

October 2024 Senate Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved at the 11/12/2024 Regular Senate Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

3:30 – 5:00 pm

transitional period. Regent Shemberger indicated that the board has entered into an agreement with Academic Search Inc. to assist with the search.

VII. Senator Spotlight- Dr. Ray Horton

Senator Horton introduced himself to the senate and noted that he will keep his remarks brief to save room for senate business. He introduced his family, including the unofficial mascot of the English and Philosophy department, Pug-Pug the dog. Senator Horton shared his teaching and research interests in contemporary American Literature as well as his involvement with the Commonwealth Honors Academy. He also shared select aspects of his service and advocacy work, including leadership as the former president of the Americana Religion and Literature Society and member of the organizing committee of Murry State's United Campus Worker chapter.

VIII. Reports --- Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Policies – Chair, Brian Bourke

- a. 1st Reading: FSR 24-25-1 --- Promotion Path for Instructors
- b. Senator Bourke discussed the rationale for FSR 24-25-1 and highlighted information contained in the financial impact forecast of the policy provided in the addendum. Senator Reeves asked whether handbook language regarding instructors will also be addressed in this resolution. Senator Bourke replied that the plan is to move forward with this resolution to gauge support and feasibility prior to engaging in more systematic handbook changes.

B. Finance –

for faculty legislative priorities, including preserving academic freedom and supporting all students, faculty, and staff. He also noted that the committee was discussing strategies to increase faculty engagement in annual administrator evaluations.

- E. Handbook and Personnel – Chair, Michael Busby
 - a. Senator Busby provided an update on the priorities of the handbook committee, including a focus on finalizing the 2024 update to the faculty handbook. He also noted that his committee is short a member, and invited any interested senators to join.
- F. Rules, Elections, and Bylaws – Faculty Senate Vice President, Heidi Ortega
 - a. Vice President Ortega stated there was no report from the committee but that handbook and personnel still needed an additional member. Senator Oldenkamp volunteered to switch committees.
- G. Executive – Faculty Senate President, David Roach
 - a. 1st Reading: FSR 24-25-2 --- Summer Compensation
 - i. President Roach provided a history of proration of summer salary based on summer enrollment, noting that proration was introduced approximately 15 years ago. He noted that the 10 (undergraduate) and 8 (graduate) enrollment requirements for full compensation have been accepted practice since that time. President Roach also noted that the current summer budget is approximately \$300,000 short and that the proposed increase in proration caps is designed to address this shortfall, among other measures. President Roach indicated that some progress has been made with the Provost's office regarding other possible strategies to address this budgetary concern.
 - ii. Senator Pizzo expressed that this is a self-created crisis and that he is frustrated that it is being forced on faculty. Senator Guse indicated that he has economic expertise in this area, and that canceling classes that make revenue to try to save money is highly problematic. He also expressed that he is unwilling to teach if increased proration goes into effect. Senator Busby stated that summer classes generate revenue with small enrollments (e.g., 4) and asked where all the additional revenue goes. He also shared that Senator Reeves proposed a good idea regarding improved enrollment management to make summer classes more efficient.
 - iii. President Roach noted that additional revenue from summer teaching goes into the general fund. He also shared that if cuts are not made here, there will be cuts in other aspects of the budget. Senator Reeves shared that she wants more transparency regarding the budget. Senator Pryor shared that canceled summer classes harm students, by pushing back graduation, requiring students to take classes at other institutions, and by creating additional enrollment strains in future semesters. Senator Pizzo shared that he is teaching an uncompensated overload and that doing so is not sustainable. Senator Pizzo also indicated that he believes that the

culture of austerity being imposed on the institution does not match the fiscal reality.

- iv. Senator Bourke noted that asking faculty to find the solution to the crisis is inappropriate, stating that he believes that it is the responsibility of administrators to propose a viable solution. Senator Pizzo asked why there have been no efforts to increase summer enrollments. Senator Hayes asked what active role the Faculty Senate could play in finding a solution. President Roach

