



**University Assessment Committee Meeting**  
**Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025; Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM**  
**Location: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chris Atkins, Alissa Davis, Nandini Manne, Brian Hoey, Paula Lucas, Tiffany Hartman, Margaret McLaughlin, Kim DeTardo-Bora, Loukia Dixon, Diana Adams, Drew Stephenson, Adam Russell, Tim Melvin, Larry Sheret, Susan Tusing, and Mary Beth Reynolds

**Members Absent:** Mehdi Esmaeilpour, Ben Spurlock, April Fugett, Amanda Meadows, Le’Kesha Taylor,

**Members Needed:** COLA representative

1. We welcomed a new member, Alissa Davis, who represents the Student Government Association. She introduced herself to the group and all the members in attendance introduced themselves to her.
2. Brian Hoey made a motion, seconded by Susan Tusing, that the minutes of the December 16, 2024 meeting be approved. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
3. Mary Beth Reynolds told committee members that our spring syllabus review would be of dual credit courses. Brian Morgan has added a tag in MUBERT that makes it easy to identify dual credit courses and for reviewers to access them. There are 48 unique courses and 70 unique instructors, so the number each committee member will be asked to review will be relatively low this year. Mary Beth also said she will customize the review sheets depending on whether the course has any general education attributes, such as *Critical Thinking*, *Multicultural*, or *International*.
4. Mary Beth told the group she is currently working on getting feedback to the programs regarding last year’s assessment reports. So far, she has finished Lewis College of Business. She emphasized that Assessment Committee reviewers’ comments, which are deidentified when sent to the programs, are very helpful.
5. Mary Beth said she now has several names of people to contact to update the *Creative Thinking* rubric and will contact them soon.
6. Mary Beth shared an overview of results from the *National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)* from 2010 to the present. These results show that, beginning with the spring 2011 administration, our first-year student responses indicated that they perceived the level of academic challenge at Marshall to be more rigorous than they had in past years. This result has been sustained since then, with some minor concern with the first-year students’ responses in spring 2024. However, first-year

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students' responses to questions in the category of *Campus Environment* improved significantly in the 2022 and 2024 administrations than those for previous years.

Chris Atkins brought us up to date regarding progress of the committee working to revise Marshall's general education program. The target date for launch of the revised general education program is fall 2026. The program has been developed to ensure that students will have coursework and other experiences to meet learning outcomes of five primary pillars. These are 1) Communication Competency, 2) Durable Skills, 3) Problem Solving, 4) Responsible Citizenship, and 5) Technical and Information Literacy.

We also reviewed some select findings from our student climate surveys. Results show that students who responded that they had seriously considered leaving Marshall University also reported struggling with mental health issues. Tiffany Hartman suggested it would be a good idea to add a question about whether (or not) students attended Week of Welcome and/or were members of student organizations. Drew Stephenson added that feedback he has received from first-year students suggests that at least 90% of them indicate that making friends is important to them. Loukia Dixon talked about a conversation club that students majoring in communication disorders had had with international students.

7. Mary Beth asked committee members to remind their constituents to consider conducting indirect assessments of student learning, e.g., focus groups or surveys, from mid-March through early April in conjunction with Assessment Day activities. She noted that, as in previous years, students who participate in Assessment Day activities may be entered into prize drawings.
8. Paula Lucas asked about the requirements for external peer review for program reviews. Mary Beth said that she does not envision bringing in peer reviewers for certificate programs. However, graduate programs that are not accredited, even if cognate undergraduate programs are accredited, will still need peer review. The process is that we ask programs to provide names for potential peer reviewers and typically select from among the names given. That does not preclude bringing in someone whose name was not suggested, although this tends to happen when those suggested are not able to commit to a peer review.
9. Mary Beth encouraged committee members to attend the last presentation aligned with one of our books for campus-wide reading. Javier Zamora, author of his award-winning memoir *Solito*, will give two presentations in the form of moderated conversations on Thursday, March 6. The first will be at 4:00 and is free and open to all Marshall students. Faculty wishing their classes to attend should reach out to Penny Watkins, Executive Director of the Marshall Artist Series with the names of students who will attend. She will distribute tickets three weeks in advance of the event. The second will take place the same day at 7:30. Both conversations will be moderated by Marshall's provost, Dr. Avi Mukherjee; Executive Director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy and Professor of History, Dr. Montserrat Miller; and WSAZ's Mr. Tim Irr.

Brian Hoey also encouraged committee members to inform their students about the upcoming TedX event, which will take place on Saturday, March 8. For the past three years the TedX events have

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been centered on the themes of the HLC Quality Initiative, with this year's theme being *Beyond Borders*. This will dovetail nicely with Javier Zamora's presentation too.

10. Susan Tusing, who is the university's chief writer for our HLC assurance argument, updated committee members on her progress and projected timeline. She will soon upload the document to Watermark, which will allow the campus community to read it and access evidence files. This will be important for campus-wide feedback. This summer, she will work with Brian Morgan, Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning and Chief Data Officer, to complete the federal compliance report. The assurance argument will be submitted to the HLC in December 2025.

The meeting was adjourned around 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Beth Reynolds*