

Faculty Senate

December 2024 Senate Regular Meeting Draft Minutes

Approved at the 2/4/2025 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Curris Center Barkley Room

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

Senators in attendance: Gary ZeRuth proxy for Oliver Beckers, Michael Bordieri, Brian Bourke, Alison Brown, Erica Brown, Michael Busby, Paul Foote, Stephanie Ford, Chad Gaylord, Eran Guse, Marshall Hayes, Jeff Henry, Ray Horton, Amanda Joyce, Samer Khalil, Jonathan Lyon, Susan Miller, Shauna Mullins, Naveen Musunuru, Braun Oldenkamp, Heidi Ortega, Michelle Panchuk, Barbie Papajeski, Jeremy Phillips, Elena Picech, David Pizzo, Jessica Pryor, Thomas Powell, Brenda Reeves, Selise Ridolfi, David Roach, Faris Sahawneh, Megan Smetana, Ken Sutrick, Carol Terracina-Hartman, Jenilee Williams, and Abdul Yarali.

Special Guests: Faculty Regent Melony Schemberger

- I. Call to Order at 3:30pm by President Roach
- II. Welcome and Sign-in
- III. Approval of Minutes. The November 2024 minutes were approved by 24 yes votes.
- IV. Agenda Update --- President of the Faculty Senate, David Roach
 - a. President Roach provided an update on priority items including ,a revision to the faculty handbook to align instructors within the regular faculty ranks.
- V. Distinguished Guests
 - a. Faculty Regent, Melony Shemberger
 - i. Regent Shemberger shared several upcoming items pending on the agenda for the December Board of Regents meeting, including academic program changes and new degree programs already approved by academic council, financial audit reports, and naming opportunities. She indicated that she will email the agenda to faculty when finalized and invited faculty to participate in commencement on Saturday, December 14th.
- VI. Senator Spotlight
 - a. President Roach encouraged all senators to introduce themselves, their department, and something about themselves. Senators took turns making introductions.
- VII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Policies – Chair, Brian Bourke
 - i. Senator Bourke shared priorities for the committee, including exploring responsibilities of faculty on various committees and exploring the practice of post-promotion salary adjustments.
 - b. Finance – Chair, Brenda Reeves
 - i. Senator Reeves provided updates on committee priorities, indicating that their focus is on the top four priorities identified in the 2023 faculty engagement survey: promotion and tenure raises, grievance policies, faculty turnover, and faculty involvement in budgeting. Senator Reeves also presented preliminary data

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regarding faculty salaries from peer institutions compiled from an online salary database. Regent Shemberger shared concerns regarding Risepoint management of an online program in her department, and noted a need for increased transparency and reporting. Senator Busby shared that he believes that the Senate should invite campus administrators to attend senate meetings and share information regarding major budget commitments. Senator Pizzo shared a concern that the budget advisory committee has not yet met during this academic year.

- c. Governmental Affairs – Secretary of Senate, Michael Bordieri
 - i. Secretary Bordieri shared that the committee continues to prepare for the 2025 legislative session and that there have been no significant developments since the last meeting. Senator Panchuk asked about possible changes to the Council of Higher Education Diversity Plan and requests for campus-level information by legislators. Secretary Bordieri replied that the Interim Joint Committee on Education requested information from all Kentucky public institutions regarding diversity programs, policies, and courses. Further, he indicated that the CPE diversity plan is mandated by statute and that it appears to be an area of concern for some lawmakers.
- d. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
 - i. Senator Busby reported that the committee is developing a tracking system for faculty to share recommendations for handbook updates/revisions. He also shared a recent request to explore the wording regarding years of service required from promotion to full professor. Senator Busby indicated that the committee believe that the handbook language is not in need of revision, but that training and clarification at the college level may be needed to clarify the year of service requirements.
- e. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - i. No report
- f. Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - i. President Roach reported that a motion to recommend increases to promotion raises is being discussed by the executive committee.
 - ii. Open Forum: Summer Compensation Ideas and Models
 - 1. President Roach called to order the open forum welcoming discussion on the summer compensation model and offered a set of guiding questions and possible models. Senators engaged in a lively discussion regarding possible models.
- VIII. Other University Committees
 - a. Faculty and Staff Insurance and Benefits Committee
 - i. No report. Committee meets Friday 12/6.
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
 - a. Senator Reeves raised a concern regarding facility management and heating of university buildings.
- XI. Adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:05pm.