

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents**  
**Murray State University**  
**Friday, September 19, 2025**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, September 19, 2025, in Special Session in Room 118, Wells Hall on the Murray State University campus. Chair Robbie Fitch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those joining the meeting in person and via ZOOM/livestream. Secretary Jill Hunt called the roll and the following Board members were present: Andy Belcher, Robbie Fitch, Ali Khatib, David Meinschein, G. L. Ovey, Leon Owens, Matthew Price, Emily Roark, Tom Waldrop, David Wilson (via ZOOM), and Gary ZeRuth. Absent: none.

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

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**Chair Fitch**

**Roll Call**

**Secretary Hunt**

**Election of Officers – Appointment of Treasurer\***

**Chair Fitch**

**Committee Reports/Recommendations**

**A. Finance Committee**

**Vice Chair Meinschein**

1) **Personal Services Contracts – Greenwood Asher and Associates (Executive Search Services for Provost) and Attain, LLC (additional funding for support services to Student Financial Services)\***

**B. Marketing and Community Engagement Committee**

**Regent Ovey**

1) **Naming Opportunity – “The Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation” – School of Nursing and Health Professions\***

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

(\*Requires Board of Regents Action)

**Adjournment**

**Election of Board of Regents Officers – Treasurer , conducted**

Chair Fitch stated that in accordance with the *Bylaws* of the Board of Regents, all officers are elected annually at the Spring Quarterly Meeting and shall serve for one year, commencing July 1 following their election. A separate election shall be conducted by the Board for each of the officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The Treasurer to the Board is reaffirmed at this meeting as well. These elections were held at the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents on June 6, 2025.

Per the Board of Regents *Bylaws* and Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 164.330, an election for Vice Chair and Secretary is required to be held at the organizational meeting required within 30 days of appointment of a new member. Due to Faculty Regent Dr. Gary ZeRuth and Student Regent Ali Khatib being elected to the Board effective July 1, 2025, this action occurred at a Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on July 18, 2025.

Chair Fitch reported that the Treasurer is appointed by the Board, serves at the pleasure of the Board, and shall not be a member of the Board. It has also been standard practice for the Board to reaffirm the appointment of the Treasurer. Due to the retirement of the current Treasurer, the Board of Regents is being asked to appoint a new Treasurer, effective November 1, 2025.

Chair Fitch opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer to the Board of Regents. Regent Belcher nominated Assistant Vice President – Finance Wendy Cain, to serve as Treasurer to the Board. There were no additional nominations. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Assistant Vice President Cain received a round of applause.

### **Committee Reports/Recommendations**

#### **Finance Committee**

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

Finance Chair Meinschein called the Committee to order at 8:32 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

#### **Personnel Changes – Contracts of Employment – Greenwood Asher and Associates (Executive Search Services for Provost) and Attain, LLC (additional funding to support services to Student Financial Services), approved**

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

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 contracts as listed in the document provided as per requirements of Delegation of Authority (Item #11). Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

#### **Full Board Action – Personnel Changes – Contracts of Employment – Greenwood Asher and Associates (Executive Search Services for Provost) and Attain, LLC (additional funding to support services to Student Financial Services), approved**

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

Regent Wilson requested clarification on whether Attain, LLC is already providing support to Student Financial Services and the action being requested today is to continue that support until a new Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services is appointed. Senior Vice President Dudley indicated that the University has utilized Attain, LLC for a number of years. They provide financial aid services to the University but also help with temporary staffing. With Assistant Vice President Cain assuming the role of Treasurer to the Board of Regents, there will be an increased need for these services from Attain, LLC. The Board is being asked to approve an increase in the amount of the contract with Attain, LLC for this purpose but the scope of the project is not changing.

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

(See Attachment #1)

## **Adjournment**

The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:36 a.m.

## **Marketing and Community Engagement Committee**

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

Chair Ovey called the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee to order at 8:36 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

### **Marketing and Community Engagement Committee – Naming Opportunity – “The Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved**

Assistant Vice President of Advancement Bernot reported that Murray State University has long recognized individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to its mission, values, and academic success. In keeping with this tradition, it is being proposed that the Assisted Care/Rehabilitation Classroom located in Jackson Hall be named in honor of Dr. Michael Muscarella, a long-time friend and supporter of the University and a champion for healthcare education. Dr. Michael Muscarella has played a pivotal role in strengthening the relationship between Murray State University and healthcare partners, particularly in the areas of allied health and rehabilitation sciences. This recognition is timely due to his upcoming retirement after serving Murray State University for decades. His long-standing commitment to the University and its students has manifested in multiple impactful ways:

#### **Student Recruitment and Advocacy**

Dr. Muscarella has been instrumental in promoting Murray State University to prospective students, particularly those interested in healthcare professions. He has consistently advocated for the University in professional and community settings, encouraging young individuals to consider Murray State programs for their academic and career aspirations.

#### **Faculty Support and Collaboration**

Dr. Muscarella has been a valuable resource and collaborator for the University’s faculty. Whether through offering guest lectures, facilitating clinical partnerships, or sharing insights from his extensive professional experience, he has contributed meaningfully to the enrichment of Murray State educational programs and the professional development of teaching staff.

#### **Advisory Board Service and Leadership**

Dr. Muscarella has served on several advisory boards such as the Purchase Area Health Education and Occupational Therapy Admission Committee. His thoughtful leadership and advocacy have helped shape curriculum development and program outcomes that benefit both students and the broader community.

In appreciation and recognition of Dr. Muscarella’s unwavering support, his contributions to student success and faculty support, and his active engagement with the University and community, approval of the naming of the Assisted Care/Rehabilitation Classroom in Jackson Hall as the “Dr. Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation” is being recommended. This naming would not only honor Dr. Muscarella’s legacy but also serve as a lasting symbol of the University’s gratitude for those who selflessly support its mission and community. It would further inspire current and future students by highlighting a role model who embodies the values of service, education, and excellence. This naming opportunity

appropriately recognizes the deep and enduring impact Dr. Michael Muscarella has had on Murray State University. The Board is being asked to consider and approve this proposal as a fitting tribute to a true friend of the University.

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 Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the Assisted Care/Rehabilitation Classroom in Jackson Hall as the ***Dr. Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation*** to be commemorated with a Dedication and signage in appreciation and recognition of Dr. Muscarella's unwavering support and contributions to Murray State University and the community. Regent Khatib seconded and the motion carried.

**Full Board Action – Marketing and Community Engagement Committee – Naming Opportunity – “The Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation – 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 Assisted Care/Rehabilitation Classroom in Jackson Hall as the ***Dr. Michael Muscarella Classroom for Assisted Care and Rehabilitation*** to be commemorated with a Dedication and signage in appreciation and recognition of Dr. Muscarella's unwavering support and contributions to Murray State University and the community.

Regent Waldrop reported that Dr. Muscarella has been married to his sister for more than four decades. There is no one who cares more about the education of young people than Michael – unless it is his sister Julie who is a certified diabetes educator and clinical dietitian. He can think of nothing better to commemorate the decades of service Dr. Muscarella has performed on a volunteer basis all across West Kentucky than to name a site that will educate young people after Dr. Muscarella. He wholeheartedly endorses this motion today but, due to the potential appearance of a conflict of interest, will recuse himself from the vote.

Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Dr. Muscarella received a standing ovation.

**Adjournment**

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

Adjournment of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents was at 8:40 a.m.



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Jill Hunt

Jill Hunt  
Secretary – Board of Regents



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Robbie Fitch  
Chair – Board of Regents

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