

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents
Murray State University
December 12, 2025**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, December 12, 2025, in Quarterly and Committee Session in the Jesse Stuart Room in Pogue Library on the Murray State University main campus. Chair Robbie Fitch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those present. Board Secretary Jill Hunt called roll and the following Board members were present: Andy Belcher, Robbie Fitch, Ali Khatib, David Meinschein, G. L. Ovey, Leon Owens, Matt Price, Emily Roark, Tom Waldrop, David Wilson, and Gary ZeRuth. Absent: none.

Participants in the meeting were: Ron K. Patterson, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; Bob Pervine, Senior Associate Provost; Wendy Cain, Assistant Vice President, Finance and Treasurer to the Board; Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Robert Miller, General Counsel; Renee Fister, Associate Provost; Ashley Ireland, Assistant Provost and Director of Online Programs; Roslyn White, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management; Cami Duffy, Executive Director of Equal Opportunity/Title IX; Nico Yantko Director, Department of Athletics; Tina Bernot, Assistant Vice President of Advancement; Shawn Touney, Executive Director of Marketing and Communication; Haley Stedelin, Associate Director of Human Resources; Stephanie Jennings, Director of Accounting and Financial Services; Annie Dukes, Internal Auditor; Jason Youngblood, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management; Angela Lampe, Associate Director of Facilities Design-Construction; Academic Deans; faculty, staff and students; Information Technology specialists; news media and members of the general public.

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** **Chair Fitch**
2. **Roll Call** **Secretary Hunt**
3. **Public Participation** **Chair Fitch**
4. **Consent Agenda** **Chair Fitch/President Patterson**
- A. **Minutes:**
 - 1) **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on September 19, 2025***
 - 2) **Minutes of the Annual Board of Regents Retreat on August 28, 2025***
 - 3) **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings on August 29, 2025***
- B. **Report of the Registrar (August and December 2025 Conferral of Degrees)***
- C. **Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report (For Information Only)**
- D. **Finance Committee – Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)**
5. **Report of the Chair** **Chair Fitch**
6. **Report of the President** **President Patterson**
7. **Report of the Treasurer*** **Assistant VP, Finance Cain**
(Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports)
8. **Committee Reports/Recommendations**
 - A. **Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities** **Regent ZeRuth**
 - 1) **Board of Regents Self-Evaluation Process (For Information Only)**
 - 2) **Academic Programs Update (For Information Only)**

- B. Athletics** **Chair Fitch**
- 1) **Racer Athletics Update (For Information Only)**
 - 2) **Personnel Changes:**
 - a. **Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Golf Coach – Philip Nelson***
- 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, 2025**
 - e. **Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025**
 - f. **General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025**
 - 2) **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, 2025**
 - 3) **Annual Audit Contract Extension***
- D. Buildings and Grounds** **Regent Wilson**
- 1) **Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update (For Information Only)**
 - 2) **Program Statements:**
 - a. **Hester Hall Aquatherm Piping Replacement***
 - b. **Department of Athletics – Baseball Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field***
- E. Enrollment Management and Student Success** **Regent Roark**
- 1) **Enrollment Management and Student Success Update (For Information Only)**
- 11 a.m. (approx.)** **Break for Department of Athletics Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse Groundbreaking**
- 12 noon (approx.)** **Lunch – Pogue Library Wells T. Lovett Grand Reading Room**
- 1 p.m. (approx.)** **Reconvene**
- F. Finance** **Vice Chair Meinschein**
- 1) **Projects***
 - 2) **Personal Services Contracts***
 - 3) **Surplus Property Disposition – Food Truck***
 - 4) **Bond Issuance – General Receipts Bonds, 2026 Series A, Repayment Sources Update (For Information Only)**
- G. Legislative and Economic Development** **Regent Price**
- 1) **Legislative Update (For Information Only)**
- H. Marketing and Community Engagement** **Regent Ovey**
- 1) **Gift-in-Kind – Wheels Up Air Travel – Department of Athletics***
 - 2) **Naming Opportunities:**
 - a. ***William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office****
 - b. ***Sandra Hartmann Press Box****
 - c. ***Fitch Family Head Coach Suite****

Full Board action will follow Committee action.

9. **Personnel Changes** **President Patterson**
 A. Appointment of Dean – Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business*
 B. Appointment of Dean – College of Humanities and Fine Arts*
 C. Appointment of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*
10. **Policy Changes** **President Patterson**
 A. *New Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 2.20.1 – Equal Opportunity/Addressing Antisemitism (second reading)**
 B. *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.6 – University Standing Committee System – University Tenure Committee Revisions**
 C. *Faculty Handbook Revisions (Includes New Post-Tenure Review Policy, Section 2.19) (final reading)**
 D. *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution Revisions (first reading)**
11. **Supplemental Materials (For Information Only)** **President Patterson**
 A. “Good News” Report (Fall 2025)
 B. Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (July – September 2025)
 C. **Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report**
 - Awards by College/Department
 - Awards by Funding Type
 - Submissions by Funding Source
12. **Other Business** **Chair Fitch**
13. **Adjournment** **Chair Fitch**

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Public Participation

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

Consent Agenda, approved, ratified and reports received

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

- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on September 19, 2025
- Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on August 29, 2025
- Report of the Registrar (August and December 2025 Conferral of Degrees) (Attachment #1)
- Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report (For Information Only)
- Finance Committee – Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)

Chair Fitch reported that the Minutes of the Annual Board of Regents Retreat on August 28, 2025, will be presented to the Board for approval at the February 2026 Quarterly Meeting.

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

(See Attachment #1)

Report of the Chair

Chair Fitch reported that the Board will be asked to accept the annual audit reports later today. This represents a clean audit which has been the case throughout his time on the Board.

Report of the President, received

President Patterson thanked Chair Fitch and welcomed everyone joining the Board for today's meeting both in person and virtually. The Fall 2025 Semester has flown by, and Commencement is on the horizon. Each day has presented new and exciting opportunities and he continues to be honored and excited with the opportunities for the University.

Vice President Positions – Executive Search Update

A significant step was taken on filling out the leadership team. Over the past couple of weeks, the University hosted four candidates for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs position on campus. During each on-campus visit, candidates met throughout the day with various stakeholder groups and representatives from across campus. In addition, each candidate took part in a Town Hall session in Wrather Hall, which provided faculty, staff, and students with the opportunity to learn more about each candidate and be able to ask questions. He is pleased to report that an offer has been made and accepted and, following Board action later in the meeting, a Press Release will be distributed soon. He expressed appreciation and congratulations to the Search Committee, as well as all the campus constituencies for their efforts and dedication to this process to ensure the right individual was identified for this position. He also expressed appreciation to the Board for their support and this represents a significant step forward as the leadership team continues to be built for the next five years and beyond.

Yesterday, the first of three candidates for the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services position visited campus. The other two candidates will be on campus December 15 and 16, respectively. During each on-campus visit, candidates will meet with various stakeholder groups and representatives from across campus. Each candidate will also take part in a Town Hall session in Wrather Hall, which allows faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to learn more about each candidate and be able to ask questions.

Appreciation was expressed to everyone who is contributing to these senior-level leadership searches. These represent priorities for the University and all are determined to get the right individuals in these mission-critical positions for the success of Murray State. It is hoped this search process can conclude before the holiday break.

University Budget Update

Murray State University is, in important ways, a tuition-driven institution. More than two-thirds of the budget is tied to enrollment, tuition, and fees and this illustrates how enrollment patterns have a profound influence on the budget. Vice President Robertson and Assistant Vice President White will provide a positive update later today.

The University is in the initial stages of budget planning. The first Budget Advisory Committee meeting for Fiscal Year 2026 was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. The Budget Calendar that has been developed includes the following meetings with the Budget Advisory Committee.

- January 12, 2026
- March 30, 2026
- April 27, 2026

Additional highlights included:

- The compensation structure of the Dean cadre has been reviewed in comparison with College and University Professional Association regional and national data. The University is working to make incremental steps toward market, with the first phase to be in effect for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1, 2026, in order to be competitive. It is important to invest in people.
- All are working collaboratively and diligently – Finance and Administrative Services, Academic Affairs, the Vice Presidents, Deans, and campus constituencies – to implement Phase III of the Evergreen Compensation Study, identify budget priorities, discuss potential Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) ranging from 1% to 3% and funding sources to incrementally chip away at the University's most desired fundamental needs and aspirations, while remaining committed to serving all students. The plan for full implementation will be developed over the course of the Spring 2026 Semester.

- All are acutely aware that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is currently at 3 percent. It is anticipated that a Campus Town Hall will be held in spring 2026 – date to be determined.
- With regard to state funding, the 2026 Kentucky Legislative Session, starting January 6, will be a Biennial Legislative Budget Session where lawmakers will create the state's next two-year spending plan, a major focus for the House and Senate amidst discussions on education, artificial intelligence (AI), and workforce development. Since the Legislature will be meeting in 2026, the final amounts for state appropriations and performance funding are unknown at this time. Appreciation was expressed to taxpayers and citizens of the Commonwealth, legislators, and the General Assembly for their continued support.

College and School Highlights and Achievements

President Patterson presented highlights from each of the academic colleges and schools. The academic enterprise is student-focused and provides academic quality, a profound student experience, and most importantly, leads to graduation and Commencement.

Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business

Speech and Debate Union

- The Speech and Debate Union wrapped up their fall competition season with 11 champion titles and a three-tournament win streak (University of Alabama, Middle Tennessee State University, and Marshall University).
- During the competition Murray State's five debaters had a collective 81% win rate across their cases, which is unprecedented.
- The spring competition kicks off in February with the annual Jackson Purchase Swing Tournament and the Kentucky Forensics State Championship.

Nonprofit Resource Center – From Grief to Groundwork: Ethical Leadership in a Changing Landscape

On November 10, the Nonprofit Resource Center and WKMS facilitated From Grief to Groundwork: Ethical Leadership in a Changing Landscape. Over 80 nonprofit and civic leaders, along with active community members both local and from as far away as Owensboro, Henderson, and Vienna, Illinois, all came together at the CFSB Center for a day-long personal leadership development Retreat focused on navigating current challenges and empowering community action.

Sprocket Entrepreneurial Hub

Sprocket is an entrepreneurial hub in Paducah that specializes in small business and entrepreneurial support. *MSU-Hopkinsville Regional Campus* is proud to partner with them to create a satellite location in our community to offer their services to our wealth of small businesses. *MSU-Hopkinsville* seeks to empower economic development in our community and region to equip a professional workforce. There were 20 in attendance for the coffee hour and ten present for the Lunch and Learn Session.

McGaughey Lecture

The McGaughey Lecture on Press Freedom and Responsibility presented National Public Radio's Don Gonyea in an event hosted by the Journalism and Mass Communications Department and WKMS. The national political correspondent recalled his decades-long career covering several presidential administrations and the challenges of practicing journalism in a country experiencing increased political divisions.

The Murray State News

The Murray State News is the award-winning student-led news organization on campus. Now in its 99th year, The News has been a vital part of the campus community. The Murray State News recently won six national Pinnacle Awards from the College Media Association, including two first-place honors. This competition attracted more than 3,000 entries from schools across the country. The Murray State News team received a round of applause. Advisor Leigh Landini Wright was also recognized as an Emerging Advisor of the Year. The News also won forty-five

awards from the Kentucky Press Association earlier this year. The News produces a monthly print edition plus regular digital and social media content and is open to all students interested in working in the media.

College of Education and Human Services (COEHS)

The College of Education and Human Services recently hosted the *Educators Rising* regional conference on Monday, November 10. Key components of *Educators Rising* include:

- The event is hosted each fall by the Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) and is a career exploration and competition event that encourages high school – and now middle school – students to consider careers in education.
- The program supports Kentucky’s “Grow Your Own” teacher pipeline, encouraging students to return to teach in their home districts and serves as an important recruitment initiative for COEHS.
- The program drew approximately 350 students from schools across and beyond the Murray State service region. These were mostly students interested in becoming teachers. It is important for Murray State to continue to meet the workforce needs and address the teacher shortage in western Kentucky. Appreciation was expressed to Dean David Whaley and his team.
- The program featured 17 competitive events such as public speaking, job interviews, and classroom material design, following national *Educators Rising* guidelines. The program is intended to build professional skills, confidence, and understanding of the teaching profession.
- Organized by TQI (Teacher Quality Institute) staff—all former classroom teachers—who use the event to mentor and inspire future educators. Afterward, students are encouraged to grow *Educators Rising* chapters within their schools and share what they’ve learned.

COEHS also hosted the fall Superintendent Advisory Committee meeting on November 14. There were approximately 15 superintendents in attendance for the purpose of informing our teacher education programs on both the good and also the challenging policies that school districts are faced with hiring new teachers.

Murray State alumnae Kara Dowdy was named one of the recipients of the 2026 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award by the Kentucky Department of Education.

College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA)

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts hosted nearly 75 performances, exhibits, literary readings, guest lectures, and screenings, almost all of which were free and open to the public. Students from every department presented their research and creative talents at venues and conferences across and beyond campus, and over 50 CHFA students participated in Murray State’s *Scholars Week*. Faculty have also presented and exhibited their work at numerous conferences, performance venues, and galleries this fall.

Aesop’s Fables

The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts produced five performances of the children’s play *Aesop’s Fables* for area pre-school and elementary school children, as well as campus and community members.

Brummer Colloquium in Psychology

The Department of Psychology at Murray State University hosted its fall event the Dr. and Mrs. Gary Brummer Colloquium Series with guest speaker Dr. Jennifer Washburn who spoke on “Parent Perspectives on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS): Understanding the Home – School Connection in Child Development.” The series is made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Gary Brummer and his wife, Sharon, and hosts speakers from a wide range of research areas in psychology.

The Clinton and Mary Opal Moore Appalachian Writer's Residency

The Department of English and Philosophy welcomed Frank X Walker to campus for the Clinton and Mary Opal Moore Appalachian Writer's Residency, an opportunity made possible by the generosity of the children of Clinton and Mary Opal Moore. Frank X Walker is the first African American writer to be named Kentucky Poet Laureate and the author of 13 collections of poetry. He serves as Professor of English and African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Educators Rising Conference

Art, English, History, Music, and TESOL Education students, along with faculty from the respective departments, tended program tables at the Educators Rising Conference, an event for regional high school students interested in a career in education. The Murray State students helped greet high school students and discussed experiences in their respective programs, answering questions from the high school students, and engaging with educators from our local schools.

Fundraising Events

CHFA hosted two major scholarship fundraisers: A Taste of the Arts, co-organized with the Office of Advancement, generated \$45,000 in scholarship funds for Art and Design, Music, and Theatre students. The annual Holiday Art Auction, held in the Clara M. Eagle Art Gallery, raised \$8,000 in scholarship funds for art students. The college also hosted Monster Mash and a tent for Homecoming's Tent City, two fun opportunities for CHFA student groups to promote themselves and raise money for their activities.

Humanities+ Series

The College of Humanities and Fine Arts hosted a robust schedule of speaking events, documentary viewings, and skill shares for the campus and area community in its inaugural Humanities+ Series. Topics included health and longevity, creativity in the age of artificial intelligence, and meditation and attention, among others. The series explores how individuals flourish in today's challenging world, and fosters creative, intellectual, and educational opportunities. The events were free and open to everyone.

Language Exchange Project

Dr. Robert "Moses" Fritz and students from the MSU Spanish program support English Language Learners (ELLs) at Mayfield High School by volunteering to participate in weekly English-Spanish conversation exchanges. On Mondays and Tuesdays, they visit the Links after-school enrichment program to engage in communicative activities that enhance the ELLs ability to speak English conversationally. In exchange, MSU students have the opportunity to practice their Spanish skills with native speakers from Latin America.

Model United Nations (UN) Conference for Area High Schools

The Department of Political Science and Sociology's Model United Nations team hosted students from Murray High School, Graves County High School, and Mayfield High School for its High School Model United Nations conference. The students expanded their diplomatic, negotiation, and public speaking skills, with the guidance and encouragement of Murray State Model UN team members.

Additional highlights provided in the eBoard book were as follows:

Music Events for Area Schools

The Department of Music hosted numerous events for area middle and high schools, including the Festival of Champions Marching Band Competition, the Quad State Middle School Band Festival, and the Quad State High School Choir Festival. The department also launched the Jackson Purchase Youth Wind Orchestra – a new regional honor ensemble for advanced high

school wind and percussion musicians across western Kentucky, West Tennessee, southern Illinois, and eastern Missouri.

Sid Easley Lecture

The Department of History hosted Russian and Soviet history specialist Dr. Karen Petrone, University of Kentucky Professor of History, for the 2025 Sid Easley Lecture. Thanks to the generosity of the Easley family, the lecture was free and open to the public.

Side by Side Project (Arts for All Kentucky)

Teacher candidates enrolled in Dr. Rebecca Williams' ART 341: Inclusive Art Education for Diverse Learners, designed and taught a four-day studio art workshop for students in the region. This workshop is part of the Side-by-Side Grant provided by Arts for All Kentucky, a non-profit organization that provides arts education and inclusion programs for individuals with disabilities. Dr. Williams partners with Debi Danielson, Director of the Murray Art Guild, to apply for this grant each year.

Visiting Artist Series

The Department of Art and Design hosted artist Sage Perrott for a lecture and printmaking workshop in the Pat Summerville Series, and artist C. Rose Smith, the juror for "The Magic Silver Show: The Elena Diane Curris Juried Photomedia Exhibition 2025," for a lecture and exhibition reception.

President Patterson reported that he and First Lady Jenny have initiated a faculty and student artist in residency program in Oakhurst where artwork is displayed in the home. Thanks to Dean Hand and Dr. Rebecca Williams, Chair of the Department of Art and Design, faculty artwork has now been properly installed. Student artwork will be selected at the Organization of Murray Art Students Exhibition which will be displayed in the home as well. A scholarship will be awarded to the recipient.

Jones College of Science, Engineering, and Technology (JCSET)

President Patterson presented the following update for the Jones College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Multiple Faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences Receive National Institute of Health (NIH) Awards

- Dr. Chris Lennon is the recipient of an R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. His research, titled *Inteins: Expanding Biological Roles and Biotechnological Applications*, was awarded \$411,683.00. The research aims to better understand the biological importance of inteins as posttranslational regulatory elements, their emerging role in pathogen stress response, and to harness the power of their unique chemistry to invent useful technologies for the biomedical research community.
- Dr. Dena Weinberger is the recipient of an R16 Research Excellence Award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Her research, titled *Psychotropic Compounds from Wastewater Contamination Affect Nervous System Development*, was awarded \$634,224.00. Research will use zebrafish as a proxy for prenatal human exposure to contaminated drinking water. This work will seek to identify behaviors and genes that are sensitive low-dose, chronic exposure to psychotropic drugs.
- Dr. Gary ZeRuth is the recipient of an R16 Research Excellence Award from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Diseases of the Kidney. His research, titled *Elucidating the Mechanisms of Glis3-regulated Development in the Pancreas and Kidney*, was awarded \$465,504.00. Research will use zebrafish as a model organism to gain a better understanding of pancreatic and renal development and function. This work may lead to novel therapies in humans to treat diabetes and polycystic kidney disease.

The Board joined President Patterson in giving these researchers a round of applause.

Publications by JCSET Faculty and Students

- Drs. Andrea Darracq and Howard Whiteman (Department of Biological Sciences), and their students, Clay Bliznick and Jacob Pease, recently published in the journal *Conservation Science and Practice*.
 - Darracq, Andrea, et al. "*Air pollution and greenness independently and interactively influence bird communities in an urban neighborhood.*" *Conservation Science and Practice* 7.10 (2025): e70147.
- Dr. Matthew Carroll (Department of Biological Sciences) and his students, Garret Gallion, Wade Baker, Jessie Connor, and Sadie Smith, along with Rachel Carroll (Instructor, JCSET Project Coordinator), recently published in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. Additionally, Dr. Matthew Carroll and Rachel Carroll published in the journal *Ecosphere*.
 - Carroll, J. Matthew, et al. "Shorebird abundance, migration phenology, and invertebrate prey availability at a mid-continental stopover site in Kentucky, USA." *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* (2025): 1-19.
 - Carroll, J. M., and R. L. Carroll. "Out of sight, out of mind: Fine-scale measurements reveal microclimate heterogeneity for plethodontid salamanders." *Ecosphere* 16.9 (2025): e70401.
- Dr. David Roach (Department of Mathematics and Statistics):
 - Roach, David. "The complete length sixteen parametrized wavelets." *Sampling Theory, Signal Processing, and Data Analysis* 23.2 (2025): 12.
- Dr. Howard Whiteman (Department of Biological Sciences) with Watershed Studies Institute supported graduate student, Robin Baker, and former Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dr. Cy L. Mott (Valdosta State University):
 - Baker, Robin S., Cy L. Mott, and Howard H. Whiteman. "Predation alters community structure through multiple trophic cascades." *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2025).
- Dr. Alexey Arkov (Department of Biological Sciences) with research assistant Jake Tindell and undergraduate student, Alyssa Boeving (Boh-Ving) (pre-dental major):
 - Tindell, Samuel J., et al. "Multiple domains of scaffold Tudor protein play non-redundant roles in *Drosophila* germline." *bioRxiv* (2025).

Murray State's Department of Chemistry hosted the 55th Annual Chemistry Scholarship Tournament on November 13. In attendance were 19 teams from 13 high schools across the region.

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Hosts Kentucky Association of Mapping Professionals

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) hosted the Kentucky Association of Mapping Professionals quarterly meeting on October 28. The meeting brought together local, regional, and international stakeholders, with more than 40 in attendance (in-person and online). EES undergraduate and graduate students showcased their work through oral presentations. The meeting represented a great opportunity for students to meet potential employers, establish connections, and get a fresh perspective on the diverse applications of geospatial sciences across the industry. Several EES alumni attended the meeting and shared their wonderful stories about the Mapping Applications and Resource Center. Appreciation was expressed to EES graduate student Zachary Brown and EES alumnus Lance Morris for organizing the meeting at Murray State University.

Dr. Ed Thome, Associate Professor and former Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Department, was awarded the prestigious 2025-26 Neil Weber Award for Excellence in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering, and Technology. The Weber Award was established as a special tribute to former college Dean Neil Weber after his retirement from Murray State University. The MSU statewide Program of Distinction in Cybersecurity and Network Management continues to set new benchmarks, experiencing a third consecutive record-breaking year in student enrollment.

JCSET Alumni Head to the Classroom for Homecoming

Over Homecoming, Murray State welcomed alumni into their classrooms to give presentations and discuss their career experiences with students. JCSET alumni who participated in this opportunity include:

- David Driver ('89), earned his Bachelor of Science in Occupational Safety and Health. He is a certified safety, health, and training professional with a 36-year track record of safety excellence within some highly regulated and/or high-hazard industries, including power generation and distribution, transmission electrical testing and maintenance, water/wastewater treatment and distribution, manufacturing, and construction. He has worked for Georgia Pacific, LLC, Shermco Industries, Orlando Utilities Commission, Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts, Ethos Energy, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.
- Dr. Charlie Mercer ('56), A Pre-Med Biology graduate, Mercer is a native of Murray, Kentucky, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Murray State University and his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He practiced medicine for three years in Murray and then decided to enter into the field of higher education at the University of Alabama Birmingham. In 1988, he was appointed as the Medical Director of the University of Tennessee Medical Group. He came to Knoxville in 1991 to serve as the Medical Director of the Medical Center, prior to becoming Acting Vice Chancellor, and retired from that position in 1997, yet remained in an advisory role for many years following.
- Bradley Puckett ('18), earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology. Bradley currently serves as a Market Segment Manager at Hydro-Gear, the world's leading manufacturer of drivetrain solutions. In this role, he leads strategic initiatives to expand markets, develop new products, and strengthen long-term customer partnerships. With a strong background in engineering, manufacturing, and business development, he has built a career defined by innovation, leadership, and measurable impact. His experience spans project management, cost optimization, and cross-functional team leadership – driving results across multiple levels of an organization.
- Paul Rister ('89, '92), a two-time Murray State University graduate, earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry in 1989 and his Master of Science in Aquatic Biology in 1992. He dedicated nearly three decades to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, serving as Regional Fisheries Program Coordinator and Fisheries Biologist, where he led conservation efforts and regional environmental initiatives across the Commonwealth. He continues his service to the community as a Calloway County Magistrate, now in his second term. A lifelong leader and volunteer, he has chaired numerous civic, church, and conservation boards, including the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee and Friends of the Arboretum at Murray State University.
- Stephanie Santoyo ('10), earned the Bachelor of Independent Studies in 2010, specializing in Cyber Crime, Blockchain Analytics, and Intelligence. She has built a dynamic career at the intersection of technology, data, and security, applying her expertise to help organizations navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Real-World Safety Insights at McCracken County High School

Dr. Melburn Dayton (Department of Occupational Safety and Health) visited McCracken County High School in Paducah, Kentucky, as part of the Paducah Annual Site Environmental Report project presentation associated with a Department of Energy grant. He shared real-world insights into the safety field, drawing from his 26 years of experience in the U.S. Coast Guard. His presentation aimed to inspire students to explore careers in occupational safety and health and highlighted the practical impact of safety.

Exploring Pottery and People in Western Kentucky

In late September, Dr. Marcie Venter (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences) and students in her Ceramic Ecology class, in collaboration with archaeologists in the Land Between the Lakes Heritage Program, conducted exploratory excavations at the Bonner Pottery Kiln site, dating to the late 1800s. Family descendants of the Bonners were on site to lend some historical context.

Science Café Discussed Community Vitality in Murray

Dr. Oluwabunmi Dada (Department of Occupational Safety and Health) shared her insights on “Community Vitality in Calloway County: What Blue Zone Communities Teach Us About Living Longer and Healthier” at the Fall Science Café on October 19. This event strives to bring scientists and the community together in a fun, informal way by meeting at Hop Hound for a short presentation and a casual question and answer session. This event is sponsored by Murray State Sigma Xi and Watershed Studies Institute.

West Kentucky Rural Electric Demonstrated Jobsite Electrical Risks on Campus

Dr. Susan Miller (Department of Occupational Safety and Health) welcomed West Kentucky Rural Electric to the OSH 384 Construction Safety class for a live demonstration on the dangers of contacting overhead power lines. Students observed how rapidly serious incidents can occur when equipment is energized. Appreciation was expressed to Murray State OSH alumnus Justin Rickman and lineman Chase Page for providing an informative and impactful presentation.

Student Spotlight

This past summer, Jeffrey Selby, chemistry/pre-med major and biology minor from Lexington, Kentucky, had an internship with Dr. Ed McFarland. Mr. Selby shared his thoughts about the internship:

"This past summer, I completed an internship with Dr. Ed McFarland, an orthopedic surgeon at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. McFarland, a Murray State alum, added me onto his team of medical students, residents, and fellows for a summer of research and immersion into the life of a surgeon. During the two months that I was there, I worked on three active research projects through direct patient interaction, helped facilitate operating room efficiency, and learned from world-renowned surgeons in lectures and cadaver labs. I am grateful to both Dr. McFarland for the experience and my professors from Murray State University for granting me the Hal Houston Scholarship for this opportunity. Although I was only there for one summer, it was just enough to reinforce my devotion to a life spent in medicine." - Jeffrey Selby

Hutson School of Agriculture (HSOA)

Highlights in the Hutson School of Agriculture include:

- The recent signing of dual master's degrees Memorandum of Understanding between the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences in Agribusiness and Crop Sciences. Their Rector thoroughly enjoyed his visit to campus and is looking forward to furthering the collaboration that started 25 years ago with Dr. Bill Payne. All are appreciative of this strong partnership and relationship. President Patterson indicated he would welcome the opportunity to travel to Hungary.
- Thirteen students were accepted into and attended the American Future of Agriculture professional development program that was held in Kansas City, Missouri. This included an all-expense paid four-day professional development conducted by executives from the largest agricultural companies in the United States.
- MSU Women's Rodeo Team beat out nine other teams to be named champions of the University of Arkansas-Monticello Rodeo in October 2025.
- Homecoming Parade Grand Marshall was an HSOA graduate – Mr. Eddie Melton, President of Kentucky Farm Bureau – and for the first time in history, the Grand Marshall rode in a combine!
- This semester has been an outstanding one for the Murray State University Equestrian Teams. The Western Equestrian Team opened the season in October by hosting a home show, where the team earned High Point Team on Saturday and Reserve High Point Team on Sunday. On Saturday, Haley Clithero was named High Point Rider, and Morgan Ekstrom earned Reserve High Point Rider. On Sunday, there was a three-way tie among MSU riders for Reserve High Point Rider: Morgan Ekstrom, Haley Clithero, and Stephanie Sterrenberg. In November, the team traveled to Western Kentucky University, again earning both High Point Team and Reserve High Point Team titles over the two-day show. Morgan Ekstrom was named High Point Rider both days, while Stephanie Sterrenberg earned Reserve High Point Rider both days. Haley Clithero qualified for the Regional Championship, with several other riders on track to qualify next semester.
- The Hunt Seat Equestrian Team competed twice this semester at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. At the second show, Maddy Hefkin was named High Point Rider on both days. Maddy has also qualified for the Regional Championship, with additional riders nearing qualification.
- Samantha Tucci – Senior Pre-Vet major was recently named the Missouri Valley Conference Women's Cross-Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Samantha will graduate in December with a 4.0 Grade Point Average and plans to apply for vet school.

- Scholars Week Presentations – Pre-Vet students Carly Johnson and Isabella Eads, and Animal Science student Molly Wallace, presented their research during *Scholars Week* on November 13.
 - Johnson, Carly (2025) *Using Vaginal Cytology to Confirm Estrus in Swine-Pilot Study*.
 - Eads, Isabella (2025) *Communication, Education, and Trust: Exploring Client Compliance, Treatment Plan Adherence, and Perceived Patient Outcomes in Veterinary Medicine*.
 - Wallace, Molly (2025) *Effect of Freezing and Freeze-Thaw Cycles on Equine Serum Insulin Concentration: A Pilot Study*

Additional accomplishments included in the eBoard book were as follows:

- Pre-Vet student Laken White is competing with the MSU Livestock Judging Team at the North American International Livestock Exposition.
- Instructor Barbie Papajeski has several presentations and projects in the works:
 - Co-Author Oncology Textbook Chapter (in-process; with Dr. Hendricks)
 - Presentations for: VMX (large vet continuing education conference) "Sample Collection and Processing," Ohio Association for Vet Techs Webinar series on Clinical Pathology for RVT Month, Iowa State Veterinary Conference presentations
 - VETgirl Webinar on Hematology
 - VETgirl Podcast "Obtaining a VTS in Clinical Pathology"
 - Co-presenter Hogle Zoo Cytology Training for Vet Techs/Assistants with Dr. Cleon Hendricks (Sample Collection and Processing, Hematology and Fecal Parasites, Cases and Hands-on Preparation of Slides and Microscopic Review)
- HSOA faculty were recently awarded a \$494,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to provide training in veterinary science to 120 agriculture teachers in public schools from across the United States. This training will involve hands-on instruction in veterinary science, field trips to local veterinary clinics, and a visit to the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville. This grant's activities will take place over four years and will also provide on-campus employment opportunities for 16 undergraduate Agricultural Education students. The project faculty include Dr. Trent Wells of the Department of Agricultural Science; Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, Dr. Brittany Kirby, Dr. Johanna Choate, and Mrs. Shelby Helmerich, all of the Department of Veterinary Technology and Pre-Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Brian Parr, Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture.
- The Department of Agricultural Science recently expanded the Crop and Soil Management undergraduate degree program to include a new emphasis area in Precision Agriculture. This effort was led by Mr. Chad Gaylord, Instructor of Agronomy.
- Hutson School of Agriculture faculty and staff have hosted several Future Farmers of America (FFA) events during the Fall 2025 semester, including the FFA All-Region Stars Banquet, the FFA State Horsemanship Career Development event, the FFA State Horse Evaluation Career Development event, and the FFA State Veterinary Science Career Development event. In total, approximately 500 FFA members from public schools across the Commonwealth have visited our campus since September 2025.
- Student-led publications under review:
 - Marie Baxley submitted a manuscript from her Honors Thesis project, Goat Tying Styles Impact on Performance Consistency in Rodeo Competitors in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Ozark Region, to the *North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Journal*. Dr. Thomas Powell and Dr. Lydia O'Sullivan are co-authors on the manuscript.
- AES enrollment, including minors, was up to 156 this fall – an increase from 122 in October 2024. The majority of these were in Food Animal Science. Olivia Burriss, a business major who was an active Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association Equestrian team member, did her Honors Thesis project with Animal and Equine Sciences. She wants to work in public relations and advertising in the Thoroughbred industry and was selected for the competitive Kentucky Equine Management Internship program (June – December 2025) in Lexington, Kentucky.

School of Nursing and Health Professions (SONHP)

Highlights from the School of Nursing and Health Professions include:

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) – Nurse Anesthesia had a successful site visit by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia (COA) Educational Programs. The COA Board will meet in June to discuss and vote on the reaffirmation status.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing student Saiylor Beecham was recently selected as the recipient of the 2025 Kentucky Nurses Association Student Nurse of the Year Award, one of the most prestigious student honors in Kentucky nursing which recognizes outstanding dedication, leadership, and commitment to the nursing profession. Out of an incredibly competitive pool she was selected as an exceptional nurse leader and role model for her peers across the state.

The Topping Out Ceremony for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions *Jackson Hall* building was held on October 30, 2025. The event was well attended and included President Ron K. Patterson and his wife Jenny; members of the Board of Regents; *President Emeritus* Bob Jackson and his wife Karen; SONHP faculty, staff, and students; legislators; key stakeholders; and community members.

Scholars Week honors student presentations on November 14 include:

- Samantha Eales – PCH
- Eliza Heinrich – Nursing
- Emma Foran – Nursing
- Erin "Sunny" Clark – Nutrition and Dietetics
- Reid Venable – Exercise Science

Multiple faculty/faculty groups have recently been awarded a MSYou Matter, Racers Care Mini Grant:

- Sherri Powers and Candy Alvey: Thrive and Ride: SOTA's Sensory Garden for Community Wellness
- Carolyn Tinsley: Crocheting for Relaxation, Rejuvenation, or Fun
- Elizabeth Gordon: Building Resilience: Promoting Mental Health Literacy and Connection Among College Students
- Brie LaJeret: COPE to Thrive
- Anne Hess: Youth and Adult First Aid for the MSU Community
- Jessica Naber, Oluwabunmi Dada, Esther Malm, Amelia Dodd: Workshop series: Lessons from the Blue Zones including 1) Living Well @ Murray Blue Zones Café Event; 2) Murray State Community Purpose Day, 3) Move Naturally Campus Walk & Talk Series; 4) Purpose & Connection

Dr. Elizabeth Gordon presented at the American Public Health Association conference in Washington, D.C.:

- Geographic disparities in vaccine clinical trial access in the mid-West: Impact of COVID-era clinical trial reform
- "It takes a village": Best practices from successful academic-practice partnership to nurture strong public health leaders

MSU SONHP's Public and Community Health program hosted the Discover, Experience, Apply, and Learn (DEAL) Day on November 13, 2025. DEAL Day is an experiential learning opportunity for students to explore different facets of the public health system. There were over 160 students registered, including from five local high schools.

Dr. Lee Wisdom, Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy adjunct faculty, has been named Fellow of the American Association of Respiratory Therapy.

Medical School Acceptance

- Ashlee Wellen – (Dallhlgren, IL) President of our SRHA and also a former AHEC RCHS – accepted to University of Kentucky College of Medicine – Bowling Green Campus (UKCOM) Bowling Green
- Kennedy Lamb – (Graves County) AHEC participant – accepted to UKCOM Bowling Green

Center for Adult and Regional Education (CARE)

Highlights from the Center for Adult and Regional Education included:

Adult Students

This fall, 87 adult and non-traditional students started their comeback to finish their degrees through the Bachelor of Integrated Studies program. This is the highest number of new students enrolled in the program since the fall of 2018.

Paducah

- MSU Paducah has been selected to host the 2026 Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association statewide conference.
- MSU Paducah is proud to be piloting an online education degree option beginning Fall 2026, allowing working adults and paraprofessionals a more flexible option to become certified teachers.

More than 5,600 people from the Paducah community and beyond have visited the MSU Paducah Campus for non-academic use of the campus since the beginning of the year. The campus sees a lot of non-academic use (meetings, conferences, etc.) which provides the opportunity to market to potential students and families.

Hopkinsville

- The Paducah-based Sprocket Innovation Hub launched a satellite operation at the MSU-Hopkinsville Campus. The Sprocket operation in Hopkinsville is designed to strengthen entrepreneurial support for innovative start-ups in the Christian County region.
- MSU-Hopkinsville hosted the regional Veterans Resource Fair in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Veterans Association on November 20.
- Christian County High School Racer Academy Dual Credit Program is set to launch January 12, 2026. Currently, four in-person dual credit classes have enrollment for the spring semester, with more expected in the fall of 2026 when the new Christian County High School opens next door to the *MSU Hopkinsville Regional Campus*.

MSU Rowing Team

The Varsity Women's four-person crew placed 30th out of 42 crews competing at the team's final Fall Regatta, the Head of the Hooch Regatta in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Head of the Hooch is the second largest collegiate regatta in the nation. The Women's four beat crews from Duke, University of Georgia, Clemson, and Auburn.

University Libraries

The University Libraries do a tremendous job supporting the campus community, faculty, and staff. Highlights in the University Libraries include:

- *Scholars Week* is a university-wide celebration of undergraduate and graduate scholarship, research, and creative work occurring each fall and spring semester.
- Over 600 students participated in Scholars Week events.
- 2,736 students reached through library instruction
- 240,232 visitors to the Library –The facility was open for 96 hours per week and has offered 115 instruction sessions, 537 consultations, and many special events and programming.
- \$1,150,000 spent on one-time purchases and on-going subscription costs

The following wins the University has experienced so far this year include:

- Retention has increased from 75% to 78%, which is a 3%-point increase.
- Graduation rate increased from 62% to 64%, representing a 2%-point increase in the last year.
- We have more Full-Time Freshman enrollment from the 18-county service region over the past six years.
- We have the second-highest fall enrollment in the last seven years.
- Percentage-wise, we have the most STEM+H per baccalaureate degrees among all public institutions in the state.
- Murray State University welcomed its largest-ever Racer Day attendance on November 15, as more than 300 prospective students (across 12 states), along with their family members, visited campus.

- Murray State University’s Nurse Anesthesia Program recently achieved a 94% first-time pass rate on board exams with a 100% overall pass rate.
- Murray State University has again been recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top universities in the country in multiple categories, marking the institution’s 35th consecutive year of top-tier rankings by the national college guide. Murray State ranks in the South region as follows:
 - 19th – Best Value Schools
 - 6th – Top Public Schools
 - 14th – Regional Universities
 - 6th – Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional Universities
 - Murray State increased its ranking in the Top Public Schools, Top Regional Universities and Best Regional Universities for Veterans categories
- Murray State University Social Media Platforms experienced increases in metrics from the same period in 2024 in these areas:
 - Facebook – number of new followers, impressions, and page post link clicks
 - Instagram – number of impressions, total posts, and profile actions
 - LinkedIn – number of new followers, engagements, and page post link clicks
- There have also been over 2,000 TikTok followers since the social media platform launch earlier this fall and 13,000 views of President Patterson’s Racer Spirit Listening and Learning Tour “Getting Ready at Oakhurst” video. In terms of Dr. Patterson’s Social Media Platforms:
 - More than 2,000 cumulative followers since implementation of Instagram, X, and Facebook platforms
 - Instagram – Over 230,000 impressions
 - Website:
 - Overall site usage
 - 312,000 users
 - Two minutes and 30 seconds of average user engagement
 - First-Time Freshmen Admissions/Recruitment Page
 - 6,494 unique users
 - Nearly six minutes per session
 - 83% medium to high intent sessions
 - Academic Programs Page
 - 27,907 unique users
 - 85% medium to high intent sessions - Medium to high intent sessions are defined as visits where users interact through clicks or scrolling to achieve goals.
- Murray State University Athletics continues its great momentum and wins experienced so far include:
 - The Race is On Strategic Plan officially closed out the first iteration on October 1, 2025.
 - Officially launched the new Ja3 Team Shoes – Custom shoes for Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams and staff; the second shoe featuring the Murray State logo as part of the new agreement with Nike.
 - Baseball College World Series Bourbon Bottles Custom Knob Creek hand-picked by Baseball staff sold out.
 - Athletic teams have logged more than 600 hours during Day of Civic Engagement.
 - Happy to announce our new ten-year multimedia rights agreement with Learfield.
 - As the programs continue to strive to compete and win championships, alignment with the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) is key. The MVC is now the 9th ranked conference nationally.
 - Wins against George Washington University (Men’s Basketball – Best win in the MVC this young season) and Women’s Basketball beating both George Mason and Boston College.
 - Women’s Soccer team garnered the Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year awards. Appreciation was expressed to Coach Lodge and staff for their work in this regard.
 - Head Coach Ryan Miller earned his first career victory at the Field of 68 to kick off the season.
 - Fall 2025 cumulative all sports GPA is a 3.0 or above (43rd straight semester).
 - 100% of Head Coaches, senior leadership and sport administrators are mental health and first-aid certified.
 - All student-athletes attended gambling education sessions.

- Senior leadership and staff received professional development opportunities with MRJ and Throwing Words.
- Hosted all student-athletes and staff for Annual Holiday Party.

President Patterson indicated he also celebrates his leadership team and the individuals he is surrounded by in this room. His first six months have been a blur. Nonetheless, he has asked individuals to take on more responsibilities and they have done phenomenal jobs. A new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has been hired and the University is narrowing in on hiring a Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services—two mission critical positions. As he enters the spring term of his first year, he feels grateful that he gets to work with an incredible team.

Dates have also been set for the Presidential Inauguration and associated events on April 13 and 14. A committee has been formed and events and activities will be planned for both dates. Additional information will be forthcoming.

In closing, President Patterson mentioned the new Board of Regents Medallions and an example was shown. Secretary Hunt will provide the medallions to each of the Regent the morning of the Commencement ceremony as part of their academic regalia.

He and First Lady Jenny hosted a Holiday Open House at Oakhurst with fantastic attendance on December 2.

A favorite, often-repeated phrase President Patterson stated he likes to use is “Students First and Murray State University, Always.” To illustrate this in action, President Patterson shared the passing of MSU student Samantha Dalton and the University’s reaction to that news. Samantha was a Murray State student majoring in Pre-Vet Medicine from Clarksville, Tennessee, and was a member of the JH Richmond Residential College. On behalf of the entire campus community, all extend their heartfelt condolences to Samantha’s family and her friends. Vice President Robertson, his team, and many present in this room today have been in constant communication with the family. Appreciation was expressed to MSU Police Chief Ryan Orr for his leadership and that of his team in communicating with the family, the mom and dad, to offer the University’s condolences and offer its support. The University will honor their wishes in terms of their privacy during this difficult time. For the campus community at large, there are counseling services available to assist if needed. One loss among the Murray State University community is a loss to all. President Patterson asked that everyone at Murray State keep Samantha and her parents in their thoughts and prayers.

President Patterson assured the Board that all will continue to meet the moment and Race toward excellence. He remains unchanged in his initial assessment that Murray State University is remarkable and is still the “*Finest Place We Know.*” In the days and weeks ahead, and with it the end of another successful academic semester, all enthusiastically look forward to spring 2026.

The Board observed a moment of silence in honor of Samantha Dalton.

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

Assistant Vice President – Finance Cain presented the Report of the Treasurer (Quarterly Financial and Investment Reports) with the following highlights:

- Cash is down but this is not unexpected with the multitude of projects that are underway.
- Accounts Receivable is up slightly mainly due to the Athletics’ budget increasing from last quarter to this quarter. This is also not unusual. Another reason Accounts Receivable is up is because the Department of Education went through the processing of auditing some FAFSA awards at the end of last year. This means that they removed aid awarded from certain student accounts where discrepancies were identified and the University was given to the end of September to resolve and identify those with conflicting information. These cases were not resolved until September 30 so the Accounts Receivable issues should be fully resolved on the next report presented to the Board.
- Working capital is up due to Accounts Receivable being up and that is also not unusual. The University’s net position is up due to its decreased pension liability.
- Total revenues are up mainly due to the increase in capital revenue from project money coming into the institution and this was also expected based on appropriations.
- Total expenditures are up due to the salary increase provided to employees last year and a debt service increase of slightly over \$3 million.

- Overall, from a tuition discount perspective, it is difficult to have a good picture of where the University stands at this point because it is only one quarter into the financial statement cycle. Hopefully by the February Quarterly Meeting a better picture of where the University stands from fall and spring tuition will emerge to see how it will line up with budget. There is still a contingency in the budget to offset some tuition shortfalls should those occur.
- With the legislative desire for enrollment to increase from within the state of Kentucky, it is expected revenues would come in lower due to the University's tuition model and in-state students paying lower tuition.

Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the attached quarterly unaudited Financial and Investment Reports for the period of July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, as presented. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #2)

Committee Reports/Recommendations

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee

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

Chair ZeRuth called the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee to order at 9:08 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Board of Regents Self-Evaluation Process Update, received

Regent ZeRuth reported that in December 2017, Murray State University's accreditor – the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) – approved revisions to its *Principles of Accreditation*. Among the revisions was the following new standard:

4.2 (g): The governing board defines its responsibilities and regularly evaluates its effectiveness.

SACSCOC provides the following rationale in its *Resource Manual*:

The institution's governing body holds in trust the fundamental autonomy and ultimate well-being of the institution. As the corporate body, the board ensures both the process and viable leadership and strong financial resources to fulfill the institutional mission. Integral to strong governance is the absence of undue influence from external sources. The authority of the board is established in official documentation. The board is aware of its fiduciary responsibilities and carries them out based on accurate information about the operations of the institution.

At the March 1, 2019, Quarterly Board of Regents Meeting, a process for conducting annual Board self-evaluations was approved and this update relative to the 2025 self-evaluation process is being provided in this regard. The week of December 15, 2025, Secretary Hunt will send out a link to complete the survey. Please note that your responses will need to be submitted no later than by January 30, 2026. It is anticipated that a formal presentation on the self-evaluation results will be provided to the Board at the Quarterly Meeting on February 27, 2026.

Chair Fitch reminded the Board that this self-evaluation is not only required by SACSCOC but Regents have six weeks to provide their survey responses. He indicated all should make every effort to return their responses on time. It is important for there to be a 100 percent response rate from the Board in this regard.

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

Academic Programs Update, received

Regent ZeRuth reported that the following academic program changes were presented to and approved by the Academic Council during the 2025 Fall Semester.

ADDITIONS

Certificates

- ♦ Crime Victim Advocacy (UG)
- ♦ Communication and Technology (GR)

Tracks

- ♦ BS - Cybersecurity and Network Management – Applied Artificial Intelligence for Cybersecurity

Concentrations

- ♦ MS - Information Systems - Applied Business Leadership
- ♦ MS - Information Systems - Project Management

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

Senior Associate Provost Pervine introduced Dr. Lori Roe, Director of Accreditation and Academic Programs. She will serve as the University's new SACSCOC Liaison and will be coordinating the Board's annual evaluation going forward.

Senior Associate Provost Pervine reported that the Dental Hygiene program at Murray State is well underway. The University submitted its application to the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) on August 26, 2025, and received some feedback from that accrediting agency. CODA specifically identified seven items where they wanted additional information. Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions Dr. Dina Byers was not able to be present at today's meeting but earlier indicated this is standard process. As an example, CODA needed to know who the Director of the Dental Hygiene program would be and they asked budgetary and facilities questions. The University was able to provide responses to these questions and is currently waiting to hear back from CODA. A position has been listed for a Dental Hygiene Instructor and that process will begin on December 17.

Adjournment

The Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Athletics Committee

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

Chair Fitch called the Athletics Committee to order at 9:15 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Racer Athletics Update, received

Director of Athletics Yantko presented an update on Racer Athletics with the following highlights:

- A great deal of momentum building is currently underway. Football has closed out its season and with a great tailwind, the trajectory for that program is expected to be significant. Both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams are off to a great start and the Winter Track program is doing a fantastic job, as is Rifle. It is a busy time for Racer Athletics – as it should be. Working with Student Government Association President and Student Regent Khatib, a number of initiatives are underway to encourage students to have more engagement through their attendance at basketball games. The students have responded positively and are helping to set the tone at games.
- With regard to The Race Is On Strategic Plan, it was announced that the first iteration closed out on October 1. This first stage emphasized people, places, programs, and prioritizing recruiting and revenue. Everything that is undertaken by Racer Athletics is in line with the strategic initiatives – to advance the brand of Murray State built upon the community and region, compete for and win

championships, and develop student-athletes through a transformational experience that will serve them from recruitment through retirement. It was known that by moving into the Missouri Valley Conference the University would need to invest in the infrastructure, elevate the facilities profile, and invest in programs. As work begins on the new Strategic Plan – Racing Towards Excellence – all are excited to carry this momentum forward.

- In terms of advancing the brand of the institution, Ja Morant, through the new shared relationship with Nike, launched the Ja2 team shoes. These are custom shoes for the Men's and Women's Basketball teams and staff and is the second shoe featuring the Murray State logo. MSU is one of very few schools that gets to carry a player exclusive to the University's brand as a Tier 0 program. When the Murray State logo is appearing amongst the likes of Duke and other institutions – the basketball bluebloods – this is where the University wants to be positioned because it helps continue to elevate and engage Murray State's brand on a national level beyond the impact of Athletics.
- The University carried the momentum of the Omaha College World Series run in Baseball through an opportunity to develop a custom Knob Creek bottle hand-picked by Baseball staff. The bottle features the Omaha logo and Murray State verbiage. These bottles sold out within four hours, further illustrating how impactful participation in these championships can be. One bottle went for close to \$8,000 off-market.
- Photos were shown of the Racer Athletics fleet of vehicles which help the University continue to maintain brand focus. The new addition to the fleet – a bus – will pick up the Regents and select staff later today to transport everyone over to Reagan Field for the *Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse* Groundbreaking ceremony. These are not just devices to be used for logistics but they represent moving billboards for the institution. The University and Racer Athletics must consistently lean into this enterprise to continue to focus on these marketing vehicles for the institution. These vehicles are also traveling to games into different markets and represents a marketing tool in areas with fertile recruitment bases.
- In terms of building a stronger Murray State community and region, Athletics had an record 610 hours of community service during the Day of Civic Engagement. All student-athletes, Coaches, and staff were involved with this initiative in many different ways. Later this month a new Multi-Media Rights partnership will be announced – sponsorships, brand activation, and NIL. This represents a transformational 10+ year agreement with Learfield. Appreciation was expressed to President Patterson and General Counsel Miller for their leadership in this regard. Learfield is the industry leader which helps illustrate the importance of this agreement with Murray State in the multi-media space at a very high level. Through these partnerships with Nike and Learfield in the brand management space will not only help to elevate the Murray State brand nationally and globally but also continue to generate new revenues – whether maximizing sponsorship opportunities, elevating the game-day fan experience, and increasing connectivity for the band and alumni base – but also creating new advantages in the NIL era. These represent strategic partnerships for the University moving forward.
- Appreciation was expressed to President Patterson and Chair Fitch for the opportunity to bring back the 1999-2000 Basketball team to honor those individuals. These players were also presented with their Championship rings for the first time after 25 years. The event brought forth a lot of emotions but represented an opportunity for Athletics to do right and celebrate these players.
- Athletics also hosted a student-athlete and staff holiday party which was very well attended. Appreciation was expressed to Corvette Lanes who helped plan this event and allowed all to have an evening of fun competition.
- In terms of competing for and winning championships, the Soccer program earned Coaching Staff of the Year, Player of the Year, and Defensive Play of the Year awards. Men's Basketball Head Coach Ryan Miller experienced the biggest win in the Missouri Valley Conference this year from a net ranking perspective. This was due to his strategies around the Men's Basketball program. The Women's Basketball program had two massive wins in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament this past season. Coach Rechelle Turner and the team had a historic season. Their performance in the Missouri Valley Conference secured their first-ever MVC regular-season title, with a 16-4 record. Women's Basketball also won the MVC Tournament Championship, and earned an automatic bid as the #11 seed after winning the MVC Championship. The team fell to #6 Iowa in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Tournament. Women's Basketball completed the season with 25 wins – the best in program history.
- Athletics has also experienced another month of significant fundraising with two investor announcements – \$100,000 from the Racer Football Alumni Association and \$500,000 from donor Sandra Hartmann. Racer Athletics Giving Tuesday also had a record dollar amount set that day with nearly \$300,000 raised. This means the program is close to \$1 million to invest in Racer Athletics.
- All are excited about the continued philanthropy from Racer Nation which facilitated efforts to drive fundraising. Racer Nation is propelling the Vision for Excellence at Murray State and all are grateful for their contributions.
- In terms of developing student-athletes from recruitment through retirement, there was 100 percent participation in the Mental Health First-Aid initiative. All Head Coaches, senior leadership, and sports administrators are now mental health first-aid certified. To complement this work, Sports Wagering Education was offered and all student-athletes attended a gambling education session. Executive staff and senior leadership also worked with MRJ Advisors and Throwing Words as part of

professional development efforts. Young people are having to navigate a storm of chaos daily with NIL, sports wagering, all the components of social media, and the like and Athletics must continue to do its part to ensure student-athlete interests are placed first and are being advised in the best way possible. Sports wagering is legal in Kentucky now, in addition to every state in the Missouri Valley Conference where Murray State teams play. There are many threats in this area that could influence the sports roster and fan base. The goal is to equip students to be proactive so they have a plan when an issue arises. Appreciation was expressed to President Patterson and other University partners to continue to expand into this space through educational opportunities to help ensure Murray State is ranked at the highest level.

- Information was provided on necessary projects that needed to occur within Athletics to continue to help elevate the Sports Park profile. Appreciation was expressed to President Patterson; Assistant Vice President Youngblood; Angela Lampe, Associate Director for Facilities Design and Construction; Chadley Gray, Project Manager, Facilities Management; and Brock Rydecki, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Operations – Capital Projects. This work is important to continue to elevate the University's sports profile. Student-athletes deserve this but these projects must also be undertaken to ensure they have a tremendous experience while on campus. These represent branding opportunities and competing at the highest level. Some projects represent those that should have been taken care of quite some time ago. All are lucky that the President and donors are helping Athletics navigate this area. Some of this work has included wall padding for the Softball field, elevating the restrooms in the Locker Rooms, continuing to update the Weaver Center for the academic pursuit of Murray State students, because regardless of how NIL and revenue share shape the industry, academics still matter very much, especially to this group. For this reason, athletics will continue to be prioritized. This work is evidenced in the program reaching its 43rd semester of a 3.0 or higher GPA for student-athletes. More than 15 student-athletes will walk across the stage tomorrow at Commencement. Appreciation was again expressed to President Patterson for driving home these long-overdue initiatives.
- With regard to the Performance Center, renovations to the Weight Room are being finalized, including a 40-yard turf run which will be installed in January. Rehab spaces are also available. New Weight Room equipment is being provided for the Men's and Women's Basketball programs. This will be translated over to the Leon Owens Performance Center at a later date once renovations to the CFSB Center arena have been made. New hot tubs have now been installed in Roy Stewart Stadium to provide modern hydrotherapy alternatives. This will continue to help in the prehab and rehab space for student-athletes. Needs continue in the Athletic Training Room but all are excited about progress to date. The Murray State logo is now everywhere and the impact that will have on the brand will be massive. This helps tell the Murray State story and show competitors that the Racers are here to play. Level 1 for Football in Stewart Stadium represents an area that provides service to the 400 plus student-athletes. An emphasis will be placed on brand activation in this space by moving to a more modern look focusing on the brand and momentum and having opportunities to emphasize the recruiting experience.
- The future of intercollegiate athletics is at a constant intersection of chaos and progress and for Murray State, the University will remain forward-focused. Director Yantko indicated he is fortunate to have the support of this group, as well as so many who are part of Racer Nation. It is important for student-athletes to know the program will continue to race towards excellence.
- Over the coming two months, the new Strategic Plan for Athletics will be finalized. From there, the program will have a lot of opportunity to showcase where it wants to be. In this new reality there are two types of groups. There are participants and there are players – Murray State chooses to be players in this new reality. The program will continue to be forward-focused, putting its best foot forward, but will also shoot for the moon. Director Yantko believes with what is already being done under Dr. Patterson's leadership there is an opportunity to transform the brand of Murray State University nationally and compete in more championships at this level. The Omaha performance was cited as an example of how Murray State can participate in this space. This also provides an opportunity to proceed into the modern era and maximize the Athletics' Department footprint. The Groundbreaking later today will represent a monumental ceremony and there is a great deal of development opportunity in the Sports Complex area of campus. Phase 1 of the Racer Entertainment Village plan was outlined. It includes the CFSB Center renovation, the Leon Owens Performance Center and incremental, yet monumental enhancements.
- If it is not already, Murray State can be the number one entertainment value within a 50-mile radius due to its Division I high-profile sports programs. The Baseball program profile rose in the Missouri Valley Conference as a result of participation in the Regionals, Super Regionals, and College World Series. This will have a massive economic impact on the Murray community and region. People will be staying in hotels from Paducah, Kentucky, to Paris, Tennessee. They will be purchasing gas in town or in surrounding areas. This massive economic impact further highlights the importance of leaning into this space to produce new revenue and eventually be able to continue to stabilize recurring revenue streams.
- Athletics wants to develop a modernized Sports Park through attainable, efficient, and functional strategies and activations. This is accomplished by creating new profit centers and sustainable and recurring revenue streams to finance needs in the various facilities. It is known that Learfield will present national opportunities for sponsorships to move the Murray State University brand into new

territories. MSU has been a traditional inbound customer service unit, but that must continue to be transitioned into a more relational and proactive focus that will allow Athletics to look at data as well as maximizing relationships. There is no doubt that winning helps elevate this work, but there are strategies that will come into effect that will allow Athletics to undertake this work. This also provides other opportunities for the University – whether through student recruitment or future giving to the institution. In regard to stand-alone game value, mentality around game day must be transitioned and focused as assets, not just events. This process continues on a regular basis, particularly in the landscape of college basketball rights. There are opportunities for impact and the ability to elevate what is being done from a game asset management perspective.

- Athletics needs to professionalize its licensing and NIL spaces and Learfield will help efforts hone in on ensuring this transition is made. The brand must be known on the national level, but must also be dominant locally from a licensing and NIL perspective.
- Continuing to increase philanthropy is also key as Racer Nation propels the Racing Towards Excellence campaign and Director Yantko believes the best is yet to come in this space. Premium seating and new venue assets for the CFSB Center are being considered for Basketball and will eventually transition to Baseball and Football. There is significant opportunity for recurring cash flow through premium seating which further elevates the Athletics' experience and maximizes entertainment value. Game days no longer represent just coming and sitting in the stands to watch the game. Patrons are coming for social activities and Athletics must lean into entertainment in this regard. All must view the Sports Park and understand that it is an Entertainment Village and determine how the University and Athletics will continue to go out and seek opportunities to maximize this footprint.
- On March 9, 2026, the CFSB Center demolition will occur. The renovation will include the Leon Owens Performance Center and also the Courtside Club which will be named "The Vault" in recognition of the partnership with CFSB Brand, a tribute to it being "The Bank." There is also monumental movement around the Reagan Field updates and some of that progress can already be seen. Racer Field for Softball is being improved utilizing the \$500,000 commitment from donor Sandra Hartman. Given that commitment, a recommendation is being made later today to name the *Sandra Hartman Press Box* in that location. This represents a long-overdue asset for the institution and is a logical step forward. Care must be taken to ensure facilities are reflecting the University's expectations from its sports programs, particularly in the Missouri Valley Conference. Murray State has moved into the heavy-weight division, no matter the sport, and must start acting like that.
- The preservation of Roy Stewart Stadium was mentioned earlier but the *Draffen Family Founder's Club* will be developed soon in association with another gift opportunity. Appreciation was expressed to Tom and Sandy Draffen for their investment in this regard. They are tremendously philanthropic individuals who are committed to excellence.
- Athletics must continue to elevate what is being done at Cutchin Field and Racer Arena and how it looks at capital projects. The financing for Racer Arena renovation will be considered over a 20-year term. Finding a financial model for these recurring cash flows so it can be a much more sustaining model is key for not only the institution but also allowing Athletics to have unencumbered cash to continue to operate and maximize opportunities and win championships.
- Objectives for the Sports Park and Racer entertainment include continuing to prioritize recruiting and revenue generation and to drive entertainment and economic impact for the community and region. There is also a desire to create new profit centers and sustainable, recurring revenue streams to finance facilities and help Athletics in every other capacity. Profit centers include new assets that generate revenue. The goal is for each venue to generate some form of revenue that is recurring as part of a sustainable model which will allow for investment back into sports programs. There is a desire to modernize the Sports Park through attainable, efficient, and functional strategies and activations to allow for maximization of recruitment and sustainable revenue streams. This also benefits the overall institution as Athletic venues host events outside of sports. One of the two most important events to campus – Commencement – is happening tomorrow and will be held in the CFSB Center. All are excited about finally being able to roll out the renovation of the new venue for Commencement in fall 2026. The new Courtside Club will represent a massive and unique experience for fans and will be the first of its kind. The Courtside Club will be focused on driving entertainment on the court at a level that will be the first of its kind in any realm of college athletics. Athletics is well on its way to selling 57 Loge boxes and those are moving fast – to the point where the process is strategically being slowed down to ensure there are opportunities to maximize usage as renovations are completed.
- There is also a desire to implement a brand studio. Athletics wants student-athletes to have the ability to promote their brands on the University campuses and support those endeavors, working closely with Murray State's strategic partners. These student-athletes will also be provided with the opportunity to learn how to do business while they are active partners in the process. They must understand what it takes to negotiate NIL opportunities outside the revenue share and what it takes to build their own brand. This is the era of student brand management. Murray State has a unique chance to generate real opportunities for student-athletes through strategic licensing, sponsorships, and partnerships.
- There is the desire to continue to evolve to really reflect the experience that can be expected at Murray State. The Leon Owens Performance Center will represent a massive enhancement to the

recruitment space but also a dedicated space that allows student-athletes to develop in the best manner possible. When athletes come to Murray State, they must know they will have the opportunity to develop and perhaps turn pro in both their sport and in life. These venues must be intimate while also being electric and a convenience store opportunity is being considered in this regard. This will create a new activation and social space on the Upper Concourse for those who may not have access to the Courtside Club. New opportunities also continue to be considered for the Hall of Champions in the CFSB Center, including a future partnership with Nike to create a team-authentic store. Murray State continues to lead the Missouri Valley Conference in brand sales and this new store will help unify this process and distribute the brand throughout the various communities. Ways to grow the administrative team must also be identified to make sure Athletics is reciprocating a professional experience that customers, partners, and constituents expect.

- Illustrations were shown for the CFSB Center arena renovation and all are excited about the opportunities ahead. The footprint of the Courtside Club and the Super Suite – both of which have seven-figure commitments – will be a phenomenal addition and all are grateful to those donors. This represents another area for Athletics that will create new activations and recurring revenue streams, in addition to creating a new rental space for the institution.
- The potential revenue impact – assuming an 80 and 90 percent sold estimation – from Club Access, Suites, External Rentals, NIL/Brand Studio, Videoboard ads, etc. that would be a minimum of \$1.5 to \$1.7 million in recurring cash flow tied to these premium assets. Of those who have purchased Loge boxes, not one individual has dropped their season tickets and, in fact, most are new customers to the institution. Athletics is not undertaking a reseating process as part of these renovations. It is not taking seats away from season ticket holders and that process will be handled in a diligent, strategic, and well-thought-out manner in terms of the allocation plan. Confirmation was provided that there are branding opportunities for seats in the Loge boxes.
- As part of the renovation of the CFSB Center, there will not be an opportunity to host post-season tournaments and Coaches are well aware of this and have planned accordingly.
- For Reagan Field – another brand asset – a new videoboard will be installed in late February and represents a new brand activation and fan amenity. It will also be the largest videoboard in the MVC. The walls at Reagan Field have also been padded – a project which was long overdue. Drainage enhancements have been undertaken in the outfield and in-field turf installation will be addressed. This represents a Complex requirement of hosting a MVC Tournament so there is some urgency in this regard. Opportunities for additional revenue through outfield experiences are also being developed. All are excited about the Jim and Sue Cash Clubhouse opportunity (with hitting facility) and look forward to celebrating the groundbreaking later today with the Board. All appreciate former Board Chair Bill Beasley’s support in helping to drive this naming. This will represent a state-of-the-art facility that is efficient and affordable. A graphic was shown of the new turf layout which includes the Murray State logo dead-center. A new scoreboard will be installed, additional signage will be added, and future premium seating concepts are being developed to present additional opportunities. All are also excited about getting this project in place. A venue that was not creating any revenue source for the University will now generate close to \$125,000 moving forward.
- With regard to Racer Field for Softball, the *Sandra Hartmann Press Box* will be constructed and a rendering was provided in this regard, a new videoboard will be installed, and the outfield turf will be a topic of discussion later in the spring. Hitting spaces are also under consideration. Title IX is not an obligation – it represents the right thing to do as that program continues to grow as well. All are proud of Coach Kara Amundson for her dedication and success with Softball. There are opportunities for brand activation within this sport as well. Projected revenues are slightly less due to the more consolidated footprint but are expected to be around \$100,000 – and this does not include converting the sport to tickets sales.
- In Roy Stewart Stadium, the turf is being replaced in the weight room and a new videoboard will be utilized to provide more brand activation. The field at the stadium is 11-years old and is well past its useful life and needs to be replaced. The track also needs to be resurfaced due to its age and it also needs to reflect the blue and gold Murray State colors. First floor renovations in the entire facility are necessary as well. Renderings were shown for the new videoboard concept . These initiatives will provide an enhanced fan experience and help provide branding opportunities to establish revenue streams. The footprint of the *Draffen Family Founder’s Club* in the stadium was provided. The Draffen Family has agreed to a new seven-figure commitment for this purpose which will be finalized in the coming days. Consideration is also being given to game-day suites, club activation on game days, additional programming for future classroom and event space needs, and club space for student-athlete dining, providing them with a championship-level experience. Stadium preservation is necessary because this facility is 53 years old and work must begin now to repair it to turn it into a revenue generating asset for campus. It is anticipated this work will ultimately have a \$3 million impact.
- In both the Basketball arena and Stewart Stadium, club spaces have been designed so patrons never have to get on an elevator to access those spaces. This will help address egress issues on game day in both facilities, further enhancing the fan experience.

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

Personnel Changes:

Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Golf Coach Philip Nelson, approved

Chair Fitch reported that under Head Coach Philip Nelson, the Women’s Golf program has seen consistent play throughout its first three seasons in the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC). During his time with the Racers, he helped coach Peyton Carter to MVC Player of the Year honors in 2022-23. Off the course, he has made a tremendous impact in the classroom with multiple Women’s Golf Coaches’ Association All-America Scholars in every year he has led the Racers. Director Yantko reported that this extension does not include a change in salary.

On behalf the Athletics Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Contract of Employment Extension for Mr. Philip Nelson, Head Women’s Golf Coach, for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, as presented. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Contract of Employment Extension – Head Women’s Golf Coach Philip Nelson, approved

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Contract of Employment Extension for Mr. Philip Nelson, Head Women’s Golf Coach, for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, as presented. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

(See Attachment #3)

Adjournment

The Athletics Committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The Board of Regents adjourned for a break beginning at 10:05 a.m.

Reconvene

Chair Fitch reconvened the Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents at 10:20 a.m.

Audit and Compliance Committee

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

Chair Waldrop called the Audit and Compliance Committee to order at 10:20 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Audited Financial Statements – General, accepted

Director Lance Mann and Manager Alex Harmon with Dean Dorton reported the following with regard to the Report to Governance on Results of the Annual Independent Audit at Murray State:

- All the audits went well and Dean Dorton issued unmodified opinions with no issues noted.
- These reports have been prepared by an independent external auditing firm – Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) – and address state and federal requirements. The General Financial Statement and the Independence Letter are distributed as required to the State Auditor of Public Accounts and the Finance and Administration Cabinet. The House Bill 622 (HB622) report is submitted to the State Auditor of Public Accounts, and the Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report is submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

- Contained within the Presentation on the Results of the Annual Audit, the Management Letter complies with the SAS 112 auditing standard which requires written communication regarding control deficiencies found during the audit. The Representation Letter, also incorporated in the report, is to provide confirmation by management regarding the fairness of various financial statement elements and acknowledging that the accuracy of the statements is the primary responsibility of management.
- Dean Dorton audited the basic financial statements of Murray State University for the year ended June 30, 2025, and also issued various other reports as required. 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.
- Two audit reports were highlighted and unmodified opinions have been issued for both relative to the University's financial statements and the MSU Foundation, Incorporated, audit. There were no findings or adjustments in the reports for these entities.
- The NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures, Kentucky House Bill 622, Kentucky Lease Law Statutes reports, and the Independence Letter for the Auditor of Public Accounts were also issued. Ongoing items include the Subsequent Event Report for the Auditor of Public Accounts which is due to the state next month. The Report on Compliance for each major federal program, Report on Internal Control Over Compliance (single audit); Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by Uniform Guidance; and Audit of WKMS-FM financial statements are part of this work. The Murray State audit is included in the financial statements of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To the Auditor's knowledge, the 2025 audited financial statements for the University are not included in any other statements within the state.
- Dean Dorton performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to the Board in the Engagement Letter dated February 7, 2025, regarding the nature, timing, and extent of the audit procedures. Qualitative aspects of accounting practices refer to management's responsibility to the auditors to utilize correct procedures for accounting. The auditors found no issues in this regard and nothing significant that needed to be reported to the Board.
- With regard to management judgments and accounting estimates, the most notable estimates affecting the financial statements are depreciation and useful life of capital assets, pension and OPEB-related disclosures, and allowance for uncollectible loans and student accounts receivables. There were no issues to note in this regard.
- With regard to financial statements disclosures, they are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements' users and these are represented in the footnotes of the audit report.
- Dean Dorton is grateful there were no difficulties encountered in dealing with management related to the performance of the audit engagements.
- Professional standards require the auditors to accumulate all factual, judgmental, and projected misstatements and uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial. Dean Dorton must communicate those findings to the appropriate level of management and request their correction. There were no audit adjustments or uncorrected misstatements noted during the year and no disagreements with management and that makes the scope of this work go well.
- Management representations are communicated to Dean Dorton in October when the audit is issued. To Dean Dorton's knowledge, the University is not working with any other independent accountants at this time.
- No significant issues arising from the audit were discussed with management and everything seemed to be in order. There was nothing to report to the Board in this regard.
- Additional disclosures in the audit report include Management's Discussion and Analysis and certain pension-related disclosures which are required under Government Accounting Standards. The auditors applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and there are no issues to report as no findings were noted during the audits.
- Independence is a joint responsibility and is 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. AICPA and GAO rules require independence both of mind and in appearance when providing audit and other attestation services. Dean Dorton must ensure that the AICPA and GAO's General Requirements for performing non-attest services are adhered to and included in all letters of engagement. Dean Dorton must also maintain a system of quality management over compliance with independence rules and firm policies. The University's responsibilities include timely informing Dean Dorton before the effective date of transactions or other business changes for the following: new affiliates, directors, and officers; changes in the University structure or the reporting entity impacting affiliates such as subsidiaries, partnerships, related entities, investments, joint ventures, component units, and jointly-governed organizations.
- A summary was provided on Uniform Guidance for the Single Audit. Major programs subject to audit included the Student Financial Aid cluster, federal TRIO programs, and coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds. No findings were identified that are required to be communicated to the Board within the Single Audit Report as of today, and there are no prior-year findings. The Board was informed that the Single Audit will be delayed due to the federal government not releasing the rules

by which the auditors must abide until about two weeks ago. Normally these are released in April each year, but, due to changes in Washington, that was delayed this year until close to Thanksgiving. It is anticipated the Single Audit will be issued in time for the Quarterly Meeting in February. The due date is May 15, 2026, under federal law so the University is still within the timeline for meeting its obligation. Dean Dorton had already done most of the work and is now comparing that to the rules which have been issued.

Regent Waldrop indicated that the key theme of the report just received is that the audits were clean. Appreciation was expressed to Assistant Vice President Cain, Vice President Dudley, and their teams for helping ensure this is the case. Assistant Vice President Cain expressed appreciation to Stephanie Jennings, Director of Accounting and Financial Services, and her team for their great work in a challenging environment at the federal level.

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 for 2024-25:

- a. Report to Governance on 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, 2025
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025
- f. General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Audited Financial Statements – General, 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 for 2024-25:

- a. Report to Governance on 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, 2025
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025
- f. General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachments #4 – #9)

Annual Audit Report – Athletics, accepted

Dean Dorton reported that each year the auditors are required to perform an audit on the Agreed-Upon Procedures for NCAA rules and regulations. That work has been performed, there were no findings, and a clean report was issued. The NCAA Agreed-Upon Procedures report fulfills compliance with the NCAA *Bylaws 20.2.4.18* which states:

“Operating and Capital Financial Data Report. An institution shall submit financial data detailing operating revenues, expenses and capital related to its intercollegiate athletics program to the NCAA on an annual basis in accordance with the financial reporting policies and procedures. The required data shall include, but is not limited to, the following: (Adopted: 1/17/09 effective 8/1/09, Revised: 1/20/22) (a) All expenses and revenues for or on behalf of an institution’s intercollegiate athletics program, including those by any affiliated or outside organization, agency or group of individuals; (b) Salary and benefits data for all athletics positions. The data shall include base salary, bonuses, endorsements, media fees, camp or clinic income, deferred income and other income contractually guaranteed by the institution; (c) Capital expenditures (to be reported in aggregate for athletics facilities), including capitalized additions and deletions to facilities during the reporting period, total estimated book value of athletically related plant and equipment net of depreciation,

total annual debt service on athletics and university facilities and total debt outstanding on athletics and university facilities; (d) Value of endowments at fiscal year-end that are dedicated to the sole support of athletics; (e) Value of all pledges at fiscal year-end that support athletics; and (f) The athletics department fiscal year-end fund balance.”

And NCAA *Bylaws 20.2.4.18.1* as follows:

“Verification and Certification. The report shall be subject to annual agreed-on verification procedures approved by the membership (in addition to any regular financial reporting policies and procedures of the institution) and conducted by a qualified independent accountant who is not a staff member of the institution and who is selected by the institution’s chancellor or president or by an institutional administrator from outside the athletics department designated by the chancellor or president. The independent accountant shall verify the accuracy and completeness of the data prior to submission to the institution’s chancellor or president and the NCAA. The institution’s chancellor or president shall certify the financial report prior to submission to the NCAA. (Adopted: 1/17/09 effective 8/1/09, Revised: 1/20/22)”

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following report for 2024-25:

1. National Collegiate Athletic Association Independent Accountant’s Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Annual Audit Report – Athletics, accepted

On behalf of the Athletics Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the following report for 2024-25:

1. National Collegiate Athletic Association Independent Accountant’s Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Regent Price seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #10)

Annual Audit Contract Extension, authorized

Regent Waldrop 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 the University’s financial statements. Other governing or sanctioning bodies (e.g., the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for federal grants and contracts and the NCAA) 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 Allen Ford, PLLC (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 Board of Regents approved a three-year extension to this contract on December 8, 2023. Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) provided the below pricing for this extension:

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

The cost for the Fiscal Year 2026 contract is \$153,600, including the financial, compliance, and up to four single-audit programs.

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, 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, 2026, at a cost of \$153,600, which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Annual Audit Contract Extension, 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, 2026, at a cost of \$153,600, which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. Regent Ovey seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Appreciation was expressed to Dean Dorton for their attendance at today's meeting.

Adjournment

The Audit and Compliance Committee adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

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

Chair Wilson called the Buildings and Grounds Committee to order at 10:32 a.m. and reported all other members were present.

Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update, received

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

- Projects have progressed significantly since the original report was provided for inclusion in the eBoard book.
- A listing of 2022-24 asset preservation projects was presented to the Board and the percentage towards completion was indicated for each project. These asset preservation projects are funded by the state with a match from the University.
- A listing of 2024-26 asset preservation projects was also presented to the Board. Many of these projects are still in design to some degree while others are underway with some percentage of completion. Some projects that are just now getting underway were funded as part of the 2022-24 asset preservation projects. These asset preservation projects were fully funded by the state.
- Funding for asset preservation projects has been distributed across campus to accomplish as much of this necessary work as possible. The downside to this is that a lot of facilities are currently disrupted on campus. The upside to this work is that significant improvements are being made in many different areas of campus.
- The parking lot reconfiguration project on North 16th Street is mostly finished and individuals are being allowed to park in this location. The electrical connections for the lighting must still be completed and that work is scheduled to occur over the holiday break. The lights will then be directed so they provide as much safety to the surrounding area as possible. As part of this project, an additional 100 parking spaces on the West side of 16th Street are now available. There are a total of 387 spaces in this parking lot and this assists greatly with the number of parking spots taken for the

new Nursing building. This location is still extremely assessable to the buildings in the surrounding area. Work on the parking lot project began in July 2025 and was completed in October.

- Renovations in Applied Science are close to being completed in this facility. It is hoped when the campus returns following the holiday break all work will be done. Work in the North Tower has been completed, but a few projects still remain in the South Tower. Project Manager Kyle Robertson has done a tremendous job overseeing this project and appreciation was expressed to him in this regard. He has gone above and beyond in terms of what is expected and is spending the majority of his days in Applied Science helping to bring the renovations to fruition in an occupied building. The main lobby in this building will be a real showpiece with a unique ceiling feature utilizing Hempwood products. Regents were encouraged to go by the building at night as the Hempwood has been arranged in a pattern that makes an M, an S, and a U that can be seen through the front windows.
- The guest rooms in the Curris Center have now been transitioned into one large meeting space on the third floor. The new space can seat up to 66 people with tables and chairs and up to 225 with just chairs. This project is mostly completed but all are waiting on funding so technology can be installed. This will represent a much-needed asset for campus as large meeting spaces are in high demand.
- Project Director Travis Brown and others have been wrapping up multiple large, long-term projects for HVAC on campus, namely Racer Arena. Design work began on this project in 2021 and the project was completed last month. This is the first time there is air conditioning in Racer Arena as the building previously only had heat. HVAC work has also been undertaken in Carr Hall, a stand-alone boiler has been installed, and needed electrical upgrades have been completed. A photo was shown of the new mechanical room which is located in the old pool area in this facility.
- The campus fiber project continues and is now in Phase IV, and connections have been made getting ready for the future. Over the break all will be working on housing the fiber rerouting through the Nursing building as necessary and also making connections to Heritage Hall.
- The Pogue Library HVAC project is now completed and Board members likely noticed the many changes made to this building, including new carpet installation on the second floor Breathitt, War and Diplomacy, and Jesse Stuart rooms and restroom refreshment. Additional projects included tuckpointing and roof repairs.
- The carpentry shop noticed and reported a bubble in the bricks for Lovett Auditorium. It was discovered that there was significant water intrusion in that location. Barricades were immediately installed and a masonry company was hired to make the necessary repairs. As this project was underway, it was noticed that the stairs in the Zen Garden area were deteriorating and those were also repaired.
- The HVAC project in Doyle Fine Arts building is now complete and the fire alarm project is progressing floor-by-floor. It is hoped all fire alarm devices can be replaced by the end of this month. Photos were shown of the HVAC project illustrating that there was previously a one-fan unit which represented one point of failure and if it went out, the entire building did not have air. On the new HVAC unit that was installed, there is a fan array system that has six different fans that are run in series and can be ramped up and down for volume of air. If there is a motor failure, there is only one motor failure and the remaining five fans can carry the load until repairs are made. This is the new philosophy the University is using to help maintain air in the different facilities. These changes will represent a significant improvement moving forward.
- The new boilers in the Science Complex have been installed and inspected. They all passed inspection and now all the University is waiting on is for the boiler company to come and conduct the startup and that is scheduled to occur next week.
- Central Plant projects include boiler burner and control upgrades and this project is mostly complete. The chiller upgrade and replacement project for new chiller #2 is ongoing as are chilled water upgrades. The new chiller is expected to arrive on campus in early January and represents a \$2.5 million machine. All are continuing to work toward electrical utility infrastructure upgrades in this facility. The Request for Proposals for this project is currently out.
- Facilities Management is getting ready to enter the construction document stage for the Mason Hall project. Working closely with Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions Dr. Dina Byers and her team, the University has been engaged in design development. All have been integrally involved in this work to ensure their needs for this facility are being met. This project will be presented to the Finance Committee later today to request additional funding for the Dental Hygiene space. Much-needed ADA upgrades are being made in this building, as well as electrical, mechanical, structural, and finishes upgrades. Schematic floor plans were provided for Board review. These were developed in conjunction with Ross Tarrant Architects.
- Blackburn and Wrather windows are being replaced. The Wrather project is taking longer because, due to the historical nature of those windows, it takes longer to produce them. After next week's meetings, it is believed work can begin to take the hard glass out, starting with the auditorium, to complete the renovation projects in Wrather, further preserving a historic and original building on campus.
- The design work project in the Industry and Technology building has been ongoing for some time. All new building upgrades and controls are being made on the HVAC units. Air handler #5 is also being replaced and a new life-safety-emergency generator has been installed. Appreciation was expressed to all occupants of this building. It took a great deal of patience and coordination to be able to undertake this project.

- The Wellness Center HVAC replacement project, particularly for the pool unit, will be presented to the Board during the Finance Committee. The current unit is located within a step-down area on the roof of this building and it has become difficult to keep it cool enough in the summer so that it works properly. The Board has already approved funding for this project, but a change is being made to the source of funding. Funds originally approved for this project are being reallocated elsewhere and utilizing a different source of funds for the Wellness Center project will be addressed by the Finance Committee.
- The University has been chasing leaks in the Alexander Hall lower level for years. Some of those leaks were due to the grading of the site and that has now been remedied. A new front in that area has been added so it does not receive as much water when it rains and, after a lot of investigation, it was discovered that there were leaks in the piping for a roof drain. That issue is currently being addressed. Replacing the stair treads were also part of the Alexander Hall project and work has been completed on the North side of the building. The chiller is also scheduled to be replaced in this building.
- Renovations are underway as part of Phase III work in the William “Bill” Cherry Exposition Center to upgrade the public and back-of-house restrooms. Phase I work included the roof replacement and Phase II addressed electrical upgrades. Future Phase IV projects in this facility include door and window replacements.
- Construction of Jackson Hall is approximately 40 percent complete and the project continues to change rapidly. Appreciation was expressed to Space and Project Planner Bobby Koehler, Pinnacle Construction, and Dean Byers for their efforts to ensure the project runs smoothly. All are excited to see the completion of this facility.
- Ground has been broken for the Learning Commons/Residential Housing Facility, working in concert with Pinnacle Construction. Appreciation was expressed to Project Manager Chadley Gray who is leading this effort. The construction fence will be expanded over the holiday break to ensure that there are not as many vehicles in the way of equipment and supply deliveries. The fiber reroute project will also need to be completed in this facility.
- The Veterinary Sciences building will be located on the West Farm and construction documents are close to being completed. It is hoped these documents will be finalized by January 2026 so a bid can be awarded by the end of February, with anticipated construction to occur February 2026 through October 2027. Examples of floor plans to this point were provided and have actually progressed significantly, working in close coordination with Dean Parr and Dr. Hoffman, and the project is progressing well. Confirmation was provided that demolition of the Silo and Dairy Barn will be completed soon.
- The cybersecurity project will be undertaken in coordination with JRA Architecture, LLC. This work will include branding and renovations to classroom spaces so those areas work better for the programs housed in these locations. Some of the spaces will be enlarged and the project is currently in schematic design. All are anxious to get this project underway and it is hoped work can move into design development soon. This will likely represent a two-phase summer project because the program cannot do without any of its classrooms during the regular academic year.
- Director Yantko covered the Athletics’ projects that are underway in detail but the new videoboard is now up and Facilities Management will work with him to make sure it is functional. Drainage improvement work has also been completed on the field. It is clear that Director Yantko and Athletics will be keeping Facilities Management busy.
- Associate Director Lampe again expressed appreciation to her entire team that makes this work possible.

Regent Wilson added that when the University purchased Station 74, it was known fire alarm upgrades would be needed. This is not work that can be done easily since many units have individuals who live there year-round. This represents a two-phase project.

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

Program Statements

Hester Hall Aquatherm Piping Replacement, approved

Regent Wilson reported that the design of Hester Hall began in 1965 and construction was completed in 1967. The 77,658 square foot building has served as a dormitory since opening and is home to 308 Murray State students. Most recent renovations in Hester Hall involved removal of the chiller/cooling tower and installation of air-cooled chillers in 2025 and a major interior renovation including HVAC, electric, and elevator renovations in 2013.

This project consists of the demolition and replacement of all Aquatherm (brand) domestic hot and cold-water mains, branch lines, and valves, which are located on Floors 1 thru 8 and the Penthouse. The project also consists of the installing new shower fixtures in all showers and installation or repair of all ceiling and wall coverings that will be removed or damaged during

construction. Replacement would begin in the spring or summer of 2025 and be completed over two summers. The total estimated cost for this project is anticipated to be \$1,608,000, funded by proceeds of the 2013 Series A Bonds.

Assistant Vice President Youngblood brought an example of Aquatherm piping so Regents could see the product which is heat fused together, not glued. Due to the type of materials used in the product, it has insulation value and no additional insulation is required which is unlike PVC piping, but there are other issues with the product that were not realized when it was installed – such as the amount of demolition required for installation because the University cannot take a residence hall off line for an entire year. A move is now being made back to a copper-type system of piping which is what the University has in most of its buildings.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Hester Hall Aquatherm Piping Replacement project as submitted. Regent Ovey seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Hester Hall Aquatherm Piping Replacement, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement below for the Hester Hall Aquatherm Piping Replacement project below:

This project consists of the demolition and replacement of all Aquatherm (brand) domestic hot and cold-water mains, branch lines, and valves, which are located on Floors 1 thru 8 and the Penthouse. The project also consists of the installation of new shower fixtures in all showers and the installation or repair of all ceiling and wall coverings that will be removed or damaged during construction. Replacement would begin in the spring or summer of 2025 and be completed over two summers. The total estimated cost for this project is anticipated to be \$1,608,000, funded by proceeds of the 2013 Series A Bonds.

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

Department of Athletics – Baseball Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field, approved

Regent Wilson reported that Reagan Field was officially dedicated on April 15, 1989, and is named in honor of Coach Johnny Reagan who led the Thoroughbreds to 776 wins and 11 Ohio Valley Conference titles. The field held its first game on March 11, 1989. Reagan Field is located North of Stewart Stadium near the US Highway 121 bypass. Improvements to the field have been made through the years including: lights and grandstand seating in 2014, the addition of a Press Box in 2015, and installation of padding to the outfield wall and wind screening on the side walls in 2016. In 2023, an Indoor Hitting and Pitching Facility was created in the second floor of Roy Stewart Stadium. The Baseball Locker Room and team spaces are presently located on the first floor of Roy Stewart Stadium.

A Clubhouse for the Baseball Team is necessary to meet the program's growing needs. The facility will be roughly 4,000 square feet of enclosed space with covered, open-air hitting bays. The new facility is proposed to contain locker rooms, restrooms, a training room, team meeting room, small equipment storage, and Coach offices. This new facility is proposed to be located just outside the right field fence area between the field and parking lot. The total estimated cost for this new facility is anticipated to be \$3 million funded by donations through Racer Athletics.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for a new Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field as presented. Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Department of Athletics – Baseball Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement below for a new Clubhouse at Johnny Reagan Field as outlined.

A Clubhouse for the Baseball Team is necessary to meet the program's growing needs. The facility will be roughly 4,000 square feet of enclosed space with covered, open-air hitting bays. The new facility is proposed to contain locker rooms, restrooms, a training room, team meeting room, small equipment storage, and Coach offices. This new facility is proposed to be located just outside the right field fence area between the field and parking lot. The total estimated cost for this new facility is anticipated to be \$3 million funded by donations through Racer Athletics.

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

Regent Wilson reported that he recently toured the University of Kentucky campus with others and they have an enormous amount of campus construction taking place. Murray State has at least as many projects underway and may even be doing more. Appreciation was expressed to Assistant Vice President Youngblood and others for their work in this regard. They work hard to ensure students, staff, and faculty are safe. Regent Roark added that campus always looks pretty as well.

Adjournment

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

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents also adjourned for the Department of Athletics *Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse* Groundbreaking and lunch.

The Board is expected to reconvene at approximately 1 p.m., if not earlier.

Reconvene

Chair Fitch reconvened the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents at 12:30 p.m.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee

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

Chair Roark called the Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee to order at 12:30 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Update, received

Vice President Robertson and Assistant Vice President White provided an Enrollment Management and Student Success update with the following highlights:

- In terms of Fall 2025 enrollment data, there are 1,493 new First-Time Freshmen (FTF), 492 First-Time Transfers (FTT), and 420 First-Time Graduate (FTG) students for a total of 2,405 new students.
- There are 8,217 undergraduates and 1,715 graduate students for a total of 9,932 students.
- 62% of Murray State students are from Kentucky.
- MSU has students from 116 Kentucky counties, 49 states, and 60 countries.
- The first-to-second year retention rate is 77.5% – the highest in five years (with increases over the same timeframe).
- The University now has more FTF from the 18-county service region than in the past six years.
- During the last eight years, the University experienced the second highest total enrollment of 9,932 students.

- MSU also has the most international students compared to the last 23 years of collection of that data.
- In the last seven years, the University's increase in FTF is 13.3%; increase in FTG is almost 20%, increase in international students is 165%, increase in graduate students is 30%, and the total enrollment increase is 5%.
- Among the FTF student population, 13% were Valedictorians. This is the highest percentage in the last seven years.
- 70% of the FTF class has college credit prior to the start of their freshman year. This is the highest percentage recorded.
- Enrollment efforts for Spring 2026 are going very well and Winter and Spring comparisons were provided with the percentage change between Winter 2025 and 2024 of -18%.
- As of yesterday, Spring 2026 enrollment was 7,827 students who have registered. Last year at this time the number was 7,674 – 153 more students. This is indicative of the very active Recapture Campaign.
- Many efforts are currently geared toward Fall 2026 enrollment and recruiters are working hard. Last year, the University's applicant pool was down by approximately 20%, but the yield rate was up 22%. This year, the University's applicant pool at one point was up almost 40% and that upward trend continues but not at that level. For Fall 2026, if the yield rate can be maintained, this will amount to another record freshman class which is atypical in higher education. First-Time Freshman applications are up 21.34%, and up by 20.92% in the 18-county service region. Associate Provost Fister provides invaluable assistance to the recruitment process with her analysis work to determine which of those students who are most likely to attend. One indicator utilized as part of this process are new student housing applications and that number is currently up.
- The number of students who have registered for Racer Nation Orientation is also a key indicator and work to collect that information will begin in January and provide additional data in this regard.
- Appreciation was expressed to the academic departments that are working hand-in-hand with Enrollment Management. The deadline for students to apply for the Presidential Scholarship was December 1 and the regular scholarship deadline is February 2, 2026. Presidential Scholarship Interview Day is the last Saturday in January. Typically, there is one admitted student activity but a different opportunity is being rolled out working in close coordination with the academic departments and this initiative was outlined with the goal of providing a series of events.
- For Fall, all are aggressively working on building the incoming class and staff have participated in over 500 recruitment events both on and off campus. There was a record number of Racer Day participants on November 15 with 474 who registered and 305 participants who showed up with their families. Also, during Fall 2025, 53 on-site visits have been completed with 1,608 participants. Two additional visits are upcoming. During this period, a lot of Athletic events were available for students and participation was encouraged. For Fall 2024, 42 on-site visits were completed with 1,400 participants. The goal is to visit every high school in the 18-county service region, as well as some other schools in key locations. Work is currently underway to develop strategies to enhance international student recruitment and domestic graduate recruitment. Efforts are continually underway to further provide activities and increase the University's online and social media presence in this regard.
- Off-campus Admissions visits last year were outlined and efforts are also being undertaken to enhance opportunities in this regard. The largest challenges right now are in relation to international and graduate students and new strategies are currently being developed to address both of these populations. The major push across the country is for direct admissions and in a sense Murray State does this already. When students apply to Murray State, if they meet MSU requirements, they are admitted on site. They can then self-report their GPA. The University does not need test scores right away unless they fall below Murray State's GPA requirement. Many companies are making a lot of money off of colleges and universities with the direct admissions program. Murray State going into the schools and admitting those students has been a better method for the University.
- Five Fall 2025 Career Fairs were held in August, September, and October and included the following:
 - Hire-A-Racer (on-campus and part-time fair) – 18 organizations and 233 students participated.
 - All Majors/Grad School – 87 organizations and 363 students participated.
 - STEM/Occupational Safety and Health – 136 organizations and 429 students participated.
 - Agriculture – 44 organizations and 179 students participated.
 - Teacher – 35 districts and 36 students participated.
 Director Matt Purdy and the Career Services team do an outstanding job working with students to help them find jobs and internships and that is a significant component toward landing their first job.
- The 7th First-Generation Celebration was held on November 5 with a larger number of attendees than in previous years. Appreciation was expressed to the Office of Development and the MSU Foundation for funding the purchase of new First-gen t-shirts. Appreciation was expressed to Jennifer Smith, Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Success, who leads this program.

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

Adjournment

The Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Finance Committee

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

Finance Chair Meinschein called the Finance Committee to order at 12:50 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Projects, approved

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that Delegation of Authority Item #20 states that “...Prior to moving forward, all projects, including price contracts related to capital projects, costing over \$500,000 and up to the threshold denoted by Kentucky statute, should be reviewed by the Board Chair and the President and a determination made in terms of those projects requiring further Board approval.” A schedule listing new projects or projects with a total estimated cost of over \$500,000 was provided to the Board. Projects include the CFSB Center Lower Bowl seating and Club Space; Reagan Baseball Field infield artificial turf installation; Stewart Stadium miscellaneous Athletics’ renovations and Wellness Center refresh of building and equipment; Hester Hall replacement of Aquatherm water mains, branches, and valves; Wilson Hall replacement of roof decking and flat roof; Bauernfeind Wellness Center pool HVAC unit replacement and BAS upgrades; and Mason Hall renovations for the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and additional funding to include the Dental Hygiene program space. All projects have also been discussed during the presentations made throughout the day.

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

Full Board Action – Projects, approved

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

(See Attachment #11)

Personal Services Contracts, approved

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that Item #11 of the Delegation of Authority stipulates that the Board: “...approve all Personal Services Contracts totaling more than \$50,000. The Board will be notified of all Personal Services Contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000 before they are submitted to the Legislative Research Commission. Upon review, individual Board members may request that these be held for approval at the next Board meeting.” There are three Personal Services Contracts on the listing provided – renewal of audit services contract for Fiscal Year 2026; Global Partnerships Simplified for global recruitment, branding, and engagement; and EdSights, retention and persistence platform – and these require Board of Regents approval.

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

Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts, approved

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

(See Attachment #12)

Surplus Property Disposition – Food Truck, approved

Vice Chair Meinschein reported that the University owns a 2013 Ford E-150 Cargo Box Van which was utilized in dining operations. The original value of the vehicle was \$155,189 with a useful life of five (5) years. The asset has been fully depreciated. The truck was used as the Pony Express Food Truck from 2013 to 2023. It was taken out of service and replaced with a smaller, alternative vehicle in 2023 to provide the needed services. Estimates of value for the truck range from \$20,000 to \$35,000 based on sales of similar equipment. The University is recommending posting the truck for sale at a minimum of \$35,000 for 21 days. If this does not attract buyers, the minimum will be reduced to \$27,500 for another 21 days. At that point, if there are no interested buyers, the minimum will be reduced to \$20,000.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the sale of the 2013 Ford E-150 Cargo Box Van considered surplus property per the requirements of Kentucky Revised Statute 45A.365 for the minimum of no lower than \$35,000, with minimum reduction to \$20,000 based on the timing reflected above. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Surplus Property Disposition – Food Truck, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the sale of the 2013 Ford E-150 Cargo Box Van considered surplus property per the requirements of Kentucky Revised Statute 45A.365 for the minimum of no lower than \$35,000, with minimum reduction to \$20,000 based on the timing reflected above. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Bond Issuance – General Receipts Bonds, 2026 Series A, Repayment Sources Update, received

Assistant Vice President – Finance Cain reported that on December 13, 2024, the Board of Regents approved the Program Statement for the CFSB Seating and Club Space project which included the issuance of University bonds to finance the project with the bond repayment to be made through private fundraising (cash gifts and formal pledge commitments).

This desired renovation is expected to include altering the Lower Bowl by creating a permanent structure on all sides of the venue, with the exception of the student section side (West end), keeping that area moveable for concerts, Commencement, etc. Within the scope of the project, improved seating will be installed with the desire to locate seats closer to the court for a more intimate environment, as well as improving ADA accessibility and adding premium seating options. The addition of a Club Space under the seating structure would enhance the fan experience and deliver premium services for fans and spectators. Additional shelled spaces would create the possibility for future expansion areas for the Department of Athletics.

On June 6, 2025, the Board approved the authorization, issuance, and sale of no more than \$15,000,000 and no more than a 20-year term in General Receipts Bonds, 2026 Series A based upon the repayment sources of cash gifts and formal pledge commitments. After internal review and consultation with the University's Bond Advisors, the repayment sources are being modified to include cash gifts, formal pledges, and premium seating commitments as of the date of issuance. The bids for these bonds will be reviewed by University administrators and counsel, the Bond Financial Advisor (Baird), the Bond Attorney (Dinsmore & Shohl), and the Commonwealth

of Kentucky's Office of Financial Management. The bonds are expected to sell in January 2026 and taking into consideration the best timing considering market conditions, but before the actual project begins.

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

Adjournment

The Finance Committee adjourned at 1 p.m.

Legislative and Economic Development Committee

Matthew Price – Chair

Andy Belcher

Leon Owens

Tom Waldrop

Gary ZeRuth

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

Legislative Update, received

President Patterson provided an update on the 2025 Interim Legislative Session and federal matters with the following highlights:

- This legislative report provides an update on recent legislative activities at the state and federal level since the last Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents, focusing on issues with significant implications for Murray State University.
- Since the last update, President Patterson has been intentional with fostering and building relationships with key constituents – representatives, senators, and members of the West Kentucky delegation. An example of this work would be on Saturday, November 1 when the University invited Representative Steven Rudy, Majority Floor Leader, to toss the coin for the beginning of the Murray State University Football game. Representative Mary Beth Imes and her husband Calloway County Judge-Executive Kenny Imes also attended the game. This provided an opportunity for Board members in attendance to interact with key representatives as it relates to the University's priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session.
- On November 3 – 6, President Patterson and Vice Chair Meinschein made a trip to Washington, DC, along with the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce delegation. Murray State University's legislative priorities were discussed in separate meetings, as were those for the Murray Independent School District, and Murray and Calloway County. He believes the group became closer in terms of understanding each other's priorities and how all can better serve the county, city, University, and the community. President Patterson is very encouraged and discussion has occurred around making this an annual event in terms of going to Washington, DC, with one unified voice.
- At the state level, the Legislative Session will begin in earnest on January 6, 2026, and the administration will continue to advocate for the University's priorities. The Murray State University legislative priorities brochure that will be used during the upcoming Legislative Session was shown and Regents were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the document if they have not done so already. Appreciation was expressed to the Office of the President and student workers and Executive Director Touney and his team, for mailing this brochure out to not only the West Kentucky Legislative Caucus but to all Senators and Representatives throughout the Commonwealth. Murray State University's top four priorities are:
 - Priority #1 – Asset preservation funds (\$48.6 million) which will be used to address electrical and mechanical systems and replace and upgrade HVAC systems, fire alarms, and emergency generators.
 - Priority #2 – Construct a new emergency vet and teaching clinic (\$47.2 million). This would obviously be a teaching and learning facility for students, but would also be used for after-hours care of large animal livestock and other animals. This project had previously been the University's number one priority.
 - Priority #3 – Educational and General Funds (\$100 million) that would allow the University to complete ADA upgrades, restroom improvements, life-safety items such as generators, plumbing, and continued electrical upgrades.
 - Priority #4 – Construction of the University of Louisville – Murray State University Medical Sciences building (\$60 million). This funding would be used to construct a facility on the Murray State campus and allow for the purchase of much-needed medical equipment for teaching and student learning in that facility. Dovetailing with this, Academic Affairs staff are working

diligently with UofL in terms of a college arrangement for students to learn, grow, and develop at Murray but also be able to transition to the University of Louisville.

- Some Regents will be asked to make the trip to Frankfort soon to help impress upon legislators the importance of these legislative priorities. This represents a biennial budget year and there are going to be tough decisions made with regard to state funding and appropriations. The tone and tenor of what President Patterson has been hearing is that the University may receive some asset preservation funds but it is not expected it will be able to secure funding for a new building. The University must be mindful of this as visits are made in Frankfort. At the same time, the University wants to be able to take care of its needs and being granted the requested funding would allow that to occur.
- On Sunday, January 4, 2026, with the help of Senior Executive Coordinator Hunt and Racer Athletics, West Kentucky Legislator Appreciation Day has been scheduled in the CFSB Center for a home double-header Basketball game against Bradley University. The West Kentucky delegation has been invited to attend the game and reception prior. President Patterson would also like to have as many Regents present as possible in attendance for this event.
- On January 8, President Patterson will be traveling to Frankfort for scheduled meetings with Ronny Pryor of Capitol Solutions, and that evening he will be attending the 31st Annual Chamber Day Dinner in Lexington, Kentucky. He will return to Frankfort on January 15 attending Kentucky's Higher Education Leaders Open House at the Frankfort Country Club. The other seven public universities will also be in attendance at this event. The universities have been asked not to talk about legislative priorities but to have tables with displays for individuals in attendance to peruse and see what is going on at the individual universities. Side conversations are not welcome during this event and all should be mindful of this requirement. On January 29 – 30, President Patterson will be attending the Council on Postsecondary Education Board meeting and the joint meeting of the CPE, university Presidents, and the Board of Student Body Presidents. President Patterson is scheduled to present on the University Strategic Agenda to the full CPE Board on January 30. It is anticipated that Murray State will also receive a decision on the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine during this meeting. This has not officially been communicated but through conversations with CPE President Aaron Thompson it seems like this decision will be made at the January meeting. The University has been provided with a litany of questions to answer and also to resubmit Murray State's response to the Work Group. Dean Parr, Senior Associate Provost Pervine, Assistant Vice President Cain, and many others are putting in due diligence hoping that the University will receive the appropriate response not only so it is able to move forward and break ground on a new facility but, more importantly, have the degree approved in a timely manner.
- The biennial budget is important in terms of state funding for the University. Appreciation was expressed to Associate Provost Fister who recently had an opportunity to meet with Representative James Tipton as they had a very spirited conversation. President Patterson is trying to use all of his resources in this regard. Representative Tipton and Associate Provost Fister did talk about the University's legislative priorities and performance funding as part of their conversation. It is important for this open communication to continue with the individuals who make decisions in Frankfort.

In terms of DEI legislation, President Patterson and General Counsel Miller had a meeting with General Counsel Christopher Thacker from the Kentucky Attorney General's Office regarding questions they had on the University's compliance report. This meeting occurred in October and answers were diligently provided for their questions. A supplemental report has also been submitted. It is hoped this will be met with positive feedback. General Counsel Miller reported that the supplemental report is posted on the President's Office webpage if Regents would like an opportunity to review it.

President Patterson reported that on the federal level, in August/September several Murray State University staff were impacted through the TRIO Upward Bound Math and Science and Student Support Services (SSS) programs in terms of their non-continuation moving forward. President Patterson is proud of the University for stepping up to support the nine impacted individuals. The administration worked diligently to keep these individuals employed or to find a soft landing for them, whether it be at the University or externally. He is happy to report that seven of the nine have landed new employment. The administration will continue to monitor progress federally as it relates to the TRIO Upward Bound and SSS programs. Even though these individuals are paid through federal funds, they are still part of the Murray State family and deserved the University's protection. Human Resources played an instrumental role in this process – Director Courtney Hixon before her departure – and now Associate Director Haley Stedelin who stepped in to help navigate employment for these individuals. In going through the process of transitioning these individuals to the University, President Patterson learned that Murray State actually has a policy in place for those who are employed utilizing grant monies. If that grant concludes or ends and they are hired by the University, their service has to end and then be restarted. He does not like this policy and will be working in the future to change it. Proposed revisions will then be brought

before the Board for consideration. If these individuals have earned the time through service and years committed for the work, they deserve to be taken care of in the same manner any other University employee.

There are still a lot of unknowns with regard to the Big Beautiful Bill. It is known that it will present major shifts in higher education impacting universities such as Murray State University. Even stricter accountability as it relates to the earning test for academic programs and new student loan gaps will develop with the Grad Plus Loan program going away. When Enrollment Management staff begin to talk about decreases in graduate enrollment, this is an indicator. A funding source is being taken away from these individuals that they traditionally would have to invest in themselves and continue lifelong, continuous learning. Updates will be provided to the Board as more is learned about how this will continue to impact students, the region, and the Commonwealth.

Work will continue to engage the government relations teams and state and federal leaders to promote the University's priorities. He is always grateful to the Commonwealth and the General Assembly for their continuing support of Murray State University. They are the University's largest donors and all must be very careful, intentional, and strategic in their relationships and partnerships at the state and federal level.

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

Adjournment

The Legislative and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Marketing and Community Engagement Committee

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

Chair Ovey called the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee to order at 1:15 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Gift-in-Kind – Wheels Up Air Travel – Department of Athletics, received, accepted, and approved

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that the Department of Athletics received the gift of air travel from Murray, Kentucky, to Kingsport, Tennessee, (roundtrip) to transport President Patterson, Director Yantko, and others to the Murray State University vs. East Tennessee State University Football game on August 30, 2025.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept, and approve the donation of roundtrip air travel for the Murray State University vs. East Tennessee State University Football game on August 30, 2025. The gift is valued at \$24,502.56 and is from Tommy Draffen of Palos Verdes, California. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Gift-in-Kind – Wheels Up Air Travel – Department of Athletics, received, accepted, and approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, receive, accept, and approve the donation of roundtrip air travel for the Murray State University vs. East Tennessee State University Football game on August 30, 2025. The gift is valued at \$24,502.56 and is from Tommy Draffen of Palos Verdes, California. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Chair Fitch publicly thanked Tommy Draffen who is a wonderful individual and does a lot for Murray State University. He is a Racer and bleeds blue and gold. Regent Waldrop added that Mr. Draffen is also from Mayfield, Kentucky.

Naming Opportunities:

William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office, approved

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that William “Max” McCuiston was a lifelong resident of Calloway County and a respected member of the Murray community. Known for his strong work ethic, integrity, and dedication to service, Max owned and operated Max’s 641 Citgo Gas Station for more than 40 years. He also served the community as a member of the Murray Fire Department and was an active member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church. Max and his wife, Sarah Sykes McCuiston, were married for 48 years and raised three sons – William Michael, Mark, and Monty – all of whom continue to call Murray home. His legacy of faith, hard work, and generosity lives on through his family and their deep commitment to Murray State University.

To honor his father’s life and values, Monty and Rebecca McCuiston have made a \$60,000 commitment to support the Men’s Basketball program and to name the *William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office*. Monty, who continues to operate Max’s 641 Towing and Service, was recognized as the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2019 for his leadership and community service. Through his nonprofit, Towing for Toys, he has raised significant funds to support local children and families – continuing the McCuiston family’s legacy of giving back. Monty and Rebecca are also passionate supporters of Murray State University. Their enthusiasm for Racer Athletics is evident through their consistent attendance at games, both home and away, and their strong advocacy for the success of student-athletes and Coaches. This naming is a meaningful tribute to William “Max” McCuiston, honoring his lifelong example of service and community spirit, and recognizing a family whose generosity and pride continue to strengthen the Murray State tradition.

In recognition of McCuiston’s contributions to the Murray community, it is recommended that one of the Men’s Basketball Assistant Coach Offices in the *Gene Wells Ray Center* be named the *William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office*. There will be signage honoring Mr. McCuiston’s legacy placed at the office entrance as a lasting reminder of his impact and as inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Belcher moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of one of the Men’s Basketball Assistant Coach Offices in the *Gene Wells Ray Center* as the *William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office*. There will be signage honoring Mr. McCuiston’s legacy placed at the office entrance as a lasting reminder of his impact and as inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of one of the Men’s Basketball Assistant Coach Offices in the *Gene Wells Ray Center* as the *William “Max” McCuiston Assistant Coach Office*. There will be signage honoring Mr. McCuiston’s legacy placed at the office entrance as a lasting reminder of his impact and as inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff. Regent Khatib seconded and the motion carried.

Sandra Hartmann Press Box, approved

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that Sandra Hartmann was a 1975 graduate of Murray State University with a degree in geography. She used her educational experience at Murray State to enjoy a successful career, which resulted in her recent retirement as Senior Payroll

Administrator at Colgate-Palmolive Co. She is an avid supporter of women's sports, and helps run three different ladies golf leagues in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Bernot and President Patterson were able to visit with Sandra at the Racer Spirit Listening and Learning event held in Louisville.

Sandra Hartmann has generously donated \$500,000 for a new Press Box for Murray State Softball at Racer Field. The investment toward this project and her long-time support of Murray State women's sports is to provide current and future student-athletes opportunities and experiences that were not available to her when she was growing up. In recognition of Sandra Hartmann's exceptional generosity, decades of commitment to Murray State, and unwavering passion for athletics and student-athlete success, naming of the new Press Box at Racer Field, the Sandra Hartmann Press Box, is being recommended. A recognition plaque honoring her legacy will be placed at the entrance of the Press Box to inspire future generations of Racers.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of the Press Box for Murray State Softball as the *Sandra Hartmann Press Box* to be commemorated with signage in appreciation and recognition of Sandra Hartmann's generosity and commitment to Murray State University, Murray State Athletics, and MSU student-athletes. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Sandra Hartmann Press Box, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of the Press Box for Murray State Softball as the *Sandra Hartmann Press Box* to be commemorated with signage in appreciation and recognition of Sandra Hartmann's generosity and commitment to Murray State University, Murray State Athletics, and MSU student-athletes. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Fitch Family Head Coach Suite, approved

Assistant Vice President Bernot reported that Dr. Robert "Robbie" Fitch, a Murray State University graduate, is the owner of a local dental practice in Murray. He earned his Doctorate in Dental Medicine from the University of Louisville and has practiced in Murray since 2007. Dr. Fitch is a member of the American Dental Association, the Kentucky Dental Association, and the Purchase Area Dental Society. In addition to his dental career, Dr. Fitch is the founder and principal luthier of Hearthstone Guitar Co. Specializing in electric guitars, his instruments have been featured by artists on *The Tonight Show* (twice), *Saturday Night Live*, and *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. They have also appeared onstage at the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium, The Troubadour, and during two separate performances at the 2019 Country Music Association Awards. Dr. Fitch regularly supports charitable organizations by donating his handcrafted guitars for auction, benefitting causes such as Murray/Calloway County Special Olympics and Murray State University's *A Taste of the Arts*, collectively raising thousands of dollars.

Dr. Fitch has served on the Murray State University Board of Regents since his appointment by Governor Andy Beshear in 2021. He served as Vice Chair of the Board in 2024–25 and was elected Chair for the 2025–26 academic year. His wife, Mary (Owler) Fitch, is also a Murray State graduate, earning a Bachelor of Science in Advertising in 2004 from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications. Dr. Fitch met Mary in historic John W. Carr Hall (Carr Health Building) during a scuba class while they were students at Murray State. They now reside in Murray with their four children—Wesley, Jackson, Roman, and Mabel.

In honor of the family's long-standing support and appreciation for Murray State Baseball, the Fitch family has made a generous commitment of \$50,000 to the program. In recognition of their philanthropy and their contributions to the Murray community, it is recommended that the Head Coach's Office inside the Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse be designated as the *Fitch Family Head Coach Suite*. Upon approval, a recognition plaque honoring the Fitch family's legacy will be placed at the office entrance as a lasting tribute to their impact and as an

inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff. Regent Ovey reported that one of Dr. Fitch's guitars has now made it to Oakhurst.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of the Head Coach's Office inside the Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse as the *Fitch Family Head Coach Suite*. There will be signage honoring the Fitch family's legacy placed at the office entrance as a lasting tribute to their impact and as inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff. Regent Price seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action –Fitch Family Head Coach Suite, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs, and Activities, approve the naming of the Head Coach's Office inside the Jim and Sue Cash Baseball Clubhouse as the *Fitch Family Head Coach Suite*. There will be signage honoring the Fitch family's legacy placed at the office entrance as a lasting tribute to their impact and as inspiration for future generations of Racer Coaches, student-athletes, and staff. Regent Owens seconded and the motion carried.

Chair Fitch and his family received a round of applause.

Adjournment

The Marketing and Community Engagement Committee adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Personnel Changes

Appointment of Dean – Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business, approved

Chair Fitch reported that Dr. David Eaton, former Dean of the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business, returned to a 9-month, full-time teaching position in the Department of Economics and Finance on January 1, 2025. Dr. R. Heath Keller has served as Interim Dean since that time. An internal search for this position was conducted with Dr. Keller being chosen as the successful applicant for the position. The search process included question and answer meetings with the college's Department Chairs and Directors; faculty and staff; as well as students, the campus community, collegiate Deans, and staff from the Office of the Provost.

Dr. Keller earned a doctorate from Southern Illinois University in 2011. He began his teaching career at Murray State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration. During his tenure at Murray State University, he has progressed to his current rank of Professor. Dr. Keller also served as the Department Chair of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration from August 2017 until he accepted the role of Interim Dean. This appointment has the support of the faculty and staff from the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the appointment of R. Heath Keller as Dean of the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business, effective January 1, 2026, at a fiscal year salary of \$196,000. Regent Belcher seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Keller received a round of applause.

Appointment of Dean – College of Humanities and Fine Arts, approved

Chair Fitch reported that Professor David Balthrop, former Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, returned to a 9-month, full-time teaching position in the Department of Global

Languages and Theatre Arts on January 1, 2025. Professor Nicole Hand has served as Interim Dean since that time. An internal search for this position was conducted with Professor Hand being chosen as the successful applicant for the position. The search process included question and answer meetings with the college's Department Chairs and Directors; faculty and staff; as well as students, the campus community, collegiate Deans, and executive staff from the Office of the Provost.

Professor Hand earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Miami in 1999 and joined Murray State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Design. Professor Hand served the College of Humanities and Fine Arts as Assistant Dean from 2018-23, Associate Dean from 2023-24, and accepted the role of Interim Dean January 1, 2025. This appointment has the support of the faculty and staff from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the appointment of Professor Nicole Hand as Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, effective January 1, 2026, at a fiscal year salary of \$160,000. Regent Roark seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Dean Hand received a round of applause.

Appointment of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, approved

Chair Fitch reported that Murray State University recently concluded the recruitment process for its new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The firm of Greenwood Asher and Associates assisted in a national search that produced many exceptional candidates. Dr. Rose Marie Ward rose to the top of the applicant pool, and he is pleased to seek Board approval to extend an offer to Dr. Ward as the University's next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Ward is an accomplished academic leader, faculty member, and administrator. She has an extensive research record, is student-centered, and has been recognized for her dedication to teaching and mentoring. Dr. Ward is a vibrant and engaged leader that will make immediate and long-lasting impacts at Murray State University.

Regent Ovey moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the appointment of Dr. Rose Marie Ward as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at an annual salary of \$250,000. President Patterson reported that the search represented a collaborative campus effort and a national search process was utilized with Greenwood Asher and Associates leading the effort. The Search Committee did a lot of laboring and held significant discussions, but came to a consensus on the successful candidate. He agreed with the Search Committee's recommendation wholeheartedly. He has been in conversations with Dr. Ward multiple times and she is ecstatic about the opportunity to work alongside the Deans, Academic Affairs, Office of the President, and the Board of Regents. Dr. Ward will visit Murray in January and her start date will be February 2, 2026. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Belcher, yes; Mr. Khatib, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Mr. Owens, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; Dr. ZeRuth, yes; and Dr. Fitch, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rose Marie Ward received a round of applause.

Policy Changes

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

Chair Fitch reported that earlier this year, the Commonwealth of Kentucky adopted Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55). This Resolution requires the University to take certain actions to address antisemitism. The draft policy was developed by General Counsel Miller and incorporates the

requirements contained in the Resolution and the University is required to have a policy in place by January 1, 2026. General Counsel Miller reported that all universities are required by the Legislature to follow this requirement and the policy presented to the Board for approval reflects the requirements of SJR 55. The Board of Regents approved the first reading of this policy at the Quarterly Meeting in August.

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

(See Attachment #13)

Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.6 – University Standing Committee System – University Tenure Committee Revisions, approved

Chair Fitch reported that with the creation of the Post-Tenure Review Policy and revisions to the Tenure Policy, review of the University Tenure Committee commenced to ensure alignment with policy and procedure. General Counsel Miller; Associate Provost Fister, and Dr. Michael Bordieri, Professor of Psychology and Faculty Senate President, presented the revisions to the *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.6 – University Standing Committee System – University Tenure Committee*. Post-tenure review has been in process for two years and has represented a true shared governance effort to enhance academic excellence while also being mindful of academic freedom, ensuring clear standards, and ensuring a process is in place.

Two items were included in the eBoard book. The first addresses the University Tenure Committee. Due to the change in policy, there also needed to be a change in that Committee structure. The second item addresses needed *Faculty Handbook* revisions to include a new *Post-Tenure Review Policy, Section 2.19*. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Bordieri, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Deans and Chairs, and the faculty for the work they have undertaken. Dr. Bordieri led a masterful process which included meetings with focus groups throughout the endeavor. It has not been an easy structure to manage, but the final vote was almost unanimous in the Faculty Senate and that speaks volumes.

Dr. Bordieri reported that the Faculty Senate is not the sole author of this work but was the coordinating body and engaged the entire campus-wide community in a shared governance conversation for slightly over two years. This work involved multiple rounds of feedback from the faculty, as well as consultations with Department Chairs, academic Deans, and the Office of the Provost. More recently, conversations have occurred with the Office of General Counsel. The result of this process is a policy that not only meets the legislative mandate but also embodies the spirit of academic excellence, along with faculty development. He is pleased to be present today on behalf of the Faculty Senate to support the policy changes and also the shared governance process at large.

Changes in the University Tenure Committee consist of the following:

- 1) Updating the Committee's name to include Post-Tenure Review;
- 2) Adding new and updating existing items to include post-tenure review procedures;
- 3) Adding the President of the Faculty Senate, or their designee in the same capacity, as an ex-officio, non-voting party of the membership;
- 4) Allowing a tenured faculty member in intensive development to select a temporary additional member of the Committee from any full-time tenured faculty member within or outside their college to participate and vote in the review of intensive development activation requests, intensive development plans, and sanctions that involve the faculty member who selected them, and shall not Chair the Committee or participate in any consideration of appeals.

Regent ZeRuth confirmed that the faculty supports the proposed revisions. Associate Provost Fister added that Riza Marjadi, Academic Systems Analyst in the Provost's Office, developed a Dashboard for this work to make the process easier for Chairs and others to follow along and ensure all were aware of recommendations being made. The Dashboard will also eventually

make it easier for the legislators to understand. This work was part of House Bill 424 last year and having this in place as of July 1 will allow for evaluation to begin in the spring. President Patterson thanked everyone who participated in this process which illustrates true shared governance. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the changes to the University Tenure Committee within *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.6 – University Standing Committee System*, effective July 1, 2026. Regent Belcher seconded and the motion carried.

Faculty Handbook Revisions (Includes New Post-Tenure Review Policy, Section 2.19 (final reading), approved)

Chair Fitch reported that in the Spring 2025 Legislative Session, Kentucky Revised Statute 164.230 was amended to include "...failure to meet performance and productivity requirements..." as a basis for the removal of a President, professor, or teacher regardless of status. A post-tenure review process must be established and provided to all faculty members by January 1, 2026, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

The Faculty Senate, through their Executive Committee, developed the needed policy and procedures in collaboration with the Deans, Chairs, faculty, Provost's Office, and Office of General Counsel. The *Post-Tenure Review Policy* will be included in *Section 2.19* of the *Faculty Handbook*. The policy revisions to be included in the *Faculty Handbook*, including the new *Post-Tenure Review Policy*, require approval by the Board. The policies being added/revised are as follows:

- **Section 1.5.3.2 – University Tenure Committee**
- **Section 2.4.1 – Personnel Files for Ranked Faculty**
- **Section 2.5 – Annual Evaluation Policy**
- **Section 2.8.6 – Dismissal for Cause**
- **Section 2.16.1 – Salary Policy**
- **Section 2.17.3 – Limitations**
- **Section 2.17.4 – Annual Evaluation**
- **Section 2.19 (new) – Post-Tenure Review**
- **Section 2.19 Appendix (new) – Post-Tenure Review Procedures and Implementation Guidelines**

Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the *Faculty Handbook* revisions, including the new *Post-Tenure Review Policy – Section 2.19*, with the policy being effective July 1, 2026. It is recommended that the Board of Regents waive a second reading of these policies to comply with the statute. Vice Chair Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

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

Regent Khatib reported that the current Constitution of the Murray State University Student Government Association was reviewed last academic year by the Judicial Board to determine what the definition of a student was in relation to SGA elections. The Judicial Board determined that the definition of a student eligible to vote in an SGA election was the same as a student eligible for SGA office (part-time enrollment status and above). The Judicial Board recommended that the Student Senate review the SGA Constitution and provide clarification. The included Student Senate Bill (Bill 90-25-B1) which was passed by the Senate unanimously on September 3, 2025, and the student body by a plurality vote on September 17, 2025. This amendment will clarify voting eligibility to anyone taking a course at Murray State, excluding dual enrolled high school students, faculty, and staff.

The SGA Constitution currently does not require students to have any background or knowledge of student government before running for an executive officer position. The current SGA executive officers and Student Senate believe that it is important to have previous knowledge or involvement in a branch of SGA before running for an executive officer position. The included Student Senate Bill (Bill 90-25-B2) was passed by the Senate unanimously on October 29, 2025,

and the student body by a plurality vote on November 25, 2025. This amendment will require any student that wishes to run for SGA President/Student Regent and Executive Vice President to have one academic year of involvement in any branch of SGA to qualify for those positions. The amendment will also require one semester of SGA involvement for the Vice President of Administration and the Vice President of Student Connections.

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

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

Regent Waldrop stated it has been indicated that in order to become an officer a student would have to have one year of involvement with SGA and asked Regent Khatib to describe what that involvement entails. Regent Khatib reported that simply being involved in SGA and attending meetings satisfies this requirement. Prior to this change, students only had to have upper-class standing and no involvement with SGA was even required to be able to pursue an officer position. Regent Roark suggested that SGA may need to define involvement. General Counsel Miller stated he does not want the students to have to redo this process because this is the recommendation they are presenting to the Board. He indicated that any changes that need to be made to the language can be addressed as part of the ongoing process, if needed. Regent Roark indicated it is now on record that SGA thinks involvement means attending meetings. Confirmation was provided that after today, a student in high school cannot run for an SGA office. Regent Khatib indicated that requirement was changed last year because previously they could run for an officer position even if they were in a high school. Confirmation was provided that the Residential Colleges Association is part of SGA but they amend their own Constitution and consideration might need to be made in regard to the service requirement there as well.

Regent Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the changes to the Student Government Association Constitution as outlined in the attached documents and approve *Board of Regents Policy Manual – Section 6.9 – Student Government Association Constitution* revisions (first reading) – to reflect those changes. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Supplemental Materials, received

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

- A. “Good News” Report (Fall 2025)
- B. Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (July – September 2025)
- C. Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report
 - Awards by College/Department
 - Awards by Funding Type
 - Awards by Funding Source

Other Business/Adjournment

President Patterson reported that for Regents who were unable to attend the Nursing Topping Out ceremony, Senior Executive Coordinator Hunt has beam replicas to hand out.

Regent Owens expressed appreciation to President Patterson for his extensive Report of the President and the legislative update. The Board appreciates receiving this information. The Deans who were promoted today were congratulated. President Patterson indicated earlier that the compensation structure for the Deans and Chairs is also being reviewed and that work is very much needed. President Patterson confirmed that a group of individuals has been assembled to have this very conversation. One of his priorities is investing in people and he is very serious and genuine about work in this regard, with support of the Board of Regents. It is currently unknown what Fiscal Year 2026 will look like but he has called out to the Deans regarding their budget priorities and that information has now been shared. Meetings will begin next week to start chipping away in terms of what the University can and cannot do. There will be honest conversation and discussion around this priority area. Regent Roark expressed appreciation to President Patterson for his visibility and willingness to have these conversations. President Patterson also reported that he has officially launch the “Find President Patterson” campaign for the spring and a QR code is now available on his Instagram account.

Chair Fitch reminded the Board about Commencement tomorrow and wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday. He indicated there being no further business to come before the Board, he would entertain a motion for adjournment. Regent Roark so moved, seconded by Vice Chair Meinschein, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Quarterly and Committee meetings of the Board of Regents adjourned at 1:56 p.m.



Jill Hunt
Secretary – Board of Regents



Robbie Fitch
Chair – Board of Regents

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