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Board of Regents, Murray State University

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
Murray State University  
February 27, 1988

The Board of Regents of Murray State University met February 27, 1988, in the Ohio Room, Curris Center, on the campus of the University. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., C.S.T., by Chairman William E. Beasley.

Upon call of the roll, the following members answered present: Mr. William E. Beasley, Mr. Robert C. Carter, Dr. James Hammack, Dr. Billy G. Hurt, Mr. Willie Kendrick, Mrs. Irma LaFollette, Mr. Chris McNeill, Mr. Frank Nichols, and Mrs. Virginia Strohecker arrived at 10:25 a.m. Mr. C. Waitman Taylor was absent. The Chairman stated a quorum was present to conduct business.

Present for the meeting were Dr. Kala M. Stroup, President; Mrs. Patsy R. Dyer, Secretary of the Board; Interim Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board Dr. Robert Ramsey; Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. James Booth; Vice President for Student Development Dr. Frank Julian; Vice President for University Relations and Development Dr. Dave Perrin; Mrs. Sandra Rogers; members of the news media and visitors.

Resolution to Governor Wilkinson

The attached resolution which was approved in draft form at the meeting on February 17, was distributed to the members, and there being no objection was mailed to Governor Wallace Wilkinson.

(See Attachment #1)

Presidents' Club Dinner

Chairman Beasley reported that the Presidents' Club Dinner was held the previous evening, February 26. The group has 163 members who gave in excess of \$355,000 to the University last year. He stated it is important to have organizations and individuals give to the University, and it is especially important during this time of limited state funding. He added the event was exciting and rewarding.

Discussion on Extended Academic Programs

President Stroup reported that on February 9, all members of the Board of Regents were invited to a meeting in Paducah by Mayor Gerry Montgomery and the Leadership Paducah Alumni Group. Dr. Hurt, Mrs. LaFollette, Mr. Nichols, Dr. Hammack, Mr. McNeill, and Chairman Beasley were present and met with representatives of Paducah Community College, Murray State University, the Council on Higher Education, and the Paducah Leadership to discuss higher education concerns and specifically a four-year degree program in the Paducah/McCracken County area. Dr. Bland from Florida State University in Panama City was present to discuss the Panama City plan. She stated that on February 16, she, David Denton and Gary Cox of the Council on Higher Education, Dr. Charles Wethington who is Chancellor of the Community College System, and Chairman Beasley met to discuss the meeting held in Paducah. On Tuesday, February 23, she, Chairman Beasley, and Regent Nichols met with Gary Cox of the Council on Higher Education; Dr. Wethington of the U.K. Community College System; President Don Clemens, the Chairman of the Board, and Anne Gwinn of PCC; Fred Paxton and Mayor Montgomery to discuss needs and wants for higher education in Paducah.

President Stroup reviewed Murray State University's offering of courses at Paducah Community College, stating that most of the courses are graduate courses toward the Master's degree, that the University offers the MBA program and the BIS, and that Rank I certification can be obtained in Paducah. She added that we are underwriting some courses with low enrollments; i.e., English and Occupational Health and Safety. The areas in demand in Paducah are in Education, Nursing, Business, and Arts and Sciences. The University has surveyed the Paducah Community College students to determine for what courses they are interested in enrolling if

Murray State delivered the courses in Paducah. The University and PCC have worked together for many years.

President Stroup stated that the Paducah group believes placebound students have problems making a commitment to further their higher education when degree programs are not available and that as the senior institution in West Kentucky, Murray State University is the one to offer upper-level and graduate courses leading to the B.S. and/or Master's. The University of Kentucky is the logical institution at the Ph.D. level. The Paducah group wants a commitment of service beyond what is being delivered. One of the proposals made at the meeting on February 23, was for MSU to take the lead in developing a proposal for delivery of higher education to Paducah. Gary Cox had suggested that we have a proposal ready for the Council on Higher Education in 1989 which could be used for funding request. Dr. Stroup requested that the Board determine if it wanted her to expend the necessary time to work with the University of Kentucky, Paducah Community College, the Council on Higher Education, and the citizens of Paducah to develop such a model for the future.

Chairman Beasley reviewed the strong relationship between Murray State University and Paducah Community College over the past twenty years. He added that the University's mission statement includes in its role taking the institution into the region and that the 2000 Commission's Report urged the University to reach out and serve the placebound students in the region. In response to funding questions, Chairman Beasley stated that between now and Spring 1989, a plan needs to be developed to be presented to the Council on Higher Education for funding and thus, to the General Assembly in the next biennium.

President Stroup stated the next logical step is to put together a group with Murray State University as the lead institution with representatives from PCC, the Council on Higher Education, and Paducah citizens to develop plans, directions, and methods of financing. She added that representatives of each group would be responsible to their respective boards.

Chairman Beasley stated Murray State's representatives should include the President of the University, a Regent, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and the Dean of Continuing Education. He added Paducah's group would probably include Mayor Montgomery, Anne Gwinn of the PCC Board of Trustees, and Lawrence Durbin of the Leadership Paducah Alumni. He added the group needs to study surveys that have been done including demographics and consider what are the funding, administrative, and curriculum needs.

Dr. Hammack stated that the University is now delivering a major higher education system to this region through our main campus and the current extension programs. He summarized that the Board of Regents has two basic responsibilities: 1) to consider the higher education needs of West Kentucky generally and specifically Paducah and McCracken County, and 2) to determine the ability of Murray State to deliver those needs and at what level and what resources may be needed. He added that at the same time, he heard, when the undertakings of the committee were discussed, described a planning process that essentially falls into two phases: 1) analyzing the current status of Murray State's extension programs, relations with PCC, and other related matters and 2) analyzing the future needs and the resources to provide those needs. The second step appears to be, having made those analyses and assessments and determining at that point that it would be possible to go into one direction or another, to develop plans for some kind of implementation. Relating this back to the Board's responsibility, it seems the first step in that planning process is precisely what this Board needs to know in order to make a decision about how far, what might be delivered, what implementation measures would be possible, what level of services might be feasible. Information from that first step would enable the Board to say figure out how we do it in Paducah or elsewhere.

In response to questions about expanded service to other areas, Dr. Stroup stated we have had indications of interest from Hopkinsville.

Dr. Hurt stated that he commended any community for dreams; they are the first step in the achieving of realities, but they are dreams until they are shown to be otherwise. He added that Murray State must function on the basis of what realities are there, that this is a matter requiring study.

thoroughness, caution, taking this step by step, and letting everyone know what the information and data are, and then progressing on that basis. He stated he believed that it would be proper for this Board to authorize a study of the existing higher education offerings by Murray State University in Paducah in light of 1) the describable and known educational needs there, and 2) the hopes and dreams there.

President Stroup stated there is a third step: Given that the University can build the critical mass and get the resources, what would that next step look like. She stated there is a tremendous amount of interest from the Council on Higher Education, Paducah Community College, and the Paducah community to know what that next step looks like, what it costs, and how to do it. She added that at this time she did not have the authorization to commit the University's time and resources to move forward with developing a plan for this level of involvement.

Dr. Hurt stated that for the Board to commit itself to investigating and gathering data is proper and suggests the Board is interested in delivering services to meet the higher education needs as much as possible to the entire area.

Chairman Beasley observed that making a decision as to what is going to be in the next two to five years is an impossibility because of funding, therefore, the Board is looking at tiered or a series of decisions.

Mr. Carter moved that the Chairman of the Board be authorized to proceed with the appointment of the nucleus committee from Murray State University involving the President of the University, and that nucleus committee proceed with formation of the full committee to determine current and future needs for higher education in the Paducah/McCracken County area, to implement planning and funding for this project, and with a sense of urgency, to report its findings to the Board of Regents.

Mr. Nichols seconded.

Mrs. LaFollette observed the Board has two logical committees--Academic Affairs and Finance.

Mrs. Strohecker stated she understood this is a study; the committee reports to the Board; and the Board is not committing itself no matter what the study shows.

Mr. Carter stated he expected a strong recommendation from this committee.

Dr. Hammack stated that his understanding of the motion is the committee will be formed and the first phase of its work will be to assess the needs and required resources, then return to the Board with the data for decision(s).

President Stroup asked what questions does the Board want answered so that the study can be done in a thorough and responsible way. It was determined that the committee would define the data.

Upon call for the question, the following voted: Mr. Carter, yes; Dr. Hammack, yes; Dr. Hurt, yes; Mr. Kendrick, yes; Mrs. LaFollette, yes; Mr. McNeill, yes; Mr. Nichols, yes; Mrs. Strohecker, yes; and Mr. Beasley, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 1988-90 Biennial Budget

President Stroup distributed copies of information she has sent to Senator Mike Moloney at his request, and stated that Senator Moloney of the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee and Representative Clark of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee are working very closely with us to determine a host of scenarios. She stated that we have been in daily communication with Kevin Hable, the Governor's Budget Director, with the Chairs of the Senate and House A & R Committees, and with the Legislative Research Commission. Basically, the question asked of us by the Committees was what we needed in order that the quality of our programs would not be jeopardized. She stated that her basic response was the original request

because the Board of Regents approved a minimal request; however, the University was asked to provide three other scenarios: 1) funding of the formula as proposed by the Council on Higher Education, 2) a stationary budget, and 3) funding of salary increases at the 2% and 5% levels.

She reported that the University has a good pool of applicants for the position of Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services, that we are in the process of discussing the position with the final six individuals, that we have started making telephone calls to determine the interest of the individuals because it is expensive to bring them to campus, and that of five people contacted we have not been able to meet a single salary yet. She added that we are experiencing difficulty with AACSB in the Management Information Systems (MIS) positions. When AACSB was here for the accreditation visit, it said that we must have terminally qualified Ph.D. faculty. We are interviewing assistant professors who are commanding \$50,000 per year, and they have not completed the Ph.D. She stated that she wanted the Board to know that the salary situation in Kentucky institutions is a serious problem. It is particularly serious to Murray State's maintaining the accreditations we have.

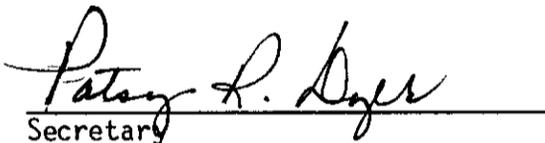
#### Televised Basketball Game

Chairman Beasley reminded the Board that the Murray State vs. Tennessee Tech Basketball game would be televised beginning at 12:35 p.m., and that the Racers are undefeated on the road.

#### Meeting Adjourned

Mrs. LaFollette moved and Mr. Nichols seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

RESOLUTION

Board of Regents  
Murray State University

WHEREAS, eight members of the Board of Regents of Murray State University are appointees of the Governor of Kentucky, and two members of the Board are elected by the faculty and students of Murray State University, and

WHEREAS, all members of the Board are cognizant of the responsibilities delegated with appointment/election and recognize the serious and demanding fiduciary charge of accepting such appointment, and

WHEREAS, the executive budget as presented to the General Assembly contained limited funding for the public higher education institutions of the Commonwealth, and

WHEREAS, since 1980, Murray State University Regents, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students have worked together endeavoring to obtain the greatest use of each dollar of revenue, and

WHEREAS, specific actions we have taken include:

- 1) each academic program has been reviewed for justification, updated, and where warranted eliminated,
- 2) the health and life insurance program benefits for University employees have been reduced,
- 3) athletic expenditures have been reviewed and decreased where possible, and athletic revenue has been enhanced,
- 4) departmental operating budgets such as travel, postage, office and classroom supplies, etc., have not been increased since 1980,
- 5) a 90-day hiring freeze on all positions has been implemented,
- 6) student activity fees have been increased, and
- 7) ancillary and auxiliary components of the University have been reviewed and informed of the expectations for revenue generation.

and

WHEREAS, we the members of the Board of Regents believe it is our responsibility to express concern that approximately 112 employees of Murray State University earn salaries below the poverty level, that the average salary of Murray State faculty members is \$27,000 per year, and that the salaries of faculty and staff members are significantly below the average of comparable benchmarks, and

WHEREAS, we further are concerned that lack of resources will effect our ability to provide assistance and services to the school districts of West Kentucky and to strengthen our services to business and industry to enhance the economic development of the area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of Murray State University appeals to Governor Wilkinson and the General Assembly for funding to provide a living wage to our faculty and staff employees and to enable Murray State University to continue its services to the students of Kentucky, the school systems, and the industrial complex of West Kentucky.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents is eager and willing to cooperate with the Executive Branch of State Government and the General Assembly to endeavor to convince the citizens of Kentucky that additional revenue is needed to support the State's public higher education institutions and specifically Murray State University.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board wishes to affirm to the Governor and the General Assembly our support and efforts to assist in solving the economic problems of the State.

  
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William E. Beasley, Chairman

February 17, 1988