

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents
Murray State University
December 8, 2023**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, December 8, 2023, in Quarterly and Committee Session in the Pogue Library Jesse Stuart Room on the Murray State University campus. Chair Leon Owens called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those joining the meeting in person and via livestream. Secretary Jill Hunt called roll and the following Board members were present: Robbie Fitch, Virginia Gray, Ellie McGowan, David Meinschein, Leon Owens, Matt Price, Emily Roark, Melony Shemberger and Tom Waldrop. Absent: G. L. Ovey.

Participants in the meeting were: Robert L (Bob) Jackson, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jackie Dudley, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer to the Board; Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Bob Pervine, Senior Associate Provost; Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Ashley Ireland, Assistant Provost and Director for Online Learning; Robert Miller, General Counsel; Cami Duffy, Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access/Title IX Director; Jason Youngblood, Director of Facilities Management; Shawn Touney, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication; Jordan Smith, Executive Director for Governmental and Institutional Relations; Academic Deans; faculty, staff and students; Information Technology technicians and members of the general public and news media.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair Owens

Roll Call

Secretary Hunt

Public Participation

Chair Owens

Consent Agenda

Chair Owens/President Jackson

- A. Minutes**
 - 1) Minutes of the Board of Regents Annual Retreat on August 24, 2023***
 - 2) Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings on August 25, 2023***
- B. Report of the Registrar (August and December 2023 Conferral of Degrees)***
- C. Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee**
 - 1) University Appeals Board Appointments***
- D. Audit and Compliance Committee (For Information Only)**
 - 1) Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report**
- E. Finance Committee**
 - 1) State Endowment Match Program Annual Report***
 - 2) Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)**

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens

Report of the President

President Jackson

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

Sr. Vice President FAS Dudley

Committee Reports/Recommendations

- A. Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities** **Regent Shemberger**
 - 1) New Academic Degree Programs**
 - a. Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics***

- b. Master of Science in Economic Analytics*
- 2) Racers Finish Initiative Presentation (For Information Only)
- 3) School of Veterinary Medicine Feasibility Study Update (For Information Only)

B. Athletics **Chair Owens**

C. Audit and Compliance **Regent Waldrop**

- 1) Audited Financial Statements – General*
 - a. Report to Governance on the Results of Annual Independent Audit
 - b. Required Auditor Communications (includes Representation Letter)
 - c. Independence/Peer Review Letter
 - d. House Bill 622 Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
 - e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
 - f. General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- 2) Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds*
 - a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- 3) Annual Audit Report – Athletics*
 - a. National Collegiate Athletic Association Independent Accountant’s Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- 4) Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM*
 - a. Required Auditor Communications
 - b. Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended June 30, 2023’
- 5) Annual Audit Contract Extension*

D. Buildings and Grounds **Regent Roark**

- 1) Facilities Management Major Projects Update (For Information Only)
- 2) School of Nursing and Health Professions Building LEED Certification Exemption*
- 3) 2024 – 2030 Six-Year Capital Plan Update Approval*

10:30 a.m. (Approx.) **Break**

11 a.m. (Approx.) **School of Nursing and Health Professions (SONHP)**
Groundbreaking **(College of Education and Human Services, South 16th Street)**

12 noon (Approx.) **Lunch (Pogue Library – Wells T. Lovett Grand Reading Room)**

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

E. Enrollment Management and Student Success **Regents Meinschein and McGowan**

- 1) Academic Year 2023 – 24 Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention Update (For Information Only)

F. Legislative and Economic Development **Regent Gray**

- 1) Legislative Update Report (For Information Only)

G. Marketing and Community Engagement **Regent Price**

- 1) Gift-in-Kind – Csaba Markus Art Collection “Mermaid Planets” Sirius Portfolio – Department of Art and Design*

NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.

9. Policy Changes **President Jackson**

- A. *Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual – Policy III L – Flexible Work Arrangements* (second reading)*
- B. Faculty Handbook Revisions Update (For Information Only)

10. **Personnel Changes** **President Jackson**
 A. **Compensation Review Study Update (For Information Only)**
11. **Closed Session**
 A. **Pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(b) – Deliberations on the Future Acquisition of Real Property**
12. **Committee Reports/Recommendations (continued)**
- H. **Finance** **Regent Fitch**
 1) **State Endowment Matching Fund Request Approval***
 2) **Projects Approval***
 3) **Personal Services Contracts Approval***
 4) **Property Acquisition***
 5) **Authorization for Issuance of General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A***

NOTE: Full Board action will follow Committee action.

13. **Resolution of Appreciation*** **Chair Owens**
 A. **Staff Regent – Dr. Jessica Evans**
14. **Supplemental Materials (For Information Only)** **President Jackson**
 A. **“Good News” Report (Fall/Winter 2023)**
 B. **Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (July – September 2023)**
 C. **Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report**
15. **Other Business** **Chair Owens**
16. **Adjournment** **Chair Owens**

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Public Participation

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

Consent Agenda, approved

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

- Minutes of the Board of Regents Annual Retreat on August 24, 2023, and Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on August 25, 2023*
- Report of the Registrar (August and December 2023 Conferral of Degrees)* (See Attachment #1)
- Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee
 - 1) University Appeals Board Appointments*
- Audit and Compliance Committee
 - 1) Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report
- Finance Committee
 - 1) State Endowment Match Program Annual Report*
 - 2) Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens welcomed everyone present and thanked MSU faculty, staff and students for an outstanding semester. Appreciation was expressed for the reports the Board receives

highlighting efforts of the campus community as they are informative. A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held later today for the School of Nursing and Health Professions – the first new facility on campus since the School of Engineering was constructed. Being able to secure such a facility is a great testament to all of the work that has been undertaken and the relationships that have been developed over the years. Director Youngblood, Senior Vice President Dudley and Associate Director of Facilities Design and Construction Angela Lampe were commended for the significant number of projects underway at the University, as well as ongoing campus maintenance work that is being undertaken. Facilities Management and SSC are doing a great job in this regard. Appreciation was expressed to Director of Athletics Nico Yantko and his team for ensuring success within the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC). Both the men's and women's athletics teams are competing very well in the MVC. Appreciation was expressed to Police Chief Ryan Orr and his team for keeping campus safe and General Counsel Miller for his legal expertise. Many new initiatives will be outlined today and Provost Todd, the Deans and the regional campus Directors are to be commended for their work in this regard. He is especially pleased to see Vice President Robertson is present today and all are glad he is back from leave. In Dr. Robertson's absence, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management Roslyn White did an excellent job and the Board appreciates the work that is being undertaken in that area.

Report of the President

President Jackson reported the following:

- Appreciation was expressed to Regents, faculty, staff and students. It has been a good but busy semester.
- Appreciation was expressed to former Staff Regent Jessica Evans who has resigned from the University. Her good work is appreciated and she will be recognized later today with a Resolution of Appreciation.
- The University experienced a record freshman class with the largest total enrollment in five years. This work is not accidental and appreciation was expressed to Vice President Robertson, Assistant Vice President White, Director of Recruitment Shawn Smee, the Office of Enrollment Management team, Road Scholars, Regents, faculty, staff, students and many others for their efforts in this regard. Director of Student Engagement and Success Peggy Whaley does an excellent job focusing on retention initiatives. Executive Director Touney and his team handle branding, marketing and communications in a fantastic manner for both prospective and current students. International recruiting is going extremely well under the direction of Assistant Vice President for International Studies Guangming Zou and Director of International Recruitment Ruben Ricardo Month. Appreciation was expressed to Admissions, Student Financial Services and Housing offices and many other teams across campus. It takes everyone in order to be successful in ensuring enrollment, recruiting and retention goals are met.
- 72 percent of the University's budget is enrollment driven which further highlights the importance of the efforts just outlined. It should be noted that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which students are required to complete in order to receive any type of financial aid, normally opens October 1. The FAFSA is still not open as of today and is not scheduled to open until December 31, 2023. This has caused several significant challenges for the University from a recruiting and retention standpoint for prospective new students and their families. All universities and colleges in this country are facing this same issue.
- Murray State was once again recognized as one of the top military friendly schools in the country.
- Racer Athletics continues to perform extremely well and appreciation was expressed to Director Yantko and his team.
- A Taste of the Arts was held recently and Regent Fitch played a few rounds on the acoustic guitar he made for the event. The guitar that was featured at A Taste of the Arts was in part made with wood from the old Racer Arena floor.
- The University's Program of Distinction – Cybersecurity and Network Management – is housed in the Cybersecurity Center. Under the direction of Dr. Michael Ramage, the Center continues to host many events for teachers and students from across the region. There was also record enrollment in this program and future plans are being made accordingly.
- The University has received multi-million dollar gifts from Donors Jim Cash and his late wife Sue, who have been extremely active and generous donors to this institution.
- For many years work has been underway to establish an endowment for the Arboretum and a gift was recently secured from the Doran family. Harold and Frank Doran stepped forward to establish an endowment to help take care of the Arboretum property in perpetuity. The Arboretum represents a tremendous asset to the University, community and region.
- Dr. Walter Bumphus, a former member of the Board of Regents and a recognized higher education leader from across the country and in Washington, DC, recently attended an alumni and donor event.

- The University also took advantage of the opportunity to speak on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) with legislators and others about the state of higher education in the Commonwealth and what can be expected in the upcoming Legislative Session.
- The University recently hosted one of the largest Family Weekend sessions and Racer One was a key feature enjoyed during various events that were held. Murray State hosted several guests from international universities, including one in Bengaluru, India, and signed a new agreement for international student recruiting and exchange.
- The Speech and Debate Union continues to do great work under the direction of Assistant Professor Ryan Goke in the Department of Organizational Communication and Leadership. President Jackson was able to attend a recent practice session and is proud of the work being undertaken in this regard. The team travels regularly and represents Murray State well.
- A Racer Basketball game was played in Racer Arena at the beginning of November and appreciation was expressed to all who helped make this happen, as well as to many Regents who attended. Legislators were recognized during the game and the evening was an overall success.
- The State of Education event was held in Madisonville, Kentucky, in October and President Jackson was a featured speaker.
- A soft opening Ribbon Cutting for the eSports Center was held in November. An official Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be planned for the beginning of the Spring Semester. The eSports Center has already proven to be popular with students and the efforts of all are to be applauded.
- Current Ms. Murray State and former Homecoming Queen Regent Ellie McGowan helped crown the new Queen and King – Hannah Erikson and Bradley Dawson – during Homecoming Weekend in October. They will represent the University well as did Regent McGowan in many different capacities.
- Several events and activities were held at Oakhurst throughout the semester, including an event honoring Dr. SG Carthell, Executive Director of Multicultural Initiatives and Director of the Dr. Marvin D. Mills Multicultural Center and his Emerging Leaders Institute students and Dr. Marvin D. Mills Scholar recipients.
- Four-Star General Stanley McChrystal spoke on campus as part of the “Lessons in Leadership” initiative sponsored by Bacon Farmer Workman/Marcum Engineering as part of the Leadership by Design speaking series. Appreciation was expressed to all who were able to attend this event.
- Student Ambassadors, under the leadership of Executive Director of Development Tina Bernot and Director of Development for the Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology and School of Nursing and Health Professions Christian Barnes, continued to supervise students as they made phone calls to alumni and friends as part of the Racerthon event. Student Ambassadors also served as hosts for many other presidential and campus events.
- The Jack Harlow concert held on campus last week was a huge success – sold out event – and many Regents attended. Appreciation was expressed to Regent McGowan for helping to bring this event to the students and campus community.
- Many student recruiting events have been held on campus and at the regional campus sites which were attended by University representatives and members of the Board. The University also hosted Governor Andy Beshear on campus for a Press Conference earlier during the Fall Semester where he presented a check to the University for the Law Enforcement Protection Program and several other area advancement initiatives were announced.
- Many present today knew Dr. Gene Wells Ray who recently passed. Murray State’s *Science Campus* is named in his honor and he is one of the University’s most outstanding alumni and a major donor. Dr. Ray was a good friend to this institution and will be deeply missed. Another supporter – Pete Waldrop – has also passed. These two individuals were major supporters of the University and loved Racer Basketball.
- Recently KET Director of Public Affairs and Moderator Renee Shaw was in Murray, Kentucky, to speak to the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce as part of their Business @ Lunch. Director Shaw is the premier journalist in the Commonwealth and all were fortunate she was willing to travel back to the area.
- The annual Holidays at Oakhurst event will be held on December 12, 2023, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and all are invited to attend. Appreciation was expressed to First Lady Karen Jackson who has been working diligently to ensure Holidays at Oakhurst will be another successful University event.
- Outstanding Graduates Kaid Marek and Jacob Syler Kennedy will be recognized during the Commencement ceremony at 10 a.m. on December 9, 2023, in the CFSB Center. Kaid is from Clarksville, Tennessee, and Syler is from Murray, Kentucky.
- Paducah Mayor George Bray visited campus during the Fall Semester and toured the School of Engineering. Appreciation was expressed to all involved in ensuring his visit was successful.
- An alumni/donor event was recently hosted by alumnae Colonel Lucretia McClenney in November at the Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC. Appreciation was expressed to Vice Chair Gray and former Student Regent Brandon Kirkham who attended this event on behalf of the University.
- Photos were shown of various recruitment events held during the Fall Semester locally and throughout the area.
- Career Services experienced a record year under the leadership of Director Matt Purdy. The office recently sponsored an event with approximately 350 employers and a significant number of students

in attendance – both groups setting record numbers. Career Services traffic included assisting 945 students.

- Appreciation was expressed to Provost Todd and his team for their work with regard to academic excellence. A new academic degree approach is being undertaken and will be outlined later. Confirmation was provided that a consistent review of programs is undertaken to identify those with low/no enrollment or graduates to help better direct University resources.
- Many academic program accreditations have occurred or are in process. These include the Occupational Safety and Health program (reaccredited for six years) and the Civil and Sustainability Engineering program (accredited for five years) in the Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, under the direction of Dean Claire Fuller. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) reaccredited all business programs for five years in the Bauernfeind College of Business, under the direction of Dean David Eaton. Only 5 percent of business colleges in the world are able to attain gold standard AACSB accreditation. Also, the Journalism and Mass Communications and the Nonprofit Leadership Studies programs were both reaccredited for an additional six years in that college. In the School of Nursing and Health Professions, under the leadership of Dean Dina Byers, the Nurse Anesthesia program achieved four-year accreditation. This program is based at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, Kentucky. In the College of Education and Human Services, under the leadership of Dean David Whaley, education programs were reaccredited for seven years by the Education and Professional Standards Board, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the Kentucky Academy of Technology Education. Appreciation was expressed to Deans, Chairs and faculty and staff in the academic colleges and schools for their work in this regard. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaccreditation process is being led by Senior Associate Provost Pervine. The Murray State SACSCOC site visit will be in early April 2024. Appreciation was expressed to all for their work in this regard.
- The topic of the value of higher education is in the press often and discussed frequently. By 2031, according to a new study undertaken by the Georgetown University Center of Education and the Workforce, 72 percent of jobs in the United States will require postsecondary education and/or training. This represents a new statistic that has recently been released and the University must be diligent in helping to share this important message.
- The Racers Finish Program was outlined in detail. Appreciation was expressed to all for their work in this regard.
- A rendering for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions was provided and the Board was reminded that a Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held later this morning. Appreciation was expressed to Director Youngblood and his team for their good work, along with the building engineers and architects who are assisting the University with this project. Appreciation was also expressed to Dean Byers and her faculty for their input throughout the process.
- Legislative meetings have been held in Frankfort, Kentucky, and Washington, DC, and appreciation was expressed to Chair Owens, Vice Chair Gray, Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Brian Parr and Executive Director Smith for their attendance and participation.
- An update report will be provided later on the new School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State. A great deal of effort has already been expended by many to help bring this initiative to fruition.
- Appreciation was expressed to Director Youngblood and his team for their work to manage a record number of projects that are currently underway on campus. They are doing a fantastic job in this regard and many important projects are being completed.
- Appreciation was expressed to Senior Vice President Dudley; Interim Assistant Vice President for Finance Wendy Cain and in Accounting and Financial Services Interim Director Stephanie Jennings, Assistant Director for Reporting Michelle Clark, Manager for Restricted and Plant Funds Heather Macha and others. Their work to ensure clean audits with unmodified opinions were issued by the external auditors for the general audit and audits relative to federal funds, WKMS and Athletics is very much appreciated.
- The Performance Funding Work Group held monthly meetings and prepared a final report which contained recommendations for adult learners, and non-resident, low-income students and others.
- The Senate Joint Resolution 98 (SJR 98) Work Group has held monthly meetings since last May. The Work Group has now prepared a final report that has been shared with the General Assembly. A determination still needs to be made in terms of what occurs next with the higher education reform model and potential changes which could occur.
- Human Resources Director Courtney Hixon will provide an update on the Evergreen Compensation Study which has been conducted. The Work Group that was formed to oversee this work the last several months is to be commended.
- The centennial campaign – Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold – is being led by MSU alumnus David Dill who is serving as National Campaign Advisory Board Chair. Appreciation was expressed to Executive Director of Development Tina Bernot and team, MSU Foundation President David Durr, Director of Alumni Relations Carrie McGinnis and staff, the Board of Governors and others for their work in this regard. The campaign is approaching 70 percent of the goal with over \$69 million raised to date. Campaign events were held this fall in Nashville, Tennessee; Louisville, Kentucky; Huntsville, Alabama and Washington, DC. Additional events will be held during the Spring Semester and a record estate gift will be announced soon.

- Appreciation was expressed to Director Yantko and Athletics staff for a record fundraising and sponsorship year. Donors and sponsors have been very generous to make this effort successful and appreciation was expressed in this regard.
- Tomorrow represents the culmination of everything Murray State strives to do – Commencement – with 735 students graduating and it is exceptional that so many Regents will be in attendance.

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

Treasurer’s Report (Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports), accepted

Senior Vice President Dudley reported the following with regard to the Report of the Treasurer – Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports for the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023 (three months into the fiscal year):

- Information was provided to the Board as part of the dashboard and the full Treasurer’s Report.
- Cash is down slightly due to timing and using funds received in prior years, primarily the Asset Preservation Bonds that were sold in 2022. The University has started spending down the cash received from that sale and will continue to do so as asset preservation projects are undertaken.
- Accounts receivable is also down due to a timing difference between when the University receives funds from the MSU Foundation for scholarships.
- Working capital is relatively flat which is positive. The University’s debt position is up due to a change related to June 30, 2023, numbers. The numbers being presented today are comparative to September 2023 and September 2022 and there has been a year-end period during that time when a significant number of pension entries were booked. This is the reason for the fluctuation in net position and does not reflect something which happened this quarter.
- Revenue and expense charts were provided. Income statement numbers are institutional-wide so the revenues presented represent Education and General, Auxiliaries, gifts, grants and Plant Funds – everything for the institution.
- In terms of Educational and General as a percent of budget, revenues and expenditures are up. Revenues are up percentage wise more than expenditures. This is positive and due mostly to timing. It does not represent a windfall and the same is true for Auxiliaries.
- In terms of percent of budget, the University has earned 47 percent of its revenue budget but has spent 25 percent of the expenditure budget. Both of these percentages are slightly higher than prior year but revenues are still above expenditures. This represents a positive trend but the Board was cautioned to remember the information presented is only for three months into the year.

Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the quarterly unaudited Financial and Investment Reports for the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, as presented. Regent Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #2)

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee

Melony Shemberger – Chair
Virginia Gray
David Meinschein
G. L. Ovey

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Chair Shemberger called the Committee to order at 9:06 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

New Academic Degree Programs

Dean Eaton reported the work undertaken which resulted in the recommendations being presented today was in preparation for the upcoming AACSB accreditation with a focus on the increasing importance of analytics. It is not anticipated that the College will need significant additional resources in order to offer the new programs being presented for Board approval. The classes needed for the Accountancy and Analytics degree are already part of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Analytics Option and the MBA in Forensic Accounting Option. The Economic Analytics degree classes already have undergraduate analogs and a tremendous number of new courses will not be required. Two faculty overloads per year are anticipated to be needed but that creates no issues for the department. The department also hopes to work with the National Association of Business Accountants to become a partner institution. This will help

prepare students for the Certified Business Accountants designation because that entity already teaches the content.

Confirmation was provided that both programs will be offered mostly through in-person classes and each will require 30 credit hours to complete.

Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics, approved

The MSU Department of Accounting seeks to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Accountancy and Analytics as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program designed to produce graduates who have the ability to employ advanced accounting and data analytics skills. The Bauernfeind College of Business has been contacted by several private employers, Certified Public Accountant firms and government agencies seeking students with a background in both accounting and analytics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) states that the market demand for this program nationwide has a "bright" outlook for the next several years. The BLS also indicates that every "bright" outlook occupation matches at least one of the following criteria: 1) Projected to grow faster than average (employment increase of 8 percent or more) over the period 2021-31 for the United States (U.S.) nationwide or 2) Projected to have 100,000 or more job openings over the period 2021-23 for the U.S. nationwide. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also classifies the profession as a "new and emerging" occupation that is expected to "grow rapidly." The median wage for a Data Scientist is \$103,500 and for an Accountant or Auditor is \$78,000.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new academic degree program: Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics as presented. Vice Chair Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics, approved

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new academic degree program: Master of Science in Accountancy and Analytics as presented. Regent McGowan seconded and the motion carried.

Master of Science in Economic Analytics, approved

The MSU Department of Economics and Finance seeks to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Economic Analytics as a STEM program that aligns well with today's market expectations for economics graduates and the current undergraduate program that has recently been designated as a STEM program. The M.S. in Economic Analytics program will focus on the analytical and applied aspects of economics. It will equip students with requisite knowledge in economic modeling, econometric methods and computational skills to create, analyze and interpret large-scale data initiatives. It will also prepare graduates for a variety of data-driven careers.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new academic degree program: Master of Science in Economic Analytics as presented. Vice Chair Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Master of Science in Economic Analytics, approved

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new academic degree program: Master of Science in Economic Analytics as presented. Regent Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Racers Finish Initiative Presentation, received

Executive Director of the Center for Adult and Regional Education (CARE) Dan Lavit reported the following with regard to the Racers Finish initiative:

- According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 40.4 million adults attended college in the United States but left without earning a credential or degree. In Kentucky, that number is 611,023 adults.
- The Strategic Statement which has been developed for the Racers Finish initiative was outlined. Additional justifications for the Racers Finish initiative include performance funding, changing postsecondary demographics, workforce development, enrollment and generational transformation.
- The marketing and stopped-out campaigns for Racers Finish were outlined and highlighted.
- Incentives that are currently being developed to encourage participation were outlined.
- Confirmation was provided that this initiative will assist with workforce development in the Commonwealth and will greatly benefit the state. It was also confirmed that the Racers Finish program allows students to earn an Associate of Arts in General Studies or the Bachelor of Integrated Studies or students can pursue tracks available in each of the academic colleges and schools so it can be tailored to meet their individual needs. Prior Murray State credit hours earned do not expire and learning assessments are conducted for each Racers Finish participant.
- The Racers Finish campaign is being coordinated by CARE Assistant Director Natalie Thurmond who has 25 years of experience with advising, teaching and marketing to the adult student. CARE Program Director for Integrated Studies Marla Poyner will also be involved by providing students in the Racers Finish program with assistance in order for them to be successful.
- Racers Finish campaign updates will be provided as this initiative moves forward and metrics will be utilized to measure success.

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

School of Veterinary Medicine Feasibility Study Update, received

Dean Parr reported the following with regard to the School of Veterinary Medicine Feasibility Study:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Board for their support of this effort. Many individuals at Murray State have been working 24/7 since August and appreciation was expressed to Chair Owens and Vice Chair Gray for accompanying the group to Washington, DC, and for providing assistance in Frankfort, Kentucky, during the Fall Semester.
- Efforts over the past several months have focused on removing any reasonable opposition to a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State. University staff have visited several Fiscal Courts and Area Economic Development Districts throughout the region and a large number of those entities have now adopted Resolutions of Support for this initiative. Meetings have also occurred with state legislators and staff provided testimony twice before the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture. The University had the opportunity to host the Republican House Caucus in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, this past week. Many toured the Breathitt Veterinary Center and it was very beneficial for them to personally see this impressive facility. Staff met with the future Commissioner of Agriculture – Jonathan Shell – and his transition team. The University is thankful for these audiences and to those individuals who are stepping forward to their Congressional leaders in an effort to show the benefits a School of Veterinary Medicine would provide to the entire Commonwealth. A presentation was also made to the Kentucky Livestock Coalition which is comprised of industry representatives for all commodities from across the state and this group was very open to the discussion.
- The Feasibility Study that was undertaken clearly shows the tremendous need for a School of Veterinary Medicine in Kentucky. A very constructive ZOOM session was held between University administrators and the Dean and Associate Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University and these individuals substantiated the University's argument for the need.
- A Task Force has been formed and is undertaking a great deal of work helping to advance this initiative among the decision makers in their respective communities. They have been invaluable in helping the University make connections with the individuals it needs to talk to in order to share data and ensure this work is undertaken in the right manner.

Vice Chair Gray reported that her veterinary provider is on the State Veterinary Board, is part of the Task Force and is a graduate of Auburn University. He has been very complimentary of the meeting University representatives had with Auburn. Staff addressed concerns in a manner that will allow them to go back to his colleagues across the state about potential hesitations. The University has assembled a group of stakeholders to serve on the Task Force that can have honest and open conversations. This is not a "yes group" and represents stakeholders who have skin in the game. This initiative is not only important to them but also involves food security. Individuals need to understand where their food comes from and that Kentucky is heavily agricultural and is where a School of Veterinary Medicine should be located, particularly with the federal designation of Murray State's Diagnostic Lab that is already in place. Appreciation was expressed to President Jackson and others for all they are doing to bring a School of Veterinary Medicine to Murray State. Regent Waldrop added that for five decades Kentucky has been paying other states to educate Kentucky veterinarians.

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

Adjournment

The Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Athletics Committee

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

Although the Athletics Committee did not formally meet, Chair Owens reported that over the past several months he has had the opportunity to travel and watch all but one football game. While the team did not have the season it was hopeful for, it is more than just x's and o's. He had a chance to watch Coach Dean Hood and his staff interact with students and others and this sport is making an impact on the lives of young men – and not just in the classroom. Coach Hood and his staff are to be commended for their work. Through membership in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, Murray State players and Coaches were able to see what it is like to be a championship-level team and this provided everyone with a goal to achieve. Since President Jackson and the administrative team he put in place have been operational they have enhanced Athletics – an important component of the overall college experience. Football has stepped into a new league where players are expecting to play professional football at a high level. The University must be able to provide the resources not only to be in the league but also be competitive. Coach Hood, his staff and the student-athletes are putting forth effort and he believes ultimately all will be pleased with the final product. Regent Roark agreed and indicated that many of these student-athletes might not otherwise have access to a college education and she appreciates President Jackson making this a priority.

Audit and Compliance Committee

Tom Waldrop – Chair
Ellie McGowan
Leon Owens
Emily Roark

Audit and Compliance Chair Waldrop called the Committee to order at 9:47 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Audited Financial Statements – General, Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds, Annual Audit Report – Athletics and Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM, accepted

Senior Vice President Dudley introduced Director Lance Mann and Manager Andrew Harris from Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton), an independent external auditing firm. Mr. Mann indicated he has spent a substantial number of years assisting higher education clients, including public universities in Kentucky, and is grateful to serve Murray State. He expressed appreciation to Senior Vice President Dudley, Interim Assistant Vice President for Finance Cain, Interim Director of Accounting and Financial Services Jennings and their staffs who provide a substantial amount of data to the auditors within a limited amount of time. The University's audit must be submitted to the Commonwealth of Kentucky by September 30 each year and this represents a very large project. The following highlights were provided with regard to the Report to Governance on the audits:

- The audit was performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.
- A clean opinion has been issued for all audit reports. There was an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and a report was issued on compliance and internal controls over the financial statements. The auditors also issued a report on compliance for each major federal program the University administers. This report confirms that the University is utilizing grant funds for the purpose for which they were intended. A clean report was issued with no findings to report.

- The auditors also issued a separate modified opinion on the MSU Foundation and that audit went exceptionally well this year.
- The WKMS-FM audit was completed in compliance with Corporation for Public Broadcasting guidelines and that entity has accepted the report.
- The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) requires an Agreed-Upon Procedures Report which was also issued. The University must maintain this audit should the NCAA request to see it. There were no material issues to report in this regard.
- Reports on compliance with Kentucky House Bill 622 and Kentucky Lease Law Statutes were also issued and no material issues were discovered.
- The auditors also provided an Independence Letter for the Auditor of Public Accounts. A Subsequent Event Report must still be issued for the Auditor of Public Accounts and that work is being undertaken. The auditors will follow-up with the Murray State team in January.
- Murray State has an amazing team in place that works to ensure everything is done properly.
- The auditors had small recommendations for management to consider but these items do not warrant consideration at the Board level.
- The University's financial statements will be consolidated with those for the state of Kentucky. No transactions were noted for which there was a lack of authoritative guidance.
- Murray State adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 96, Subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA) in fiscal year 2023. This resulted in all long-term software contracts having to be recorded as an asset and related liability. No significant transactions have been recognized in a different period than when the transactions occurred.
- Preparation of the financial statements requires the use of accounting estimates. Certain estimates are particularly sensitive due to their significance to the overall financial statements and the possibility that future events may differ from management expectations. The most notable estimates affecting the financial statements are depreciation and useful life of capital assets, pension and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) related estimates, allowance for uncollectible loans and student accounting receivable and discount rate associated with the lease liability and the SBITA liability. The auditors evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole.
- Financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear. Certain disclosures are sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements' users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are deposits, investments and investment income; endowments; self-insurance; bonds and notes payable and pension plans and OPEB.
- No difficulties were encountered in dealing with management related to the performance of the audit and no audit adjustments were noted during the year. There were no significant uncorrected misstatements.
- The Management Representation Letter was signed indicating the administration has been honest with the auditors and shared everything they needed to know in order to do a good job. To Dean Dorton's knowledge, there were no management consultations with other auditors. It was confirmed that required supplementary information – such as Management's Discussion and Analysis and certain pension-related schedules – was presented to supplement the basic financial statements.
- Independence is a joint responsibility and managed most effectively when management, the Board of Regents and the audit firm work together in considering compliance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) independence rules.
- New this year is the recording of assets and liabilities related to SBITA contracts. This is where Murray State has a long-term contract for a subscription to a software system or similar licensing arrangement. An example would be the Enterprise Resource Planning system where the University is considered to be leasing the software. Confirmation was provided that this has represented a time-intensive project for Procurement Services.
- Major programs audited during the Single Audit (federal funds) included the Student Financial Aid Cluster, Delta Health Care Services Grant Program and Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Dean Dorton undertook a risk assessment to determine the clusters that were required to be audited. No findings were identified that are required to be communicated within the Single Audit report as of today. There were also no prior-year findings.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following reports:

Audited Financial Statements – General

- a. Report to Governance on the Results of Annual Independent Audit
- b. Required Auditor Communications (includes Representation Letter)
- c. Independence/Peer Review Letter
- d. House Bill 622 Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- f. General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds

- a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Audited Financial Report – Athletics

- a. Annual Audit Report – Athletics – NCAA Independent Accountant’s Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2023.

Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM

- a. Required Auditor Communications
- b. Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Regent McGowan seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Audited Financial Statements – General, Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds, Annual Audit Report – Athletics and Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM, accepted

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following reports:

Audited Financial Statements – General

- a. Report to Governance on the Results of Annual Independent Audit
- b. Required Auditor Communications (includes Representation Letter)
- c. Independence/Peer Review Letter
- d. House Bill 622 Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023
- f. General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Audited Financial Statement – Federal Funds

- a. Single Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Audited Financial Report – Athletics

- a. Annual Audit Report – Athletics – NCAA Independent Accountant’s Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2023.

Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM

- a. Required Auditor Communications
- b. Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachments #3 - #12)

Annual Audit Contract Renewal, authorized

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that under provisions of Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 164A.570, the University is required to engage a qualified firm to conduct an annual audit of its financial statements. Other governing or sanctioning bodies (e.g., the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for federal grants and contracts and the National Collegiate Athletic Association) require annual financial or compliance audits. As a result of the request for proposals for audit services dated December 12, 2016 (RFP-236J-17), Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) was the successful firm.

At its February 24, 2017, meeting, the Board of Regents approved the issuance of a contract to Dean Dorton for the performance of the University’s financial and compliance audits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and further authorized the University to enter into six subsequent contract renewals based upon mutual consent. The University is seeking to extend the contract with Dean Dorton for an additional term of three years based upon the following pricing:

Fiscal Year 2024 – \$145,000
Fiscal Year 2025 – \$149,300
Fiscal Year 2026 – \$153,600

The cost for the Fiscal Year 2023 contract is \$135,500, including the financial, compliance and up to four single audit programs. The average annual increase since the end of the Fiscal year 2016 contract and through the Fiscal Year 2026 proposal is 1.8 percent.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, authorize the University to extend the contract with Dean Dorton for the performance of the University's financial and compliance audits for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$145,500, which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. Regent McGowan seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Annual Audit Contract Renewal, authorized

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, authorize the University to extend the contract with Dean Dorton for the performance of the University's financial and compliance audits for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024, at a cost of \$145,500, which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. Regent Meinschein seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Ms. McGowan, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The Audit and Compliance Committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Emily Roark – Chair
Robbie Fitch
David Meinschein
G. L. Ovey
Tom Waldrop

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

Facilities Management Major Projects Update, received

Director Youngblood and Associate Director of Facilities Design and Construction Angela Lampe provided a Facilities Management major projects update with the following highlights:

- The Oakley Applied Science Building is in the schematic design phase and will then move into design and development. Work will be undertaken in consultation with Deans Parr and Byers as their units will be the major stakeholders in the facility.
- HVAC, electric and boiler projects in Pogue Library, Price Doyle Fine Arts and the Fine Arts Building are in the design phase.
- Waterfield Library HVAC Phase II work is underway. Engineers for the Hancock Biological Station are redesigning the HVAC project because costs came in significantly over what was initially anticipated and adjustments are needed in order to arrive at a more cost-effective solution.
- The Price Doyle Fine Arts interior stairwell project is expected to be bid after the holiday break and the Cherry Livestock and Exposition Center is in the design phase.
- Photos were shown of various projects across campus and at the regional campus sites.
- The Breathitt Veterinary Center storage facility foundation has been completed and final grating is being done. This project was scheduled for final completion in July 2024 but is ahead of schedule and will be done by March.
- Over the holiday break painting will be done on the fourth floor of Clark Hall and in summer 2024 floors one through three will be painted.

- Curris Center projects are progressing nicely and work which remains includes the main interior stairs and those off the mall area. This work will be completed during the holiday break. This will be followed by the installation of branding signage at the end of January. It is anticipated the Student Government Association conference room can be completed next week. Regents were encouraged to make plans to visit the Curris Center as it has changed quite a bit since their last tour.
- The Phase I and part of Phase II of the fiber ring upgrade project are underway. Phase I is nearing completion. Ground penetrating radar work will begin in January to mark utilities so that Phase II work can be finalized. This project is being completed in phases through 2027 and will include 11 miles of fiber being put in place once it is finished. This will create a fiber loop around campus which allows redundancy for networking in the event of a fiber break or failure. Confirmation was provided that the City of Murray has been very helpful since this project started and is planning to install a junction box for future expansion.
- New concrete walks and stairs, as well as railings, have been installed at the Hancock Biological Station.
- The *Hopkinsville Regional Campus* roof with storm damage has now been fully repaired where feasible or replaced. A few interior renovations remain to be completed in that facility.
- Work is underway on the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) entrance at Lovett Auditorium. The ground area outside of that entrance tended to flood whenever the area received heavy rain. A company has now completed grading and added rocks and edging to the area and it is anticipated this will help address the flooding issue.
- Contractors are wrapping up completion of Mein Bowl and the final piece of equipment has now been delivered. Once final inspections are done staff can be trained and a Grand Opening can be held when students arrive back on campus in January. This dining option represents an excellent addition to the Thoroughbred Room in the Curris Center.
- A rendering was provided for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building and a Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. this morning. This new facility has involved a lot of time and effort from President Jackson, Provost Todd, Senior Vice President Dudley, Dean Byers and faculty to go through the design renderings with the team to arrive at the plan being proposed. Schematic work has been completed and the design and development phases are currently underway. Several meetings are planned for next week in order to determine next steps. The Board was provided with renderings for the floor plans in the facility which include flexible classrooms, Health Services space, faculty offices and nursing suite simulation labs. Facilities Management and SSC staff have also been involved in planning the layout for the facility.
- A Sodexo Coffee Kiosk has now been added in the School of Engineering.
- The Sorority Suites total roof replacement was completed in September and additional renovations are underway in that facility.
- A new rodeo fence has been installed on the West Farm.
- Work is ongoing in White Hall. The boiler project has been completed and units are up and running. An air handler unit for this facility has been ordered and design work is underway for hydronic piping to be installed throughout the building.
- Outdoor dining spaces have been completed at Winslow Dining Hall and include a solar picnic table with USB charging ports and pergolas that can be opened and closed. It is believed this area will be popular among students in the Spring Semester.
- Woods Park is nearing completion and only a few minor projects remain, including grade work that needs to be redone and installation of one light fixture once repair parts are on site. The Woods Park monument-style sign has been installed and glass blocks from the original Woods Hall (which has been razed) were included in the design.
- The house located at 403 North 16th Street has now been razed and 900 College Courts is scheduled to be demolished next week.
- Appreciation was expressed to all involved with the numerous active projects that are underway on the Murray State campus.

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

School of Nursing and Health Professions Building LEED Certification Exemption Request, granted

Regent Roark reported that in order to receive the LEED “Optimized Energy Performance” qualification from the state, certain requirements must be met and would cost the University an additional \$2.5 million. The building itself cost \$35 million so the University plans to meet most of the optimized energy performance requirements but will not be seeking the qualification from the state. The design and engineering team for the project has determined that it is not feasible to seek this qualification due to cost but energy design tactics will be utilized to ensure the building is sustainable and healthy for Murray State. LED lighting will be installed, along with smart lighting controls and individual and flexible lighting. The HVAC system will be energy efficient and additional smart controls and energy options will be installed in the facility. Regent

Waldrop added that this approach is common for commercial buildings and the minimal savings achieved from LEED certification rarely exceed cost. The Board is being asked to approve the exception to not seek the actual LEED certification designation from the state.

Senior Vice President Dudley and Director Youngblood reported that the Commonwealth's High-Performance Building Standards require LEED 2009 compliance with a rating of Silver Level or higher for projects above \$25 million in scope. Per Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 56.775/200 Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) 6:070, exemptions can be granted by the Board of Regents or the Secretary of Finance. As a new construction project, the School of Nursing and Health Professions Building Project would be required to comply with the Silver Certified Level requirements in the 2009 LEED for New Construction Scorecard and achieve a minimum of seven points in the "Optimize Energy Performance" category unless the Board grants an exemption.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, grant an exemption from the LEED Certification requirements in the Commonwealth's High-Performance Building Standards (KRS 56.775/200 KAR 6:070) for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions Building Project. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – School of Nursing and Health Professions Building LEED Certification Exemption Request, granted

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, grant an exemption from the LEED Certification requirements in the Commonwealth's High-Performance Building Standards (KRS 56.775/200 KAR 6:070) for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions Building Project. Regent Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan Update, approved

Regent Roark reported the *2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan* was submitted to the Board of Regents for approval on June 2, 2023. However, due to possible funding opportunities for the 2024-26 biennium, some changes were made to the plan on November 15, 2023. The most substantive revision was the addition of a new construction request of \$90 million for a School of Veterinary Medicine. This change to the 2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan is noted in the document provided to the Board, listed as Priority Item #2. All of the remaining changes are highlighted, with comments, in the information provided to the Board.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the *2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan* update and the Capital Budget Requests for the 2024-26 State Biennial Budget as presented. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – 2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan Update, approved

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 *2024-30 Six-Year Capital Plan* update and the Capital Budget Requests for the 2024-26 State Biennial Budget as attached. Regent Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachments #13 - #14)

Adjournment

The Buildings and Grounds Committee adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents also adjourned at 10:26 a.m. to allow Regents to participate in the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions and also attend lunch with special University guests.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents at 1 p.m.

Appreciation was expressed to President Jackson and all involved for planning a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions that was very well done.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee

David Meinschein and Ellie McGowan – Co-Chairs
Robbie Fitch
G. L. Ovey
Melony Shemberger

Academic Year 2023-24 Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention Update Report, received

Enrollment Management and Student Success Co-Chair Meinschein called the Committee to order at 1 p.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey. Information was provided in the eBoard book on Academic Year 2023-24 Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention for Regents to review.

Regent Meinschein reiterated how thankful the Board is for Vice President Robertson, Assistant Vice President White and the entire Enrollment Management team. All have done an outstanding job. Enrollment comprises 72 percent of the University's revenue budget which further underscores its importance. All are appreciative of the work these individuals undertake.

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

Adjournment

The Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Legislative and Economic Development Committee

Virginia Gray – Chair
Ellie McGowan
Matthew Price
Emily Roark
Tom Waldrop

Legislative and Economic Development Chair Gray called the Committee to order at 1:04 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Legislative Update Report, received

Executive Director Smith provided a legislative update to the Board with the following highlights:

- 2023 Interim Session activities will continue over the next few weeks. Throughout the Interim Session University representatives have participated in meetings in Frankfort and regularly throughout the area with legislators and members of both the House and Senate leadership.
- All pre-filed bills have been monitored and a very active Interim Committee meeting schedule has been maintained. Dean Parr mentioned earlier that staff testified before the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture on two separate occasions. Appreciation was expressed to Committee Chair Representative Richard Heath who was integral in enabling Murray State to be the spotlight before the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture during both of the meetings.
- Staff have also spoken before the Education, Appropriations and Revenue and several other committees during the Interim Legislative Session.
- President Jackson is Chair of the CPE Board of Presidents Council and several meetings of this group have occurred throughout the Interim Session.
- January 2, 2024, marks the first official day of the 60-day Legislative Budget Session. April 15 is *Sine Die* or the last official day of the Session. February 26 is the last day to introduce new House bills and February 28 is the last day to introduce new Senate bills. Meetings are currently being set

for the start of the Legislative Session. The University's Lobbyist – Ronny Pryor, a Murray State alum who works with Capitol Solutions – was on campus for the School of Nursing and Health Professions Groundbreaking Ceremony and plays a vital role as a partner to this University.

- All bills impacting higher education will be monitored and tracked rigorously throughout the Session. Updates on important bills moving through the Legislative Session will be shared with the Board.
- A primary focus from the General Assembly for this Session will be SJR 98. It is expected that a number of key findings will result from this work and the Board has been updated in this regard. The report from the CPE has a continued focus on the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), governance with Kentucky's public universities and examining whether the state will build another four-year university in southeast Kentucky.
- Murray State's top priorities this Legislative Session include:
 - Priority #1 – CPE Asset Preservation Request (\$700 million) – MSU supports the CPE's Asset Preservation Request of \$700 million in annual state bond funds to address an estimated \$7.3 billion needed for continued facilities renovation and renewal at Kentucky's public colleges and universities. Murray State's allocation of the \$700 million state bond request is \$60 million to finance additional asset preservation and renovation projects. The University is requesting funding without the matching requirement but if a match is required it will be covered from existing bond proceeds and restricted agency funds to finance asset preservation and renovation projects at public postsecondary institutions. Appreciation was expressed to the General Assembly for the last round of funding the universities received. Murray State has been able to address a significant number of needs on campus and with the new round of funding could do even more.
 - Priority #2 – Construct School of Veterinary Medicine (\$90 million) – Under the direction of the Hutson School of Agriculture, a new building with 78,112 square feet situated on 11 acres of existing property on the University's West Farm is being proposed. The University also continues to seek federal dollars, grants and other funding sources for the project.
 - Priority #3 – Construction of a Learning Commons with a Housing Component – This project would provide a collaborative learning environment specifically in the residential hall complex for students. This would represent an important recruitment and retention initiative for first-time students. The Learning Commons would include spaces for studying, classrooms, tutoring, technology resources and student meetings and team spaces and is intended to occupy at least an entire floor with residence hall rooms on the upper floors.
 - Priority #4 – Phase II of the School of Nursing and Health Professions (\$11.6 million) – The 2022-24 Budget of the Commonwealth funded \$45.5 million for a new Nursing and Health Professions Building. Phase II will allow for completion of the originally planned project to include learning, laboratory and clinical space. Inflation and increasing costs of labor and materials has led to all the public universities requesting additional Phase II funding.
 - Priority #5 – Reauthorization and Authorization for \$122.2 Million in Agency Bonding – This would provide the University with flexibility to use its own budget to undertake important projects on campus, such as continuing to construct residential housing, replacing College Courts apartment buildings and enhancing the Athletic Facilities Improvement Pool projects.
- The University supports the CPE's Performance Funding request for appropriations of \$22.7 million in each year of the biennium to increase student success. Performance funding is the mechanism by which the University receives dollars the General Assembly allocated which are managed by the CPE. The CPE is also recommending an across-the-board base inflationary adjustment to help address increasing costs all universities are facing.
- Chair Owens, Vice Chair Gray, President Jackson, Dean Parr and Executive Director Smith participated in federal visits in Washington, DC, to discuss the School of Veterinary Medicine proposal and potential funding opportunities, as well as provide an update on Murray State University. Meetings were held with Congressional Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senator Rand Paul, U.S. Congressman James Comer, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. There has been continuous positive movement relative to the School of Veterinary Medicine proposal from the stakeholders just outlined. Appreciation was expressed to Congressman Comer who set up the meeting with USDA and has publicly been very supportive of the University's proposal.

In terms of whether House Bill 9 (HB 9) is part of the equation for potential funding for a School of Veterinary Medicine, confirmation was provided that inquiries have been made in this regard. The bill could be amended during the Legislative Session and this could become an eligible component. Federal guidelines for HB 9 are currently through the Department of Energy and are not intended to be used for brick and mortar projects. All universities are having a difficult time finding a project match for HB 9 funding. The University also looked at House Bill 9 in terms of being able to help its neighbors and counties in the state. Area Development Districts are indicating the HB 9 initiative is more for water, sewer and road projects because such projects are easier to match.

Vice Chair Gray indicated she wanted to impress upon the Board, Murray State alumni, stakeholders and others who support the School of Veterinary Medicine that this one topic has caused more spirited conversation and debate than anything she has been involved with in a really long time. There is a great deal of passion around this topic. For those who support the University, it is imperative that local, state and federal delegations hear from everyone and understand the importance of this project to the region. This not only involves the West Kentucky Legislative Delegation but also their leadership in the respective chambers. They need to hear from everyone across the board as the masses carry a lot of weight. There has been a gap for 50 years for rural veterinarians and no one else has filled that void. The shortage of veterinarians is also a well-documented national issue. Murray State is willing to take the risk to meet this need and she believes in the integrity of this University and the individuals who lead it, as well as faculty and staff in the Hutson School of Agriculture who are completely capable of ensuring this initiative is successful. Necessary adjustments will be made along the way to ensure quality is maintained and the University is providing a valuable product. Dean Parr has been able to dispute or research every concern that has been raised and he will continue to do so, along with University leadership. A School of Veterinary Medicine will impact not only Kentucky but also the surrounding states.

President Jackson added that the University has received Resolutions from cities, counties, Area Development Districts, Chambers of Commerce and others. During the Legislative Session this work will be ramped up even further. Executive Director Smith indicated that when Murray State sees a need it wants to meet that need – which has always been the University’s philosophy. Many County Judges and city Mayors have volunteered to provide Resolutions of Support without even being asked. Some of the first to volunteer are friends of the University in the river counties – Ballard, Carlisle and Hickman – as well as Christian, Trigg and McCracken counties because they understand the impact a School of Veterinary Medicine would have on the entire region. The issue of having not enough veterinarians practicing – particularly in rural west Kentucky – is massive and is one of the reasons why the statewide Kentucky Department of Agriculture Commission has been formed. The General Assembly has also reviewed the issue and nationally the shortage of veterinarians is being called a crisis. Murray State is responding to requests received from across the region and state to help meet this need. Legislators call University staff on a regular basis to help clarify any questions which may arise and their support is very much appreciated. Technical excuses contained within law have been mentioned by those who are hesitant but all were reminded that laws are changed every day. Laws can also be interpreted differently.

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

Adjournment

The Legislative and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Marketing and Community Engagement Committee

Matthew Price – Chair
Ellie McGowan
G. L. Ovey
Tom Waldrop

Marketing and Community Engagement Chair Price called the Committee to order at 1:26 p.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

Gift-in-Kind – Csaba Markus Art Collection “Mermaid Planets” Sirius Portfolio – Department of Art and Design, received, accepted and approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that a Hungarian artist who was inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci produced the works of art being gifted to the University to be housed as part of its permanent collection. The donors are Pamela and Max Underwood of Gilbertsville, Kentucky. Pamela is a retired Guidance Counselor and she and her husband are avid art collectors. She earned three degrees from Murray State – the Bachelor of Science in both Chemistry and Biology (1969) and the Master of Education in School Counseling (1974). She is a wonderful person and a very generous donor.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent McGowan moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of the Csaba Markus art collection “Mermaid Planets” Sirius Portfolio – 5 works with a value of \$11,725 from Pamela Underwood of Gilbertsville, Kentucky. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Gift-in-Kind – Csaba Markus Art Collection “Mermaid Planets” Sirius Portfolio – Department of Art and Design, received, accepted and approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept and approve the donation of the Csaba Markus art collection “Mermaid Planets” Sirius Portfolio – 5 works with a value of \$11,725 from Pamela Underwood of Gilbertsville, Kentucky. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Adjournment

The Marketing and Community Engagement Committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Policy Changes

Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual – Policy III L – Flexible Work Arrangements (second reading), approved

President Jackson reported that the first policy change being considered represents the second reading of the *Flexible Work Arrangements* policy. This policy would give administrators across campus flexibility within their departments to perform their duties more efficiently.

Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached *Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual – Policy III L – Flexible Work Arrangements* as presented in this second reading. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #15)

Faculty Handbook Revisions Update, received

President Jackson reported that the changes being requested today pertain to policies the Board has previously approved but are not currently included in the *Faculty Handbook*. Appreciation was expressed to Faculty Senate President David Roach and Regent Shemberger in regard to the work that has been undertaken to update the *Faculty Handbook*. The *Faculty Handbook* is designed to provide members of the faculty with access to basic information on policies, procedures, benefits, services, rules and regulations that are of importance to them as teaching personnel employed at Murray State University. The following items have been revised and/or updated:

- **Page 20-21**, 1.4.2 Faculty Senate, 1.4.2.1 Faculty Senate Constitution, ARTICLE III. Membership in the Faculty Senate and ARTICLE IV. Officers of the Faculty Senate (Approved by the faculty at-large, March 7, 2023)
- **Page 26-27**, 1.4.2.2 Bylaws: ARTICLE V. Election of Departmental Senators: Updated department listing.
- **Page 29**, 1.4.2.2 Bylaws, ARTICLE VIII. Procedural Rules (Approved by the BOR, February 28, 2020)
- **Page 40-41**, 1.5 University Standing Committee System, 1.5.4.5 University Budget Advisory Committee (Approved by the BOR, December 3, 2021)
- **Page 85-86**, 2.13.2 Intellectual Property Policy, 2.13.2.4 Exemptions and Exceptions: A. Traditional Academic Works (Approved by the BOR, September 3, 2021)

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

Personnel Changes – Compensation Review Study Update, received

Director Hixon provided an update on the Faculty and Staff Compensation review with the following highlights:

- An Advisory Committee was appointed to undertake the Faculty and Staff Compensation Review and information was provided about membership. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide guidance and support to the project process and feedback to define the competitive market/benchmark institutions. The Committee serves as a resource to the project team and consultant on faculty and staff perceptions, needs and interests and communicates and supports final recommendations.
- The compensation review consultant that has been hired is Evergreen Solutions, LLC. The firm has national public sector consulting experience and has worked in 46 states, conducted over 800 compensation and classification reviews; possesses extensive public sector Human Resources experience and is a full-service Human Resources consulting practice. Evergreen Solutions also has expertise in higher education, school divisions, local governments, state agencies and quasi-governmental organizations.
- Compensation Review Goals were to:
 - Review of the current compensation system to ensure internal equity.
 - Identify a list of target peer institutions among public four-year comprehensive colleges and universities based on Carnegie classifications, SACSCOC benchmark institutions, regional proximity (250 to 300-mile radius) and total enrollment.
 - Survey target peer institutions to ensure external equity.
 - Use secondary data for comparison (College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), local external labor markets, etc.).
 - Produce recommendations to provide Murray State with a compensation system that is equitable, both internally and externally.
 - Create implementation solutions that take into consideration current compensation and financial impact, as well as the findings from the compensation analysis.
- Project Phases include:
 - Phase 1: Outreach (completed) – project initiation and collecting appropriate internal client data
 - Phase 2: Internal Analysis (completed) – data review and assessment of current conditions
 - Phase 3: External Analysis (completed) – identify list of target peer institutions, Compensation Market Survey and market positioning
 - Phase 4: Solution (current phase) – implementation solutions and final reporting

A comprehensive Market Salary Survey has now been completed. Primary data was provided from 15 target peer institutions surveyed. Of those 15, nine institutions responded with faculty data and six responded with staff data. Evergreen Solutions indicated if the University received five to seven responses that would be considered a good response rate and Murray State was fortunate to receive even more responses. Secondary data used as part of this work included CUPA-HR faculty and staff compensation and the Economic Research Institute for staff compensation in the local labor market.

There are essentially three implementation solution steps that Evergreen Solutions is currently addressing. The first step is to adopt a market responsive compensation structure and assign position equity. The consultants are considering recommendations related to faculty and non-exempt and exempt staff positions. This would represent a completely new approach from where the University currently stands. Evergreen Solutions would then assign those positions or classifications into new structures based on position responsibilities, Classification of Instructional Programs/discipline (faculty), internal equity and desired market position. This work applies to each position individually.

Step two will be to adopt a recommended methodology which is more related to the individual in the position. This will adjust for market equity, realign faculty and staff salaries on the basis of years in current classification/position and address salary compression.

Step three will be to develop an implementation timeline once the results of the first two steps are known. This is where the budgetary components of this work will be considered and a determination made in terms of how long the recommendations will take to implement. The first year of implementation will start with this fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 (FY 2024-25).

It was confirmed that this work will provide the University with a much more structured hiring process with guardrails in terms of how new hires are made to avoid salary compression in the future. Appreciation was expressed to Director Hixon for all her work with regard to leading the faculty and staff compensation review process.

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

Closed Session

Chair Owens requested a motion for the Board to go into Closed Session pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(1)(b) for deliberations on the future acquisition of real property by a public agency. Regent Shemberger so moved, seconded by Regent Fitch, and the motion carried. Closed Session began at 1:45 p.m. Secretary Hunt and Senior Vice President Dudley remained in Closed Session.

Open Session/Reconvene

Chair Owens requested a motion for the Board to reconvene in Open Session. Regent Shemberger so moved, seconded by Regent Fitch, and the motion carried.

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly Meeting and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents at 2:30 p.m. and reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

Finance Committee

Robbie Fitch – Chair
Virginia Gray
David Meinschein
Leon Owens
Melony Shemberger

Finance Chair Fitch called the Committee to order at 2:30 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

State Endowment Matching Fund Request, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that as per the guidelines established for the 2022-24 Endowment Matching Program (also known as the CPE's Bucks for Brains program), the Board of Regents is required to acknowledge its oversight and approval of the endowment funds for which the University is seeking a qualifying match through the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (CUETF). State funding for the Endowment Match Program is appropriated to the CUETF for the comprehensive institutions.

The trust fund was created with passage of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 (House Bill 1). There is a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement and the guidelines stipulate that the boards of the institutions shall review and approve all donations, gifts and pledges that will be used to establish new endowments or expand existing endowments for which matching state funds will be requested.

Per 2022 Regular Session HB 1, all funds must support initiatives in the fields of STEM-Health. For all comprehensive universities, at least 50 percent of the program funds must be endowed for the purpose of supporting chairs or professorships or research staff and infrastructure that directly support the research activities of an Endowed Chair or Professor. No more than 50 percent of the program funds may be endowed for the purpose of subsidizing mission support activities, graduate fellowships or undergraduate scholarships. Documentation of Board approval must be submitted with each endowment request.

In the 2022-24 round of funding, Murray State is eligible to receive matching funds of slightly less than \$1.5 million. The University is requesting the Board's approval of the endowments provided for review. Once approved, the endowments would be ready for submission to the CPE for matching funds through the CUETF Matching Program totaling \$531,000. The remaining \$535,000 will be requested before the end of the current fiscal year and will be presented to the Board for approval no later than the June 7, 2024, Quarterly Meeting. In addition, it is recommended that the state matching funds received be transferred to the Murray State University Foundation for investment purposes only. These state matching funds will remain a University asset. All donor/private funds have or will be received directly by the MSU Foundation.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the University's request for matching funds as supported by the schedule provided as required by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and approve for all state matching funds to be transferred to the MSU Foundation for investment purposes. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – State Endowment Matching Fund Request, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the University's request for matching funds as supported by the attached schedule as required by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and approve for all state matching funds to be transferred to the MSU Foundation for investment purposes. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #16)

Projects, approved

Senior Vice President Dudley reported Delegation of Authority Item #20 states that "...Prior to moving forward, all projects, including price contracts related to capital projects, costing over \$500,000 and up to the threshold denoted by Kentucky statute, should be reviewed by the Board Chair and the President and a determination made in terms of those projects requiring further Board approval." The Board was provided with the schedule listing new projects or projects with a total estimated cost of over \$500,000. There is one project included and that is for the renovation of restrooms in Sparks Hall that are not currently ADA compliant and additional projects that need to be undertaken in the Lobby area.

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

Full Board Action – Projects, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the projects outlined on the attached listing. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Ms. McGowan, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

(See Attachment #17)

Personal Services Contracts, approved

Senior Vice President Dudley reported Item #11 of the Delegation of Authority stipulates that the Board: "...approve all Personal Services Contracts totaling more than \$50,000. The Board will be notified of all Personal Services Contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000 before they are submitted to the Legislative Research Commission. Upon review, individual 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. At the June 2021 meeting the Board approved \$200,000 and architectural and engineering (A&E) services for renovations for Carr Hall boilers and Racer Arena HVAC projects. These projects are now significantly over budget and additional fees are required in order to continue this work. An additional \$100,000 is needed for these A&E services.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the contracts on the listing provided per requirements of the Delegation of Authority Item #11. Vice Chair Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts, approved

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

(See Attachment #18)

Property Acquisition, approved

Regent Fitch reported that Murray State has encountered a unique opportunity that would provide an immediate relief for some of the University's housing needs and bypass a lengthy construction process. Chair Owens indicated it is important for the Board to address the short and long-term needs of the University. President Jackson added that the Board approved razing 900 College Courts due to deterioration and work will occur next week in this regard. The University needs to replace not only this residential space but also the remaining College Courts buildings due to their cost to maintain. This will save the University an enormous amount of money in terms of deferred maintenance and improvements that are required each year.

Over the past several years the Board has considered a variety of housing models, including a public-private partnership (P3) agreement that was eventually approved. As everyone is aware, post-pandemic, construction projects are even more costly due to the labor and materials market and carry a great deal of risk. It is for that reason the Board decided to pause the P3 initiative and look for alternative residential housing options that would not require the University to increase costs for students. As a result of this directive, the administration is recommending the acquisition of Station 74 – a property adjacent to campus (across from College Courts) which has now become available for sale. This proposed acquisition will provide 74 apartment units (268 beds) without the risk of major construction timing issues, increasing costs and other unknown risks. College Courts is a 264-bed complex. This year, due to capacity issues, 32 units are already being leased at Station 74. Housing represents a recruiting and retention issue for students and projections for next fall show that additional rooms for juniors and seniors will be needed. While the action to acquire Station 74 would address some immediate housing needs, there will be many more as enrollment continues to increase. It is for this reason the University will be asking the General Assembly for authorization for additional housing for this campus to replace and enhance what is available to date. Station 74 is a desired property for the University based on its location and condition.

Per the third-party appraisal, the property totals 103,386 square feet, with 86,104 being rentable square feet. If approved to purchase, the necessary next steps will include the following:

- Conduct an inspection of the buildings and infrastructure
- Complete a boundary survey
- Complete an environmental survey
- Obtain approval by the Secretary of Finance
- Notify Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee
- Receive approval for financing by the Office of Financial Management and the State Property and Buildings Commission
- Successfully complete financing

Regent Waldrop reported that he owns property adjacent to Station 74 and will be abstaining from the vote.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Gray moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, authorize the President or his designee to enter negotiations for the purchase of the apartment complex known as Station 74 at 1515 Lowes Drive, Murray, Kentucky, at a purchase price not to exceed \$16.5 million, exclusive of closing costs and taxes, with said authorization being contingent upon satisfactory inspections, approval by the Secretary of Finance and any other state offices necessary and completion of financing. Chair Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Property Acquisition, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, authorize the President or his designee to enter negotiations for the purchase of the apartment complex known as Station 74 at 1515 Lowes Drive, Murray, Kentucky, at a purchase price not to exceed \$16.5 million, exclusive of closing costs and taxes, with said authorization being contingent upon satisfactory inspections, approval by the Secretary of Finance and any other state offices necessary and completion of financing. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Ms. McGowan, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, abstain and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Authorization for Issuance of General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A Resolution, adopted

Regent Fitch reported that the Board approved the acquisition of the apartment complex known as Station 74 located at 1515 Lowes Drive, Murray, Kentucky, to be completed before June 30, 2024. This authorization will enable the University to issue approximately \$17.9 million in General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A. The purpose of the bond issuance is to provide financing for the acquisition of the Station 74 apartment complex for an amount not to exceed \$16.5 million and an added amount not to exceed \$1 million for costs related to changes in signage, communication links for emergency systems, limited lock changes and other one-time costs that will be identified for the conversion to University property.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, adopt the Resolution presented providing for the authorization, issuance and sale of approximately \$17,945,000 in General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A. Vice Chair Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Authorization for Issuance of General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A Resolution, adopted

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, adopt the attached Resolution providing for the authorization, issuance and sale of approximately \$17,945,000 in General Receipts Bonds, 2024 Series A. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Ms. McGowan, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, abstain and Chair Owens, yes. The motion carried.

(See Attachment #19)

Adjournment

The Finance Committee adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Supplemental Materials

President Jackson reported that supplemental materials were included in the eBoard book as follows: “Good News” Report (Fall/Winter 2023); Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (July – September 2023) and Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report. The Litigation Status Report prepared by General Counsel Miller was provided in a separate, confidential eBoard book. These reports were provided for informational purposes only and required no Board action.

Resolution of Appreciation – Staff Regent – Dr. Jessica Evans, approved

Chair Owens read aloud the following Resolution of Appreciation for Staff Regent Dr. Jessica Evans:

**MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS**

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

DR. JESSICA EVANS

WHEREAS, this Resolution of Appreciation will honor the service and commitment of Dr. Jessica Evans to the Board of Regents and Murray State University; and

WHEREAS, in November 2021 Dr. Jessica Evans was elected by her peers to serve as Staff Regent on the Murray State University Board of Regents to fill the unexpired term of the late Phil Schooley; and

WHEREAS, her service as a Regent was marked by working diligently on behalf of all staff members in regard to numerous issues of importance on campus with notable thoughtfulness, enthusiasm and loyalty to the University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jessica Evans exemplified outstanding leadership on the Board, serving with distinction during her tenure on several of the committees of the Board of Regents, including the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee (Chair, July 2023 – November 2023; Co-Chair, 2022-23 and member, 2021-22), Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee (2022-23 and 2023-24), Buildings and Grounds Committee (2021– 23) and Audit and Compliance Committee (2021-22).

WHEREAS, she served with an understanding of the complex issues facing the University and her efforts were unailing to ensure that the Board’s decisions benefitted staff and students; and

WHEREAS, she is also a two-time alumna and worked diligently to improve Murray State University with a deep sense of pride in and an unwavering and sincere love for her Alma Mater;

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS 8th DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of Murray State University express to Dr. Jessica Evans their deep appreciation for her dedicated service to the University and contributions to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THIS 8th DAY OF DECEMBER, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE, BE IT RESOLVED that we mark this milestone reverently with words Jessica Evans will hear again at the last milestone, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Murray State University Board of Regents that this recognition and remembrance of the contributions and dedication of Dr. Jessica Evans will be preserved in the Minutes of this Board.



Leon Owens – Chair

Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Dr. Jessica Evans as read aloud. Regent McGowan seconded and the motion carried. Regent Evans received a standing ovation.

Other Business

Chair Owens reported there was no further business to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Chair Owens requested a motion for adjournment. Regent Shemberger so moved, seconded by Regent Fitch, and the motion carried.

The Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



Secretary Jill Hunt



Chair Leon Owens

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