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Board of Regents, Murray State University

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
Murray State University
October 8, 2001

The Board of Regents of Murray State University met on October 8, 2001, in special session in the Jesse Stuart Room, Pogue Library, on the main campus of Murray State University. Mr. Don Sparks gave the invocation. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Sid Easley.

Upon roll call, the following members were present: Marilyn Buchanon, Olivia Burr, Lori Dial, Beverly Ford, Nikki Key, Wells Lovett, Mike Miller, Don Sparks, Terry Strieter and Sid Easley. Absent: Elizabeth McCoy.

Others present were Kern Alexander, President of the University; Sandra Rogers, Secretary to the Board; Tom Denton, Treasurer to the Board and Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services; Gary Brockway, Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs; Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Jimmy Carter, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; John Rall, University Counsel; Dewey Yeatts, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management; Joyce Gordon, Associate Vice President for Human Resources; members of the faculty, staff, students, news media and visitors.

Enrollment and Recruitment

Mr. Jim Vaughan, Interim Dean of Admissions and Registrar, reported that enrollment at the end of October was 9,647 exceeding our goal of 9,325.

He further added that we have increased the number of African-American enrollment to a record high for us. We didn't meet our African-American goal of 555, but we have an increase of 543. We fell down a little bit in the African-American new freshmen. There are a number of initiatives going on.

Dr. Robertson reported that the University is revising the African-American Recruitment Plan. A new Assistant Director of School Relations, Elana Kornegay, has been hired to lead our efforts in African-American recruitment and we are confident we will increase our numbers.

Dr. Alexander expressed appreciation to Jim Vaughan for his work in coordinating enrollment management activities at the University.

Reports on Murray State University's Performance

Provost Gary Brockway reported that Murray State has received recognition for the 11th consecutive year by the *U.S. News and World Report*. We have been ranked as one of the top tier southern universities by the *U.S. News and World Report*. Murray is ranked 11th as one of the best values of southern universities and this would be all masters degree universities. We also rank #5 in the South of top public regional universities in the masters degree members. Some of the criteria used include our academic reputation, our class sizes, our faculty resources, financial resources, and graduation rates.

Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) commissioned a study of recent university graduates. The study was conducted by Wilkerson and Associates of Louisville, Kentucky. Murray tops all Kentucky public universities in 11 key categories: Instruction provided in major, availability of faculty, instruction and faculty (total percentage), academic advising, career counseling, availability of computers and technology, academic student services, computer and technical skills/preparation for work, research skills/preparation for work, preparation for work (total percentage), and graduates who donate money to civic, church or charitable causes. Murray tied for top percentage in public speaking skills and writing skills necessary for work.

Tuition Rates for 2002-2003

President Alexander showed charts indicating that Murray State is not high in tuition as compared to the national average for public universities.

He stated that after studying the situation in detail, he is recommending a tuition rate increase of 8.8 percent, which is necessary if we are to maintain the quality that we now have in our classes and faculty. In addition to that recommendation and upon the hard work and insistence of our student member of the Board of Regents, she has not only suggested, she has insisted that we have need scholarships and that we introduce new need scholarships. Mr. Lovett had talked with us about that earlier; Mike Miller and all of you have argued for increased scholarships to set off some of this tuition increase for the needy students and Nikki Key, the student member of our Board of Regents, has been the principal advocate of that. So as a result of that we have identified endowment funds coming from a generous donor to the University as an endowment and Judge Lassiter's gift to the University be matched by the state and this will provide a need scholarship endowment that the University has never had before. He expressed appreciation to Nikki Key for her suggestions and recommendations in that regard.

With this increase and no money coming from the state, assuming that we have 9,590 students, we would have a tuition increase of \$3 million and no state appropriations. We can't count on any state appropriations. The University is in a situation of hold on 5 percent as we think there may be a reduction in our present year appropriations from the state some time in November. We cannot assume more than \$0 from the state. If we take the \$0 and spread it across our needs, we would be able to increase salaries by 1.8 percent entirely from students tuition, no help from the state. Salaries, faculty, staff increase would be provided fully from the tuition dollars from the students just as though we were a private school. We don't have the benefit of federal dollars that private schools have.

Mr. Lovett moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached tuition rates for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Mr. Miller seconded and discussion followed. Mr. Miller stated that we are assuming that we will get no increase from the state and hopefully that will not be the case. Right now economic forecasts are not what we would like for them to be and we are hearing from Frankfort that the shortfall is real and will remain there for a while.

Ms. Key stated that "students understand that the economy is bad and the state budget is bad, but it's also bad for families and students and this trend of raising tuition to increase the university budget cannot continue. Right now student tuition and fees account for 38 percent of the university budget and with this increase it will be up to 40 percent of the budget. This is much too high for a public university. I want to send the message to the state that something must be done in Frankfort. We cannot continue to move towards students paying for the increase in budget needs instead of state funding. It amazes me that our state government allows this to happen because I was under the impression that one of the main goals of public higher education is accessibility. By continually looking to the students to finance the ever increasing need for more money completely negates this goal. Endowment scholarships for need based, the merit scholarships do help, but the state cannot expect universities across Kentucky to continue to offer access to be public institutions of higher education if students are expected to increasingly foot the bill."

There being no further discussion, the roll was called with the following voting: Mrs. Buchanon, yes; Ms. Burr, yes; Mrs. Dial, yes; Mrs. Ford, yes; Ms. Key, no; Mr. Lovett, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sparks, yes; Dr. Strieter, yes; and Mr. Easley, yes. Motion carried.

(See Attachment #1)

Mr. Miller moved that the Board take a break. Mr. Easley seconded and the break was from 11:00 am to 11:15 am.

Tuition Rates for 2003-2004

President Alexander indicated that last year the University had a 7.5 percent increase and 8.8 percent is recommended for 2002-2003, however, CPE requires us to give them a best guestimate of the out year of the biennium. The 7.5 percent is subject to revisitation, renewal and reexamination throughout next year, depending on what the budget does, but we must give them a number. We thought we would give them the number that we gave them the last two years, 7.5 percent.

Mrs. Buchanon moved that the board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached tuition rates for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Mrs. Ford seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Mrs. Buchanon, yes; Ms. Burr, yes; Mrs. Dial, yes; Mrs. Ford, yes; Ms. Key, no; Mr. Lovett, no; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sparks, yes; Dr. Strieter, yes; and Mr. Easley, yes. Motion carried.

(See Attachment #2)

Discussion of a New Wellness and Recreation Facility

President Alexander stated that MSU is one of the few universities that does not now have a wellness and recreational facility. We have asked the state of Kentucky, and it was presented to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee, as a number 2 priority for us to get a Wellness and Recreational Center. At that time they asked us if our students would be willing to put forth a match of funds if the state found the money. He added that it is a pretty big "if" at the state level now, but nevertheless we believe and our students believe that we badly need this kind of a new facility and we need to move it forward.

Dr. Dewey Yeatts, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, presented a slide show of wellness facilities around the state.

Mandatory Fee Increase

The increase of \$3.00 per semester credit hour in the Mandatory Fee will be designated for funding a wellness/recreation center building. The project scope and square footage will be programmed in accordance with total funding available, potentially including state capital project funds.

Mr. Miller moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve an increase in the Mandatory fee from \$17.50 per credit hour to \$20.50 per credit hour effective with the 2002-2003 academic year.

Mrs. Buchanon seconded and discussion followed.

Ms. Key stated that "the idea of a fitness center began last year as a student generated initiative. Former SGA President Michael Thorne took the lead on this idea. SGA composed two surveys last spring asking students if they wanted a fitness center and if it came to it if they were willing to pay a small fee increase. The answer was overwhelming yes. When I found out about a \$3.00 credit hour fee, I spoke to SGA about it last week. Throughout the remainder of the week SGA members talked to students in Winslow, their classes, residential colleges, and some were asked randomly of their opinion. SGA wanted to ensure the interest for this facility was still there and that the students were still willing to pay this small fee. While students agreed on this fee, I want to once again send a strong message to the state. MSU is the only public university that doesn't have a fitness facility comparable to all other universities in Kentucky. We deserve this facility. Not only will it be good for enjoyment by the students, it will also be valuable in recruiting. Students want this facility; however, we don't want to foot the bill by ourselves. At the very least, we challenge the state to match the money generated by this student fee increase. Students are putting our money where our mouth is and we strongly challenge the state in helping us financing this new and state-of-the-art facility."

Dr. Yeatts pointed out that the fee would be about \$8 per month, which is a bargain compared to the fee at a physical fitness center.

There being no further discussion, the roll was called with the following voting: Mrs. Buchanon, yes; Ms. Burr, yes; Mrs. Dial, yes; Mrs. Ford, yes; Ms. Key, yes; Mr. Lovett, yes; Mr. Miller, yes; Mr. Sparks, yes; Dr. Strieter, yes; and Mr. Easley, yes. Motion carried.

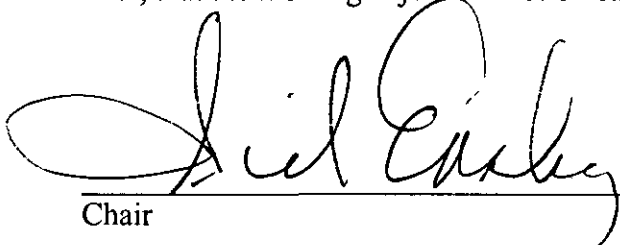
Ms. Key moved that the money collected from the mandatory fee increase be set aside for the fitness center and, once it is built and operating, any faculty and staff wishing to use the facility will have to pay a per month fee to be determined at a later time. Mr. Lovett seconded and motion carried.

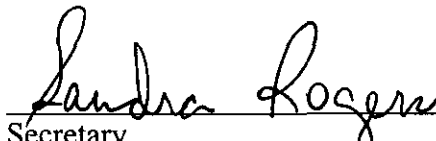
Mr. Easley reviewed the many changes to campus since Dr. Kern Alexander became President. He compared Dr. Alexander to Dr. Rainey T. Wells who endowed Murray State University with its fierce pride and daunting spirit. Dr. Alexander restored Murray State University to its fierce pride and daunting spirit.

The Board presented Dr. Kern Alexander a rendering of Alexander Hall with the inscription "presented to Dr. Kern Alexander who restored Murray State University's fierce pride and dauntless spirit, endowed by the founder October of 2001." They also presented him an Oakhurst print by C. G. Morehead.

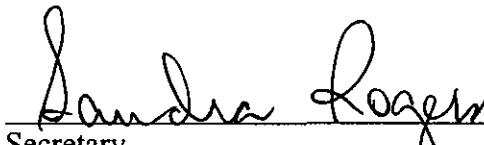
Adjournment

Mrs. Dial moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 12:00 noon.


Chair


Secretary

The remainder of page left blank due to the attachments to the October 8, 2001, Board of Regents meeting.


Secretary

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

SEMESTER TUITION RATES

FULL-TIME TUITION

<u>RESIDENT</u>	<u>2001-02 RATES</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	
		<u>DOLLAR INCREASE</u>	<u>RATES</u>
Undergraduate	\$1,167	103	\$1,270
Graduate	\$1,282	113	\$1,395
<u>NON-RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$3,501	309	\$3,810
Graduate	\$3,846	339	\$4,185

PART-TIME TUITION

<u>RESIDENT</u>	<u>2001-02 RATES</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	
		<u>DOLLAR INCREASE</u>	<u>RATES</u>
Undergraduate	\$102	9	\$111
Graduate	\$151	13	\$164
<u>NON-RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$297	26	\$323
Graduate	\$432	38	\$470

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

SEMESTER TUITION RATES

FULL-TIME TUITION

	<u>2002-03 RATES</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	
		<u>DOLLAR INCREASE</u>	<u>RATES</u>
<u>RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$1,270	95	\$1,365
Graduate	\$1,395	105	\$1,500
<u>NON-RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$3,810	285	\$4,095
Graduate	\$4,185	315	\$4,500

PART-TIME TUITION

	<u>2002-03 RATES</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	
		<u>DOLLAR INCREASE</u>	<u>RATES</u>
<u>RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$111	8	\$119
Graduate	\$164	12	\$176
<u>NON-RESIDENT</u>			
Undergraduate	\$323	24	\$347
Graduate	\$470	35	\$505