

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents
Murray State University
December 13, 2024**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents met on Friday, December 13, 2024, in Quarterly and Committee Session in the Jesse Stuart Room in Pogue Library on the Murray State University main campus. Chair Leon Owens called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those joining in person and via livestream. Secretary Jill Hunt called roll and the following Board members were present: Robbie Fitch, Virginia Gray, Brendan Hawkins, David Meinschein, Leon Owens, Matt Price, Emily Roark, Melony Shemberger, Tom Waldrop and David Wilson. Absent: G. L. Ovey.

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair Owens

Roll Call

Secretary Hunt

Public Participation

Chair Owens

Consent Agenda

**Chair Owens/President
Jackson**

- A. Minutes**
 - 1) Minutes of the Board of Regents Annual Retreat on September 12, 2024***
 - 2) Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings on September 13, 2024***
 - 3) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on October 1, 2024***
 - 4) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on October 23, 2024***
 - 5) Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on November 20, 2024***
- B. Report of the Registrar (August and December 2024 Conferral of Degrees)***
- C. Audit and Compliance Committee (For Information Only)**
 - 1) Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report for Year-to-Date Ended September 30, 2024**
- D. Finance Committee**
 - 1) State Endowment Match Program Annual Report***
 - 2) Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures (For Information Only)**

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens

Report of the President

President Jackson

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

**Sr. Vice President FAS
Dudley**

Committee Reports/Recommendations

- A. Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities** **Regent Shemberger**
1) **Racer Academy and Special High School Admission Requirements Revision***
2) **New Academic Degree Program – Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene***
3) **Academic Program Changes***
- B. Athletics** **Chair Owens**
- C. Audit and Compliance** **Regent Waldrop**
1) **Audited Financial Statements – General***
a. **Report to Governance on the Results of Annual Independent Audit**
b. **Required Auditor Communications (includes Representation Letter)**
c. **Independence/Peer Review Letter**
d. **House Bill 622 Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**
e. **Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**
f. **General Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**
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, 2024**
3) **Annual Audit Reports – WKMS-FM***
a. **Required Auditor Communications**
b. **Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended June 30, 2024**
4) **Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025***
5) **Annual Audit Contract Extension***
- D. Buildings and Grounds** **Regent Roark**
1) **Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update (For Information Only)**
2) **Program Statements**
a. **CFSB Center Seating and Club Space***
b. **Biology Building (Science Complex) Boiler Replacement***
c. **Curris Center Roof Replacement***
- E. Enrollment Management and Student Success** **Regent Meinschein**
1) **Enrollment Management and Student Success Update (For Information Only)**

11 a.m. (Approx.) **Break**

11:15 a.m. (Approx.) **CFSB Center Renovation Ribbon Cutting**

12:15 p.m. (Approx.) **Lunch (Pogue Library – Wells T. Lovett Grand Reading Room)**

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

- F. Finance** **Regent Fitch**
1) **Retirement Fiduciary Responsibilities Delegation***
2) **Projects Approval***
3) **Personal Services Contracts***
4) **State Endowment Matching Fund Request***

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

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

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| H. | Marketing and Community Engagement | Regent Price |
| 1) | University Advancement Update (For Information Only) | |
| 2) | Naming Opportunities: | |
| a. | <i>CFSB Center Courtside Club – CFSB Center*</i> | |
| b. | <i>Robert L and Karen Miller Jackson Hall – “Jackson Hall” – School of Nursing and Health Professions*</i> | |
| c. | <i>Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area – Calloway County*</i> | |
| d. | <i>Badgett Teacher Education Program – College of Education and Human Services*</i> | |
| e. | <i>Dr. Thomas B. Logan and Jo Lloyd Logan Biological Sciences Building – “Logan Hall” – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology*</i> | |
| f. | <i>Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab – School of Nursing and Health Professions*</i> | |

Policy Changes

President Jackson

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| A. | <i>Faculty Handbook – Section 1.4.2.2. Bylaws Article V. Election of Departmental Senators (For Information Only)</i> |
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Personnel Changes

President Jackson

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| A. | <i>Appointment of Interim Dean – Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business – Dr. Heath Keller – and Appointment of Interim Dean – College of Humanities and Fine Arts – Nicole Hand (For Information Only)</i> |
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Supplemental Materials (For Information Only)

President Jackson

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| A. | <i>“Good News” Report (Fall/Winter 2024)</i> |
| B. | <i>Quarterly Branding, Marketing and Communication Report (July – September 2024)</i> |
| C. | <i>Sponsored Programs – Grants and Contracts Report</i> |

Other Business

Chair Owens

Adjournment

Chair Owens

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Public Participation

Chair Owens read aloud the Public Participation Guidelines for Open Meetings. There was one signee for the Public Participation portion of the meeting – Dr. Gary ZeRuth – Associate Professor of Biological Sciences. Dr. ZeRuth indicated he is present today speaking on behalf of the Biological Sciences faculty and the vitality of the department and read aloud the following prepared statement:

“Members of the Board of Regents. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding an issue critical to the long-term success of both the Biology Department and Murray State University as a whole.

The Biology Department is a cornerstone of this University, serving approximately one-fifth of every incoming freshman class. Moreover, being 4th on campus in terms of student majors and having been awarded millions of dollars in federal research funding, the Biology Department plays a pivotal role in achieving our STEM+H performance funding objectives. As a result of these efforts, the Biology Department has emerged as one of the most successful and impactful departments on campus.

Unfortunately, despite this success and the substantial contributions of its faculty, the Biology Department has faced a troubling lack of recognition and support. In particular, our faculty salaries are 20% lower than our peers at comparable institutions and 12% lower than other MSU faculty with comparable rank and years of service in equivalent departments. The data, including statistics recently collected as part of a salary survey by Evergreen Solutions, illuminates a brazen devaluation of Biology faculty at Murray State.

We have provided detailed documentation supporting this claim, which shows the disparity of compensation to Biology faculty compared to peers on Murray State's campus and at comparable institutions. For nearly two years, we have sought to address these concerns through the appropriate channels. We have engaged in discussions with the Dean, the Provost, and most recently, the President. However, despite gaining support from our Dean and the Provost, the only response we have received was in the form of a statement from the Office of General Counsel that grossly and misleadingly inflated our base salaries and informed us that the only way we could possibly reach benchmark average salaries is by taking on activities outside of our normal contracts, such as summer teaching and externally funded research activities.

This brings us to why we are here today. As the Board of Regents, you hold the ultimate authority over the administration and bear the responsibility for maintaining the University's health and direction. This salary imbalance is not merely a departmental issue—it threatens the vitality of the entire institution.

We have already felt the impact of these disparities as the lack of competitive compensation has significantly hampered our ability to recruit and retain top-tier faculty and has decimated departmental morale. Open positions have become increasingly difficult to fill and long-serving faculty who have dedicated years to the University are left struggling financially while feeling undervalued and demoralized. This inequity does not align with the University's mission or values and undermines our department's ability to sustain the excellence we have worked so hard to achieve.

The University's flagrant neglect of the Biology faculty is even more inexplicable when considering the important role Biology faculty will play in the success of several state and federally-supported endeavors, including our new School of Veterinary Medicine, a future Medical School, and the prospect of a USGS Cooperative Research Unit on our campus in the coming years.

Having exhausted our other options, we now ask the Board of Regents to act decisively to address these issues. By ensuring equitable compensation for Biology Department faculty, you will not only resolve a long-standing injustice but also reinforce the University's commitment to academic excellence and its ability to compete at a national level.

Thank you for your attention and for your dedication to the success of Murray State University. We look forward to your support in addressing this critical matter.

We have provided documentation for you that summarizes the salary discrepancy in addition to a copy of the letter we sent to the Provost and President in October of this year. The latter includes a timeline of our nearly two-year struggle and additional data supporting our claim. We urge you to review these documents and we welcome your questions and any discussion of the matter."

Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Dr. ZeRuth and asked if any member of the Board had questions. There being none, Chair Owens advanced to the next item on the agenda.

Consent Agenda, approved, ratified and reports received

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

- Minutes
 - Board of Regents Annual Retreat on September 12, 2024
 - Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings of the Board of Regents on September 13, 2024
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on October 1, 2024
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee on October 23, 2024
 - Special Meeting of the Board of Regents on November 20, 2024

- Report of the Registrar (August and December 2024 Conferral of Degrees) (See Attachment #1)
- Audit and Compliance Committee – Office of Internal Audit – Summary of Presidential Travel Report for Year-to-Date Ended September 30, 2024
- Finance Committee
 - State Endowment Match Program Annual Report (See Attachment #2)
 - Personal Services Contracts – Schedule of Expenditures

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Owens reported that there are many positives happening at Murray State and appreciation was expressed to President Jackson and the administration for all their good work. It is great to see earth work going on for the new School of Nursing and Health Professions. This past year General Counsel Miller has experienced a lot of activity in his office and appreciation was expressed to him in this regard. The Board greatly appreciates all of his efforts pertaining to the various litigation activities the University has experienced.

Report of the President

President Jackson reported the following:

- It has been one of the busiest Fall Semesters during his tenure at Murray State but in a very positive way. Appreciation was expressed to the Board of Regents, administrators, faculty, staff and students for their efforts on behalf of this University.
- Appreciation was also expressed to the team led by Senior Associate Provost Pervine regarding reaccreditation efforts. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process occurs every ten years. This week, SACSCOC made a final decision regarding Murray State University's reaffirmation of institutional accreditation by that body during its annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Dr. Pervine and others attended the SACSCOC Annual Meeting where Murray State was successfully reaffirmed for institutional accreditation – with no recommendations. This represents the second ten-year period for this institution where there have been no SACSCOC recommendations relative to reaffirmation of accreditation. Approximately 6,000 colleges and universities must have a regional accreditation stamp of approval in order to receive federal and state funding. Murray State has received this accreditation since the very beginning which is a credit to everyone at this University. Appreciation was expressed to Senior Associate Provost Pervine, Provost Todd and others who worked to make this possible over an extended period. One of the most important things that can occur at Murray State is the reaffirmation of institutional accreditation and the University has secured that credential for the next ten years. Faculty, staff, Deans, administrators and others who have worked very hard in regard to this multi-year process were recognized and the Board gave these individuals a round of applause.
- Academic quality is essential to recruiting and retention and access and affordability. *U.S. News and World Report* recently named Murray State as first in Best Value Schools in the South Region among public and private institutions – a first for this institution. The University was recognized among the 20th Best Regional Universities and this represents a significant jump for Murray State among public and private institutions. *Washington Monthly* has also recognized MSU as a “Best Bang for the Buck” university. All are extremely proud of these accolades and President Jackson is thankful to all who have worked very hard to make these recognitions happen.
- Everyone at Murray State understands the importance of recruiting and retention, especially today as universities are battling these issues across the country. Colleges and universities are getting smaller as they are facing the pending enrollment cliff. From 2018 to 2024, Murray State has experienced a 5 percent increase in headcount and not many peer institutions are able to say the same. Many present today have served during this period of time where 13,508 students have graduated. This is a credit to everyone at Murray State working together to advance this important initiative. Murray State's budget is 72 percent enrollment driven and it is not anticipated this will get better anytime soon.
- In regard to recruiting initiatives, appreciation was expressed to former Board of Regents member and Chair Susan Guess. She brought a group of high school seniors to campus this Fall from McCracken County and Paducah as part of future recruiting efforts. Former State Senator and Board of Regents member and Chair Jerry Rhoads brought a group of students from Daviess County (Owensboro) to campus. Former Student Regent – and now Representative-elect – J. T. Payne hosted a Murray State delegation of high school seniors at Henderson County High School where he now teaches. These recruiters understand the importance of this work throughout the multi-state region.

- In August 2024, the Presidential Matching Grant Program was announced to faculty, the administration and staff as it relates to funding for recruiting and retention initiatives taking place inside a college, school or department. Every single request proposal received from across campus was funded at some level and a listing in this regard was provided with select grant awards being highlighted. Appreciation was expressed to all for their work in regard to recruiting and retention which is so vital to the University.
- A Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held for a healthcare partnership at Murray State with Murray Medical Associates and the Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Another initiative will provide timely care to students, faculty and staff 24 hours per day, seven days per week and 365 days per year (known as TimelyCare). This Board approved TimelyCare as part of the budgeting process last June. This represents a satellite clinic with a Medical Director and fully staffed operations.
- Highlights from Homecoming 2024 were outlined, including the Parade, Racer One, the football game, Student Regent Brendan Hawkins being named Homecoming King and Student Government Association Vice President Magalee Blazina being named Homecoming Queen.
- Initiatives which have occurred on campus include the annual cookout for students in the Office of Student Enrichment, Academic Excellence and Leadership (SEAL) and the Dr. Marvin D. Mills Center, both under the leadership of Dr. SG Carthell, Executive Director. Students were invited to the President's home – Oakhurst – for the cookout. Appreciation was expressed to all for their work in this regard.
- TRiO programs at Murray State, under the leadership of Vice President Robertson, have been on campus for 50 years and a celebration recognizing this accomplishment was also held at Oakhurst.
- Murray Independent School District Coach Mark Brady has established an endowment at Murray State for students desiring to become teachers. A photograph was shown of a new, incoming freshman being awarded the scholarship to help become a teacher. This represents a major scholarship initiative to assist future teachers and is very much appreciated.
- A number of individuals were recognized this Fall with the Golden Horseshoe Award. The Golden Horseshoe Award is the highest honor the University can bestow upon alumni of Murray State for their service to the University. Ten individuals were recognized as Golden Horseshoe Award recipients at a recent ceremony. Appreciation was expressed to these individuals for their service to Murray State University.
- A number of campaign-related and alumni activities have been held, including a tailgate event recognizing long-time member of the MSU Foundation Board of Trustees Colonel Bob Waller, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce presentations and community college meetings to help spread the good word about Murray State University while focusing on recruiting and retention.
- President Jackson hosted Lamont Sleets in the President's Box at the University of Kentucky and Murray State University football game. Mr. Sleets is a Murray State Hall of Fame inductee, a three-point shot expert and was the first freshman basketball player at Murray State to score 500 points in a season with 522 points in the late 1970s/early 1980s. This record stood until it was broken in 2013-14 by player Cameron Payne. Governor Andy Beshear also met and visited with Mr. Sleets during the game.
- A major Dedication was held during the Fall 2024 Semester for the *Sergeant Patrick J. Medley Veteran and Military Student Success Coordinator Office*. Murray State has been recognized regionally and nationally as a top University for veterans and military students due to initiatives such as this made possible through the generosity of Whitney Medley Bechtel and Dr. Brett Bechtel from Paducah, Kentucky. All appreciate their efforts and generosity to Murray State University. Whitney is an alumna of Murray State and this Dedication honored her father.
- Senior Breakfast was held during the Fall 2024 Semester and was well attended by students, faculty and staff.
- A preliminary rendering was provided for the Veterinary Sciences Building which has been fully funded by the Legislature in the amount of \$60 million. The University is now seeking authorization to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Bill Request 232 (BR232) has been introduced in the House by Representative Mary Beth Imes in support of this initiative. BR 232 will be turned into a House bill in January 2025. During the last Legislative Session, this bill passed 86 to 7 out of the House and was advanced to the Senate. Senator Jason Howell is working diligently to help advance this initiative and will be sponsoring a companion bill in this particular area. The goal is to secure legislative approval for a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University. Next week President Jackson, Assistant Vice President Smith and Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture Brian Parr will be in Frankfort, Kentucky, addressing this particular issue and testifying before the Joint Agriculture Committee.
- A Letter of Intent has been signed for the Murray State University – University of Louisville (UofL) partnership for a School of Medicine at MSU. A UofL School of Medicine campus at Murray State would greatly benefit the region and state.
- The last two initiatives just outlined will be institution-changing for Murray State University in a very positive way. Appreciation was expressed to UofL President Kim Schatzel who also shares the vision for a 2+2 initiative to assist pre-med students in this region of the state – and perhaps even a School of Medicine in the future. A Task Force has been formed to lead this effort and is comprised of

Murray State and UofL administrators, faculty and staff to help advance this initiative in the days and months ahead.

- University representatives spent a great deal of time in Washington, DC, throughout the Fall Semester to discuss advancing grant initiatives and directing funding in the federal budget for a School of Veterinary Medicine. After the first of the year another \$1 million discretionary grant award that is being made to assist the institution in a particular academic area will be announced. Appreciation was expressed to Dean Parr and Assistant Vice President Smith for their efforts and good work in this particular area. It is vitally important to the area and represents work the institution must be committed to undertaking. The University could not have a stronger advocate than Congressman James Comer for a School of Veterinary Medicine. He and Senator Rand Paul have written letters of support and are working very hard to secure approval for a School of Veterinary Medicine to be located at Murray State University.
- The Board will be provided with a detailed report on the Centennial Campaign later today. President Jackson is extremely proud of Executive Director of Advancement Dr. Tina Bernot and the Office of Development for initiatives taking place in this regard. Fifty percent of funds raised from the Centennial Campaign will be dedicated to scholarships and need-based aid for students. The remaining 50 percent will be utilized for academic support/enhancements, campus improvements and Athletics. A Groundbreaking and Unveiling will take place later today recognizing Chair Owens and others who have made major commitments to this University to advance important projects for the days ahead. Thousands of alumni and friends generously donate each year to this University. All should take great pride in the fact that Murray State has been able to secure \$100 million as part of the Centennial Campaign. As state dollars become even more limited, this is how the institution will continue to advance.
- The Economic Impact Study began in late Summer 2024 and appreciation was expressed to Dr. Simone Silva and Dr. Gil Mathis, Professor Emeritus, both in the Department of Economics and Finance and Chris Wooldridge, Director of the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development – all in the Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business – for their efforts in this regard. A flyer was included in the eBoard book illustrating Murray State’s economic impact to the region and state – \$633 million for the Commonwealth annually and \$23 million annually in terms of state and local tax revenue generated. The University has 1,385 employees plus 1,428 students working on campus and creates a total of 6,025 direct and indirect jobs in Kentucky. Murray State has also requested an Economic Impact Study be undertaken relative to the impact of new and pending appropriated capital projects funding at the University for 2024-30. This includes \$348 million in estimated economic impact from these projects, \$43 million estimated tax revenue and 2,457 total Kentucky direct and indirect jobs. These figures pertain to the new School of Nursing and Health Professions, Veterinary Sciences Building, Learning Commons/Residence Hall and many other projects. All are very thankful to the General Assembly for appropriating these funds. Many in this room and across campus – this Board, administrators, faculty, staff and students – have worked diligently to help advance these initiatives and their work is very much appreciated.
- In January President Jackson will make a 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda Institutional Update presentation to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and a chart was provided highlighting unmet need – the average amount students pay out-of-pocket after all financial aid and expected family contributions. This is an important measure that all institutions must report and is the reason why Murray State is recognized as a “Best Value” in many different publications. Since 2018-19, the unmet need at Murray State University has decreased each year. Unmet need decreased 15 percent since last year and 30 percent from 2019 to the lowest it has been in seven years in 2022-23. Murray State ranks in first place in Kentucky as it relates to this particular metric and all are extremely pleased with this result due to policy changes made by this Board, as well as scholarships and need-based aid programs that have been implemented over the last several years to advance this University.
- Time to degree is also a cost factor for students and represents the average number of academic years they are enrolled prior to undergraduate degree completion. The time-to-degree for Murray State has decreased each year since 2018-19 to the CPE target of four years. In 2022-23 the University had achieved 4.05 years to degree completion, with a CPE target of 4.0 years. Initiatives which the University has employed to undertake this work were outlined.
- CPE President Aaron Thompson will also be awarded an Honorary Doctorate during Commencement exercises tomorrow.

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

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

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that Kentucky Revised Statute 164.420 stipulates “The treasurer of each governing board shall receive and disburse all money under the control of the board, perform all acts that pertain to his office under the direction of the board, and make timely reports to the board on a schedule established by the board.” The fourth quarter financial

statements being considered today were provided in the Board materials, along with the dashboard which was highlighted as follows:

- The data being presented is for the first quarter (three months into the fiscal year). Cash is up slightly at this point in time. The University received some gifts and restricted funds during this period which resulted in the increase as illustrated. The goal with cash is for it to remain as consistent as possible.
- Accounts Receivable numbers are more than expected in the amount of \$8 million. This increase is due to timing issues. One such timing issue relates to scholarships from the MSU Foundation for the Fall Semester. The University was unable to get the scholarship numbers billed to the Foundation before the quarter was over and they remained as Accounts Receivable through the September month-end closing. There were also timing differences with regard to Summer bills due to staffing challenges. These numbers will catch up this Fall and are already in process of decreasing. The increase will not decrease down all the way to zero due to tuition and housing and dining rates being up as those also impact Accounts Receivable.
- Working Capital is up slightly due to the increase in Accounts Receivable. Working Capital represents receivable inventory assets and is an important number from a financial standpoint. This increase will begin to decrease slightly and is expected to be relatively flat for the next quarter.
- There is also a large increase in net position adjustments due to several things which occurred at the end of the last fiscal year. These included state pension adjustment entries and gifts and pledges that were recorded at year-end, which typically has not been done, primarily related to Athletics. The financial statements have been provided and illustrate the change in net position.
- Charts were provided in the dashboard illustrating the institution's total revenues and expenditures. Also presented were graphs on Education and General and Auxiliaries Revenues which are relatively flat – which is where they should be at this point in time during the year.
- The Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the overall institution were provided in the dashboard. This same information was included in the dashboard in detail for the Education and General Balance Sheet and Income Statement representing operational funds.

Chair Owens moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, accept the attached quarterly unaudited Financial and Investment Reports for the period of July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #3)

Committee Reports/Recommendations

Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee

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

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

Racer Academy and Special High School Student Admission Requirements Revision, approved

Provost Todd, Vice President Robertson and Associate Provost Fister reported the Racer Academy and Special High School Student Admission Requirements Revision represents an initiative designed to be a measure to enable success for high school students in their transition to college. This represents a joint effort between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, under the lead of Associate Provost Fister, and will be administered by the Center for Adult and Regional Education.

Current admission requirements for Racer Academy students allow those ranking in the top half of their high school class to participate. This policy led to students with Grade Point Averages (GPAs) well below 3.0 to enroll in dual credit courses. Students with lower GPAs often lack the academic readiness to succeed in college-level coursework. Low high school GPAs indicate that a student may not be ready for the rigors of a college course.

Current Admission Requirements for Racer Academy (Dual Credit)	Proposed Changes for AY 2025-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or rank in top half of class. • High school juniors and seniors may take all dual credit offerings. Sophomores may only be registered for Agriculture (AGR) courses. • Be a resident of Kentucky and attend a Kentucky high school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or rank in top half of class. • Eligible high school juniors and seniors may be registered for any dual credit (Racer Academy) offerings. Eligible sophomores can be registered for Agriculture (AGR) courses only. • Meet prerequisite ACT, SAT, KYOTE scores (or other accepted tests by the University) for courses requiring test scores. • Be a resident of Kentucky and attend a Kentucky high school.

With regard to Special High School Student Admission, there are currently admission requirements but no success criteria. Unlike dual credit, these high school students can register for any college course for which they meet eligibility requirements. Freshmen and sophomores in high school may not be ready to take a rigorous college course. Students with a GPA lower than 3.0 may not be able to succeed in a college course and high school freshmen and sophomores may lack maturity and readiness for college coursework. A new required form will include information about tuition, transcripts and intended courses. It will aid the University in tracking Special High School Students. The changes for the admission of this classification of students are provided below. Changes for Racer Academy (Dual Credit) are noted in red.

Special High School Student Admission

High school students from any state may apply to MSU to take college courses. They are eligible to take any course for which they meet the prerequisite. Students are charged full tuition rates based on their residency.

Current Admission Requirements for Special High School Students	Proposed Changes for AY 2025-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit an application for admission with a \$40 application fee. • Students with a high school unweighted GPA of 2.75 or higher are admitted. • Letter of recommendation from a representative at the student’s high school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit an application for admission with a \$40 application fee. • Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 required. • Only eligible high school juniors and seniors may participate. • Letter of recommendation from a representative at the student’s high school. • Complete the Special High School Student Approval form • Meet prerequisite ACT, SAT, KYOTE scores (or other accepted tests by the University) for courses requiring test scores.

It was indicated that these requirements vary across other institutions within the state and some allow lower GPAs for admission. Murray State has experienced a high level of success correlating to the 3.0 GPA and it was determined this is where focus should be maintained.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the changes to the Racer Academy (Dual Credit) Admission and Special High School Student Admission requirements, effective as of July 1, 2025. Regent Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Racer Academy and Special High School Admission Requirements Revision, approved

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the changes to the Racer Academy (Dual Credit) Admission and Special High School Student Admission requirements, effective as of July 1, 2025, as listed below.

Current Admission Requirements for Racer Academy (Dual Credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or rank in top half of class.• High school juniors and seniors may take all dual credit offerings. Sophomores may only be registered for Agriculture (AGR) courses.• Be a resident of Kentucky and attend a Kentucky high school.	Proposed Changes for AY 2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or rank in top half of class.• Eligible high school juniors and seniors may be registered for any dual credit (Racer Academy) offerings. Eligible sophomores can be registered for Agriculture (AGR) courses only.• Meet prerequisite ACT, SAT, KYOTE scores (or other accepted tests by the University) for courses requiring test scores.• Be a resident of Kentucky and attend a Kentucky high school.
Current Admission Requirements for Special High School Students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit an application for admission with a \$40 application fee.• Students with a high school unweighted GPA of 2.75 or higher are admitted.• Letter of recommendation from a representative at the student’s high school.	Proposed Changes for AY 2025-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit an application for admission with a \$40 application fee.• Unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 required.• Only eligible high school juniors and seniors may participate.• Letter of recommendation from a representative at the student’s high school.• Complete the Special High School Student Approval form• Meet prerequisite ACT, SAT, KYOTE scores (or other accepted tests by the University) for courses requiring test scores.

Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

New Academic Degree Program – Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene, approved

Provost Todd and Dr. Dina Byers, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, reported it is being recommended that the University offer an Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene. The 2023 Dental Report shows there are five counties in Kentucky without

Dentists and two of those are in the University's region. There is a documented need to increase the number of Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) in rural western Kentucky and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021), employment of Dental Hygienists is projected to grow 11 percent from 2020-30. This rate is faster than the average for all occupations. It is projected that there will be approximately 16,000 openings for Dental Hygienists each year due to many RDHs exiting the profession. Many of the dental providers in the Delta/Murray State service region are suffering from workforce shortages and are in dire need of Dental Hygienists. There are no dental hygiene educational programs in the region and the closest program is at Western Kentucky University, approximately 120 miles from Murray. Dental hygiene programs have specialized clinical program requirements, including access to dental equipment, dental clinics and Dentists. Having an adequate health professional workforce is essential due to the high level of healthcare needs in Kentucky. Adding dental hygiene to the University's program inventory will help meet an identified need for Dental Hygienists which will lead to improved access to oral healthcare.

Significant success has already occurred with a \$1 million United States Department of Agriculture grant received by the School of Nursing and Health Professions. This grant funding will be utilized to purchase the equipment needed to begin this program. When the University desires to offer additional associate degrees, it must make sure this work is being undertaken with cooperation from Kentucky Community and Technical College partners and the meeting which occurred yesterday in this regard went very well. The main goal with an associate degree at this point is to be able to get graduates out into the field due to identified need. Confirmation was provided that a Program Director and Dental Hygienist would need to be hired and there is potential for this to transition to a bachelor's degree program in the future. Vice Chair Fitch confirmed that the need for Dental Hygienists is real and there are no substitute professionals who can be called in to do this work. Students in this program will have jobs waiting for them before they even finish the associate degree.

Chair Owens commended Dean Byers for her leadership in regard to the Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene. He also thanked Dr. Randy Taylor – a local Dentist – who has been behind the scenes working diligently to advance this initiative. The efforts of all are very much appreciated.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new degree program: Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene. Regent Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – New Academic Degree Program – Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene, approved

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the proposal for a new degree program: Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Academic Program Changes, approved

Provost Todd reported that academic program additions and deletions were presented to the Academic Council during the 2024 Fall Semester. Subject to approval today, the minor in Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be enacted in the fall. This gives students in virtually any major an opportunity to minor in AI.

With regard to the programs being recommended for deletion, Provost Todd confirmed that these decisions have been based on educational trends, student desires and are not made lightly. The review that is undertaken involves the faculty, Department Chair, Dean, Provost, President and ultimately the Board of Regents.

ADDITIONS

Program	Minors
Accelerated BS + MS	♦ Artificial Intelligence
♦ Cybersecurity and Network Management	♦ Construction Management
Undergraduate Certificate	
♦ Land Surveying	

DELETIONS

Minors (Numbers are students with this declared minor as of 23-24.)					
♦ Adventure Leadership	0	♦ Engineering Science	1	♦ International Economics	2
♦ American Studies	2	♦ Environmental Technology	0	♦ Literature and Philosophy	0
♦ Art History	0	♦ Globalization and Development	0	♦ Rhetoric	1
♦ Cognitive Science	4	♦ Golf Course Management	0	♦ Theatre Design/Technical	4
♦ East Asian Studies	2	♦ Holistic Senior Living	1	♦ Theatre Performance	3

These academic program changes have been approved by the Academic Council and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Regent Roark and Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Provost Todd and his team for undertaking this review work because, although necessary, it is not always a pleasant experience.

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Gray moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the academic program changes as presented. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Academic Program Changes, approved

On behalf of the Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the academic program changes as outlined below:

ADDITIONS

Program	Minors
Accelerated BS + MS	♦ Artificial Intelligence
♦ Cybersecurity and Network Management	♦ Construction Management
Undergraduate Certificate	
♦ Land Surveying	

DELETIONS

Minors (Numbers are students with this declared minor as of 23-24.)					
♦ Adventure Leadership	0	♦ Engineering Science	1	♦ International Economics	2
♦ American Studies	2	♦ Environmental Technology	0	♦ Literature and Philosophy	0
♦ Art History	0	♦ Globalization and Development	0	♦ Rhetoric	1
♦ Cognitive Science	4	♦ Golf Course Management	0	♦ Theatre Design/Technical	4
♦ East Asian Studies	2	♦ Holistic Senior Living	1	♦ Theatre Performance	3

Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Regent Shemberger indicated that Commencement tomorrow will be a big day and expressed appreciation to students, faculty and staff concerned about the academic and scholarly progress of Murray State students as this represents a true team effort.

Adjournment

The Academic Excellence and Scholarly Activities Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Athletics Committee

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

Athletics Chair Leon Owens reported that there was no action to come before the Committee and it did not meet. President Jackson added that a detailed report will be presented during the Buildings and Grounds Committee and several projects are related to Racer Athletics. Renderings have been presented with regard to work to be undertaken in that facility – all funded with private dollars – indicating the support that exists in this arena. Appreciation was expressed to Director Yantko and Associate Director Rydecki for their good work in this regard. Chair Owens expressed appreciation to these two individuals for all they do to ensure the CFSB Center is ready for the numerous events being held in that facility. They do a phenomenal job and all are very excited about the upgrades that will be happening in this facility. He also encouraged his fellow Board members to witness the Women's Basketball Team in action this year, in addition to Men's Basketball, Track and Field and Baseball, or, essentially, all sports teams.

Audit and Compliance Committee

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

Audit and Compliance Chair Tom Waldrop called the Committee to order at 9:33 a.m. and reported all other members were present. With regard to the draft Deloitte Study he reviewed, Regent Waldrop indicated it involved four universities and the way Murray State was able to show its financial strength was impressive. The reporting was excellent and the University has far outshone its three colleague institutions. Appreciation was expressed to Senior Vice President Dudley and Lance Mann, Director with Dean Dorton, for their work in this regard.

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that all audits are being presented to the Board today with the exception of the Single Audit which is for the University's federal expenditures. That report will be presented at the next Quarterly Meeting in March 2025. Mr. Mann reported the following:

- The University has received an unmodified opinion on its financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024. It is a clean, unqualified opinion and represents the opinion the University wants to result from an audit. All are to be congratulated in this regard.
- The audit went exceptionally well and the state-required deadline of early October was met. An audit was performed not only on the University's financial statements but also on compliance and internal controls over financial reporting. An audit is done of the MSU Foundation and is reported separately to the Board of Trustees and the financials of that entity are discretely presented within Murray State's financial statements.
- Dean Dorton also recently finished an audit of the radio station's financial statements, along with an examination report on compliance with Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) guidelines.
- Because Murray State is a Division I institution, each year Dean Dorton must do a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Agreed-upon Procedures Report. This report is mainly related to compliance with NCAA-related matters, mostly with regard to the financials.
- Dean Dorton must also conduct an audit on compliance with Kentucky House Bill 622 which relates primarily to controls over finance and Procurement. They must also conduct an audit on compliance with Kentucky Lease Law statutes.
- All of these reports just outlined were clean and Dean Dorton issued a letter to the Auditor of Public Accounts stating they are independent from Murray State University. The University is also required to issue a similar Independence Letter.
- In progress items include a Subsequent Event Report issued to the Auditor of Public Accounts for the period of October through January. Dean Dorton checks with the leadership team and also the Chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee to determine whether there are any subsequent events which need to be reported relative to the financial statements. Dean Dorton is also in the process of completing the University's Single Audit which is the government grant audit.

- The University's financial statements will be consolidated into the financial statements of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To the auditor's knowledge, the audited financial statements for the University are not included in any other document.
- Significant planning goes into the audit, including discussions with the Audit and Compliance Committee Chair and senior leadership and this takes place early in the audit process. Significant accounting policies and practices are assessed as part of this process. No transactions were entered into this year for which there was a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. During Fiscal Year 2024 there were no new accounting standards adopted by the University. Next year there will be a new accounting standard related to accruing sick leave and vacation pay.
- The most notable estimates in the University's financial statements include depreciation and useful life of capital assets, pension and OPEB-related estimates (provided by the state) and allowance for uncollectible loans and student accounts receivable. The auditors evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- The most sensitive financial disclosures include deposits, investments and investment income, endowments, self-insurance, long-term debt and pension plans and OPEB.
- There were no difficulties encountered in dealing with management related to the performance of the audit and it went very well. The finance team has undergone some changes but has performed exceptionally well.
- There were no audit adjustments noted during the year for the financial statements presented to the Board as of June 30, 2024. There was one uncorrected misstatement that management concluded was not individually or in the aggregate material to the financial statements. This was not a significant misstatement and it will be included in the next fiscal year audit.
- Management signed a letter indicating everything the auditors needed to know has been revealed to them. To Dean Dorton's knowledge, there were no consultants with other auditors.
- With regard to other matters, Dean Dorton does not audit the Management's Discussion and Analysis but does read it to ensure it is consistent with the financial statements. There are also a few schedules in the back of the audited financial statements that Dean Dorton ensured were consistent.
- A summary of the uniform guidance on the Single Audit was provided. Major programs subject to audit include the Student Financial Aid Cluster, Research and Development Cluster and Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. There were no findings identified that are required to be communicated within the Single Audit report as of today and no prior-year findings.

Audited Financial Statements – General, accepted

Background information was provided indicating that 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 Report is submitted to the State Auditor of Public Accounts and the 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 acknowledge that the accuracy of the statements is the primary responsibility of management.

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 2023-24:

- 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, 2024
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2024
- f. General Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2024

Regent Wilson 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 2023-24:

- 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, 2024
- e. Kentucky Lease Law Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2024
- f. General Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2024

Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachments #4 – #9)

Annual Audit Report – Athletics and Annual Audit Report – WKMS-FM, accepted

Background information was provided on the annual audit report for Athletics. This report has been prepared by an independent external auditing firm – Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton). The National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Agreed-Upon Procedures report fulfills compliance with the NCAA *Bylaws 20.2.4.17* 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 By-laws 20.2.4.17.1 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)”

With regard to the WKMS-FM audit, these documents have been prepared by an independent external auditing firm – Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) – and address state and federal requirements. The audited financial statement is provided to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The CPB requires an audit for the funding they provide to WKMS-FM.

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 2023-24:

- a. National Collegiate Athletic Association Independent Accountant's Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2024.
- b. WKMS-FM:
 - Required Auditor Communications
 - Audited Financial Statement for WKMS-FM for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Annual Audit Report – Athletics and Annual Audit Report – WKMS-FM, accepted

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

- a. National Collegiate Athletic Association Independent Accountant's Report on Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Year Ended June 30, 2024.
- b. WKMS-FM:
 - Required Auditor Communications
 - Audited Financial Statement for WKMS-FM for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachments #10 – #12)

Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025, approved

The University's new Internal Auditor – Annie Dukes – was introduced. Ms. Dukes started as the University's Internal Auditor on October 1, 2024, and has been familiarizing herself with the University's policies and procedures. The Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025 is very similar to the Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024.

Senior Vice President Dudley reported that Ms. Dukes comes to the University from a local accounting firm, is a Murray State graduate and is working on her Certified Public Accountant credential.

Background information was provided indicating that the Annual Audit Plan is a description of the audit activities that are to be completed by the Office of Internal Audit during the fiscal year. The Audit Plan is developed each year by the Internal Auditor with input from the President of the University. The Audit Plan details work to be performed in seven areas:

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

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Hawkins moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Internal Audit

Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025 as presented. Regent Roark seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025, approved

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2025. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

(See Attachment #13)

Annual Audit Contract Extension, authorized

Regent Waldrop reported that Dean Dorton has a multi-year contract with this University and the Board is required to approve any contract extensions. Background information was provided indicating 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 National Collegiate Athletic Association) require annual financial or compliance audits. As a result of the request for proposals for audit services dated December 12, 2016 (RFP-236J-17), Dean Dorton Allen Ford, PLLC (Dean Dorton) was the successful firm.

At its February 24, 2017, meeting, the Board of Regents approved the issuance of a contract to Dean Dorton 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 2025 contract is \$149,300 and includes 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, 2025, at a cost of \$149,300 which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the Internal Auditor. Regent Wilson 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, 2025, at a cost of \$149,300 which includes an adjustment for the exclusion of the hours contributed by the University's Internal Auditor. Regent Meinschein seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The Audit and Compliance Committee adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

The Board of Regents also adjourned for a break at 9:52 a.m.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings at 10:07 a.m.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

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

Chair Roark called the Buildings and Grounds Committee to order at 10:07 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

Facilities Management and Campus Improvement Projects Update, received

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

- An overview of 2022-24 asset preservation projects that are in process and their current status in terms of percentage complete was included in the materials provided to the Board. Also outlined were 2024-26 asset preservation projects which are in some form of a planning stage or design. Funds were identified in the 2022-24 asset preservation account for Mason Hall renovations but a significant portion of those funds have been utilized to cover overages for other projects. This is why the Mason Hall renovations are being moved to the list of 2024-26 asset preservation projects. Senior Vice President Dudley added that the funding source for Mason Hall will be split between 2022-24 and 2024-26 but it is not known at this point how much funding will be available in the first biennium. This will be addressed further during the Finance Committee meeting later today.
- The Central Plant steam boiler controls project, fire alarm replacements in Education and General buildings and Science Complex boiler replacements will also be addressed during the Finance Committee meeting under project approvals. The Science Complex boiler replacement will also have an associated Program Statement.
- Housing bonding projects are also in progress. These include Hester Hall chiller and Regents Hall boiler replacements. Water-source heat pump unit replacements are also underway in Clark Hall in the majority of units and in some units in Richmond and Franklin halls.
- Photos were shown of the first floor of the South Tower in the Applied Science Building. The renovation project has been completed and the Dean's office has moved back in. Work is now underway on the second floor of the South Tower and that project is scheduled to be completed the second week of January. Project Manager Kyle Robertson is doing a great job keeping the renovation on schedule.
- The interior stairwell railings have been replaced in the Price Doyle Fine Arts building and photos were shown with floor numbers that have now been hand painted on each level.
- There is a great deal of activity currently taking place in the Science Complex. This includes removing the cooling towers from the roof down to the mechanical yard. The boiler project that will be discussed later is also underway in this facility. The basement of the Biology Building essentially serves as a Central Plant for the entire Science Complex. The heating and cooling units for Biology, Chemistry and Engineering and Physics are all housed in this location.
- Rental boilers are in place for Regents Hall and work is underway for the new boilers that have been delivered to be installed within the next few months.
- The restroom projects in Sparks Hall were completed over the summer and included many Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades and comments from faculty, staff and students have been positive. This represents a much-needed addition to the facility.
- Future non-asset preservation projects were highlighted, including the Learning Commons/residential rooms, Veterinary Sciences Building, Cherry Exposition Center (future phases), sidewalk replacements and repairs, White Hall hydronic piping (Phase II), Regents Hall vanities and closets (Phase III), Athletic venue improvement projects and Curris Center roof replacement. Funding sources for these projects include restricted funds, other state funds (potentially) and the University's own deferred maintenance funds. Several of these projects are in some status of progress in terms of issuing Requests for Proposals (RFP), working with design firms or getting ready to start preparing for construction. Program statements will be provided later today for the Athletics venue and the Curris Center roof replacement.
- The new Veterinary Sciences Building will be located at the West Farm. An RFP was issued for the design firm and at the conclusion of the selection process Hafer Associates, with their main offices in

- Evansville, Indiana, was the successful firm. They also have an office in Owensboro, Kentucky. A Personal Services Contract for Hafer Associates will be addressed by the Finance Committee later today. The University has utilized this firm a great deal in the past but this will represent their first larger-scale project for Murray State.
- Photos were provided of concrete work that has been completed outside Wells Hall and upgrades which have been made in front of Pogue Library. Work is also planned to occur in the Spring relative to concrete work around the Quad.

President Jackson publicly thanked Mr. Youngblood, Mrs. Lampe and the entire Facilities Management team as a whole. In addition, he thanked Executive Director of Auxiliary Services David Looney, Regent Wilson who serves as Director of Housing and the entire Auxiliary Services team for their efforts. They all have a lot going on every single day, including Saturdays and Sundays, all hours of the day, and they are always very responsive. These individuals cannot be recognized enough for the work they do. Regent Roark also expressed appreciation to these individuals.

Program Statements

CFSB Center Seating and Club Space, approved

Regent Roark reported information was provided indicating that the design of the CFSB Center (formerly the Regional Special Events Center) began in 1994 and construction was completed in 1998. The 215,000 square foot building serves as a multi-purpose facility and is the home of Murray State Men’s and Women’s Basketball. The facility is used for regional events, trade shows, concerts and University Commencement exercises. The building has a seating capacity of 8,602. The current seating arrangement is the original design and presents several challenges. The motorized bleachers are no longer reliable and have to be moved using forklifts. Replacement parts for the motors are not readily available and there is limited accessible seating to meet ADA regulations.

This project will be funded through private fundraising (cash gifts and formal pledge commitments). The estimated total project costs will not exceed the amount of private funds committed, ranging from \$12 – \$15.5 million, including design, construction and financing costs/interest. Preliminary design and renderings have already been completed and construction is planned to begin in March 2026 at the end of the basketball season. A General Contractor Request for Proposals is expected to be issued in May 2025 and a contract in place by July 2025.

The issuance of bonds to finance the formal pledge commitments available is planned. Those bonds will be issued before construction begins. A request for approval on the financing for this project will be presented to the Board of Regents no later than June 2025. Gifts as of November 30, 2024, are summarized below:

	<u>Dates Received</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Confirmed Pledges (1-10 year payout)	FY 2023-2025	\$8,764,806
Cash:		
Academic Enhancement Fund (includes land sale in FY25)	Gift from Former Racer Foundation in 2014	\$1,441,204
Kevil Athletic Capital Fund	Estate Gift received in 2017	\$586,992
CFSB	Pending	\$2,000,000
		<hr/> \$4,028,196
Total Gifts for Project as of 11/30/24		<hr/> \$12,793,002

The proposed project schedule is summarized below:

Proposed Schedule w/Pre-Construction Package	
RFP issued for A&E firm	12/16/2024
Award to A&E firm	3/17/2025
RFP issued for GC early construction package	5/1/2025
RFP awarded for GC	6/26/2025
Construction bid documents completed	2/9/2026
Physical construction start	3/15/2026
Physical construction complete	11/15/2026

This desired renovation will include altering the lower bowl by creating a permanent structure on all sides of the venue with the exception of the student section (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 Athletics Department. Renderings have been provided for this initiative.

Director Yantko expressed appreciation to the Board for their consideration of this initiative. The project being advanced would not have been possible without the incredible support and investment from Racer Nation. This represents a shared vision for excellence by this Board, President Jackson and Athletics. All have high aspirations for basketball and want to continue to pursue excellence in all work undertaken. The CFSB Center represents a significant opportunity to better serve the University and the region, as well as a means of producing revenue to reinvest back into sports programs. Regent Waldrop indicated earlier that Name, Image and Likeness is affecting higher education today and the facility plan for the CFSB Center allows the University to be better positioned for possibilities ahead. Appreciation was expressed to everyone present today for their leadership.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the CFSB Center – Seating and Club Space project as outlined. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – CFSB Center Seating and Club Space, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the CFSB Center – Seating and Club Space project as outlined. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Biology Building (Science Complex) Boiler Replacement, approved

Regent Roark reported that background information was provided indicating design and construction of the Biology Building began in 2000. This building was the first in a three-building complex completed with the opening of the School of Engineering in 2015. The Science Complex serves as the home of Murray State’s Biology, Chemistry and Engineering Physics departments. This complex contains over 238,000 square feet comprised of classrooms, labs, lecture halls, offices and student study spaces. The Science Complex received some mechanical upgrades to lab exhaust system and building environmental controls in 2017. There is a project currently in construction to remove the cooling towers and air-cooled chiller from the roof and move those to a new mechanical yard at ground level. The Biology Building houses all of the major heating and cooling components for these three buildings that make up the Science Complex.

The proposed scope of this project includes demolition of the existing natural gas piping as required for the removal and installation of the new heating hot water boilers, new natural gas piping to be routed to the new boilers, demolition of the (2) heating hot water boilers, associated controls, flue piping as required and heating hot water piping as required. The project is proposed to include six (6) new 4,000 MBH boilers, boiler pumps, flue piping to existing flues, heating hot water piping, controls and concrete pads and demolition of existing power to the existing heating hot water boilers. New power shall be provided to the new boilers and boiler pumps. Associated building automation controls will also be included for the new boiler equipment.

The state has authorized all asset preservation projects that are \$1 million or greater in the approval of the 2024-26 Commonwealth's budget. Appropriate project reporting to state offices and the Council on Postsecondary Education will be completed as required. This project is funded through the State Asset Preservation Pool in the 2024-26 Budget of the Commonwealth. The estimated total project cost is \$2.8 million, including design and construction.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Biology Building (Science Complex) Boiler Replacement Project. Regent Meinschein seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Biology Building (Science Complex) Boiler Replacement, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Biology Building (Science Complex) Boiler Replacement Project. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Curriss Center Roof Replacement, approved

Regent Roark reported background information was provided indicating that design of the Curriss Center began in 1978 and construction was completed in 1981. The 134,246 square foot building serves as the student center providing many services for the campus, community and region. The building consists of several meeting and event spaces, dining options, University Bookstore and houses offices and student organizations. The most recent renovations in the Curriss Center include a major interior renovation, the new Center for Student Involvement Office Suite, a new Esports Arena, a Welcome Center and facility branding. Although the standing seam metal roof was replaced in 2012, the flat roof sections were last replaced in 1990 and the warranty expired in 2015. The project will replace the 32,862 square feet of flat built-up roofing. The estimated total project cost is \$1,510,000. Replacement would begin in the Spring or Summer of 2025.

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Curriss Center Roof Replacement. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action –Curriss Center Roof Replacement, approved

On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Regent Roark moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the Program Statement for the Curriss Center Roof Replacement. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The Buildings and Grounds Committee adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee

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

Enrollment Management and Student Success Chair Meinschein called the Committee to order at 10:35 a.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

Enrollment Management and Student Success Update, received

Regent Meinschein reminded everyone that 72 percent of the University's budget comes from enrollment which highlights the importance of the Enrollment Management and Student Success unit at Murray State University. Vice President Robertson and Assistant Vice President White provided an Enrollment Management and Student Success update which included recruitment and retention information on Fall 2024 Final Enrollment Numbers (CPE Census Data), Winter 2024 Enrollment, Spring 2025 Enrollment, Fall 2025 Enrollment Statement and Retention Updates relative to Student Engagement and Success and Student Enrichment, Academic Excellence and Leadership. Highlights included the following:

- Enrollment Management Fall comparisons between 2024 and 2023 were provided and illustrate the University has increased in all categories – total headcount, credit hours, undergraduate enrollment, graduate enrollment and new transfers. The Fall 2024 census date was October 25, 2024.
- Highlights from this report include Fall 2024 has the highest enrollment since 2016 and the highest undergraduate enrollment since 2017. Fall 2024 also has the highest number of domestic transfer students since 2018.
- Enrollment Management Winter and Spring comparisons were also provided and illustrate that as of today the University has 530 students for Winter 2024 compared to 479 students in Winter 2023 – a net of 51 students. For Spring 2025 there are currently 8,019 students who have registered versus 7,877 in Spring 2024 as of this morning – a net of 142 students. These numbers are expected to continue to grow as a great deal of work is occurring with regard to retention to help build the Spring class.
- For Fall 2025 the University is working aggressively on building the incoming class and staff have participated in over 750 recruiting events both on and off campus. In the past two weeks staff have again visited every 18-county service region high school and numbers are up in those areas. Last weekend a recruiting event was held for southern Illinois students at the Carson Center in Paducah, Kentucky, and Chair Owens was in attendance.
- The importance of the University's continued relationships with Guidance Counselors was highlighted.
- Assistant Vice President White expressed appreciation to the Student Financial Services Office as they are planning to conduct Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops to help students and their families in the area. Assistant Vice President, Finance Wendy Cain also developed an idea centered around a promotional code and that initiative was outlined. The promotional code has already helped staff reach 250 students that the University might not normally have been able to attract. Academic Affairs faculty and staff also have a promotional code to assist with this endeavor. Enrollment Management has a great working relationship with Academic Affairs and the units work closely together and meet on a bi-weekly basis to help yield the next class.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Branding, Marketing and Communication unit. In less than one month that unit sent out over 25,000 communications – not counting texts or emails – in an effort to reach as many students as possible to encourage them to apply for college.
- Admitted Student Weekend will be held on February 1, 2025, for students who have already been admitted to Murray State. This is also Presidential Scholars interview day and all Regents were encouraged to join the University for the event to meet with students and their families.
- The University is up in high yield areas and, as previously stated, has redeployed Counselors over the last few weeks to go back into those high schools because yield is where efforts are currently being focused.
- This work represents a true team effort across campus.

President Jackson reported that Vice President Robertson, Assistant Vice President White, Director of Recruitment Shawn Smeeth, Senior Associate Director of Recruitment Kendrick Quisenberry and their entire offices work extremely hard and their efforts are appreciated. They do fully understand the impact of enrollment on the budget and their work is vitally important to sustainability. Murray State University has the highest financial standing and financial stability in the Commonwealth as outlined in the Deloitte Study mentioned earlier by Regent Waldrop

due to this work. The good work that has been done over the last several years by the units mentioned is not by accident and everyone is working together to advance the University in this regard.

Vice President Robertson added it is also significant that the President takes an active role in this process because this does not occur on a lot of campuses. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Jackson for his work in this regard.

Confirmation was provided that students visit Murray State for a variety of reasons but their parents generally have more specific questions. An initiative is underway with Branding, Marketing and Communication to let people know about new programs on campus – such as Cybersecurity – and career paths that could result. An effort is made to individualize campus visits as much as possible to focus on a student's particular area of interest.

President Jackson added that the look and design of campus is crucial to prospective students and their families. Murray State has a beautiful campus that is well maintained and those things matter and are noticed. The Curris Center is also the entry and exit point on campus for students and their families. Changes that have been made in that facility have been noticed and this work was made possible through Board approval.

Regent Meinschein reported that he had 63 middle school students on campus recently. His Board Chair and the Principal of the middle school, who is from the Chicago area, both visited campus. The Principal reported to Dr. Meinschein how welcoming everyone was and what a positive environment the University presented for these middle school students. Appreciation was expressed to all involved in making these students feel connected to Murray State University. Their work is very much appreciated.

Dr. Robertson discussed retention initiatives being utilized by the Office of Student Engagement and Success. As part of this report, the Recapture Campaign and the 6th Annual First-Generation Celebration were outlined and a link to an event video was provided to the Board. A Directory of First-Generation Faculty and Staff has also been created and was shared with these students. Murray State has also been designated as a First-Generation Forward University.

The SEAL office hosted its inaugural College and Career Readiness Conference in November. This initiative involving over 200 mainly student attendees was outlined. The conference received generous support from the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Dr. Marvin D. and Eunice Mills Endowment and the Murray State University Foundation. The SEAL Study Tables program and associated successes were highlighted. This essential program is accessible to all students and 56 students participated on a regular basis during the year.

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

Adjournment

The Enrollment Management and Student Success Committee adjourned at 11 a.m.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents and Committee Meetings adjourned for the CFSB Center Renovation Ribbon Cutting. The Board will then have lunch in the Pogue Library Wells T. Lovett Grand Reading Room and the Quarterly Board Meeting is expected to reconvene at 1 p.m.

Reconvene

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

Finance Committee

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

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

Retirement Fiduciary Responsibilities, delegated

Senior Vice President Dudley and Director Hixon reported that over the past year, the University has been studying fiduciary responsibilities in regard to the two non-state retirement plans, the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) and supplemental 403(b) plans. Investment Advisor/Consultant options have been investigated to help determine the best partner for Murray State to use to implement many of these responsibilities with the University. This represents the first step in implementing stronger plan oversight. An Oversight Committee comprised of administrators, faculty and staff would be formed to work to recommend to the President the number of plans offered at the University, vendors offering those plans, investment options, fee structures and communication to the campus regarding changes. Most of the other Kentucky public universities have taken similar steps in recent years. There are many Federal Compliance Regulations that require plan review and maintenance such as the Department of Labor – Secure 2.0 Act, fiduciary compliance and training and increased knowledge and expertise needed.

The University currently has the non-state retirement plan – the Optional Retirement Plan. This represents a portable option for faculty and certain eligible staff members, as opposed to participating in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS). Employees must “opt in” to the ORP Plan within 30 days of employment with the University if they wish to participate. Kentucky Revised Statute 161.567 requires a minimum of two and a maximum of four vendors to administer the retirement plan. Currently Murray State has four vendors (Corebridge Financial or Valic formerly, Fidelity, TIAA and Voya. In addition to the ORP plan, the University has a Supplemental 403(b) Retirement Savings plan with five vendors (Corebridge Financial, Fidelity, Pacific Life, The Legend Group and TIAA).

The University needs to obtain retirement Advisory Consultant services to address modernization of the plans which includes fiduciary responsibilities, increasing plan oversight and implementing best practices – investment management and vendor management (fee structure). In addition, services are needed with regard to compliance plan review and maintenance. A retirement plan participant fee example was provided and outlined.

Advantages of undertaking this work for faculty and staff include transition from offering majority fixed and variable annuity options to fixed annuities and mutual funds (lower cost investment options), enhancement of investment options, creation of greater economies of scale through vendor management and lower fee structure and greater transparency resulting in more equitable fees for all plan participants. Steps to implement these changes include establishment of a Retirement Plan Oversight Committee with five to seven total members, including administrators, faculty and staff with relevant experience and business/financial acumen. Also required will be engaging with an Investment Advisor/Consultant for advisory services through a state contract; developing preliminary communication to all employees participating in an ORP and/or Supplemental 403(b) plan and updating the Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee on Oversight Committee work throughout the project. This will begin with the Oversight Committee working with an Investment Advisor/Consultant to review plan information and conducting campus information sessions for all employees participating in an ORP and/or 403(b) supplemental plan. The goal is for all plan updates to be in place by January 1, 2026.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Meinschein moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, delegate the assignment of an Oversight

Committee and oversight decisions to the President or his/her designee. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Retirement Fiduciary Responsibilities, delegated

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, delegate the assignment of an Oversight Committee and oversight decisions to the President or his/her designee. Regent Shemberger seconded.

Confirmation was provided that the ORP program is not changing. This action pertains more to plan management, making sure good investment options are available and also providing vendor management to ensure an appropriate fee level is being offered. Employees will be allowed to move their money to different investment options to select a lower-cost option. Revenue credit accounts are established that allow the University to plan for expenses and that is done directly with each vendor. The Board will be asked to approve a Personal Services Contract today to approve the Investment Advisor/Consultants to be used on an ongoing basis with annual review. This will be an entity that already has a contract with the state to offer their services at a fixed price.

The motion carried.

Projects, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported Delegation of Authority Item #20 states that "...Prior to moving forward, all projects, including price contracts related to capital projects, costing over \$500,000 and up to the threshold denoted by Kentucky statute should be reviewed by the Board Chair and the President and a determination made in terms of those projects requiring further Board approval." A schedule listing new projects or projects with a total estimated cost of over \$500,000 was provided to the Board. The Board is accustomed to approving boiler and roof Replacements but this time some of the privately-raised money to go toward the architecture and design of the CFSB Center project is included.

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

Full Board Action – Projects, approved

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

(See Attachment #14)

Personal Services Contracts, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported Item #11 of the Delegation of Authority stipulates that the Board "...approve all Personal Services Contracts totaling more than \$50,000. The Board will be notified of all Personal Services Contracts between \$10,000 and \$50,000 before they are submitted to the Legislative Research Commission. Upon review, individual members may request that these be held for approval at the next Board meeting." The contracts on the listing provided require approval by the Board of Regents. Three Personal Services Contracts have been presented for consideration. The first is the one just outlined for the Optional Retirement and Supplemental 403(b) plans and associated work to be undertaken. The other two projects include securing Bond Counsel and Architecture and Engineering services for the Veterinary Sciences Building.

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

Full Board Action – Personal Services Contracts, approved

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

(See Attachment #15)

State Endowment Matching Fund Request, approved

Vice Chair Fitch reported that as per the guidelines established for the 2022-24 Endowment Matching Program (also known as *Bucks for Brains*) of the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Board of Regents is required to acknowledge its oversight and approval of the endowment funds for which the University is seeking a qualifying match through the Comprehensive University Excellence Trust Fund (CUETF). Per 2022 Regular Session House Bill 1, all funds must support initiatives in the fields of STEM-H (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health). For all comprehensive universities, at least 50 percent of the program funds must be endowed for the purpose of supporting Chairs or Professorships or research staff and infrastructure that directly support the research activities of an Endowed Chair or Professor. No more than 50 percent of the program funds may be endowed for the purpose of supporting mission activities or graduate fellowships or undergraduate scholarships. Documentation of Board approval must be submitted with each endowment request to the CPE. In the 2022-24 round of funding, Murray State University is eligible to receive matching funds of \$1,484,900.

The University requested the Board's approval for the entire match on June 7, 2024. However, due to the CPE's interpretation of their Endowment Guidelines, the University must replace \$500,399 with other funds that meet this interpretation. Changes were noted in the column highlighted in yellow on the schedule provided. In addition, it is recommended that the state matching funds received be transferred to the MSU Foundation for investment purposes and be managed in a similar manner as the existing state matching funds. These state matching funds will remain a University asset.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Regent Shemberger moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the revision of the University's \$1,484,900 request for matching funds as supported by the schedule provided as required by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and approve for all state matching funds to be transferred to the MSU Foundation for investment purposes. Regent Gray seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – State Endowment Matching Fund Request, approved

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the revision of the University's \$1,484,900 request for matching funds as supported by the attached schedule as required by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and approve for all state matching funds to be transferred to the MSU Foundation for investment purposes. Regent Shemberger seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Dr. Fitch, yes; Mrs. Gray, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes and Mr. Owens, yes. The motion carried.

(See Attachment #16)

Adjournment

The Finance Committee adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Legislative and Economic Development Committee

Virginia Gray – Chair
Brendan Hawkins
Matthew Price
Emily Roark
Tom Waldrop

Legislative and Economic Development Chair Gray called the Committee to order at 1:18 p.m. and reported all other members were present.

Legislative Update, received

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

- University representatives have participated in several successful meetings in Washington, DC, since the Board was last provided with a legislative update. These include meetings with Leader Mitch McConnell and other members of the University's federal delegation to discuss key grant support for several academic units.
- In the interim, the University has hosted successful tours of the Cyber and Education Research Center, "Cyber Center," as many legislators have been very interested in this program. There have been several bills in the past few Legislative Sessions which have dealt with cybersecurity and that continues to be a hot topic in Frankfort, Kentucky. In addition to legislators, military personnel and Attorney General Russell Coleman visited Murray State's Cyber Center in the past few months. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Claire Fuller, Dean of the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology; Dr. Jamie Rogers, Director of the School of Engineering; Dr. Michael Ramage, Director of the Cyber Center and others for helping facilitate those meetings.
- During the Interim Session this fall, there have been many requests for meetings in Frankfort with legislators. Legislators have requested updates on the Performance Funding Model, School of Veterinary Medicine proposal and the Deloitte Study that President Jackson referenced earlier today. Dean Parr and Assistant Vice President Smith presented before the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and they – along with President Jackson – will be going back to Frankfort next week to present to the same Committee. It is a positive sign that legislators are that interested in what is taking place at Murray State, particularly the vet school proposal. This Interim Session has been very busy – the busiest fall in President Jackson's memory.
- In addition to traveling for legislative meetings, President Jackson, Assistant Vice President Smith and others in this room have had many meetings with the CPE regarding the Performance Funding Model Postsecondary Education Work Group of which President Jackson is a member by statute. University representatives have also had several meetings with Deloitte, initiated by the CPE, regarding the veterinary school initiative.
- A big election occurred in November and four new legislators who are Murray State alumni will be serving in Frankfort – Representatives J. T. Payne (Henderson), Adam Moore (Lexington), Joshua Watkins (Louisville) and Kim Holloway (Graves County).
- The 2025 Legislative Session starts on January 7 and legislators will meet for about one week, then adjourn for two weeks and return to Frankfort the first part of February. This represents a non-budget, 30-day Legislative Session. The last day of the Session will be March 28, 2025 (Sine Die), with the Governor's veto days following.
- In terms of bills Murray State is anticipating will be filed, those include Representative Imes who has initiated a Bill Request for the creation of a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State to allow the University to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. It is also known that the Senate will be filing a bill. It is believed that the House bill will be almost identical to what was passed during the last Legislative Session.
- Other legislative items the University has been told to expect include a performance funding bill potentially tweaking the model slightly. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) bill is also anticipated, especially since this was a hot topic during the last Session. The Legislature did not pass an anti-DEI bill during the last Legislative Session but the University has been informed the topic will be revisited. Murray State will be present to have those meetings with legislators, the Education Committee and others. Similar to every Session, it is expected there will be bills that have died in the past but resurface, including those related to free speech, tuition freezes and guns on campus.

- All legislation will be monitored, which occurs every Legislative Session, but especially those higher education bills that affect faculty, staff and students. President Jackson will keep the Board updated through the Legislative Bill Watch.
- Murray State University is very fortunate to have a former State Senator as President who has worked in governmental relations as long as Dr. Jackson. Murray State has a tough job in Frankfort because it is so far away but among his peers his job is the easiest because he has a boss who has this experience, takes an active roll in advancing the School of Veterinary Medicine initiative, is an alumnus of the institution of which he serves and already has relationships in Frankfort because this does matter. The University is also fortunate to have Regent Gray serving as Chair of the Legislative and Economic Development Committee of the Board. She is a governmental relations expert who has worked with lobbyists in this field. All Board members also have relationships in Frankfort. The support of the University administration, including the Vice Presidents, is also key to this work.

Regent Gray expressed appreciation to President Jackson and Assistant Vice President Smith for their persistence with the School of Veterinary Medicine bill. It has not been an easy process. When attempting to forward new legislation, it is a difficult process with many different twists and turns and something new usually occurs in the eleventh hour. Staff will have to regroup and deal with those changes as they occur. The reward will be great should this initiative be approved. The work of everyone in this regard is appreciated and all are wished the best of luck in the upcoming Legislative Session.

President Jackson added Murray State has a Board that understands what goes on in Frankfort. Many have frequently visited Frankfort in person or are talking to legislators on a regular basis. Regents have also traveled to Washington when needed. These efforts are vitally important to the success of this University. Relationships do matter and the University is fortunate to have someone in place who knows all of the legislators – even the newly-elected ones who University representatives were able to meet with very quickly.

Adjournment

The Legislative and Economic Development Committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The Board also adjourned for a quick break.

Reconvene

Chair Owens reconvened the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents and Committee Meetings at 1:35 p.m.

Marketing and Community Engagement Committee

Matthew Price – Chair
Brendan Hawkins
G. L. Ovey
Tom Waldrop
David Wilson

Chair Price called the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee to order at 1:35 p.m. and reported all other members were present with the exception of Regent Ovey.

University Advancement Update, received

Executive Director of Advancement Tina Bernot shared a *Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold* campaign update. This fall has been very busy and exciting and staff have been traveling around the region and beyond to celebrate giving, encourage continued giving and engage alumni and friends in the work that is being undertaken for the Be Bold campaign. Photos were shown for the Be Bold Atlanta, Georgia (30 major gift prospects and donors), and Henderson, Kentucky (home of alumni Doug and Stacy Lawson), events. During the Henderson event, Jo and Dr. Tom Logan were awarded Golden Horseshoe Awards. A Badgett Family Foundation event was also held at Murray State's Madisonville, Kentucky, campus in celebration of teacher education.

Year-to-date giving results were provided as of the middle of November. The University is currently in the season of giving and has seen incredible generosity. Dollars received from

July 1 through November 18 amount to \$2.81 million. Since July 1, there have been 2,065 unique donors who have made gifts, with 5,001 total gifts being received by the University. The average gift this calendar year is up 48 percent over last year – which seems almost impossible since that represented a record year. The University continues to see incredible generosity from its donors. The number of alumni donors is up 6 percent in calendar year 2024 and this is bucking every national trend. Murray State University alumni continue to prove that they are loyal and generous. All are proud to showcase and celebrate their support.

In terms of the Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold campaign, there is a \$100 million goal. As of November 19, 2024, \$96.5 million total gifts and commitments have been raised. The campaign is approaching 25,000 donors and more than 106,500 gifts. This is exciting for the University's vision and Strategic Plan for students and the entire campus community. The Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold campaign is the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of Murray State University.

President Jackson expressed appreciation to Executive Director Bernot and her team and they received a round of applause.

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

Naming Opportunities

CFSB Center Courtside Club – CFSB Center, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that the CFSB Center, a premier multipurpose arena in Murray, Kentucky, has been a cornerstone of Murray State University's athletic and cultural life since its completion in 1998. Home to the Murray State Racer basketball teams, the arena not only fosters school spirit but also enhances community engagement by hosting a variety of University and regional events that contribute significantly to the local economy. Featuring state-of-the-art amenities, the CFSB Center represents a vital component of the University's identity and pride. As a daily hub of activity for athletic staff and student-athletes, the CFSB Center, along with the adjacent Gene W. Ray Center, provides essential spaces for coaching, training, performance and administrative operations. The CFSB Center is more than just a basketball court; it is a dedicated environment where student-athletes train and excel, all while engaging in a broader community of support and achievement. It is also the host site for regional cultural events, trade shows, concerts and other activities.

In recognition of the exceptional commitment and philanthropic contributions of CFSB in Benton, Kentucky, naming of the new Courtside Club within the CFSB Center in their honor is being recommended. This recommendation follows an agreement approved by Murray State University's General Counsel, confirming CFSB's pledge of a new \$2 million contribution scheduled for January 2025. This substantial gift will support the University's vision to enhance the fan and student-athlete experience through the Courtside Club addition, reinforcing CFSB's position as an integral part of the University community.

CFSB's impact on Murray State University and the Jackson Purchase region extends well beyond this latest contribution. Over the years, CFSB has generously donated several millions of dollars to Murray State, supporting a range of initiatives across academics and athletics. Their philanthropy, paired with an active role in the local community, speaks to CFSB's dedication to fostering growth and opportunity both locally and across the region. This new commitment to the Courtside Club not only highlights their continued support but also strengthens the foundation of excellence and community within the CFSB Center.

It is with heartfelt appreciation that naming the future "CFSB Courtside Club" as part of the CFSB Center renovation project in recognition of CFSB's unwavering support, generosity and lasting impact on the University and the community is being recommended. This honor celebrates CFSB's dedication to advancing Murray State University's mission and enhancing the experience for student-athletes, fans and the broader Racer community.

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 Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve naming the future Courtside Club (proposed renovation project in the CFSB Center) the *CFSB Courtside Club* in recognition of CFSB's unwavering support, generosity and lasting impact on the University and the community. Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – CFSB Center Courtside Club – CFSB Center, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve naming the future Courtside Club (*proposed renovation project in the CFSB Center*) the *CFSB Courtside Club* in recognition of CFSB's unwavering support, generosity and lasting impact on the University and the community. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

Robert L and Karen Miller Jackson Hall – “Jackson Hall” – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that Dr. Robert L (Bob) Jackson, a proud alumnus of Murray State University, was appointed as the 14th President on March 1, 2019, after serving as Interim President since August 7, 2018. With over 43 years of association with his Alma Mater, he has held numerous roles, including President of the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. and Senior Advisor for state and federal governmental relations. Under Dr. Jackson's leadership, Murray State has seen transformative growth. His efforts have helped secure some of the largest gifts in the University's history, leading to the announcement of a \$100 million capital campaign, *Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold*, during the Centennial Gala in 2022. Dr. Jackson also previously directed the successful *Hold Thy Banner High* campaign, which raised over \$71.7 million for academic and student-focused initiatives.

As President, Dr. Jackson has prioritized campus improvements, advancing state-funded projects such as a new School of Nursing and Health Professions building, a Veterinary Sciences building, a Learning Commons/Residence Hall and advancing the University's Program of Distinction – Cybersecurity and Network Management. Additionally, nearly \$100 million has been allocated to address deferred maintenance and enhancements to the campus, including renovations to Lovett Auditorium, Wrather Hall and the Curris Center, as well as the development of Woods Park. In 2024, he secured the acquisition of Station 74 to provide apartment-style housing for students.

Dr. Jackson's tenure has also focused on academic and athletic advancements. He guided the University through the pandemic and transitioned its athletics programs to the Missouri Valley Conference and Missouri Valley Football Conference. Celebrating the University's 100-year legacy, he co-authored *The Finest Place We Know: A Centennial History of Murray State University, 1922-2022*, capturing the institution's rich history, the successful completion of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reaffirmation process, along with being recognized as the South's #1 Best Value university by *U.S. News and World Report*. In addition to his leadership at Murray State, Dr. Jackson has served as Chair of the Council of University Presidents for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and as a Kentucky State Senator where he worked on significant state and federal governmental projects, earning recognition for his public service. His private sector experience includes roles in corporate finance and investment banking.

Dr. Jackson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from the finest place we know – Murray State University. He earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Antioch University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Kentucky University. He holds a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Indiana University's School of Philanthropy. Dr. Jackson has also been honored by Murray State with the Golden Horseshoe Award, the highest alumni distinction, and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by LaRue County High School in 2010.

Karen Miller Jackson is present today and is a devoted Murray State alumna and First Lady. She embodies a deep commitment to serving others. As a student, she was a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and has continued her involvement as a member of the Advisory Board. Mrs. Jackson graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, launching a career as a Registered Nurse with a clinical focus on intensive care and pediatrics, where she provided compassionate care to countless patients. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most challenging periods in recent history, Mrs. Jackson assisted in the efforts between Murray State's patients, nursing students and faculty at the University's regional vaccination clinics. She volunteered at the campus clinic, supporting critical health initiatives for the community. In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, she was honored with the COVID-19 Hero Award in 2021 by the College of Education and Human Services. After the couple's decades of service to Murray State University, Dr. Jackson will retire on June 30, 2025, leaving a legacy of progress, philanthropy and steadfast dedication to higher education. The Jacksons have been generous donors to the University for decades, supporting students and programs across campus. They are also lifetime members of the Murray State University Alumni Association. They are the parents of Nolan Jackson and wife Nikki, and Mariel Jackson Gibson and husband, Dr. Andrew Gibson, all of whom reside in Washington, DC.

In recognition of their exceptional contributions, the honorary naming of the new building which will house the School of Nursing and Health Professions the *Robert L and Karen Miller Jackson Hall "Jackson Hall"* is enthusiastically being recommended. Jackson Hall will be prominently displayed on the building's exterior, accompanied by a permanent plaque at the entrance honoring Dr. and Mrs. Jackson's tremendous dedication and service to the University. This tribute would be a fitting acknowledgment of their outstanding support and commitment to Murray State University for over four decades.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Waldrop moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Board of Regents and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building as "*Jackson Hall*" in recognition of Dr. and Mrs. Jackson's outstanding support and commitment to Murray State University. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Regent Price expressed appreciation to President and Mrs. Jackson for what they do for this University. The entire family has been ingrained in this campus for a lifetime and appreciation was expressed to them for being Racers and fantastic supporters of the University.

Full Board Action – Robert L and Karen Miller Jackson Hall – "Jackson Hall" – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the Chair of the Board of Regents and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building as "*Jackson Hall*" in recognition of Dr. and Mrs. Jackson's outstanding support and commitment to Murray State University. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

President and Mrs. Jackson received a round of applause and a standing ovation. Dr. Jackson thanked the University and the Board of Regents for this wonderful honor. He and Karen are humbled. When Chair Owens mentioned this to them several weeks ago, it was a surprise but a wonderful honor. Murray State means a great deal to all who are associated with the University. They are retiring but will miss the day-to-day activities in most respects. Karen is ready to see the world, her children and her grandchild who will be here soon. He has been at Murray State a long time and is looking forward to his successor continuing to move this University forward. Dr. Jackson stated that he will continue to provide assistance when requested but without getting in the way. He wants to help the next Murray State University President to be successful. All who do this work are caretakers for a period of time and have important jobs to do. This is a public university that serves the public, especially students, and this is an important responsibility. He gets to work with a lot of wonderful people who love Murray State and care about what is going to happen in the future. He also gets to work with wonderful faculty,

including Faculty Senate President Dr. David Roach. There are no accidents and everything that occurs is due to the good people who want to advance an idea – no matter what the initiative is – and this is invaluable. He and Karen are both very grateful to Murray State University and are very humbled and honored by this naming. Appreciation was expressed to all. Mrs. Jackson thanked the Board and indicated they are both very humbled and appreciative. It is an honor, especially for her, with the naming being for the nursing building. It is perfect and she is very appreciative.

Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area – Calloway County, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that Sid and Melissa Easley, both alumni of Murray State University, are being celebrated for their lifelong commitment to service, philanthropy and numerous personal and professional accolades. Sid Easley earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Science from Murray State University in 1962, followed by an LLB from the University of Kentucky in 1965. During his time at Murray State, Mr. Easley actively engaged in campus life, serving as President of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, President of the University's Student Organization and as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership honor society. He dedicated fifteen years to the National Boy Scout Museum Board of Directors and held the position of County Attorney for Calloway County from 1970 to 1978. Mr. Easley was later elected First District Judge for Calloway and Marshall counties from 1978 to 1981. He practiced law with the firm Easley, Ernstberger, Perlow and Naber, LLC in Murray, Kentucky, until his passing in 2016. As an alumnus, Mr. Easley held numerous leadership positions at Murray State, including serving on the Executive Council of the Murray State University Alumni Association (MSUAA) Board of Governors from 1976 to 1980 and as its President for 1978-79. He was also a Board member of the Miller Memorial Golf Course, owned by the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. In 1987, he was among the first recipients of the MSUAA Golden Horseshoe Award.

Mr. Easley was appointed to the Murray State University Board of Regents by Governor Brereton Jones for a six-year term, effective July 1, 1992. He was reappointed to the MSU Board of Regents by Governor Paul E. Patton to serve a second term through June 30, 2004. At his first meeting of the Board, Mr. Easley was elected by his fellow Regents to serve as Vice Chair. At the beginning of his second year on the MSU Board of Regents, he was elected Chair and served in that capacity until his term expired in 2004. In recognition of his contributions, the *Easley Alumni Center* was named in his honor in 2005.

Melissa Henry Easley graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Murray State University in 1964 and later earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1990, being named Sigma Theta Tau's Outstanding Nursing Student. She held leadership roles as President and Recording Secretary of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, was selected for Kappa Delta Pi and Delta Lambda Alpha honor societies and was named Outstanding Senior Woman at Murray State in 1964. Mrs. Easley worked as a teacher, Social Worker and Registered Nurse at Murray-Calloway County Hospital and Murray Angels Clinic until her retirement in 2007. An avid bird watcher and political advocate, she remains actively involved with various local organizations. In fall 2024, Mrs. Easley received the Murray State University Alumni Association Golden Horseshoe Award in recognition of her service.

The Easley's have two sons, Donald (Tara) Easley and Dr. Eric (Hilal) Easley, along with several cherished grandchildren.

As generous supporters of Murray State University, the Easley's established the *Sid and Melissa H. Easley Leadership Scholarship* and the *Sid Easley Lecture Fund*, which supports an on-campus lecture series through the Department of History. They have also been longtime advocates for Murray State's National Public Radio station – WKMS-FM.

Recently, Mrs. Easley made significant contributions to the Murray State University Foundation, Inc., including a gift of property in Calloway County, a cash gift and pledge. The donated land, originally purchased in 1974 and 1977 for its natural beauty, has been maintained as a conservation area following Mr. Easley's passing. This gift includes two parcels: 43-32 Martin Chapel Road (8.65 acres) and 43-32A Martin Chapel Road (46.0 acres). In addition, Mrs. Easley

established *The Easley Conservation Stewardship Fund for Excellence*, an endowment dedicated to the management, oversight and educational use of the property. The total value of the new gift and pledge is \$453,000. Through this generous donation, Mrs. Easley aims to create an ecological learning lab for Murray State students and promote conservation efforts. The property will be managed by a committee led by the University, as well as through a lease agreement between the Foundation and the University.

In recognition of the Easley family's exceptional contributions and service, naming the gifted property at 43-32 and 43-32A Martin Chapel Road the *Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area* is being proposed. A sign will be installed at the entrance and a Dedication is planned for spring 2025.

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 gifted property at 43-32 and 43-32A Martin Chapel Road the *Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area* in Calloway County, Kentucky, in recognition of the Easley family's exceptional contributions and service to Murray State University. Regent Hawkins seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area – Calloway County, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the gifted property at 43-32 and 43-32A Martin Chapel Road the *Murray State University Easley Conservation Stewardship Area* in Calloway County, Kentucky, in recognition of the Easley family's exceptional contributions and service to Murray State University. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Badgett Teacher Education Program – College of Education and Human Services, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that the Badgett Family is among Murray State University's most supportive donors with a passion for supporting education in this region. Having recently renewed their support to MSU, appreciation was expressed to the J. Rogers Badgett Sr. Foundation of Madisonville for the generous multi-year commitment to the College of Education and Human Services. The Badgett family has a longstanding tradition of supporting education throughout western Kentucky, a legacy that began many years ago. This commitment honors the memory of Mr. Rogers Badgett, founder of the Badgett Construction Company and Badgett Mine Stripping Corporation (1943-1976), who strongly believed in the value of achieving an education.

The Badgett family has previously established three scholarship funds within the College of Education and Human Services which have been instrumental in supporting aspiring teachers, especially non-traditional students and those transitioning from two-year community colleges. The Badgett family scholarships include the Rogers Badgett, Sr. Undergraduate Education Scholarship; the Rogers Badgett, Sr. Graduate Education Scholarship; the Badgett Family Professional Development School Fellowship and the newly-established Rogers Badgett, Sr. Student Assistance Fund which will help to eliminate the barriers of entry aspiring teachers face.

With this latest commitment, the family has increased funding for these scholarships and established Endowed Professorships in each teacher education area, including a position at the Murray State Madisonville campus. The Badgett Family Endowed Professorships include the Badgett Family Endowed Professorship in Adolescent, Career and Special Education; the Badgett Family Endowed Professorship in Early Childhood and Elementary Education; the Badgett Family Endowed Professorship for the Madisonville Educational Coordinator (2+2 Program) and the Badgett Family Student Fellowship which will provide support to Graduate Assistants in the Educational Studies, Leadership and Counseling program. These Endowed Professorships and Student Fellowship will enhance the college's ability to attract and retain

high-quality faculty, enriching the educational experience for students.

As part of Murray State University's Centennial Campaign, Endowed Professorships play a vital role in securing academic excellence. The Badgett family's contributions have impacted over 1,000 Murray State recipients, making a lasting difference in the lives of students, teachers and schools throughout the region. The College of Education and Human Services, with a history spanning over a century, has prepared a significant portion of the teaching workforce in western Kentucky, with 74 percent of teachers in the 18-county service region being Murray State graduates. The Badgett family's support will ensure the continuation of this legacy of educational excellence.

In recognition of the Badgett family's lasting impact and commitment, with over \$5.2 million in gifts to the University and the advancement of education, naming of the "Badgett Teacher Education Program" is being recommended. This honor will be marked with a Dedication and appropriate signage within the College of Education and Human Services symbolizing the significant contributions of the Badgett family to Murray State University and the surrounding communities.

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 *Badgett Teacher Education Program* within the College of Education and Human Services in recognition of the Badgett family's impact and commitment to Murray State University. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – *Badgett Teacher Education Program* – College of Education and Human Services, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the *Badgett Teacher Education Program* within the College of Education and Human Services in recognition of the Badgett family's impact and commitment to Murray State University. Regent Shemberger seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Thomas B. Logan and Jo Lloyd Logan Biological Sciences Building – "Logan Hall" – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, approved

The Logan Family name is well-known and recognized at Murray State University.

- Thomas B. Logan, M.D., received his B.S. degree in 1961 with a double major in biology and chemistry;
- Jo Lloyd Brown Logan received her B.A. in biology in 1962;
- Ann S. Brown, Jo's mother, was the sister of Lois S. Sparks, wife of the 5th President of Murray State University, Dr. Harry M. Sparks;
- Mark B. Logan, M.D., son, received his B.S. degree from Murray State in 1988, attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, performed his residency at St. Louis University and currently lives in Evansville, Indiana – he practiced with Dr. Logan, and is carrying on the family legacy still today;
- Thomas C. Logan, M.D., son and twin brother of Mark, also practiced with Dr. Logan and is carrying on the family legacy;
- Scott B. Logan, J.D., MBA, son, spent a summer on the campus of Murray State as part of the Governor's Scholar Program;
- Donna Krueger Logan, daughter-in-law and Mark's wife, received her B.A. from Murray State in 1990;
- William A. Logan, brother, received his B.A. from Murray State in 1956 and went on to earn a J.D. from the University of Kentucky and practiced law in Madisonville, Kentucky;
- Dr. William A. Logan II, nephew, received his B.S. from Murray State in 1985, attended medical school at the University of Louisville and went on to practice medicine as an ENT specialist in Madisonville.

As a student, Dr. Logan was a member of the Student Council and joined the Sigma Chi fraternity. Following graduation from Murray State, Dr. Logan graduated from the University Kentucky School of Medicine in 1967. He completed a year-long surgical internship followed by a general surgery residency at the Medical College of South Carolina. In 1972, he completed his ear, nose and throat residency at the University of North Carolina. In his last year, he served as Chief Resident of his class. Dr. Logan was named a 1987 Murray State University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus. In 2010, he was recognized as a Distinguished Biology Alumnus due to his professional success and service to others.

Dr. Logan taught courses at the University of North Carolina and the University of Kentucky. He has held many positions in professional groups and organizations throughout his career, including being a member of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Society, Chief ENT doctor at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, Indiana, and Kentucky Governor for the Board of Governors for the American Academy of Otolaryngology. He is a member of the Kentucky and Indiana Southern Medical Associations and the Kentucky ENT Society. Dr. Logan has also been listed in "The Best Doctors in America-Midwest Region." His service to others and organizations are many – most recently having served as the Chairman of the Board for the Henderson National Bank, now Field & Main Bank.

Mrs. Jo Brown Logan, as a student at Murray State University, joined the sorority Sigma, Sigma and served as President. She continues to stay in touch and support her sisters across the country. Mrs. Logan served as President of the Woods Hall Council, was a member of the Student Council, Panhellenic Council and the Romance Language Club. She was also a member of the Wesley Foundation and the honors organization, Alpha Chi, before she graduated in 1962 with a B.A. in Biology. Mrs. Logan obtained a Master's degree in Medical Technology and worked for a number of years while Dr. Logan was completing his medical training. As a dedicated community volunteer, she has served numerous organizations, including the Methodist Hospital Foundation, Operation Community Pride, United Way and served as Chair of the Methodist Hospital Campaign for the \$1 million tower addition.

With numerous accomplishments and building a family of five, Dr. and Mrs. Logan continue to pay it forward by investing their time, talents and treasure back into their beloved Alma Mater. Dr. Logan has been a valuable member of the Murray State University Foundation Board of Trustees prior to records starting in 2002. Both are members of the John Wesley Carr Society, representing more than 20 consecutive years of giving. They have invested generously across our campus – impacting students and programs in various majors and disciplines. They helped honor a special family by moving the *A.B., Eleanor and Brooks Mitchell Scholarship* to the Murray State University Foundation and continue to support the scholarship. With a major gift in 2002, they established the *Anna S. Brown and Ruth B. Logan Endowed Chair in Pre-Medicine*, helping to educate future doctors and carrying on their tremendous professional legacy. The endowed position is currently held by Dr. Ricky Cox. With a new commitment to establish an Endowed Professorship in the Department of Chemistry, as well as a new equipment endowment to support pre-medicine, biology and chemistry, their total giving to support Murray State University students and programs will now exceed \$4 million. This support spans 28 different funds over decades of giving, including support from the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of the *Bucks for Brains* matching program. Their lifetime of giving back to Murray State University has fostered program growth, helped retain exceptional faculty members and continues to impact the education of thousands of students.

In appreciation of the Logan Family Legacy, loyal support to the University and generosity spanning generations, approval of the naming of the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology *Dr. Thomas B. Logan and Jo Lloyd Logan Biological Sciences Building* – "*Logan Hall*" – to be commemorated with a Dedication and signage located both across the top of the building's exterior and at the entrance of the building on the *Gene W. Ray Science Campus* is being recommended.

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 Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology Biology Building as "*Logan*

Hall” to be commemorated with a Dedication and signage located both across the top of the building’s exterior and at the entrance of the building on the Gene W. Ray Science Campus in appreciation of the Logan Family’s loyal support to Murray State University and generosity spanning generations. Regent Wilson seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Dr. Thomas B. Logan and Jo Lloyd Logan Biological Sciences Building – “Logan Hall” – Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology Biology Building as “*Logan Hall*” to be commemorated with a Dedication and signage located both across the top of the building’s exterior and at the entrance of the building on the *Gene W. Ray Science Campus* in appreciation of the Logan Family’s loyal support to Murray State University and generosity spanning generations. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

Executive Director Bernot reported that Mrs. Oleta E. Burkeen and her family have a very generous giving history with Murray State University. Beginning in 2004, Charles and Oleta Burkeen established the Phoebe Fund Endowment in Nursing to assist nursing students of great need with final licensing examination, pins and other expenses directly associated with their final semester and/or graduation. Mrs. Burkeen’s daughter and son-in-law, Kelli and Scott Parsons, established the D. Scott and Kelli Burkeen Parsons Scholarship for International Study in 2010 as a way to assist students at Murray State University who desire to study abroad and thus enhance their international experience(s). Both of these Endowed Scholarships have helped countless students throughout the last 20 years.

Mrs. Burkeen, a 1971 Murray State University graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, earned her Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina and then served as Chief of Nursing for the Tennessee Valley Authority. She returned to Murray and taught community health nursing from 1977 until her retirement from the Murray State University School of Nursing in 2001.

Kelli Burkeen Parsons was born December 27, 1968, in Murray, Kentucky. She was Valedictorian of the 1987 graduating class of Calloway County High School. She received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Murray State University in 1990, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and the Master of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University Medill Graduate School of Journalism in 1991. She has served as Chief Communication and Marketing Officer for New York Life and Fannie Mae, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Hill and Knowlton and is currently serving as the Global CEO for the same firm within the Burson group.

David Scott Parsons was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on December 27, 1964, and grew up in Woodford County. Mr. Parsons graduated from the University of Kentucky where he earned a degree in business. He held management positions with Xerox Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation and Compaq Computer Corporation prior to his service as a Presidential Appointee in the administration of George W. Bush. As a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Treasury, Mr. Parsons directed critical infrastructure protection and compliance policy. He is currently Founder and Principal of Parsons Strategy Group, a consultancy in New York, New York, and Washington, DC.

The brand-new, state-of-the-art School of Nursing and Health Professions building on Murray State University’s main campus, expected to open its doors in 2026, will offer MSU students expanded instructional spaces, including skill and assessment labs, a simulation suite, a virtual reality learning lab, larger classrooms, a student commons and collaborative spaces. The new SONHP building will help Murray State continue to meet the needs of healthcare professionals in the region and beyond.

Kelli and Scott Parsons have made a generous new commitment of \$250,000 to support the equipment needed in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building with the intention of honoring the life and career of Kelli's mother, Oleta E. Burkeen. In appreciation of both the Burkeen and Parsons families' loyal support to Murray State University and generosity continuing into the future, approval of the naming of the "Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab" is being recommended to be commemorated with a Dedication and naming signage located on the third-floor Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building.

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Wilson moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the third-floor Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building the "*Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab*" to be commemorated with a Dedication and naming signage in appreciation of both the Burkeen and Parsons families' loyal support and generosity to Murray State University. Regent Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

Full Board Action – Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab – School of Nursing and Health Professions, approved

On behalf of the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee, Regent Price moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University and the Committee on Naming of Campus Facilities, Programs and Activities, approve the naming of the third-floor Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab in the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building the "*Oleta E. Burkeen Nursing Essential Skills and Health Assessment Lab*" to be commemorated with a Dedication and naming signage in appreciation of both the Burkeen and Parsons families' loyal support and generosity to Murray State University. Vice Chair Fitch seconded and the motion carried.

Adjournment

The Marketing and Community Engagement Committee adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Policy Changes

Faculty Handbook – Section 1.4.2.2. – Bylaws Article V. Election of Departmental Senators Update, received

Provost Todd introduced Professor of Mathematics and Faculty Senate President David Roach who has been the best academic administration the University has experienced with the Faculty Senate. He has done a wonderful job leading the Faculty Senate and part of what he will present today shows his leadership in staying on top of *Faculty Handbook* changes that are needed. Dr. Roach, his executive officers and the entire Faculty Senate are doing an excellent job. Dr. Roach reported that the shared governance the Faculty Senate has enjoyed with the administration has been great. The *Faculty Handbook* is designed to provide members of the faculty access to basic information in policies, procedures, benefits, services, rules and regulations that are of importance to them as teaching personnel employed at Murray State University. The following informational item has been revised in the *Faculty Handbook*, after receiving the necessary approval and this effort is to ensure the Board is aware of these changes:

- **Pages 26 – 27, 1.4.2 Faculty Senate, 1.4.2.2. Bylaws, ARTICLE V. Election of Departmental Senators** (Approved by the Faculty Senate, April 2, 2024)

When the School of Nursing and Health Professions changed its name, two departments were absorbed within that unit – Exercise Science and Nursing. The Faculty Senate elects members based off of those departmental names. Since those were absorbed into a single name, an effort is being made to address them equitably with a SONHP-Health and SONHP-Nursing so there are two positions with elected Senators based on these distinctions. This brings to conclusion revisions to the Faculty Handbook for 2024.

The Board of Regents previously approved the following policy changes to the *Faculty Handbook*:

- **Page 115, 3.6 Office of the Registrar, 3.6.2 Course Syllabi**
(Approved by the Faculty Senate, April 2, 2024; Provost and President, April 10, 2024)
- **Page 116, 3.6 Office of the Registrar, 3.6.4 Grade Reporting**
(Approved by the Faculty Senate, March 5, 2024; Provost and President, April 10, 2024)

Dr. Roach expressed appreciation to Provost Todd, Faculty Regent Shemberger and President Jackson for working with the Faculty Senate. Chair Owens expressed appreciation to Dr. Roach for keeping the Board informed. His work is very much appreciated. President Jackson added that Dr. Roach is a steady hand within the administration. The Faculty Senate is vitally important to this University as part of the shared governance model, along with Staff Congress and the Student Government Association. Dr. Roach was thanked for all that he does in an open and transparent manner. He and the Provost very much enjoy engaging with Dr. Roach. They may not always agree initially but they are able to come to an agreement and that is important. Regent Shemberger reported that she attends Faculty Senate meetings in her role as Faculty Regent in an ex-officio capacity to see what might be coming through the pipeline. She has previously served on Faculty Senate but has never seen a more streamlined effort than what Dr. Roach's leadership gives to not only the Faculty Handbook but operational procedures of that body for the betterment of students. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Roach and his leadership team for everything they have brought to the Faculty Senate.

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

Personnel Changes

Appointment of Interim Dean – Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business – Dr. Heath Keller – and Appointment of Interim Dean – College of Humanities and Fine Arts – Nicole Hand Report, received

Provost Todd reported that appointments for the following academic administrative positions have been approved for January 1 – June 30, 2025:

- *Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business* – Dr. R. Heath Keller has been approved to serve as Interim Dean. He is a Professor of Management and leads the largest department in the College – Management, Marketing and Business Administration. Dr. Keller is a Murray State alumnus and loves this University. Current Dean David Eaton has requested to return to a 9-month contract as a faculty member in the Department of Economics and Finance.
- *College of Humanities and Fine Arts* – Nicole Hand has been approved to serve as Interim Dean. Current Dean David Balthrop has requested to return to a 9-month contract as a faculty member in the Department of Theatre.

These appointments have the support of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Appreciation was expressed to Deans Eaton and Balthrop for their years of service to the University. Dean Balthrop was present and the Board recognized him with a round of applause. Dr. Keller was also present and the Board recognized him with a round of applause. Chair Owens reminded the Board that these represent interim appointments and the Board only acts on permanent appointments.

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

Supplemental Materials, received

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

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

Other Business/Adjournment

Chair Owens indicated he looks forward to seeing everyone for Commencement tomorrow and Secretary Hunt has provided instructions in terms of location and arrival times for the Regents.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Owens reported that the Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting and Committee Meetings stand in adjournment. Adjournment was at 2:22 p.m.


Secretary Jill Hunt


Chair Leon Owens