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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
May 11, 2018**

Chair Steve Williams reported that in compliance with Kentucky Open Meetings Law for a Special Meeting the Board of Regents cannot stray from the printed, pre-published agenda. For this reason, before officially calling the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents to order he would like to make a few comments. He expressed congratulations to Regent Wood for recently becoming engaged. J. T. Payne, the new Student Government Association President and Student Regent, was introduced, recognized and welcomed to the Board. He is from Henderson, Kentucky, is an Agriculture Business major and will be a junior next year.

Commencement weekend symbolized why all are here as educators, Regents, faculty and staff – all who work diligently to provide the foundation for student success. Tomorrow 1,509 degrees will be conferred to students from 28 states and 23 countries and this is impressive by any standard. Appreciation was expressed to faculty and staff for all they do on a daily basis to ensure student success. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed by this Board and the President as he reminds the Regents frequently about faculty and staff leadership and their commitment to academic excellence. Faculty and staff were recognized as being the finest in the Commonwealth by a round of applause.

Chair Williams expressed “Happy Birthday” on behalf of the Board to Regents to Katherine Farmer and provided her with a personal cake to honor the occasion.

President Robert Davies reported that earlier this week Murray State University notified the Greek organizational leaders that social activities have been suspended pending a review of the Greek Social Event policy. He emphasized that Greek Life on campus has not been suspended but social activities have been halted pending this review. This action is not intended to be a punishment but, rather, an opportunity for the Campus Community and those affected to review the current Greek Social Event policy. Greek Life has been, is and will continue to be an important aspect of the Campus Community in the future. This represents an opportunity for the University to reflect on how best to strengthen policies and procedures governing social events within the Greek Life community and, in doing so, strengthen the overall Greek system.

Chair Williams expressed appreciation to President Davies for his message and leadership and indicated that the Board appreciates the actions of University leadership regarding the review of the Greek Social Event policy. The Board supports a vibrant campus environment that recognizes the important role that Greek Life plays on campus. This action will strengthen the Greek Life community as well as keep students and their visitors safe.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Board of Regents of Murray State University met on Tuesday, May 11, 2018, in Special Session in the *Jesse Stuart Room* in Pogue Library on the main campus of Murray State University. Chair Stephen Williams called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed those present.

The roll was called and the following Board members were present: Katherine Farmer, Sharon Green, Susan Guess, Daniel Kemp, Lisa Rudolph, Phil Schooley, Don Tharpe, Stephen Williams and Tori Wood. Absent: Walter Bumphus and Jerry Rhoads.

Others present were: Robert O. Davies, President; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; Mark Arant, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Jackie Dudley, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer to the Board; Don Robertson, Vice President for Student Affairs; Adrienne King, Vice President for University Advancement; Fred Dietz, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management; Allen Ward, Athletic Director; Renee Fister, Chief of Staff; the Collegiate Deans and members of the faculty, staff, students, news media and visitors.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Chair Williams

Roll Call

Secretary Hunt

Authorization of 2018-19 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates*

President Davies/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of 2018-19 Housing Rates*

President Davies/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of 2018-19 Dining Rates*

President Davies/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of 2018-19 Course and Program Fees*

Provost Arant/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of Prior Learning Assessments and Proficiency Reviews Fees*

Provost Arant/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of 2018-19 Online Course Fees*

Provost Arant/
VPFAS Dudley

Approval of 2018-19 Parking Rates*

President Davies/
VPFAS Dudley

Adjournment

(*Requires Board of Regents Action)

Dr. Davies reported that a Special Meeting of the Board of Regents Finance Committee was held on May 1, 2018, where many of the issues with regard to tuition, fees and rates were discussed fully. Today highlights of those elements will be considered and should result in recommendations which will then be made to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). Two weeks ago the CPE set tuition caps for the universities for the biennia – no more than a 6 percent increase and no more than 4 percent in one year for tuition and mandatory fees. A mandatory fee is one imposed on all students across the University and this differs from program and course fees, etc. The University will provide a tuition and mandatory fees recommendation to the CPE in June for approval. The University is undertaking this work now because the budgeting process is also being finalized. The budget will be presented to the Board for approval on June 8.

2018-19 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates, approved

Dr. Davies reported that a 3 percent tuition and mandatory fee rate increase is being recommended. Full-time resident tuition for students admitted prior to 2016 will increase from \$4,170 to \$4,296 (\$126 increase, \$10.50 per credit hour). Full-time resident tuition for students admitted after 2016 will increase from \$4,410 to \$4,542 (\$132 increase, \$11 per credit hour). The academic merit scholarship grid is based on a percentage of tuition for those students admitted after 2016. Since the Board last met many of the other state universities have also announced their proposed tuition increases. Western Kentucky has announced between a 3 and 4 percent increase. If they approve a 3 percent increase tuition will be \$5,151. It is expected Northern Kentucky University will recommend a 4 percent increase which will make their tuition rate \$4,867. Eastern Kentucky University initially proposed a zero percent tuition increase but they are on record as having asked for a \$10 per credit hour Asset Preservation Fee. If that is accepted and approved, tuition will increase to \$4,618. Morehead State University has also been noted as recommending no tuition increase but they are also asking for a \$5 per credit hour Asset Preservation Fee. If that is accepted and approved, tuition will increase to \$4,469. Kentucky State has proposed a 4 percent tuition and mandatory fee increase and tuition would be \$4,297. The University of Louisville was previously contemplating a zero percent tuition increase but over the last week has indicated a 4 percent increase is now being considered. This will increase tuition to \$5,755. The current tuition rate at the University of Kentucky is \$5,886 and if tuition is increased by 3 percent the new rate will be \$6,063. Murray State has specifically made an effort to position itself very well within the marketplace at the midpoint between Eastern (\$76 below) and Morehead (\$73 above) if the rates just outlined are approved.

Confirmation was provided that the tuition rate increase being proposed by Murray State parallels the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). The HEPI is the Consumer Price Index for higher education institutions. This is not a measure of tuition prices but rather costs that higher education institutions are dealing with such as health care, personnel, retirement, other benefits, technology, etc.

Ms. Wood stated she would like to make a few comments about what is being proposed today. At the last meeting she expressed concerns about course fees and she has continued to have conversations with administration in this regard in order to better understand the proposals being presented today. When she became President of the Student Government Association, she made a promise to students that she would truly stand up for and work on their behalf and would never say just what the Board or the administration wanted her to say and her comments today will reflect that promise. The University has continued to raise tuition every year since she had been at Murray State and she understands this is due to significant budget cuts and something has to give but this year in particular recommendations are being advanced that include establishing fees in 700 courses and increasing parking rates by \$100. The increase in parking fees alone amounts to \$600,000 and of this amount \$440,000 will actually be going back to the General Fund. She understands parking is expensive due to rezoning that is taking place and maintenance needs and this may warrant a rate increase but \$440,000 is not going toward maintaining parking on campus and instead is going to the General Fund. This represents an additional cost on the backs of the students. The proposed fees in 700 courses equates to \$590,000 and for an agriculture student this represents an additional \$75 per semester or \$150 a year in cost to students just for course fees and the amount is not reflected in tuition. If the increase in parking fees and when she equates the implementation of course fees to tuition it would be an increase of 9.5 percent.

Ms. Wood understands that the University is restricted by the CPE to a 6 percent tuition increase over two years and that it would be more advantageous to have an increase in tuition of 3 percent this year and 3 percent next year. The University is regulated by tuition and mandatory fees but it is not regulated by course fees or parking rates so what is being proposed today is what must be done in order to stay afloat as a university. Every department has had to cut their budgets and every single individual on this campus has been affected throughout the budget process. Students do not want their services or faculty to be cut as part of this process. The funding necessary to balance the budget should not fall on the backs of students when Murray State is a student-centered university. It looks as though a 3 percent tuition increase is being recommended but in reality total costs – if equated to tuition – are increasing by 9.5 percent. She asked the Board to think about this because it is not a 3 percent increase compared to the other universities – it is truly a lot more. Even if other universities implore the tactic of enacting course fees that does not make it right. Students do not know about these course fees until they are already on campus for Orientation. They have already committed to Murray State and then find out they have to pay additional fees. While \$75 per semester may not seem like a lot it is a lot to a student who cannot afford it and it isn't tuition. This means the *Racer Promise* cannot be used to help cover the increase. KEES and Pell monies cover tuition but do not cover additional fees and students will still have to pay for their books and parking. If the recommendations being proposed today are approved, they will now have to cover the cost of course fees above the other expenses mentioned. Clarification was provided scholarships and other grants do cover course fees. While some Regents have felt the same way as Ms. Wood regarding course fees, over the course of time they have not been able to offer another solution. When asked whether students have been able to identify another solution to cover these costs it was indicated they have not. Chair Williams confirmed that the Board is concerned about the total cost of education for students but, unfortunately, alternatives are limited.

Mr. Kemp appreciates Regent Woods' comments and the numbers presented but this helps illustrate that this was a very painful budget year and process. It has represented a difficult job for the President, staff, Deans and faculty to develop a proposal to balance the budget with comprising the academic Mission. The University had a \$10 million budget deficit due to cuts in state appropriations, increased pension costs and costs for maintaining the University. The price index for colleges increased 2.9 percent in 2017 and he believes it is fiscally prudent to raise tuition to keep up with inflation and that is one reason he supports the 3 percent tuition increase being proposed. This amount, along with the other fee and rate increases, are needed in order to balance the University's budget. All were reminded that the University has also reduced expenditures and cut programs and the budget is not being balanced by only increasing tuition

and fees. All were also reminded that the deficit was much larger at some other universities but Murray State was able to address the \$10 million deficit largely due to sound financial management in prior years and not balancing the budget with reserves. Dr. Davies added that the budget is being reduced by \$6.8 million in recurring expenditures in the colleges and departments and this includes positions, operating supplies and other things which support the institution's Mission. University-wide General Fund expenditures were also reduced by \$3.2 million. These expenditures have been removed from the budget and while some will be covered with course fees others will not.

Mr. Kemp moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the attached undergraduate, graduate and doctoral tuition and mandatory fee rates effective for the 2018-19 academic year. Mrs. Guess seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

(See Attachment #1)

Dr. Davies expressed appreciation to Ms. Wood for her leadership and her comments.

2018-19 Housing Rates, approved

Dr. Davies reported that a 3 percent increase in housing rates is being recommended for double rooms and 2 percent for private rooms. The documentation provided also lists the average rates for peer institutions (inclusive of anticipated increases) and Murray State is positioned slightly below the middle. For full disclosure, Ms. Dudley indicated that a new item has been added to the housing rates and that is an activity fee the University charges students for specific residence life activities. The proposal to charge this fee was made by the Residential College Heads, students and others involved with residential college life. The budget proposal presented contains a significant reduction in activities and the students came forward with the plan to advance the activity fee of \$10 per semester.

Mrs. Guess moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the 2018-19 housing rate increases listed below, effective for the 2018 Fall Semester.

<u>Housing Room Rates</u>	<u>2017-18 Rates</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>2018-19 Rates</u>
Springer II and Original Richmond			
Double Room	\$2,385	\$72 (3%)	\$2,457
Private Room	\$3,578	\$72 (2%)	\$3,650
Hart, White and Regents			
Double Room	\$2,623	\$79 (3%)	\$2,702
Private Room	\$3,816	\$76 (2%)	\$3,892
Elizabeth and Hester			
Double Room	\$2,862	\$86 (3%)	\$2,948
Private Room	\$4,055	\$81 (2%)	\$4,136
Franklin and Clark			
Double Room	\$3,279	\$98 (3%)	\$3,377
Designed Private Room	\$3,726	\$75 (2%)	\$3,801
Double as a Private Room	\$4,472	\$89 (2%)	\$4,561
 <u>College Courts</u>	 <u>2017-18 Rates</u>	 <u>Increase</u>	 <u>2018-19 Rates</u>
One Bedroom Apartment	\$468/mo	\$ 9 (2%)	\$477/mo
Two Bedroom Apartment	\$562/mo	\$17 (3%)	\$579/mo

Housing rates will be increased by \$10/semester for a residence hall activity fee, excluding College Courts.

Mrs. Rudolph seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

2018-19 Dining Rates, approved

Dr. Davies reported that a 3 percent increase in dining rates is being proposed related to all access residential meal plans. Information was provided to illustrate where Murray State stands in regard to peer institutions in terms of dining rates. The University is currently undertaking the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to outsource dining operations. The Board will still maintain authority over any rate increases even if dining operations are outsourced. This rate has also been discussed with those organizations contemplating submitting a response to the RFP and this dining rate increase will not impact that process.

Ms. Dudley reported that next week two contractors will be on campus to make presentations. University staff have already visited a school that utilizes one of the contractors being considered and next week will visit another school that uses the second company being considered. The Committee expects to make a recommendation during the last week of May in order for the Board to take action at the June meeting. The Board will not be asked to approve a particular vendor but would authorize the President to negotiate a contract with the vendor recommended by the Committee.

It was stated that it is hoped the University can maintain a focus on the *Racers Helping Racers* program to provide food for students who need assistance. This program also provides a service learning opportunity for other students. Confirmation was provided that students can go to Dining Services and, based upon need, receive meal vouchers. David Looney, Director for Auxiliary Services, confirmed that Dining has a meal pool available for students in need and these are issued through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. This is in addition to the food pantry that is available and other students can contribute to this effort instead of paying a parking ticket. Dr. Davies stated that Murray State started a national trend in this regard.

Ms. Dudley confirmed that the state pension system was the driving force behind the decision to pursue outsourcing options. For employees in Dining Services who are in the Kentucky Employee's Retirement System, added pension cost would total approximately \$500,000. The pension cost avoidance would be part of the financial decision and an analysis will be provided to the Board in June.

Dr. Tharpe moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the 2018-19 meal plan rate increases listed below, effective for the 2018 Fall Semester.

Residential Meal Plans

<u>Plan Type</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Flex</u>	<u>17-18 Price</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>18-19 Price</u>
All Access*		\$ 75	\$1,830	\$53 (3%)	\$1,883
175/400	175	\$400	\$1,830	\$43 (3%)	\$1,873
150/300	150	\$300	\$1,763	\$44 (3%)	\$1,807

*This plan receives eight guest meals. Students will have the option to purchase an additional \$75 Flex for \$65.

Flex Meal Plans (Available to commuters and residential students who are not required to purchase a meal plan.)

<u>Plan Type</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Flex</u>	<u>17-18 Price</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>18-19 Price</u>
Bronze	N/A	\$ 385	\$ 385	0.0%	\$ 385
Silver	N/A	\$ 550	\$ 550	0.0%	\$ 550
Copper	N/A	\$1,000	\$ 950	0.0%	\$ 950
Platinum	N/A	\$1,200	\$1,100	0.0%	\$1,100
Meal Bundle	10	N/A	\$ 75	0.0%	\$ 75

Mrs. Rudolph seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

2018-19 Course and Program Fees, approved

Dr. Davies stated that all opportunities were considered ranging from reductions to recommendations for revenue increases as the budget process was undertaken. Murray State has not typically relied on course fees and he and the Provost would both prefer to pursue more tuition-like revenue streams but the University is in a very unique situation with regard to the current fiscal environment. Course fees are specific to programs, courses and expenses that add incredible value, rigor and relevance to classroom instruction and each area should be handled differently. Some universities have implemented differential tuition models and this has been studied by Murray State and may need to be considered in the future. In light of action which needs to be taken today, course fees represent an option to maintain rigor.

The Deans have been very conservative in their approach to course fee proposals to ensure affordability could be maintained for students. Not all course fees recommended are being brought forward for approval today. An effort was made to ensure all course fees are tied to a very specific program or service. The \$590,000 in revenue from course fees is significant and it does help offset some expenditures. A significant portion of this revenue is related to the Doctor of Nursing Anesthetist Program which is being offered in partnership with Baptist Health. This element adds great value and rigor to this program and students are able to complete the program in modest time and are able to enter the workforce with exceptional salaries that more than offset their expenditures. Even with the increase being proposed, total cost for the program is very much in line with other programs the University competes against in this area.

The President, Provost and Deans all agree with regard to the transparency issue mentioned earlier with regard to course and program fees. Additional strides will be employed in this regard in addition to what is already in place to ensure students are aware of additional program and course fees. Provost Arant will be working with a faculty member in the *Bauernfeind College of Business* to create a more robust tuition calculator that would allow students to type in their major and know total cost for tuition as well as relevant course fees. Current web registration does notify students whether there is a course fee but it does not outline the amount. Diligent efforts will be made to provide this additional information through that website. Murray State already provides information on the cost of books for a certain class and will continue to do so. Compared to peers, Murray State course fees remain relatively low. Provost Arant indicated that he appreciates the attention which has been brought to the transparency issue. He had two undergraduate students in his office go through the website and determine how quickly they could ascertain what course fees would be for their particular courses and, quite frankly, the process took too long. Work will be undertaken to make this information much more accessible and readily available to students so they can make their decisions accordingly. Ms. Dudley confirmed that she and Provost Arant have a meeting scheduled with the Registrar and Bursar to discuss how course fees can become part of the course billing process as part of course definitions. Cost calculators will help but as a course is being selected the student and advisor must both be aware of any associated course fee. Dr. Davies confirmed work is underway with faculty to create a different cost calculator that other universities do not have and it is hoped a system can be developed that will outline all fees associated with a particular major. When the cost of majors is publicized the average amount students will be spending in course fees will be part of the information provided. It was stated that eCommerce has a consumer friendly model and represents an example of what is needed as part of the decision making process. Waiting until students are enrolled to share the course fee information is too late for them to have actually considered that aspect in the decision making process. There is not a reluctance to share this information but the mechanics of how this can be accomplished need to be identified. Developing a student- and parent-centric model is part of the transparency process all are trying to achieve.

Provost Arant confirmed that the Deans discussed a number of additional course fees but were operating under the guiding principle that the only fees which would be recommended would be those that are directly offsetting budget cuts. There were a number of programs which had to reduce budget areas related directly to student travel and experiential learning and without those course fees those departments would have to cut back on what is being offered to students which would harm their education at Murray State. The current budget situation is forcing the University to make this choice. The Deans were very deliberate in their decisions and some had the opportunity to talk with their student advisory groups while others – due to the number of

reiterations of the budget which were undertaken and the resulting short notice – did not have time to discuss the proposed fees with their respective student groups.

A Regent shared that her life is very different than her siblings who did not attend college due to the education she received at Murray State University. Another Regent shared that she was also the first in her family to attend college but some parents have indicated their children have dropped out of college because they were receiving Legacy Scholarships and that program has now been discontinued and they cannot afford to attend. Sometimes a couple hundred dollars can affect whether a student can continue to attend Murray State. A Regent shared that she attended Murray State because of the quality of the Nursing Program and is not willing to dilute the quality of programs although both sides of the issue have presented valid arguments. Confirmation was provided that Murray State has had course fees for a long time and some courses still do not have any fee because initiating one would have violated the guiding principle under which this process was undertaken. A Regent indicated that if tuition was raised across-the-board even further then the University would be requiring students taking courses without an associated fee to pay for those students taking courses where a course fee was needed. Course fees are there due to the cost of providing instruction to students in a particular program. Provost Arant confirmed that the amount of funding allocated to the departments for materials and supplies varies widely.

Dean Tony Brannon, *Hutson School of Agriculture*, reported that the student Agriculture Leadership Council unanimously passed a resolution to support increasing the current fee of \$3, which has not been increased since it was instituted in 2009, to \$8 in order to maintain the quality of the education they are receiving. Provost Arant indicated that Deans entered into the course fee discussion very late in the budget reduction process as all were hoping to avoid having to take this action. As the magnitude of the whole became more fully realized and the ability to cut without doing irreparable harm diminished this forced the consideration of course fees and what is being proposed compares favorably with peer institutions.

Ms. Wood stated that the Board continues to talk about course fees associated with Agriculture and Nursing and that leads her to believe even more that differential tuition should be considered. Her biggest concern does not lie with these programs but with others on the list of 700 courses. There are six different Transition courses on the list and it is difficult for her to fully understand how there could be a fee for this class. She has also physically sat in classes and knows the only thing she received was instruction so it is challenging to be supportive of the recommendation when some of those courses just referenced now have an associated course fee. She cited Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) as an example. It is not the role of the Board to look line by line at what is being presented and that is not what she is trying to do but she does have concerns especially in regard to programs other than Agriculture and Nursing that have not yet been discussed when she knows all that is received in those courses is instruction.

In response to a question regarding Accounting course fees, Dean Tim Todd, *Bauernfeind College of Business*, reported that the focus of his college in terms of course fees before the Board today rotates around the two Gold Standard accreditations and the resources needed to fulfill the standards necessary to maintain both AACSB and ACEJMC accreditations. Accounting is one of the business prefixes that falls under that accreditation and a fee of \$3 is being proposed. At the University of Kentucky, every business class has a \$33.50 per credit hour fee. Although the fee request is new for Murray State it is still conservative from his perspective. JMC is also under a Gold Standard accreditation and over the last 30 years the area of journalism and public relations has morphed into significantly increased electronic media and there are three Mac labs in that department for this reason. New technology will be required in each of those labs within the next three years – at a cost of \$30,000 each – in order to maintain accreditation. The college is also partnering with the *Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology* and the *Hutson School of Agriculture* to further develop drone technology and at least two faculty are interested in pursuing the option of drone journalism. The University of Kentucky charges between \$10 and \$11 per credit hour for journalism courses and the University of Missouri charges \$79 per credit hour above tuition. The University of Memphis charges \$30 per credit hour and Western charges \$12 per credit hour. The request is being made to charge \$3 per credit hour when Murray State has the same Gold Standard accreditation as these other institutions because it takes more resources to maintain that accreditation. Confirmation was provided that Murray State will be leading the effort in advertising course fees.

The recommendation being advanced today also includes amending Board policy to include program fees. Provost Arant reported there are a number of programs which have unique associated expenses. The program fee being proposed today is for the Doctor of Nurse Practitioner – Nurse Anesthetist Program. This particular program – like all doctoral programs – is required to cover all expenses. The CPE made this distinction when it allowed the University to begin offering doctoral degrees. One expense within the Nursing program just mentioned is a collaborative agreement fee for the University’s partnership with Baptist Health in Madisonville. That fee costs Murray State \$288,000 per year for this one specific program. It is reasonable to charge a fee related to that program instead of charging journalism majors to help cover the cost. Dean Marcia Hobbs, School of Nursing and Health Professions, reported that as the Nurse Anesthetist Program is transitioned into a Doctor of Nurse Practitioner – Nurse Anesthetist Program, now making it a three-year program, accreditation standards required that there be three full-time Nurse Anesthetist faculty. These are all doctorally-prepared faculty and each one of these faculty members, with salary and benefits, make between \$220,000 and \$230,000 per year. The \$288,000 referenced earlier represents what the University agreed to pay for one of those full-time faculty members. Currently Baptist Health pays the salary for those faculty and the decision was made to help offset this cost two to three years ago because the University was not paying for any faculty teaching the anesthesia courses. The fee being proposed for Nursing would help offset the \$288,000 expense.

A Regent stated that if a student pays basic tuition for 15 credit hours and takes the mandatory one-hour Transition class – which they do not receive credit for – they are required to pay the additional tuition for that one-hour course which amounts to \$330. These students are spending an additional \$330 per semester to take a mandatory class which does not count toward their major. Provost Arant reported that historically the Transition course has been offered on a limited basis but the University is moving in the direction of where every student will be required to take a Transition course. Research undertaken in regard to Transition courses has proven that students completing these courses has resulted in a 10 percent increase in retention and this is data from Murray State. To move toward requiring all majors to take a Transition course, with the associated student success seminars imbedded, would cost the University an additional \$40,000 per year. Historically the University has covered the cost of instructors and overhead but with the budget deficit the institution could not continue to cover the cost. Dr. Arant also confirmed that the one credit hour Transition course is being worked into the University Studies requirement and it would not be a “wasted credit.” The credit to degree standard of 120 hours would also remain intact and an effort is being made to be as efficient with credit hour allocation as possible. Confirmation was provided that a review of whether transfer students should be required to take the Transition course is being undertaken utilizing best practices as the guiding principle. Fees are currently being utilized to support the Oral Communications Laboratory and the Writing Center which are directly connected to student retention and graduation and these are similar initiatives.

Dean David Balthrop, College of Humanities and Fine Arts, reported there is concern in his area as well about one credit hour stepping up a student’s tuition and fees. Department Chairs within the college are already giving consideration to making the Transition courses three hours and increasing what is being offered in those classes. For a student taking 15 hours this course would be imbedded in that cost and they will not be required to pay for the additional credit hour. Dr. Davies added that a Strategic Initiative grant was provided related to the Transition courses and adding in student success seminars. This action alone has increased retention rates by 3 percent.

Dr. Tharpe asked whether philosophically the University is trying to justify the fees being proposed or if it is trying to close the deficit by initiating fees. It appears to him as though there is a gap in budget which needs to be filled and fees are a way of accomplishing this and he is not sure there is any other option. Dr. Davies added that a Murray State degree is of great value. In America today there is a pendulum shift from the public good concept to the private benefit notion. The public good concept is becoming diminished in many respects and the shift in costs is being placed more and more on the students and their families and this is unfortunate. Murray State is trying to mitigate this shift as best it can by providing the best value possible.

Mr. Kemp moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve changes in the attached schedule of course and program fees, all to be used to defray the educational expenses associated with the types of courses and programs from which they were collected, effective for the 2018 Fall Semester and to add program fees to *Board of*

Regents Policy 2.6 – Fee Establishment, Section II.A. – and include those program fees in the annual escalation review. Dr. Tharpe seconded.

Ms. Green asked for clarification that students will be informed about fees when they make the decision to attend Murray State and Dr. Davies confirmed that all are aggressively working toward this goal and it will be in place for the entering freshman class in Fall 2019.

The roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

(See Attachments #2 and #3)

The Board expressed appreciation to the Deans for what they do each and every day for students. The work they undertake is not easy in good years but in more challenging years it is even more difficult. The Deans are the backbone of the University in terms of academic leadership and are to be commended for their efforts toward helping Murray State maintain its reputation for academic excellence.

Prior Learning Assessments and Proficiency Reviews Fees, approved

Dr. Davies reported that a new phenomenon in higher education is the essence of prior learning related to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels who already have great experiences but are entering the University. Prior learning is a mechanism to provide course credits for students who have already gained the outcomes from various classes or experiences. The military is a good example of prior learning because as officers move through the training process they gain leadership and other skills that can be applied to various Murray State programs. As is the case at most universities, the assessment of prior learning and granting of academic credit requires a fee and while the one being proposed today pertains to Education, an effort is being made to move the entire University in this direction. Provost Arant added that a Superintendent enrolling in the Ed.D program will be required to take a course in school finance. They have lived school finance in their role as Superintendent so they should not be forced to take another class related to a subject they already know. There must be a way to determine academic equivalency and this represents a mechanism through which that work is commonly accomplished. A student applying for admission to a program would request to have their transcript or portfolio of work experience reviewed and the University must go through the verification process with due diligence which will cost money. Confirmation was provided that there will be a limit to the number of hours students can opt out of but that could vary based on experience levels. What is being proposed represents a one-time fee per student and this option will help open the pipeline and make it more accessible to a larger number of individuals by acknowledging the great work they have done in the past. This work is customized and must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Guess moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University approve the establishment of graduate and doctoral Prior Learning Assessment and Proficiency Review Fees as presented below for the College of Education and Human Services:

Fee Details

Prior Learning Assessment	\$250
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Proficiency Review (fees applicable to candidate's course of study):

Experienced Educator Review	\$250
Initial Certification	\$500

Mr. Schooley seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, yes and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried.

2018-19 Online Course Fees, approved

Dr. Davies reported that Murray State currently charges \$65 for undergraduate online courses. Before this fee was in place, the University charged 130 percent of tuition but the change was made to move to a fixed rate in an effort to be more transparent. The increase in online course

fees of \$10 will help cover the increased costs of technology. Undergraduate students will now pay \$75 per credit hour for online courses. Also being proposed is moving the cost for online graduate and doctoral courses from 130 percent of tuition to a \$100 per credit hour fee. This actually lowers the total cost to the student by \$28 and represents a competitive decision.

Mrs. Guess moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the increase of \$10 per credit hour for all undergraduate online courses and the creation of a \$100 (per credit hour fee) for all graduate and doctoral online courses, effective with the 2018 Fall Semester. Mrs. Rudolph seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

2018-19 Parking Rates, approved

Mrs. Guess reported that in considering this recommendation she learned that employees can pay a monthly fee for parking and this does not represent an upfront cost. Confirmation was provided that \$250,000 is currently budgeted for parking lot maintenance and an increase of \$50,000 is needed which will be covered by these parking fee increases. It was also indicated that this fee increase is needed in order to balance the budget and if not approved \$600,000 would have to be identified from elsewhere. The increase in revenue from parking fees does not include an increase in the number of decals purchased.

Ms. Wood indicated that parking continues to be one of the most heated discussions on campus from a student perspective. Compared to other universities in the state the University is in a good place in terms of the lowest cost parking fees with the shortest walking times. This fee increase will definitely have a big impact on students and if the fee were going toward actually maintaining parking that would be one thing but in this case the majority of revenue will go to the General Fund and this is a concern because it is another way of getting around a tuition increase. It was added that this increase is also felt by faculty and staff, especially those at the lower end of the pay scale, and it is not applicable solely to students.

Mrs. Guess moved that the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, approve the increase in parking fees as outlined below, effective for 2018-19 permits:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Faculty and staff (blue lots)	\$100	\$200
Students (red, yellow, brown and green lots)	\$100	\$200
Perimeter/Economy (purple lots) (includes Stewart Stadium parking lot)	\$ 60	\$100
Disability	\$ 60	\$100
Motorcycle (currently \$0 if another permit is purchased)	\$ 0	\$75
Construction	\$ 0	\$200 annual \$100 semester \$50 monthly
Vendor	\$ 0	\$200 annual \$100 semester \$50 monthly
Paducah and Hopkinsville Face-to-Face Courses	\$ 2/credit hour	\$ 2/credit hour
Regional Campus Faculty and Staff (This rate is set to match the economy permit rate.)	\$ 60	\$100
Replacement Permits	\$ 40	\$ 40
Summer Only	\$ 25	\$ 25

Mr. Kemp seconded and the roll was called with the following voting: Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mrs. Guess, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes; Ms. Wood, no and Mr. Williams, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 8 to 1.

Appreciation was expressed to Regent Wood for representing her constituency well and for being so articulate doing so. Her leadership is very much appreciated.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Regents, the meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Secretary 

Chair 

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