

## Faculty Senate

### April 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved at the 5/7/2024 Senate Organizational Meeting

Tuesday April 2, 2024

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Curris Center Barkley Room

Public Access Zoom link: <https://murraystate.zoom.us/j/83844364068>

Senators in attendance: Oliver Beckers, Michael Bordieri, Michael Busby, Whitney Cassidy-Caywood, Paul Foote, Stephanie Ford, Nikki Gaylord, Eran Guse, Jeff Henry, Ray Horton, Amanda Joyce, Samer Khalil, Braun Oldenkamp, Heidi Ortega, Michelle Panchuk, Barbie Papajeski, Jeremy Phillips, Aaron Irvin proxy for David Pizzo, Ted Porter, Ben Post, Thomas Powell, Brenda Reeves, Selise Ridolfi, David Roach, Jenny Rogers, Faris Sahawneh, Cintia Segovia Figueroa, Shri Singh, Jan Super, Ken Sutrick, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Gary Morris proxy for David Wilbanks, Jenilee Williams, Andrea Willson, and Abdul Yarali.

Guests in attendance: Faculty Regent Melony Shemberger

- I. Call to Order at 3:32pm
- II. Approval of Minutes. March 2024 minutes approved by show of hands without objection.
- III. Welcome and Sign-in
- IV. Rules and Agenda --- Faculty Senate President, David Roach
  - President Roach reminded senators of several standing Senate rules, including preceding comments with the name of the senator and departmental affiliation and limiting comments on pending business to one comment until all senators have had an opportunity to speak. President Roach also introduced a new rule with unanimous consent: Senate business that receives a “needs study” designation by the Provost or University President will return to the Executive Committee for possible revisions based on any “needs study” comments from the administration. The executive committee may place the revised item of business on the agenda of any regular Senate meeting as a voting item without an additional drafting period.
  - President Roach requested to implement the rule with unanimous consent. Senator Irvin raised an objection that this procedure appears to be a pocket veto. President Roach responded that this is not the intent of this procedure. Senator Post asked for clarification regarding alternative mechanisms to bring an item of business back to the floor and President Roach clarified that this would not supersede other mechanisms. Secretary Horton asked a question about past business and President Roach referred the senator to the senate archive posted on canvas. Secretary Bordieri clarified that the proposed rule might allow the Senate to act more quickly on items of business when it is desired, and Vice President Ortega indicated that the intent of needs study is to prevent a “pocket veto” by allowing for ongoing discussion and action instead of outright rejection. Senator

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Henry asked a question about previous Senate history and unsigned Senate business, and President Roach responded that there were instances of a “pocket veto” during a previous administration. Senator Powell requested that the official minutes clearly delineate between the role of Senate President and University President. President Roach called the vote: 20 yes, 3 no, 4 abstain. The “Roach” rule was approved by the Senate.

V. Distinguished Guests

- President of the University, Bob Jackson. Unavailable due to SACSCOC site visit.
- Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, Tim Todd. Unavailable due to SACSCOC site visit.
- Faculty Regent, Melony Shemberger. Regent Shemberger noted that she communicated with all faculty yesterday via email and welcomed any questions. Noting none, she thanked faculty for all their efforts and allowed the meeting to return to the busy agenda.

VI. Senator Spotlight

- Thomas Powell, Assistant Professor of Animal Science. Senator Powell presented a slide show highlighting his academic and professional history. He noted that he was CEO of the American Meat Science Association for 20 years and started the Journal of Meat and Muscle Biology. Senator Powell shared that he joined the faculty in 2019 and highlighted his innovative teaching. He thanked the faculty development center for the support of his teaching, and also noted that he is the advisor of the animal science club. He also highlighted his research on food structures, with an emphasis on supporting student research. Senator Powell also shared his love for Murray State and gratitude for the support he has received on campus.

VII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- A. Academic Policies – Chair, Brian Bourke
  - a. No report.
- B. Finance – Chair, Jan Super
  - a. Senator Super reported that she shared the engagement study results with the executive committee to develop a summary. No other report.
- C. Governmental Affairs – Secretary of Senate, Michael Bordieri
  - a. Secretary Bordieri presented an overview of legislative activity with an emphasis on the budget, performance funding, and anti-DEI legislation. He reported the overall budget was positive, with a modest increase in base and performance funding along with funding for capital projects. Secretary Bordieri reported that the Senate adjourned last Thursday without taking action on anti-DEI legislation, effectively ending any action in this area this session. Senator Horton thanked Secretary Bordieri for his work with the committee, and Senator Bordieri returned the gratitude and noted that the entire committee was highly active during this legislative session. Secretary Bordieri reported that faculty evaluations of administrators would be held April 10-19 on MyGate, and he requested that Senators encourage faculty participation in the evaluations.

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- D. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Ben Post
  - a. Draft: FSH-23-24-5 --- University Closure
  - b. Senator Post provided an overview of the revised university closure draft. Senator Powell asked about a possible notification timeline or requirement for weather closures. Senator Irvin reported that the committee considered such a requirement but decided that it was not feasible. Senator Panchuk asked about the phrasing “materially affected” might be interpreted, and raised a concern that it might not be possible for faculty to meet this standard in all circumstances. She also noted a tension between being on leave without pay and being expected to make modifications to course content. Senator Post noted that he believes the language “materially affected” is constructed broadly and would not be used to punish faculty. Senator Post noted that the committee will continue to explore how remote instruction fits within existing handbook language.
- E. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
  - a. Vice President Ortega reported that this is the busy time for her committee. She reported that it is the even year for senator elections, and she emphasized that departments need to hold secret ballot elections for senators.
  - b. Secret Ballot Vote: Stephen B. White Award 2024
    - i. Vice President Ortega called a secret ballot vote among the following nominees: Barbie Papajeski, Michael Bordieri, and Jan Super. Secretary Bordieri recused himself from recording the vote and sat in the audience as the voting took place. A secret ballot vote was conducted via paper in the room and via an anonymous poll on Zoom. The results were received by Vice President Ortega and will be shared at a later time.
  - c. 2/3 Majority Vote: FSM 23-24-4 --- By-laws Amendment
    - i. Vice President Ortega explained the rationale behind the motion and need to provide continuity in representation from the School of Nursing and Health Professions. President Roach clarified that since this is a single reading of a bylaws amendment it will require a 2/3 majority vote. Senator Guse raised a concern regarding removing military science. Vice President Ortega indicated that the intent was to simplify workload. President Roach noted that it also impacts quorum. Secretary Henry asked if a 2/3 majority of all senators would be required for passage of the bylaws amendment. President Roach ruled that it would require a 2/3 majority of senators voting. Secretary Bordieri shared that President Roach’s interpretation is consistent with the wording in the Senate constitution. The vote was called: 28 yes, 1 no, 3 abstains. The bylaws amendment passed with a 2/3 majority vote.

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- F. Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
- a. Vote: Provost Revision FSH 23-24-2 --- Affirmative Action Statement
    - i. President Roach provided a rationale for the addition of a self-described hyperlink to the official non-discrimination policy statement. He clarified this link can be updated without requiring a handbook update. Senator Post noted that the committee originally decided against providing a hyperlink due to concerns regarding future updates. Regent Shemberger clarified that the board would not require approval of an updated URL. Vice President Ortega stated that this is an effective example of the “need study” policy. Senator Irvin asked for a clarification regarding whether the hyperlink will be added to the handbook. President Roach reported that it will not include the actual text. Regent Shemberger noted that the self-described hyperlink is consistent with best practices in accessibility. President Roach called a vote: 31 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain. The handbook resolution passes.
  - b. Draft: FSH 23-24-6 --- Post-tenure Review
    - i. President Roach provided an overview of the draft post-tenure review policy and shared a draft flow chart of the process with the Senate. Secretary Bordieri provided a brief rationale for the policy, emphasizing that a new accreditation standard and broader political pressures have informed development. President Roach requested unanimous consent to share the draft with the broader campus community for discussion and feedback. Senator Powell asked about where to direct feedback. President Roach stated that feedback could be shared with committee chairs and officers. Senator Taylor asked what would happen if the faculty and administration do not agree of faculty performance. Vice President Ortega responded that the goal of the policy is to be faculty driven and to protect faculty and encourage development. Senator Irvin asked about the frequency of review. President Roach stated that that aspect of the policy is open for discussion. Senator Henry asked about possible disagreements between a dean and tenured faculty regarding standards. President Roach stated that the process would continue until they both agree. Senator Panchuk asked about continuity between the brief review and the year four comprehensive review. Secretary Bordieri thanked the senator for this comment and noted that this feedback is what the extended drafting period hopes to generate. Senator Guse asked where is the “carrot” in this policy (i.e., positive incentive for work past tenure). President Roach noted that the discussion will continue throughout the drafting period.



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- VIII. Other University Committee
- A. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee
    - a. Senator Guse stated that he has not received his new HSA card. President Roach advised him to contact HR. Senator Busby raised a concern regarding the quality of the new HSA card.
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- President Roach reminded faculty to RSVP for the faculty awards banquet to be held on 4/18 at 5:30.
- XI. Adjourn
- Senator Guse made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Senator Oldenkamp. Approved by voice vote.