MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
Murray State University
July 30, 1994

Oath of Office Administered to Mr. Thomas A. Burich, Mrs. Marie Jones, and Mr. Brian Van Horn

In keeping with Section 164-321 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Governor Brereton Jones, July 1, 1994, appointed Mr. Thomas Anthony Burich, 4849 Bud Lane, Lexington, Kentucky 40514, as a member of the Murray State University Board of Regents, to serve for a term expiring June 30, 2000.

And, in keeping with the amendments of Section 164-321 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes that includes the addition of one member of the university nonteaching personnel, the following statements were added regarding the nonteaching member of the Board:

"The nonteaching personnel member shall be any full-time staff member excluding the president, vice presidents, academic deans, and academic department chairpersons. He shall represent all nonteaching university employees including, but not limited to, building facilities and clerical personnel. He shall be elected by secret ballot by the nonteaching employees. The nonteaching personnel member shall serve a term of three (3) years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The nonteaching personnel member shall be eligible for reelection, but he shall not be eligible to continue to serve as a member of the board if he ceases being an employee of the university. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for the original election."

Mrs. Marie Jones was elected by staff members to become the first staff regent in the university's history. Mrs. Jones' term of office is July 15, 1994, to July 15, 1997.

Mr. Brian Van Horn is President of the Murray State University Student Government Association for the second term and qualified to serve a second term as Student Regent. Mr. Van Horn's term of office is July 1, 1993, to July 1, 1994.

The Oath of Office was administered to Mr. Burich, Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Van Horn by Circuit Judge John Daughaday of Mayfield.

Following the ceremony, the Board of Regents met in special session in the Board of Regents Room, Wells Hall, Murray State University.

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chairman Sid Easley. Upon roll call, the following were present: Mr. Thomas A. Burich, Mr. Sid Easley, Mrs. Beverly Ford, Mrs. Marie Jones, Dr. Frank Julian, Mr. Wells T. Lovett, Mr. Robert Matthews, Mrs. Virginia Strohecker, and Mr. Brian Van Horn. Absent were Mrs. Arlivia Gamble and Mr. Philip Lanier.

Present for the meeting were: Dr. Kern Alexander, President of the University; Mrs. Sandra M. Rogers, Secretary of the Board; Mr. Tom Denton, Treasurer; Dr. James Booth, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Mr. John Fitzgibbon, Interim Vice President for University Relations and Administrative Services; Mr. James Overby, University Counsel; faculty; staff; news media and visitors.

Election of Vice Chair and Secretary

Mr. Easley reviewed the Statutes requiring the election of a vice chair and secretary following the appointment of a new member to the Board.

He declared the floor open for nominations for vice chair.
Dr. Julian nominated Beverly Ford for vice chair. Mr. Matthews moved that Beverly Ford be elected by acclamation. Dr. Julian seconded and upon call for the vote, Mrs. Ford was declared vice chair.

Mr. Easley declared the floor open for nominations for the secretary.

Mrs. Jones nominated Mrs. Sandra Rogers for secretary. Dr. Julian moved that Sandra Rogers be elected by acclamation. Mrs. Ford seconded and upon call for the vote, Mrs. Rogers was declared elected secretary.

President's Report

President Alexander stated that he has had a very positive reception from faculty, staff, and students during his first month on campus. Each day a variety of administrators have met in the President's Office for extensive discussion on budget issues and recruitment efforts. Each college dean has provided a report on activities in their respective colleges. President Alexander feels they have done an excellent job establishing quality programs with very limited resources.

In addition to meetings which have taken place in the President's Office, meetings have taken place throughout the region. While in Owensboro, President Alexander spoke to the Rotary Club and attended an alumni meeting. Regent Wells Lovett facilitated a breakfast meeting between Dr. Alexander and superintendents in his home, providing Dr. Alexander with an opportunity to meet the superintendents and discuss how Murray State can work closely with them. Dr. Alexander also met with former Western Kentucky University Chairman of the Board of Regents Joe Iracane and Mr. Ron Sheffer.

While in Paducah, President Alexander spoke to the Rotary Club, attended an alumni meeting, and met with the superintendents from McCracken County and Paducah city schools. Murray State Board members Sid Easley, Beverly Ford, and Brian Van Horn were also present.

While in Mayfield, MSU Board Chairman Sid Easley introduced Dr. Alexander to the mayor, legislators, bankers, and realtors.

Dr. Alexander announced plans to meet with the Henderson Rotary, Murray Rotary, Lions Club, and civic clubs of various types, promising to circulate among these groups as quickly as possible.

President Alexander outlined major issues facing Murray State University. First, the quality of Murray State University must be maintained. The University must remain aware of the problems associated with quality measures and the aspects of an institution that provide quality education or that level of quality will begin to drop. Our student/teacher ratio has increased considerably, and we must do what we can to reverse this trend.

Maintenance of the physical plant is not in good shape. The physical facilities of the campus have deteriorated and we need to work not only on the quality of our instructional programs but also on the physical facilities in which our students are educated.

Faculty salaries are low, even below our benchmark institution. We all must work together to bring Murray State Faculty into a competitive position. We must not only think in terms of catching up to the benchmarks but of surpassing them.

Recruitment and retention are major concerns. Student enrollment is declining. Projections for the fall semester are lower than anticipated. We must focus on retaining students by offering high quality programs and devoting attention to each individual student; they must feel an attachment to the institution.
Access and quality are issues which must be considered. One must constantly strive to improve the quality of the delivery of services and the quality of graduates of Murray State University without sacrificing resources.

President Alexander outlined immediate initiatives. First, we are analyzing the budget, attempting to relate Murray State's position to that of bench institutions. We don't want to target only those institutions we know we can exceed; we want to set our sights higher. The initiative of recruitment of students is one that we must move on immediately. President Alexander will work with Board members on this issue.

Development is an issue that we will be working on every day. Recruitment, retention, and development -- gaining monies from other than public resources -- must be a priority. Activities are now being initiated to increase external funding.

We are going to monitor and work toward influencing the modeling of the state aid formula. We know how the formula works, but we are going to attempt to guide the direction of the new formulation of the allocation of resources that would come out of this modeling process now underway in Frankfort.

President Alexander then briefed the Regents on the Old Fine Arts Building fire. We do not know what the insurance arrangements are and how the state will rule on various issues. For that reason, we are monitoring the issue carefully and will continue to brief members of the Board on a daily basis.

To resolve the issues President Alexander and the Board have identified, everyone at Murray State is going to have to work harder with less resources. We must be more directed in our pursuits and we must coordinate projects so we know exactly where we are going. We must be more aggressive, even zealous, in dealing with other institutions. We must work aggressively with the public school districts, community colleges, and we must more aggressively pursue the interests of Murray State and the higher education system of the state.

These issues can be resolved by expanding, not contracting. We will not resolve these issues by dropping programs and getting out of games. Things take care of themselves when you expand and change. That is the overall attitude President Alexander would like to project for Murray State. We must be efficient and we must convey that to our taxpayers. They must know that we are utilizing our resources to the best of our ability and that these resources are producing a quality institution. We must project this quality image all across the country, not just in this region. President Alexander asked the members of the Board of Regents to assist him in his plan. Dr. Alexander stated that he looks forward to working with each member of the Board and thanked them for their attention.

Adjournment

Mrs. Jones moved and Mr. Van Horn seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Adjournment was at 11:40 a.m.

Chair

Secretary