick-fil-A Refresh, approved**

Regent Wilson reported that the Curris Center was built in 1981 to serve as the new student center for the University. This building was designed as the central hub for students to gather, lounge, recreate, and eat. Since 1981 the Murray State campus has seen many changes and transition of services and the Curris Center remains in the center of many activities. With the addition of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center in 2004, the recreation area of the Curris Center changed focus to student enrollment and recruitment with the addition of Enrollment Management Services in 2009. The Curris Center underwent a significant renovation in 2023 with updates to public areas, restrooms, lounges, and corridors, and saw the creation of a Welcome Center and the relocation of the Office of Student Involvement. The Curris Center not only caters to current students, faculty and staff, but also those wanting to become future Racers.

The Curris Center houses the University Store, Marvin D. Mills Multicultural Center, Student Government Association Office, Racer Dining, and multiple other dining venues. Chick-fil-A in the Curris Center was completed in 2019 and is not only a draw for campus but also the community. Through a partnership between Murray State University, Sodexo, and Chick-fil-A, Inc., a refresh of each venue is required on a routine basis. The scope of work includes expanding and enhancing the kitchen to increase the production capacity and speed of service. The estimated total project cost is \$1,065,000, including design and construction. Design for these upgrades is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2025 with construction to occur during the summer of 2026.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program

Statement for the Curris Center Chick-fil-A refresh as presented. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

### **Full Board Action – Program Statement – Curris Center Chick-fil-A Refresh, approved**

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Curris Center Chick-fil-A refresh as presented. Regent Owens seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

The Buildings and Grounds Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

### **Legislative and Economic Development Committee**

Matthew Price – Chair  
Andy Belcher  
Leon Owens  
Tom Waldrop  
Gary ZeRuth

Chair Price called the Legislative and Economic Development Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

### **Legislative Update, received**

Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs Jordan Smith provided an update on the 2025 Interim Legislative Session and federal matters with the following highlights:

- Murray State University's priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session were outlined.
- This has already been a very busy Interim Session and meetings have continuously occurred with legislators and Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) officials. Many have participated in these meetings in Frankfort and throughout the region in preparation for the 2026 Budget Session.
- Senate Bill 77 was the impetus for the School of Veterinary Medicine. University staff are continuing to work with the CPE and others regarding approval of the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree. The University has been told it will be on the agenda for the CPE to consider in November.
- Discussions continue with regards to the Performance Funding Model and changes which are needed. Dr. Fister has played an important role in this process and provided an excellent update to the Board during the Retreat yesterday. The House in particular is more motivated to make changes to the model and has been more proactive during the Interim Legislative Session but what actually occurs remains to be seen in the upcoming Legislative Session. Murray State will continue to advocate for the proposed changes to the Performance Funding Model.
- Legislative testimony was provided throughout the Interim Session, most recently on July 8, 2025, during the Government Contract Review Committee meeting. Assistant Vice President Smith provided testimony with regard to the University's general architectural and engineering contracts that were up for approval and those contracts were approved. President Patterson gave testimony, along with Senior Vice President Dudley, during the Capital Planning Advisory Board meeting on July 9, 2025. The Interim Joint Committee on Education met on July 15 where Dr. Patterson presented. The Interim Budget Review Subcommittee on Education also held a hearing about House Bill 4 and Murray State and several other universities attended and presented during this meeting.
- Murray State University's legislative priorities include the General Fund request for the 2026 Session, the emergency veterinary teaching clinic which is the University's #1 priority (\$48.5 million), asset preservation funding (\$47.2 million), and others which were listed in the document provided in the eBoard book. Routine authorizations and reauthorizations for agency bonding were also included in the priorities listing. Legislative approval is required for these to be included in the budget and before the University can spend the funding and issue bonds.
- Photos were shown of meetings President Patterson had in Frankfort during this very busy Interim Session. Dr. Patterson was in Frankfort three of four times during his first month as President of Murray State University. Assistant Vice President Smith, Provost Todd, and President Patterson meet with Senate President Robert Stivers and Senate Education Chair Steve West. Mary Beth Imes is a key legislator for Murray State and she is on the front lines advocating for the University each and every day in Frankfort. A meeting was also held with Senate Majority Leader Max Wise. Associate Provost Fister joined President Patterson and Assistant Vice President Smith during a Performance

Funding meeting with Representative Adam Ward who is a Murray State alum. Dr. Patterson met with Representative Scott Lewis from the Owensboro area and hosted Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman on campus. Dr. Patterson also met Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and State Senator Jason Howell who is on the front lines in the Senate.

- In terms of a federal update, staff are continuously monitoring federal grant initiatives and Executive Orders. There is a lot of federal activity occurring with regard to grants and programs on the campuses of Murray State and other universities. Meetings are continuously taking place with federal staffers with regard to these items and more will come in the days and weeks ahead.
- Dr. Patterson met with U.S. Senator Rand Paul who recently visited Murray and he also hosted former Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on a separate occasion. These events occurred on August 7 and 14, respectively. Congressman James Comer was in Murray this week and Dr. Patterson had a chance to meet with him. Congressman Comer also had a great meeting with the Economic Development Board. Appreciation was expressed to Senators Paul and McConnell and Congressman Comer and their staff members for the work they do.

Assistant Vice President Smith reported this is his last full week on campus and he thanked the President's executive team for all their support and help over the years, in particular the Vice Presidents. Murray State's Vice Presidents are considered to be the best of the best in the state and they often receive calls from the other universities asking for assistance and advice. These individuals have worked very closely with Assistant Vice President Smith because it takes a village as legislation touches every area of campus. Appreciation was expressed to the Deans and Associate Provost Fister who is the Performance Funding guru and a huge asset to the University. He also thanked Assistant Provost Ashley Ireland and Senior Associate Provost Pervine. He had these individuals on speed dial regularly. Special appreciation was expressed to Executive Director Duffy and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX. A lot of legislation impacts the equal opportunity and Title IX arena and she has been phenomenal to work with over the years. Appreciation was expressed to Assistant Vice President White, *President Emeritus* Bob Jackson, former President Dr. Tim Miller, Dr. Melvin Henley who is a powerhouse legislator and donor and friend to the University, major donor Harold Doran, and Ronny Pryor with Capitol Solutions – a two-time alumnus from Trigg County who has done a tremendous job. Appreciation was expressed to Regent Owens and former Board Chair Dr. Don Tharpe.

Regent Waldrop thanked Assistant Vice President Smith for his emphasis during the early days of President Patterson's administration and getting him to Frankfort so many times as this work is critical. Assistant Vice President Smith thanked Senior Executive Coordinator Hunt who was instrumental helping to coordinate these meetings.

President Patterson reported that he was already working on Murray State University's behalf before he officially started on July 1, 2025. When he was on vacation in the Pacific northwest, Senior Vice President Dudley, Assistant Vice President Youngblood, and Assistant Vice President Smith were communicating with him to prepare him for various meetings in Frankfort during his first three weeks after assuming the presidency at Murray State. Kudos were extended to these individuals. Collectively, the group did a wonderful job representing Murray State University. They had him well prepared in the short time they had to present the University's case regarding each of the different constituency groups. The body of this work shows he was in Frankfort during his first few weeks in office more than he was on campus. Dr. Patterson believes a lot was accomplished and the team worked to continue to strengthen pipelines and friendships in these endeavors.

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

### **Adjournment**

The Legislative and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents also adjourned for a break at 9:45 a.m.

### **Reconvene**

Chair Fitch reconvened the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents at 10 a.m.

Chair Fitch asked for an update on the School of Veterinary Medicine and the Dental Hygiene program. Provost Todd reported that both of these projects continue to move forward.

Provost Todd served as the point person for Murray State and has been working with Dean Jeff Bumpous, School of Medicine at the University of Louisville (UofL), relative to that project. These projects have been the focus of many state and federal legislative meetings and work continues in this regard. Business school Professors from MSU and UofL participated in a zoom call last week. This meeting included Chris Wooldridge, Director of the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development, who has been working on the Economic Impact Study that is currently underway in this regard. Dean Bumpous is very passionate about this project as he is from Paducah, Kentucky. Dr. Mike Muscarella, Executive Director of Ambulatory Services for Baptist Health Paducah, is the greatest Murray State champion and has provided invaluable assistance with this project and keeping Dean Bumpous informed. Confirmation was provided that the results of the Economic Impact Study should be available before the beginning of the Legislative Session in January.

Dean Dina Byers, School of Nursing and Health Professions, reported that with regard to the Dental Hygiene program, the Dean has been hired – Dr. Burris – and the initial application for accreditation was submitted this week. Confirmation of receipt has been received from the Commission on Dental Education (CODA). A request has been made by CODA for the University to review the site visitor list and determine whether a conflict of interest existed. No such conflict was found and the initiative is progressing forward. CODA will next determine who the site visitor will be to review the application within the next couple of months to determine whether the program meets accreditation standards. Assuming a positive outcome, the accreditation team will visit campus and at the conclusion of that visit students can be admitted into the program. The proposal listed Fall 2026 as the target date for admitting students. The list of prerequisite courses prior to entry into the program have been shared with students and their families. This was the same information provided to CODA. Dean Byers and other faculty and staff are happy to meet with students as needed but no information can be published in regards to the program until the University receives approval from CODA.

### **Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee**

Emily Roark – Chair  
Ali Khatib  
David Meinschein  
G. L. Ovey  
Gary ZeRuth

Chair Roark called the Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

### **Enrollment Management and Student Success Update, received**

Vice President Robertson and Assistant Vice President White provided an enrollment management and student success update with the following highlights:

- Greek chapters on campus are outstanding and continue to be a point of pride and a handout was provided of significant awards which they have received at the national level. Some chapters won their highest national chapter award and selected organizations were highlighted. Greek organizations are thriving on campus and provided significant opportunities for their fellow students to become actively involved in campus life. Faculty Advisors play a significant role within the Greek organizations as well.
- For Summer 2025, enrollment is currently up 5.2 percent over last summer in both student headcount and credit hours. Fall 2025 enrollment totals over 9,300 students, down slightly less than 1.5 percent from last year but is up in total credit hours.
- New freshmen total 1,490 as opposed to 1,550 last year. Transfer student numbers are down slightly and graduate numbers are down somewhat but are up in credit hours. International student numbers compared to 2023 are up but down from last year. The University had its third largest class of international students last year. This year numbers are down but yield is up by 5 percent. Although enrollment numbers were lower, there was a higher yield rate. Out-of-state and in-state 18-county service region student numbers were down which contributed to the decrease. Appreciation was expressed to staff for even being able to keep international numbers close to where they were last year. It has been challenging for students to get visas and that has contributed to the decline as well. The visa issue is getting better but it has impacted Murray State and other colleges and universities

across the nation. The Shandong Program has helped significantly with international enrollment numbers at Murray State.

- With regard to retention, efforts related to the Recapture Campaign were outlined. Through these efforts, the number of students who had not registered decreased by approximately one-half. This represents a university-wide effort that is coordinated by the Office of Student Engagement and Success. For Fall 2025, there are 1,199 undergraduates and 712 graduates to return to the University through the Recapture Campaign effort. This effort includes assistance provided by advisors, the Deans, and Student Financial Services staff.
- A graphic was shown on how many scholarship applications were submitted for first-time freshman for Fall 2025 compared to Fall 2024. The graphic provided also shows the number of housing applications that were submitted and how many were completed. These are just some of the factors utilized by Associate Provost Fister as part of the predictive analysis work discussed yesterday.
- Information was provided on enrollment for the regional campuses and Provost Todd highlighted this information yesterday during the Retreat. Numbers are healthy on the University's regional campuses.
- This year enrollment includes students from 116 Kentucky counties, 49 states (missing North Dakota), and 60 countries. Forty-one percent of first-time freshmen are from the top 25 percent of their high school class. Seventy percent of first-time freshmen enter the University with an average of 20.5 college credit hours. One student even came in with 84 college credit hours.
- The overall retention rate from freshman to sophomore year is 78 percent. The University's graduation rate is 64 percent which is above the national average. With 44 percent being first-generation students, this makes retention that much more challenging but further highlights its importance.
- Associate Provost Fister confirmed that students entering the University with so many credit hours already does affect progression. When students enter the University with credit hours, it makes it easier for them to attain the 30-credit hours for their freshman year but it is more difficult moving from 30-credit hour level to 60-credit hours. Financial aid is available for eligible students taking at least 12 credit hours (which is considered full-time) but that only gets a student an additional 24 hours from fall and spring semesters which affects the progression to 60 hours during the sophomore year. This also affects performance funding if the student does not meet the 60-credit hour metric. If a student comes in with 84-credit hours, that can only be counted once in the progression movement from 60- to 90-credit hours, assuming all hours can also be used in their degree program or the University Studies curriculum. Among the regional public universities, Murray State has the lowest debt for students once they graduate and the Financial Aid and Scholarship offices are invaluable components of this work. Murray State University also has the highest percentage of graduates who graduate with no known debt among every public, non-profit institution in the state. Appreciation was expressed to Assistant Provost and Director of Online Programs Ashley Ireland and others who have worked with the Retention Committee to determine where change is needed in this arena.
- The University's graduation rate is 64 percent and that has steadily increased over several years. The average student graduated in 4.01 years last year which is positive for Murray State – and they graduated with lower debt and entering the workforce sooner. President Patterson added that the University must be more intentional with the dual credit courses being offered through Racer Academy to ensure they do lead to a degree and that students are receiving the appropriate advising. It does not make sense for students to take a course just for the sake of doing so. That leads to the issue of having to decide whether its an elective or credit hours transferred that don't count towards a degree. Poor advisement is detrimental to students in a number of areas. Regent Wilson added that what makes Murray State is the experience students have while on campus. If students come in with a lot of hours already, sometimes they don't get a true campus experience.

Regent Owens indicated that 41 percent of the Be Bold Campaign dollars are going toward scholarships but, as included in Senior Vice President Dudley's presentation, it is also known that enrollment drives dollars at the University. With the 41 percent of Be Bold Campaign dollars, coupled with this Board's decision to change the tuition model for out-of-state students, the question was asked whether the administration is concerned that enrollment will continue to decrease in these various areas and whether consideration is being given to using the campaign dollars to potentially revise the scholarship model to attract additional students. With the current grid that is in place, Murray State does better than most schools in terms of automatic scholarship awards and this utilized most available monies. Assistant Vice President White reported she is finding students are coming to her with no ability to pay and need full support. It is hopeful that gap between what is covered through other sources and what the student still owes can be filled. The University's discount rate is already high and she is not sure how that model can be any better except with regard to upperclassmen. Currently the number of high school students from the University's 18-county service region is the highest over the past six years. Predictive analysis and the scholarship grid are two factors which most affect enrollment. Without question, scholarship dollars assist with retention. Assistant Vice President for Finance Cain's office assists in every way possible to ensure students remain at the University. It was

suggested that it might be beneficial for the Board to receive a report in terms of whether there will be new scholarships and how those will be used.

President Patterson added that Murray State is currently in the enrollment cliff stage but the University is performing well during this period, making it an anomaly in this regard. There are other institutions really suffering right now and while there are some negative percentages, the University is still trending positively overall. The University must diversify and can no longer rely solely on freshmen. Additional consideration must be given to graduate students, non-degree completers and non-traditional students, and international efforts to see how those can be ramped up. Conversations in this regard are occurring now and all are working internally to ensure there is a smart enrollment growth strategy moving forward in this enrollment cliff.

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

### **Adjournment**

The Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

### **Finance Committee**

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

Vice Chair Meinschein called the Finance Committee to order at 10:35 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

### **Leased Fleet Vehicles Agreement, approved**

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that Murray State University utilizes a number of vehicles in conducting daily operations across campus and on the extended campuses. Several years ago, the University moved to leasing vehicles, as opposed to purchasing them outright, due to the added costs of performing maintenance and managing aging vehicles. For many years, the University has been leasing replacement vehicles used for operational purposes. These leases are generally for one or two vehicles at a time. The need currently exists to replace up to 24 aging vehicles for Facilities Management, the Police Department, Information Systems and Procurement Services. The proposed lease will be a five-year agreement with an annual cost not to exceed \$210,000. This amount is inclusive of all required maintenance. The cost of the lease is budgeted in each unit and they will be allocated proportionately to the respective departments. There will be 29 vehicles that will be disposed of in accordance with the Surplus Property Disposition authorization requested at this same Board of Regents meeting. No one vehicle is expected to sell for more than \$10,000, with the average sale expected to be approximately \$4,000 per vehicle. The total of all vehicle sales is expected to be just under \$120,000. Each surplus vehicle will be sold as the new replacement leased vehicle is delivered.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve a five-year operational lease for 24 new fleet vehicles at a total annual cost not to exceed \$210,000. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

### **Full Board Action – Leased Fleet Vehicles Agreement, approved**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve a five-year operational lease for 24 new fleet vehicles at a total annual cost not to exceed \$210,000. Regent Roark seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Projects, approved**

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that 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 Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the projects outlined on the listing provided. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

### **Full Board Action – Projects, approved**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the projects outlined on the attached listing. Regent Roark seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #11)

### **Personal Services Contracts, approved**

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

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Belcher moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Personal Services Contracts as listed in the document provided per requirements of the Delegation of Authority Item #11. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

### **Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts, approved**

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

(See Attachment #12)

### **Surplus Property Disposition, approved**

Vice Chair Meinschein reported Kentucky Revised Statute 164A.575 requires that the Board of Regents approve disposition of equipment and other property. The proposed plan will provide an efficient and timely process for the disposition of such property having a value of less than \$25,000. Non-routine dispositions require specific approval of the Board of Regents. No changes have been made from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Board action for this same item.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached plan for Fiscal Year 2025-26 authorizing:

- (1) Routine disposition of personal property having a value less than \$25,000 to include equipment and machinery; miscellaneous supplies and furnishings; vehicles; library books and materials; livestock and other agricultural commodities and products; recyclable materials; items with no possible future use; and
- (2) The methods of disposal as listed on the attachment provided.

Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Surplus Property Disposition, approved**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached plan for Fiscal Year 2025-26 authorizing:

- (1) Routine disposition of personal property having a value less than \$25,000 to include equipment and machinery; miscellaneous supplies and furnishings; vehicles; library books and materials; livestock and other agricultural commodities and products; recyclable materials; items with no possible future use; and
- (2) The methods of disposal as listed on the attached plan.

Regent Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #13)

**Adjournment**

The Finance Committee adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

**Marketing and Community Engagement Committee**

G. L. Ovey – Chair  
Andy Belcher  
Ali Khatib  
David Wilson

Regent Belcher called the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee to order at 10:42 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Chair Ovey.

**Naming Opportunities:**

**Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse – Department of Athletics, approved**

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that the proposed ***Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse***, in recognition of the \$1 million contribution from the estate of Jim and Sue Cash, will serve as the home for Murray State Baseball student-athletes, featuring locker rooms, meeting spaces, a players' lounge, and team support areas. The naming right is in honor of Jim and Sue Cash, both proud Murray State graduates, who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to education, hard work, and the advancement of Murray State. Their generosity and service have left a lasting mark on campus and in the lives of countless students.

Jim earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1963 and was a member of Phi Beta Lambda and the Vets Club. Sue earned her Bachelor of Science degree in History in 1964. The couple met at Murray State, married, and spent 58 years together, perfectly balancing Jim's outgoing personality with Sue's steady presence. Over the years, Jim and Sue have established multiple scholarships and endowments, including the Jim and Sue Cash Endowed Academic Scholarship, support for Miller Memorial Golf Course, and various athletic initiatives. They were passionate supporters of all Racer sports, attending events and celebrating the accomplishments of student-athletes across every program.

Jim enjoyed a successful business career, retiring as Chief Financial Officer of Image Graphics, Inc., and served on the Murray State University Foundation Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2022. Both Jim and Sue were dedicated advocates for Murray State, encouraging others to

pursue an education here and leading by example through their generosity. In 2024, they committed a \$1.2 million gift to enhance Miller Memorial Golf Course and fund other Athletics projects and initiatives. Because of their lifelong love for Murray State and their passion for its athletic programs, one of the University's most visible and newest athletic facilities should bear their name.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Khatib moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities Committee, in recognition of Jim and Sue Cash's exceptional generosity, decades of commitment to Murray State, and unwavering passion for athletics and student success, approve naming the new Baseball Clubhouse the ***Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse***. A recognition plaque honoring their legacy will be placed at the Clubhouse entrance to inspire future generations of Racers. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse – Department of Athletics, approved**

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 and the Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities Committee, in recognition of Jim and Sue Cash's exceptional generosity, decades of commitment to Murray State, and unwavering passion for athletics and student success, approve naming the new Baseball Clubhouse the ***Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse***. A recognition plaque honoring their legacy will be placed at the Clubhouse entrance to inspire future generations of Racers. Chair Fitch publicly expressed appreciation to the Cash Family. This is another enormous gift to the University which would not be possible without their assistance. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**The Murray Bank Baseball Videoboard – Department of Athletics, approved**

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that the proposed ***The Murray Bank Baseball Videoboard***, in recognition of the local bank's \$300,000 contribution, will serve as a major fan experience and recruiting enhancement for Murray State Baseball at Johnny Reagan Field. The naming right is in honor of The Murray Bank and their generosity and service, which has left a lasting mark on Racer Athletics, the University as a whole, and many throughout the area.

The Murray Bank opened in 1999 as an independently owned and operated institution and was voted the favorite bank in Murray and Calloway County for 21 years. Since then, the bank has been a catalyst for community engagement throughout the region, sponsoring community events, schools, youth programming, and much more. They boast one of the most recognizable symbols of community camaraderie in the region with their ice cream truck, which has brought joy to many throughout the years. Assistant Vice President Bernot personally thanked Bank President Tony Ryan who has been instrumental throughout this process. Their gift for this project was the largest made by the bank in its history to Murray State University.

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 Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities Committee, in recognition of The Murray Banks's exceptional generosity, decades of commitment to Murray State, its student-athletes, and the entire community, approve naming the new baseball videoboard as ***The Murray Bank Baseball Videoboard***. Their logo will be displayed on the back of the videoboard to inspire future generations of Racers. Regent Khatib seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – The Murray Bank Baseball Videoboard – Department of Athletics, approved**

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 and the Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities Committee, in recognition of The Murray Banks's exceptional generosity, decades of commitment to Murray State, its student-athletes, and the entire community, approve naming the new baseball videoboard as ***The Murray Bank***

***Baseball Videoboard.*** Their logo will be displayed on the back of the videoboard to inspire future generations of Racers. Regent Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

****Gift-in-Kind – Supplies for Woodshop, Departments of Global Languages and Theatre Arts and Art and Design – College of Humanities and Fine Arts, approved****

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that the Board is being asked to accept the gift of a large inventory of fabric, material, trim, etc. for use in the Woodshop, Departments of Theatre and Art and Design and the Costume Shop at Murray State University. This gift is the result of the closing of a long-time store – Murray Sewing Center – and this represents a tremendous asset that will do so much for the arts.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Khatib moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept, and approve the donation of a large inventory of fabric, material, trim, etc., valued at \$15,488.25 from Brenda Freeman, Murray Sewing Center, of Eddyville, Kentucky. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

****Full Board Action – Gift-in-Kind – Supplies for Woodshop, Departments of Global Languages and Theatre Arts and Art and Design – College of Humanities and Fine Arts, approved****

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 a large inventory of fabric, material, trim, etc., valued at \$15,488.25 from Brenda Freeman, Murray Sewing Center, of Eddyville, Kentucky. Regent Khatib seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

The Marketing and Community Engagement Committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents also adjourned for a break at 10:50 a.m.

**Reconvene**

Chair Fitch reconvened the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents at 11 a.m.

**Personnel Changes**

**Salary Roster, approved**

Chair Fitch reported that in compliance with state statutes and the responsibilities of the University Treasurer as identified in the *Bylaws* of the Murray State University 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 Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Salary Roster as of June 30, 2025, which includes new employment, retirements, resignations, and terminations. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #14)

## **Policy Changes**

### **New Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 2.20.1 – Equal Opportunity/Addressing Antisemitism (first reading), approved**

President Patterson reported that earlier this year, the Commonwealth of Kentucky adopted Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55). This Resolution requires the University to take certain actions to address antisemitism. The draft policy was developed by General Counsel Miller and incorporates the requirements contained in the Resolution and the University is required to have a policy in place by January 1, 2026. General Counsel Miller reported that all universities are required by the Legislature to follow this requirement and the policy presented to the Board for approval reflects the requirements of SJR 55.

Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve this first reading of the new *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 2.20.1 – Equal Opportunity/Addressing Antisemitism* in order to be in compliance with Kentucky Senate Joint Resolution 55 enacted during the 2025 Regular Session. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #15)

### **Resolution of Appreciation – Jackie Dudley – Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, approved**

Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents approve the following Resolution of Appreciation below for retiring Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services Jackie Dudley:

#### **Resolution of Appreciation**

**Ms. Jacklyn “Jackie” Dudley**  
**Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services**

**WHEREAS**, Jacklyn “Jackie” Dudley began her career at Murray State University on October 14, 1985, as Grants and Contracts Officer, and through her talent, dedication, and leadership rose steadily through the ranks of responsibility, ultimately serving as Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board of Regents; and

**WHEREAS**, during her four decades of service, she held numerous key roles including Accounting Manager (1986), Director of Accounting and Financial Services (1998), Senior Director of Accounting and Financial Services (2009), Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board (2014), and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board (2024); and

**WHEREAS**, Jackie has provided exceptional financial leadership at both the University and state level, serving as a member of the Council on Postsecondary Education’s (CPE) Chief Budget Officers group where she collaborated with colleagues across Kentucky to advise the CPE and General Assembly on funding models, retirement systems, asset preservation, and other key budgetary initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, she assisted the University President and leadership in preparing testimony and data for state officials, developed strong relationships with the Kentucky Finance Cabinet and Legislative Research Commission, and served as a trusted advocate for the University’s needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackie helped guide Murray State University through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring budgets were balanced and financial stability was preserved during an unprecedented time; and

**WHEREAS**, she worked closely with Facilities Management to develop a long-range deferred maintenance plan, elevating its importance, securing budget funding through a student asset preservation fee, the issuance of \$12 million in asset preservation bonds, and coordination of \$42 million in state-funded asset preservation projects in the 2022-24 biennial budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackie provided oversight for the exploration of a housing and dining Public-Private Partnership (P3), managed increases in cash reserves that strengthened the University's financial position, and led the successful outsourcing of dining, custodial, and grounds services to mitigate escalating pension and benefit costs; and

**WHEREAS**, under her leadership, the University consistently achieved unqualified audit opinions, implemented an electronic budgeting application with advanced reporting tools, introduced electronic asset tracking, expanded banking and cash management efficiencies, strengthened PCI compliance, and oversaw the launch of a fully integrated electronic timekeeping system; and

**WHEREAS**, she chaired the ERP system selection committee and served as Project Manager for the University's \$8 million Banner ERP implementation, engaging stakeholders across campus and successfully deploying the Human Resources, Finance, Financial Aid, and Student modules; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond her financial leadership, Jackie contributed to the University's mission through assistance to the Murray State University Foundation Board of Trustees, support of student recruitment and retention by participating in Summer Orientation sessions and engaging with students and families, and mentoring through her involvement with Kappa Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, her legacy is reflected not only in the financial stability and operational excellence of the University, but also in the lives of colleagues, students, and community members who have benefited from her dedication, professionalism, and loyalty;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Regents, administration, faculty, staff, students, and the entire Murray State University community do hereby express their deepest gratitude and highest appreciation to Jacklyn Dudley for her distinguished service from 1985 to 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be presented to Jacklyn Dudley in recognition of her extraordinary career, significant accomplishments, and lasting contributions to Murray State University, with best wishes for a retirement filled with joy, fulfillment, and continued success.

Adopted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.



Dr. Ron K. Patterson  
President



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Dr. Robbie Fitch  
Chair – Board of Regents

Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Supplemental Materials, received**

President Patterson reminded the Board that the following supplemental materials were included in the eBoard book:

- A. "Good News" Report (Spring/Summer 2025)
- B. Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (April – June 2025)
- C. Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report
  - Awards by College/Department
  - Awards by Funding Source

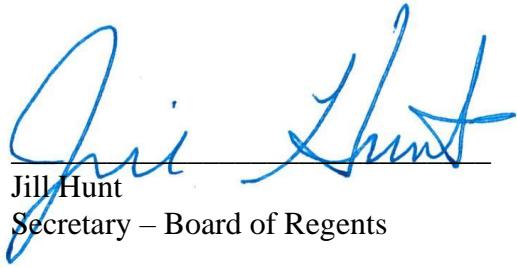
#### **Other Business/Adjournment**

Regent Owens indicated he was remiss earlier in not thanking Assistant Vice President Youngblood and Associate Director Lampe when they were presenting earlier. There is a tremendous amount of work underway at the University and they are completing this safely which is no easy task when students are in proximity to a major construction site. The Board

congratulates these individuals on what they have been able to accomplish and for doing so safely around 10,000 students.

Chair Fitch indicated there being no further business to come before the Board, he would entertain a motion for adjournment. Regent Owens so moved, seconded by Regent Roark, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Jill Hunt  
Secretary – Board of Regents



Robbie Fitch  
Chair – Board of Regents

**(The remainder of this page intentionally left blank to allow for inclusion of attachments.)**