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Board of Regents, Murray State University

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**Minutes of the Special Board of Regents Meeting
Murray State University
October 30, 2005**

The Board of Regents of Murray State University met on October 30, 2005, in special session in the Board of Regents Room in Wells Hall on the main campus of Murray State University. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Don Sparks.

The following members were present: William C. Adams, Marilyn Buchanon, Olivia Burr, Lori Dial, Scott Ellison, Beverly Ford, Peg Hays, Alan Stout, Vickie Travis and Don Sparks. Absent: Terry Strieter.

Others present were: F. King Alexander, President of the University; Sandra M. Rogers, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board; Tom Denton, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board; Jim Carter, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; John Rall, University Counsel; Faculty Senate President Ed Thome; and news media.

Chair Sparks expressed appreciation to Board members and staff attending the meeting.

Discussions regarding the timeframe for interviewing candidates for President followed. Mr. Sparks stated that the plan is to have the candidates on campus before the students and faculty leave. That should be our target and hopefully have someone hired by July 1.

Statement by President Alexander

President Alexander made the following statement:

“Since I’m the source of all this trouble, I would like to first thank all of you. As I mentioned in the press my heart and my emotions are here and they are still here. My future in this opportunity was too good of an opportunity to pass up, in consultation with a number of people outside the campus and in higher education around the country. I don’t know where it will lead me or take me, but I know that I won’t have better friends anywhere in the country than I do here. One of the things that struck me most was when I was reading the student petition that Scott and those guys signed in that notebook. There are hundreds of names in there and it was nice to know so many of those names. I didn’t know that four years ago and in some ways, it’s the mixed feelings you have at graduation, you see so many students going on to bigger and better things, but in many ways you feel like you’re losing a lot of your friends as they walk across the stage. That’s how I feel, I feel like I’m leaving a bunch of friends.

“I do believe and I truly hope that we can get somebody in here and I will work as hard as ever to get the right person in here that has the same respect and has the same admiration and the same desire to help our students as I do. It would be nice to find someone who does that even better. I think that we have two months of work to do here, we have a lot of things going, we’re not backing off any of the work that we have in place. We’ve got a lot of recruitment efforts that we are in the middle of in Louisville and Lexington. We’ve got two important building projects and a third that will be the renovation project of the Library that’s moving forward and everything continues. As I point out, just because I’m going to be leaving at the end of December doesn’t mean any of these things should slow down, stop or even be reconsidered because these are projects that our campus needs badly. We need more rooms; we need more residential space for our students; we are at capacity. Jim Vaughan and Paul Radke did an amazing job with our freshman class this year. Every year we are holding our breath to make sure we’re not going to have an overflow and send students into hotels in the nearby community. We’re at the capacity issue, we’ve got great full-time students from farther and farther away and the wheels are going to keep moving forward and the people around this university, you’ve got the vice presidents and the best directors, the best team of people here. That’s what really makes this university work is the team of people keeping all these wheels greased and keeping the momentum of this university growing.

"I have been fortunate that you have allowed me to work here and continue pushing the momentum forward. I think we have made great strides in the last four years. I think it's important to be aggressive whether you are in a good or bad economy, just go forward and be aggressive. Take advantage of our autonomy as a university, that's very important because we are one of just twelve states that allows this much autonomy for a university, which means that this Board, the Vice Presidents, the Faculty Senate, the Staff Congress, and the Student Government, really shape our future, more so than you do in a lot of other states. We've been fortunate, I remember coming in 1993 and 1994 and remembering how this campus looked. From this building to this Board Room we are sitting in, to the Business Building, to the trash on campus, to the signs that were rusting, to the chicken wire in Carr Health, we've come a long way in the last decade. This Board has been absolutely vital to ensuring that that momentum continues.

"You can have a search as long as you want it or you can have a search as short as you want it. I think that it is a perfect time to get candidates on campus, to identify some candidates to get a pool of 8 to 10 people that you would like to take a look at by the end of January or February. There are a lot of good candidates out there looking, they flooded other applicant pools at other institutions and you want some of them to come here. It is very feasible that you could bring them in here in late March or April. I think it's important that the faculty talk to these people, it's important that the students get to know these people, and it's important that the administrative staff gets to hear the philosophy these candidates may have about higher education. It differs all over the United States. I think it is a good time to make a decision. Most of the academic years will end about May 15 or May 20, most people that make transitions will occur around that period and they will start July 1 in their new campuses around the country. I think with the right time line this Board can stick to that schedule to identify some top quality candidates and have them on campus so everyone gets to know them and have someone identified by July 1.

"I would like to thank everyone for their support, not of me, but of the University and our students. Our students are the beneficiaries of this. I heard a concern last night from a waiter in a restaurant that said that the next President might not let the fraternities play their music as loudly as they do now. I always thought that when the music is playing, the students are here. I was pleased to know when I was driving about 8:00 a.m. this morning, it's been a long ongoing struggle to keep our students on campus, but the parking lot was full this morning. Our students are here and we have an away football game. It shows that our students want to be here. It's giving them the opportunity to give them the facilities and the opportunities and the things to do. Stay here, live and learn, and grow together. That's one of the nicest results that I have seen is that this morning at 8:00 a.m. the parking lots were full on Sunday morning, which wasn't the case five or ten years ago. That's the work of the Board, that's the work of the Student Government, staff leaders and faculty leaders that have been a part of this process. I think that our University will be very attractive to a lot of candidates. Murray State nationally has a stronger reputation. A lot of people whether they are in Washington, New York or Oregon, know more about Murray State now because of our rankings and our graduation rates. I pledge my commitment to you to help find the right person that has the same kind of student interest that we have had in the past to continue pushing this university forward."

Review of the Search Process

Mr. Sparks reviewed the search process. After a search firm is identified, they will begin the process and work as a clearing house for our selection. To some degree, the process is under our control. If any of you have a name that's brought to you or that you hear of, you give that to Sandra and she will send them to the Search firm and they will go through their process of checking credentials and backgrounds. I would anticipate the search firm will get 50 to 75 applications. At some point, the search firm will sit down with the Board and go through what they consider the top 20 or 25. The timing of that is a mutual decision between the Board and them if they think we have had enough time to get the word out. It has to be advertised nationally. We go through those resumes as a Board or as a Committee. Hopefully, at that time we can get down to 8 or 10 and set them up for interviews, which will take about two days. He pointed out the advantage of interviewing off campus which included being near an airport and keeping the names confidential. Their names getting out early in the process could impact their careers. Another thing pointed out by Mr. Sparks is, "What happens here stays here." When they are in

the early stages, it needs to be completely confidential.

As soon as three or four candidates are identified as finalists to be interviewed, they will come to campus. They interview with different groups all day, then have dinner that evening with the Board. If the Board wants to attend the group discussions, they can, but the real obligation is to attend the dinner that night. We hope that we get some good candidates.

Review of the Request for Proposal (RFP)

Mr. Tom Denton, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, reviewed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The process is handled through the Procurement Office at Murray State. The Legislative Research Committee (LRC) has to approve the contract. We send the contract to the LRC that meets the second Tuesday of each month when the General Assembly is not in session. We will probably present to the LRC the second Tuesday in December. Some of the steps that we went through were the Board met and discussed the RFP, procurement drafted the language that was reviewed by the administration, we faxed that RFP to the search firms and at the same time we advertised it in the Courier Journal. We leave the RFP out with the search firms about twelve calendar days. Those proposals are evaluated, we undertake negotiations with the leading firm, and then obtain signature if we can agree with that firm if that is the selection. Subsequent to that we begin the approval process with the state, but as I said at that point you can go ahead and start dealing with that selected firm. The RFP is usually sent out to ten firms.

Mr. Sparks indicated that the next order of business is the motion is to authorize Tom Denton and staff to begin the process of putting out the RFP for a search firm.

Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. Burr, that the Board authorize Tom Denton and staff to begin the process of putting out the RFP for a search firm.

Ms. Dial amended the motion to say that Tom needs to work with the Chair of the Board if there's any questions.

Upon call for vote, the motion carried.

Mrs. Buchanan moved, seconded by Ms. Dial, that the Board, for privacy considerations, go into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) for the purpose of discussing the appointment of an employee. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Executive Session began at 5:39 pm and ended at 6:15 p.m.

Open Session

Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Ms. Dial, that the Board convene into Open Session. The Open Session reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. Dial repeated her amendment to the motion regarding the RFP procedure. The Chair will work with Tom if there are any changes or if he needs to confer with the Chair of the Board, that that will be done. Mr. Adams seconded and the motion carried.

Appointment of Interim President

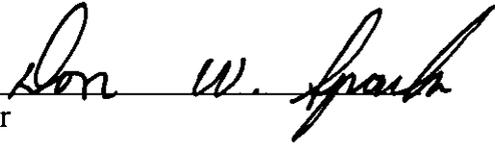
Ms. Hays moved that the Board of Regents employ Dr. Kern Alexander as Interim President to be effective the day after Dr. King Alexander resigns.

Mrs. Buchanan seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Mr. Adams, yes; Mrs. Buchanan, yes; Ms. Burr, yes; Ms. Dial, yes; Mr. Ellison, yes; Mrs. Ford, yes; Ms. Hays,

yes; Mr. Stout, yes; Mrs. Travis, yes; and Mr. Sparks, yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Mrs. Buchanan moved, seconded by Mrs. Ford, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 6:20 p.m.


Chair


Secretary