

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents  
Presidential Search Committee  
Murray State University  
January 31, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee met on Friday, January 31, 2025, in Special Session in Room 118 Wells Hall on the Murray State University campus. Chair Leon Owens called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. and welcomed those joining the meeting.

**AGENDA**

<b><u>Call to Order</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>
<b><u>Welcome/Presence Confirmation</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>
<b><u>Application Evaluation Process – President of Murray State University Consultant</u></b>	<b>Academic Search Dr. Wanda Bigham</b>
<b><u>Closed Session</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>
<b>a. Pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(1)(f) – Discussions likely to lead to the appointment of an individual employee</b>	
<b><u>Open Session</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>
<b><u>Selection of Semi-Finalists*</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>
<b><u>Adjournment</u></b>	<b>Chair Leon Owens</b>

(\*Requires Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee action.)

**Welcome/Presence Confirmation**

Chair Owens reported that all members of the Presidential Search Committee were present, including Ad Hoc members Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board of Regents; Rob Miller, General Counsel and Courtney Hixon, Director of Human Resources. Also present was Dr. Wanda Bigham, Senior Consultant, with Academic Search.

General Counsel Miller reported that as part of the search process, instructions will be given with regard to topics to avoid. Those topics include the race, color, national origin, gender, disability status, age, religion, veteran status or sexual orientation of any of the candidates. Sometimes candidates will volunteer some of this information but the Committee must steer clear of discussing that information should it arise in conversation.

**Closed Session**

Chair Owens indicated that he would entertain a motion for the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee to go into Closed Session pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(1)(f) for discussions likely to lead to the appointment of an individual employee. Regent Roark so moved, seconded by Regent Shemberger, and the motion carried.

Ad Hoc Presidential Search Committee members Secretary Hunt, General Counsel Miller and Director Hixon, along with Dr. Bigham, were asked to remain in the meeting room during Closed Session

Closed Session began at 8:40 a.m.

### **Reconvene/Open Session**

Chair Leon Owens indicated he would entertain a motion to reconvene the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee. Regent Ovey so moved, seconded by Vice Chair Fitch, and the motion carried. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:35 a.m.

Chair Owens reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

### **Presidential Semi-Finalists, selected**

Chair Owens reported that the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee reviewed applications for the position of President of Murray State University and reduced the applicant pool to a list of semi-finalists to advance to the next stage of the process. This procedural step is not a final action as described in the Kentucky Open Meetings Act and the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee will vote on the selection of semi-finalists by number so as to protect their confidentiality and protect against possible reputational harm.

Vice Chair Fitch moved that the Board of Regents Presidential Search Committee recommend the following candidates be advanced as semi-finalists for President of Murray State University: 25, 31, 33, 49, 51, 53, 57, 58, 60, 66 and 75. Regent Ovey second and the roll was called with the following voting: Mr. Belcher, yes; Dr. Fitch, yes; Mr. Hawkins, yes; Dr. Meinschein, yes; Mr. Ovey, yes; Dr. Price, yes; Mrs. Roark, yes; Dr. Shemberger, yes; Mr. Waldrop, yes; Dr. Wilson, yes; and Chair Owens, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Owens confirmed that the interview questions to be used during the interview process will be finalized by Academic Search with input from the Presidential Search Committee to ensure all University policies and procedures are met.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Presidential Search Committee, Chair Owens declared the Special Meeting adjourned. Adjournment was at 11:45 a.m.

  
Secretary Jill Hunt

  
Chair Leon Owens