

August 2018

**2018-08-07**

Board of Regents, Murray State University

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**Minutes of the Special Board of Regents Meeting  
Murray State University  
Tuesday, August 7, 2018**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Murray State University Board of Regents met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, in the *Jesse Stuart Room* in Pogue Library on the main campus of Murray State University.

**Call to Order**

Chair Susan Guess called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**AGENDA**

Call to Order

Chair Guess

Roll Call

Secretary Hunt

Swearing-In Ceremony

Chair Guess

- a. Eric F. Crigler
- b. James T. Payne

Closed Session

Chair Guess

- a. Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(1)(f) – To discuss matters which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, member or student

Appointment of Interim President\*

Chair Guess

Adjournment

(\*Indicates Recommended Board Action)

**Roll Call**

The roll was called and the following Board members were present: Eric Crigler, Katherine Farmer, Sharon Green, Susan Guess, Daniel Kemp, James Payne, Jerry Rhoads, Lisa Rudolph, Phil Schooley and Don Tharpe. Absent: Virginia Gray.

Others present were: 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; Bob Jackson, President, Murray State University Foundation and Director of Planned Giving; Robert Pervine, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Research; Renae Duncan, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education; Renee Fister, Chief of Staff; Jill Hunt, Senior Executive Coordinator for the President, Coordinator for Board Relations and Secretary to the Board; the Collegiate Deans and members of the faculty and staff, news media and visitors.

**Swearing-In Ceremony – Eric F. Crigler and James T. Payne**

Chair Guess reported that two Regents would be sworn in today – Eric F. Crigler and James T. Payne.

Mr. Crigler is a veteran of the financial services industry and has helped found firms in the fields of investment management, health care services, re-insurance and auto finance after he graduated *cum laude* from Murray State University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He earned the Master of Business Administration in finance and economics from Indiana University. Mr. Crigler played football at Murray State, was an Ohio Valley Conference scholar-athlete and was awarded a prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association post-graduate scholarship. He

was also selected in the National Football League draft and played with the Cincinnati Bengals. All welcomed Mr. Crigler to the Murray State University Board of Regents.

Mr. James T. (J. T.) Payne was elected President of the Student Government Association in March and will serve as Student Regent on the Murray State University Board of Regents. Mr. Payne was also elected in May 2018 to serve as Chair of the Kentucky State Board of Student Body Presidents and his fellow Student Government Association Presidents were recently on the Murray State campus. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education. Mr. Payne is a 2016 graduate of Henderson County High School where he was inducted into the Career and Technical Education Hall of Fame. Among other accomplishments, he is a *Presidential Fellow* at Murray State and has worked with *Racer Academy* as part of the agricultural education program as a student worker. Mr. Payne also served as an agriculture Student Ambassador and is active with the collegiate Future Farmers of America (FFA). He was also recognized by the Henderson County FFA Alumni Workforce with an award in 2017. Over the summer Mr. Payne served as a Congressional Fellow in Washington, DC, and worked with Congressman James Comer's office where he researched agriculture policy as part of a program created through partnership with the Congressman and the Murray State *Hutson School of Agriculture*. All welcomed Mr. Payne to the Murray State University Board of Regents.

Chair Guess reported that newly-appointed Regent Virginia Bishop Gray could not be present for the meeting today. Mrs. Gray and re-elected Staff Regent Phil Schooley will be sworn in at the August Quarterly Meeting.

Chair Guess reported that in keeping with Section 164.321 of *Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS)*, Governor Matt Bevin, on August 6, 2018, appointed Eric F. Crigler of Germantown, Tennessee, as a member of the Murray State University Board of Regents to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term of Walter Bumphus. Mr. Crigler's term will end June 30, 2022. The students of Murray State University elected James T. Payne to serve as Student Regent in March 2018. As stated previously, Mr. Payne is from Henderson, Kentucky, and his term as Student Regent will be July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

Jamie Herring, Murray State University Police Chief and Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Crigler and Mr. Payne.

Chair Guess again congratulated and welcomed the two new Regents to the Board. All appreciate their willingness to serve the University in this capacity and the Board looks forward to working with these individuals.

### **Closed Session, convened**

Chair Guess solicited a motion that the Board of Regents go into Closed Session pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute 61.810(1)(f) to discuss matters which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, member or student. Mrs. Rudolph so moved. Dr. Tharpe seconded and the motion carried.

General Counsel Robert Miller was asked to remain in the meeting room.

Closed Session began at 2:05 p.m.

### **Open Session, reconvened**

Chair Guess solicited a motion for the Board of Regents to reconvene in Open Session. Mrs. Rudolph so moved, seconded by Dr. Tharpe, and the motion carried. Open Session began at 4:50 p.m.

Chair Guess stated that the Board of Regents took no final action during Closed Session.

### **Appointment of Interim President, approved**

Chair Guess reported that Dr. Robert O. Davies will be resigning from the administrative position of President of Murray State University, effective August 15, 2018, and the Board is

recommending that Dr. Bob Jackson serve as the Interim President, effective August 16, 2018, and continuing until a new President is named.

Dr. Jackson will provide the guidance and leadership needed during this transitional period and will bring to the presidency strengths that will serve the University well. He understands and appreciates the special bond between the people of Murray and the University and recognizes that presidential leadership is critically important for Murray State to achieve and sustain academic excellence.

Mr. Rhoads moved that the Murray State University Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Robert L. Jackson as Interim President of Murray State University at a fiscal year salary of \$309,218, effective August 16, 2018, and continuing until a permanent President is selected. Mr. Kemp seconded.

In response to whether there is any discussion, Mr. Payne stated that when he ran for Student Government Association President, which translates into the Student Regent, he campaigned on the promise that he would represent the wishes of students and the concerns and recommendations they have shared with him. During Closed Session he certainly honored this promise and advocated for the recommendations brought to him by the students of Murray State University. He also promised the student body that he would remain transparent which is why today he will vote the same way for which he advocated in Closed Session and that is a “no” vote for the recommendation which has been made. However, when Dr. Jackson is appointed as Interim President of Murray State University he will support him 100 percent. When the Murray State community rallies behind Dr. Jackson he will do a great job and if there is anything he can do for him he will certainly do so. There were no additional comments from members of the Board. There was a call to question and no Regents responded.

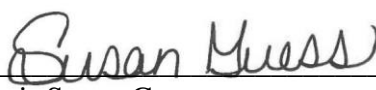
The roll was called with the following voting: Mr. Crigler, yes; Ms. Farmer, yes; Ms. Green, yes; Mr. Kemp, yes; Mr. Payne, no; Mr. Rhoads, yes; Mrs. Rudolph, yes; Mr. Schooley, yes; Dr. Tharpe, yes and Mrs. Guess, yes. The motion carried by a vote of 9 to 1.

Chair Guess welcomed Dr. Jackson as Interim President of Murray State University and indicated he has the support of the Board.

Dr. Jackson thanked the Board for the confidence they have placed in him and other leaders at this University. He also stated that change and transitions are never easy and all have experienced this throughout their careers. The Board obviously had a robust discussion today. This University has been in existence for nearly 100 years and will be here 100 years from now. There is much work to be done but everyone at this University – faculty, staff and students – will rally and support Murray State. This University is a special place. Dr. Jackson further stated that Chair Guess gave a speech earlier today during the Staff Recognition Luncheon but he also arrived at Murray State, only two years before Chair Guess, and has supported this institution in some capacity his entire adult life. He loves Murray State and knows that all present do as well. The students also love Murray State and he knows when J. T. is 40 or 50 years old he will feel the same about this wonderful University. In 1922 Senate Bill 14 established Murray State and the University’s best days are yet to come. He expressed appreciation to the Board for their confidence in him and many at Murray State and stated he looks forward to the opportunity.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further action to come before the Board, Dr. Tharpe moved that the Special Meeting of the Board of Regents adjourn. Mrs. Rudolph seconded and the motion carried. Adjournment was at 5 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Susan Guess

  
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Secretary Jill Hunt

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