**MINUTES**

**Marshall University Board of Governors**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting at**

**Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall**

**Livestream and In-Person**

**June 11, 2025**

**Present**: Shawn Ball, Brea Belville, Kathy D’Antoni, Kathy Eddy, Donnie Holcomb, Carol Hurula, Samuel Moore, Geoff Sheils, Bill Smith, Jim Smith, Rusty Webb

**PH:** Kipp Bodnar, Ginny T. Lee, Angel Moore, Robin Riner

**Absent:** Chad Pennigton

**I. Call to Order**

After confirming the presence of a quorum, Chairman Sheils called the meeting to order. He then introduced the next agenda item: the swearing-in of new Marshall University Board of Governors member Rusty Webb, administered by Cabell County Circuit Judge Greg Howard. Chairman Sheils also took a moment to recognize and thank outgoing board members Shawn Ball, Carol Hurula, and Student Body President Brea Belville for their service. Each was presented with a gift from the board in appreciation of their time and contributions.

**II. Minutes Approval**

Upon a motion by Samuel Moore, seconded by Kathy D’Antoni, the minutes of the meeting held on February 5, 2025, were approved.

**III. Classified Staff Council Update**

***Tony Waugh*,** Classified Staff Council Chair, gave the Classified Staff Update. During his report to the Board, Tony shared several updates and reflections on behalf of the Classified Staff Council.

He began by thanking the Board for allowing him time on the agenda and explained that the Classified Staff Council was established in 2003 by the state of West Virginia. He stated that the council consists of 25 elected members, chosen by their peers every odd-numbered year. Tony noted that staff roles span across five major employment categories and emphasized that while faculty lead academics and research, staff serve in essential roles across all campuses, often being the first individuals prospective students interact with. He reported that there are currently over 509 classified staff members at Marshall University.

Tony stated that elections are held not only for general council membership but also to select individuals for three key leadership roles: Staff Council Chair, Board of Governors Representative, and Advisory Council of Classified Employees (ACCE) Representative. He mentioned that he has had the honor of serving as Chair and participating in the Shared Governance Charter, where he has contributed to university-wide discussions on policy, communication, and strategic planning under the direction of the university president.

He went on to say that over the past year, staff have been involved in various important campus initiatives. Tony reported that the Council participated in the Employee Engagement Survey, the John Marshall Leadership Fellows Program, and training related to the new incentive-based budget model and the performance evaluation system. He said staff also supported student engagement through college fairs, recruitment events, and new student orientations, in addition to attending professional development seminars, conferences, and taking part in Community Cares Week.

Tony also addressed compensation, stating that in 2024, staff saw the rollout of a new market-based salary schedule developed through payscale.com. He explained that this new system eliminated the previous first two pay grades, grades 1 and 2 which included positions such as housekeeping, landscaping, accounting clerks, financial aid secretaries, and library assistants. Tony stated that many of these positions were reclassified under a revised Pay Grade 1, which now includes a larger number of job titles. According to Tony, the midpoint salary under the new schedule reflects a 12–14% increase from 2017, adjusted for inflation. He stated that the university’s goal is to bring all employees to at least 80% of their position’s midpoint salary.

He also reported that a performance management system has been added to the HR website and that compensation edits are being developed to align with performance levels in the new system. Tony stated that changes to relevant policies will go through the Shared Governance process, allowing classified staff the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed revisions.

Tony then shared that beginning July 1, there will be a change in leadership in two of the three staff representative roles. He stated that Carol Hurula, who has represented staff on the Board of Governors for eight years, will be stepping down. He shared that Carleen O’Neill will assume that role at the August Board of Governors retreat.

He also informed the Board that he has submitted his notice of retirement, effective August 29, after 38 years of service to Marshall. Tony stated that he looks forward to traveling and continuing with home remodeling projects. He shared that Lacie Bittinger will take his place as Chair of the Classified Staff Council and serve as part of the Five Families governance committee. He said that new leadership is excited to be involved and looks forward to contributing to meaningful discussions and decisions.

Tony closed his report by saying that he is proud to have served the staff, administration, students, and the university, calling it a rewarding career. He added:

"I would like to say it’s been an exciting 38 years of working here. I’ve enjoyed working with everyone and have learned a lot, especially over the past seven years as Chair. Thank you all very much."

**V. Committee Meeting Reports**

**Academic and Student Affairs**

1. **Approval of Degree Addition: Bachelor of Science in Health and Movement Sciences**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the degree addition: Bachelor of Science in Health and Movement Sciences*

*\** *The School of Health and Movement Sciences (SHMS), housed within the College of Health Professions, currently offers degree programs in Athletic Training, Biomechanics, and Exercise Science. Each of these programs has a foundational core stemming from the study of kinesiology. The SHMS is proposing to consolidate these programs into a single degree program, the B.S. in Health and Movement Sciences (BSHMS). With our current degree programs’ common core and new accreditation requirements, we wish to move our current degree programs as majors under a single degree program—the B.S. in Health and Movement Sciences (BSHMS).*

*The mission of the Marshall University B.S. in Health and Movement Sciences is to advance the scientific study, understanding, and application of human physical activity, health, and wellness. Recognizing these as complex human phenomena, the holistic health and movement sciences discipline integrates an interdisciplinary approach to examine them comprehensively.*

*The School of Health and Movement Sciences is committed to rigorous scientific, theoretical, and practical inquiry into physical activity, health, and wellness. This multidisciplinary perspective enables the members of the School of Health and Movement Sciences—both faculty and students—to engage in diverse fields such as athletic training, biomechanics, disease prevention, exercise science, strength and conditioning, fitness, wellness, rehabilitation (cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation, diabetes exercise, physical therapy, and occupational therapy), medicine, chiropractic, physician’s assistant, health promotion, and other health-related*

*fields.*

*The B.S. in Health and Movement Sciences (BSHMS) degree program will align with the M.S. in Health and Movement Sciences (MSHMS) and reflect the College of Health Professions’ and the institution's mission, goals, and objectives.*

**Upon a motion by Samuel Moore, seconded by Bill Smith without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Approval of Degree Addition: Bachelor of Science in Sonography**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the degree addition: Bachelor of Science in Sonography*

*\** *Ongoing discussions with sonography technical directors across local hospitals and medical imaging facilities revealed a significant demand for a specialized education pathway in sonography that would effectively prepare students for the evolving needs of the healthcare industry. The St. Mary's/Marshall University Sonography Degree program offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the dynamic field of diagnostic medical sonography. This program provides a strong foundation in both Adult Echocardiography and General Sonography, preparing graduates to work effectively in diverse healthcare settings, such as hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers. Key areas of emphasis include:*

*1. Adult Echocardiography: The Adult Echocardiography track focuses on using ultrasound technology to assess the structure and function of the heart and vascular system. Students learn to perform and interpret various echocardiogram procedures, including transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiograms.*

*2. General Sonography: The General Sonography portion of the program covers a broad spectrum of diagnostic imaging techniques, focusing on imaging the abdominal organs, pelvic structures, and other soft tissues.*

*3. Program Structure: The program combines classroom instruction, laboratory work, and clinical practice, ensuring that students develop both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience. Key components of the program include:*

* *Coursework: Focuses on the fundamentals of human anatomy, medical imaging physics,*

*ultrasound principles, patient care, and specialized techniques in vascular sonography,*

*echocardiography, and general sonography.*

* *Clinical Rotations: Students gain practical experience in accredited healthcare facilities,*

*working directly with patients and under the supervision of registered sonographers.*

*These rotations are critical for mastering the skills required for real-world diagnostic*

*imaging.*

* *Certification Preparation: The program is designed to prepare students for certification*

*exams, such as those offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical*

*Sonography (ARDMS), enabling graduates to become registered sonographers in adult*

*echocardiography, vascular sonography, abdominal sonography, and OB/GYN*

*sonography.*

**Upon a motion by Kathy Eddy, seconded by Carol Hurula without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Approval of Degree Addition: Master of Science in Mathematics**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the degree addition: Master of Science in Mathematics*

*\** *Marshall University has offered a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics since 2004. The transition from a Master of Arts (MA) to a Master of Science (MS) in Mathematics reflects a deliberate and forward-looking alignment with the evolving expectations of the discipline, the needs of students, and the demands of the broader professional and academic communities. While both degrees are rooted in rigorous mathematical training, the MA has traditionally emphasized a broader, more theoretical approach. In contrast, the MS centers on a deeper and more focused engagement with advanced mathematical theory, quantitative reasoning, computational tools, and applied problem-solving.*

*This shift to the MS model positions students to better meet the demands of a data-driven, technology-intensive world. The MS curriculum typically offers more intensive coursework in areas such as real analysis, linear algebra, statistics, and mathematical modeling – equipping graduates with a stronger foundation for roles in industry, government, research, and doctoral study. Additionally, the MS degree often incorporates capstone projects or thesis work that emphasizes original research or application of mathematical methods to real-world challenges. From a practical standpoint, the change enhances graduates’ competitiveness in the job market. Increasingly, employers and research institutions regard the Master of Science designation as indicative of a candidate’s advanced technical and analytical preparation.*

*By adopting the MS framework – for our program and for our courses – we ensure that our students are not only academically prepared but also professionally positioned for success in a landscape where the demand for quantitative and computational expertise continues to grow. The transition from an MA to a MS degree program will not require students to take any courses not already offered by the department. MS students can complete a thesis (optional) or pursue an area of emphasis in Statistics (also optional). If approved, the Mathematics program will no longer accept students into the MA program. Instead, they will invite those students to apply for the MS program. Once all MA students have either changed into the MS program or graduated with their MA degrees, the MA program will be removed from our inventory of offerings.*

**Upon a motion by Carol Hurula, seconded by Kathy Eddy without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

Information Items:

**Provost Report**

***Provost Avi Mukherjee*** gave the Provost’s Update. During his report, Provost Mukherjee shared several important updates and achievements from across the university. He began by announcing positive news about enrollment, noting that Marshall University saw a 10.6% increase in Spring 2025 enrollment compared to Spring 2024. He emphasized that this growth reflects the collective effort of many departments, faculty, staff, and students, and credited it as a remarkable achievement.

As the university transitions into the summer months, Provost Mukherjee reflected on a successful academic year and expressed excitement about the upcoming one. He announced the hiring of two new academic deans. Dr. Rohan Christie-David, coming from Texas A&M University–San Antonio, will begin serving as the Dean of the Lewis College of Business in August. Dr. Kelly Bradley, formerly of the University of Kentucky, will begin her role as Dean of the College of Education and Professional Development in September.

Provost Mukherjee then shared campus-wide highlights and accomplishments. Within the College of Arts and Media, Marshall’s production of *A Doll’s House* received the Citizen Artist Award at the 2024–2025 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, a recognition given to institutions that use theatre to promote justice and meaningful societal change. Additionally, JMCTV received national recognition, winning Best Comedy Show and Best Commercial at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference in New York.

In the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, in partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Program Advisory Board, hosted the “Safety for All” conference from April 30 to May 1 in Huntington. This event brought together safety professionals, industry leaders, and students to explore emerging trends in occupational health and safety.

The College of Education and Professional Development expanded its teacher leadership training through the VoLT (Violence, Loss, and Trauma Counseling) certificate program. This initiative engaged 70 students, delivered 17 course sections, revised curriculum, and onboarded new instructors to meet program needs. In the College of Health Professions, the Doctor of Physical Therapy program earned national distinction, ranking in the top third of programs nationwide and leading the state in first-time licensure exam pass rates. These accomplishments reflect both excellence and affordability.

Within the College of Liberal Arts, the Thundering Word Speech and Debate Team won the national championship in persuasive speaking and secured multiple top five finishes in tournaments nationwide. Additionally, Dr. Rachael Peckham, professor of English, was named the 2024 Professor of the Year by the West Virginia Faculty Merit Foundation. Dr. Peckham, who has taught at Marshall since 2009, has published three books and over 60 creative works. She has served as an advisor to the student literary journal *Etc.*, coordinator of the Visiting Writers Series, and as a writing mentor for the Yeager Scholars Program.

In the College of Science, nearly $1.8 million in NSF CAREER grants were awarded to Drs. Kyle Palmquist and Eugene Shakirov for their groundbreaking research in plant biology and ecology. This achievement elevates the college’s national research profile.

In the Division of Aviation, the university successfully completed the Department of Homeland Security’s annual inspection with zero findings, reflecting exceptional compliance with safety and national security standards.

The Lewis College of Business hosted the Business Leadership Symposium in partnership with industry collaborators. This event provided more than 20 business students with opportunities to demonstrate innovation and engage in real-world learning experiences.

At the School of Pharmacy, faculty secured two NASA EPSCoR Research Seed Grants. These projects support cutting-edge pharmaceutical research, including hypnosis reversal agents and investigations into reward-seeking behavior, strengthening the school’s national research impact and interdisciplinary partnerships.

Within University College, advisors presented at the NACADA Region 1 & 2 Conference, showcasing Marshall’s innovations in academic advising and reinforcing the institution’s leadership beyond its immediate region.

The University Libraries launched a new Design Thinking course for juniors and seniors. This course is designed to help students develop creative problem-solving and career planning skills, positioning the libraries as a key contributor to student success and post-graduate readiness.

Lastly, the Center for Student Success hosted over a dozen peer mentoring events during the spring semester, reaching more than 300 students and fostering community and connection among new freshmen, sophomores, and transfer students. The Office of Online Education also collaborated with the Presidential AI Task Force to deliver campus-wide AI training sessions, including workshops, an AI Showcase, and a panel discussion featuring university leadership and national partners.

**Student Representative Report**

***Brea Belville*,** Student Body President, gave the Student Representative update. During her final report to the Board, Student Body President Brea Belville acknowledged that this meeting marked her last as a member of the Board of Governors and expressed how honored she felt to have served in this role.

Brea shared that she and her Student Government Association team are proud to be leaving Marshall University better than they found it. Since June, she said, the team has learned firsthand the value of collaboration. She highlighted a joint effort with student leaders from West Virginia University to advocate for student representation in higher education governance. Although the final outcome was not what students had hoped for, she noted that the experience strengthened bonds between student leaders across the states, something she believes is meaningful and lasting.

Throughout the year, the SGA coordinated multiple community initiatives and drives, made possible by the generosity of individuals across the university, many of whom were present at the meeting. Together, they were able to donate 5,236 items and $5,120 to the Marshall Food Pantry, along with more than 100 items of formal clothing to directly support students in need.

The team also focused on promoting student wellness and safety. They hosted suicide prevention and overdose response training sessions, organized campus cleanups, and led leadership development events. Under her leadership, Marshall University became an official member of the United States Health Promoting Campuses Network, a designation that connects the university to research-based strategies for fostering health and wellbeing across campus, a legacy that will continue beyond her tenure.

Brea noted that the Student Senate allocated approximately $20,000 to support registered student organizations, empowering student-led projects and activities. As the semester came to a close, the SGA hosted food trucks on campus, providing a moment of relaxation and connection for students ahead of final exams.

She concluded her report by expressing sincere thanks to the Board for their kindness, support, and willingness to include the student perspective in meaningful conversations. She shared how deeply grateful she is for the opportunity to have served and for the lasting impact the experience has had on her.

**School of Medicine Report**

**Dr. David Gozal,** Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs presented the School of Medicine report. During his report, Dr. Gozal shared numerous accomplishments and updates from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. He opened by highlighting the school’s 45th annual doctoral graduation and third Physician Assistant hooding ceremony. This year, the school conferred 67 Doctor of Medicine degrees and one Ph.D. in biomedical research. Keynote speaker Ross Bernstein delivered an inspiring address that encouraged graduates to embrace teamwork, grit, and heart as they move forward in their careers. His comparison between competitive sports and the practice of medicine resonated deeply with the audience. Dr. Darshana Shah was also honored as the 2025 Honorary Alumna in recognition of her long-standing service to the institution.

Dr. Gozal reported that the School of Medicine is preparing to welcome 114 incoming residents and fellows this July. Among them is the inaugural cohort of the rural internal medicine residency program based in Gallipolis, Ohio. Marshall now sponsors 64 residency and fellowship programs across 14 states and 18 specialties. With a total of 312 trainees enrolled in 28 distinct programs, this represents the largest cohort in the school’s history. Dr. Gozal emphasized that this diversity in training sites enhances collaborative learning and interdisciplinary teamwork across the field of medicine.

He also shared personal stories of two exceptional graduates. Dr. Cora Miracle, who completed both her MD and Ph.D., was inspired by her Appalachian upbringing and a family member’s illness to pursue pediatric medicine. She matched with Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Justin West will enter an OB-GYN residency at Morehouse School of Medicine, where he plans to serve underserved populations. Their achievements reflect the school’s mission of compassionate, community-focused care. Dr. Gozal noted that as residency applications become increasingly competitive, students are seeking to distinguish themselves through research, volunteerism, and leadership—areas where Marshall students continue to excel.

Dr. Gozal highlighted a renewed commitment to student research, appointing Dr. Krista Denning as Assistant Dean for Medical Research. In less than three months, Dr. Denning successfully connected 65 first-year students with faculty-led research projects, many of which are expected to result in national presentations and publications. These efforts will be further showcased during the upcoming Health Sciences Research Day. To strengthen this focus, the school also welcomed Dr. Trupti Joshi as the new Senior Associate Dean for Informatics and Population Analytics. With expertise in both engineering and computer science, she will build a data infrastructure to support health research and academic collaborations across Marshall Health Network and statewide partners.

Dr. Gozal also spoke about the 12th Annual Quality & Safety Summit, held in April and co-hosted by the School of Medicine and Marshall Health. The summit featured 60 innovative projects presented by students, residents, fellows, and faculty. Keynote speaker Dr. Scott Holliday from Ohio State University highlighted the need to connect academic medicine with real-world safety initiatives. Dr. Gozal addressed the nationwide rise in physician burnout and reported that the school’s lower-than-average burnout rates are due in large part to strong faculty engagement, a sense of community, and belief in the school’s mission.

He highlighted the May 2 Lunch & Learn session featuring Intermed Labs CEO Dr. Tom McClelland, who discussed the process of bringing medical technologies from concept to market. This event, attended by faculty, students, and healthcare professionals, supports the school’s efforts to foster innovation in healthcare delivery.

Community engagement remains a cornerstone of the school’s mission. During National Volunteer Week (April 20–26), more than 75 medical students participated in service projects throughout Huntington. Activities included volunteering at Facing Hunger Foodbank, organizing a Ronald McDonald House kitchen event, cleaning up Fifth Avenue, and performing maintenance at Hospice of Huntington. The week concluded with Marshall Medical Outreach and a free cancer screening event for uninsured and underinsured community members.

Dr. Gozal also highlighted Marshall’s role in hosting Governor Morrisey’s Mountaineer Mile initiative on May 16, a community walk at Ritter Park that promoted health and wellness and drew nearly 200 participants. He also mentioned the School of Medicine’s Day of Giving, which raised $46,000 thanks in part to a $25,000 challenge gift from alumnus Dr. Bob Hess and $10,000 from the Ohio Valley Physicians Foundation.

During the Focus Forward: Long Live West Virginia 2025 conference, Dr. Gozal emphasized the importance of healthy sleep as a key pillar of wellbeing. He encouraged attendees to prioritize rest as part of personal and community health. Scott Raynes, the new CEO of Marshall Health Network, joined a panel discussion on building resilient healthcare infrastructure for West Virginia.

Dr. Gozal concluded by recognizing three outstanding faculty members. Dr. Brandon Henderson, Associate Professor, received the prestigious SRNT Service Award and was appointed co-chair of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco’s Basic Science Network. Dr. Shelvy Campbell-Monroe, Ph.D., was appointed Senior Associate Dean of Admissions, Advising, and Student Life and elected Vice Chair of the AAMC Southern Group on Student Affairs. Dr. Jennifer Tregoning, M.D., received the Resident Committee Award for Innovation in Medical and Adolescent Gynecology from the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology.

**Finance, Audit and Facilities Planning Committee**

The following are action items from the Finance, Audit and Facilities Planning Committee:

1. **Approval of FY2026-31 Capital Project List**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the attached FY2026-31 Capital Project List*

*\** *The Capital Project Budget Request forwarded to Marshall University by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission requires each spending unit to annually submit a listing of capital projects. After board approval, this capital expenditure projects list for FY2026-31appropriation request will be forwarded, as required, for submission to the West Virginia Budget Office.*

*Inclusion on this list does not guarantee funding for a specific project. The purpose of the list is to outline in priority order all desired projects, should funding become available. Only items on the university’s deferred maintenance list and approved capital expenditures are included.*

**Upon a motion by Bill Smith, seconded by Jim Smith without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Authorization of Reallocation of Funds from the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant Program**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors authorize reallocation of funds from the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant program as described below.*

*\* In June 2023, the Board of Governors approved the submission of thirty-one (31) deferred maintenance projects under the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant Program. Several of Marshall University's projects were completed under budget. As a result, staff now seeks authorization to reallocate the remaining funds to support other priority projects, as outlined below:*

*• Reallocate $11,895 from Classroom and Restroom Repair and Renewal (WVHEPC-M0 19) to South Charleston Roof Replacement (WVHEPC-M008) to expand the project scope to include the installation of snow guards and replacement of stairway hallway lighting.*

*• Reallocate $141,000 from Classroom and Restroom Repair and Renewal (WVHEPC-M019) and $38,000 from Roof Replacement (WVHEPC-M025)-a total of$179,000- to Fine Arts Renovation (WVHEPC-M009) for window replacement, weatherproofing, and glass block and mortar replacement.*

*• Reallocate $410,000 from Roof Replacement (WVHEPC-M025) to Holderby Hall Demolition (WVHEPC-M014) to cover higher-than-expected abatement costs and electrical line relocation. Page 85 of 166*

*• Reallocate $159,000 from Classroom and Restroom Repair and Renewal (WVHEPC-M019) to Stormwater Improvements Phase I (WVHEPC-M016) due to increased costs driven by market conditions, project complexity, and contingency needs.*

*• Reallocate $166,064 from Classroom and Restroom Repair and Renewal (WVHEPC-M019) to MRI Building HVAC Replacement (WVHEPC-M017) to address additional requirements including ductwork, Variable Air Volume (VA V) boxes, exhaust fan installation, and other necessary equipment. Approval of this request will enable Marshall University to optimize the use of available funds by reallocating savings from under-budget projects to address critical needs in other deferred maintenance initiatives.*

**Upon a motion by Samuel Moore, seconded by Kathy D’Antoni, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Approval of the Sale of Property Situated at 1403, 1405, 1457 and 1459 11th Avenue**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the sale of property situated at 1403, 1405, 1457 and 1459 11th Avenue.*

*\** *Marshall University owns property situated at 1403, 1405, 1457 and 1459 11th Avenue in Huntington, West Virginia. The property is located behind Stephen J. Kopp Hall, which houses the School of Pharmacy. This property is being marketed for the purpose of building luxury townhomes on the subject property, which would further economic development in Huntington. Currently, the property consists of vacant lots with no permanent fixtures thereon. This property will be sold at a price in accordance with the appraised value and the sale price will include recovery of any associated costs incurred by Marshall University pursuant to the appraisal and sale procedure.*

**Upon a motion by Kathy Eddy, seconded by Kathy D’Antoni, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Approval of the Sale of Property Situated at 2400 Benedum Industrial Drive, Bridgeport**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the sale of property situated at 2400 Benedum Industrial Drive, Bridgeport*

*Marshall University owns a .75 acre parcel on which is situated a light industrial building with office/research space of approximately 28,000 square feet (known as the Robert C. Bird Institute/RCBI) and adjacent parking lot located at 2400 Benedum Industrial Drive, Bridgeport, West Virginia, collectively referenced herein as “the Property” and more particularly described on attached Exhibit A. Presently, Marshall University and Sub-Lessor Marshall University Research Corporation lease the property to Aurora Flight Sciences of West Virginia. Marshall University desires to list this property on the market for sale and has contacted a listing agent willing to assist in that process. At this time, there is no identified prospective purchaser for the property. The property will be sold at a price in accordance with the appraised value and the sale price will include recovery of any associated costs incurred by Marshall pursuant to the appraisal and sale procedure.*

**Upon a motion by Bill Smith, seconded by Donnie Holcomb, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

Information Items

Of note, in the package, there are updates for:

*Finance Update*

*Facilities and Operations Update*

*Internal Audit Update*

**Athletic Committee**

The following are action items from the Athletic Committee:

1. **Approval of Recommendation from Athletics Committee Granting Express Consent to President for Terms and Conditions of Personnel Contract**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the recommendation from the Athletics Committee granting express consent to the President for the terms and conditions presented for the position of head men’s basketball coach. The Board further authorizes the President of the University to execute the necessary documents to enter into a personnel contract in accordance with these terms and conditions.*

*\** *Marshall University has reached tentative agreement with a coach within the Department of Athletics and the President seeks express consent for the terms and conditions of such agreement.*

**Upon a motion by Kathy D’Antoni, seconded by Donnie Holcomb, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

Information Items

Of note, in the board package, there are updates for:

*Athletic Team Update*

*NCAA Legislation*

*National Issues Updates*

*Budget Update*

**VI. President’s Report**

**\****The President’s report is attached as an addendum to the Board of Governors minutes.*

**VI. Report from the Nominating Committee/Election of Officers**

Board of Governors member Kathy Eddy was then given the floor to present the Nominating Committee report. She explained that each June, the committee meets to discuss officer positions for the upcoming year. Ms. Eddy shared that she spoke with each of the nominees, all of whom agreed to continue serving if elected for an additional term. The current officers, Geoff Sheils as Chairman, James (Jim) C. Smith as Vice Chair, and Dr. Kathy D’Antoni as Secretary have all agreed to continue in their respective roles. In accordance with the Board rules, members had the opportunity to submit additional nominations by the Friday prior to the meeting, but none were received. Ms. Eddy respectfully submitted the committee’s report and thanked the Board. She then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers.

**Upon a motion by Donnie Holcomb seconded by Kathy Eddy, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously**

**VII. Executive Session under the authority of WV Code § 6-9A-4**

Upon a motion by Brea Belville, seconded by Carol Hurula, the board entered Executive Session under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4 to discuss Matters involving Commercial Competition and Personnel Matters.

After a brief session, the Board entered open session. No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

**IV. Committee of the Whole**

1. **Approval of Extension of Contract**

The following resolution was read:

*Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve an extension of the employment contract of Marshall University President Brad D. Smith for an additional three (3) years.*

*\* President Smith’s current employment contract expires at the end of 2026. He has agreed to*

*accept an extension of three (3) additional years of service. The new, extended contract will have*

*an expiration date of December 31, 2029.*

**Upon a motion by Donnie Holcomb, seconded by Kathy Eddy, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.**

**IX. Chairman Sheils Report**

Chairman Geoff Sheils began his report by thanking everyone for their attention and participation throughout the day. He acknowledged that another academic year has quickly come to a close and expressed appreciation to Ms. Kathy Eddy and the Nominating Committee for their confidence in his continued leadership as Chairman of the Board. He noted that it has been an honor to serve and welcomed anyone interested in chairing a committee or taking on leadership roles to reach out to him before the next meeting.

Chairman Sheils extended his sincere gratitude to outgoing Board members Shawn Ball, Carol Hurula, and Student Representative Brea Belville. He commended their service, insight, and dedication to Marshall University, emphasizing that their contributions have been deeply appreciated and will be missed. He also welcomed Rusty Webb as a new member of the Board and noted that Connor Waller, the incoming Student Representative, will officially join in August. Additionally, Carleen O’Neill will begin serving in Carol Hurula’ s position starting in August.

He then spoke about the upcoming Board of Governors retreat, scheduled for August 4–5 at the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation. Chairman Sheils reflected on his own orientation experience seven years ago and remarked on how much the process has evolved. He praised the thoughtful planning that now goes into the retreat and orientation and expressed hope that new members will find it both valuable and meaningful.

Chairman Sheils also recognized Dr. Mary Beth Reynolds and Dr. Teresa Eagle, both of whom are retiring, and thanked them for their long-standing service to the university. He gave special acknowledgment to Provost Mukherjee. Chairman Sheils reminded attendees that a farewell reception for Provost Mukherjee will be held on Monday, June 16, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Drinko Library, and encouraged those in the area to attend.

In closing, Chairman Sheils reflected on the public perception of universities, noting that while athletics often receive the most attention, the academic accomplishments and positive developments happening across Marshall University deserve greater focus and recognition. He credited university leadership, including Provost Mukherjee and President Brad D. Smith, for their continued efforts to elevate Marshall’s academic profile.

With no additional business brought before the Board, Chairman Sheils reminded members of the retreat date, Monday, August 4, and adjourned the meeting.

**X. Announcements**

**XI. Adjournment**

Without objection, the Board Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy D’Antoni, Secretary

**President’s Report – June 2025**

* Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
* It’s that time of year when the Spring semester is behind us and many assume that things slow down on campus, but as you can attest, the opposite is true …
* This is a very busy time for our Board of Governors, leadership and campus as we calibrate our progress in support of our strategic roadmap, reflect on lessons learned during the past year and make the necessary adjustments for the coming year.
* This past academic year has been an extraordinary year …
  + One filled with challenge and accomplishment …
  + But here we stand …
  + United by a common purpose …
  + Moving in unison through shared governance …
  + And continuing to build momentum, despite the headwinds and external forces that surround us.
* With this context, I thought I would focus today’s report on a sample of the Marshall Moments – milestone events - that have occurred since our last meeting in April.
  + The first Marshall Moment was a very inspiring Spring Commencement ceremony that honored 1,490 students who graduated on May 10th.
  + More than 10,000 family members and friends converged on the Marshall Health Network Arena to celebrate the amazing Class of 2025 …
  + Which included a student who returned to complete his degree after retiring from the US Navy …
  + As well as three students who completed their bachelor’s degrees at age 19, thanks to the benefit of dual credit courses while attending high school.
  + If that isn’t inspiring enough, 54% of the Class of 2025 were the first in their families to earn a degree!
  + These graduates and their guests were treated to an inspiring commencement address delivered by Ms. Soledad O-Brien.
    - Soledad is an award-winning documentarian, journalist, speaker, author, philanthropist, and founder of Soledad O’Brien Productions … where she anchors and produces "Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien," a nationally televised show that airs in 95% of the country.
    - We were humbled when she chose to highlight our Marshall for All program and its promise of a debt-free education on Matter of Fact last year.
    - Soledad was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and was excited to join the ranks of Herd Nation.
    - As our graduates moved their tassels and walked across the stage, they received their first Herd Alumni gear and joined the illustrious ranks of the 120,000 alumni who’ve walked before them … a Marshall Moment indeed!
* Shifting to our incoming students, our campus-wide recruitment and admissions efforts have been actively navigating the secular headwinds which are impacting higher education enrollment …
  + Headwinds that we regularly summarize as the 3 Ds – demographics, digital and doubt.
  + Thanks to the hard work of our Enrollment and Admissions team … we’ve navigated through these headwinds and are once again experiencing promising early indicators for Fall 2025 enrollment.
  + This momentum doesn’t happen by accident – our teams continue to capitalize on best practices and innovative approaches informed by experiments & external benchmarking.
  + I applaud their efforts to counter the macro headwinds and build such positive momentum.
  + Those efforts matter … and they’re attracting national attention as well.
  + A noteworthy example is our Marketing Department recently receiving a Platinum Award for the Marshall for All Campaign, and two Gold Awards for our Marshall Magazine and our heartwarming Christmas video … think of these awards as the Oscars for Marketing … and they aren’t easy to win!
  + Thanks to these breakthrough campaigns, our Marketing team has achieved a cost-per- inquiry of $50, which is incredibly efficient marketing spend when compared to the national benchmark of $120.
* While our commencement ceremony for our graduating students, the momentum of prospective incoming students and innovative marketing serve as amazing examples of Marshall Moments … none of these would be possible without our amazing alumni and community …
  + As we often say, the most important word in our rally cry “We Are Marshall” is the first word … “WE.”
  + During the week of May 20th, we hosted our 4th annual Community Cares Week, where we invited members of our community and alumni across the globe to join us in some good old fashioned Spring Cleaning on each of our campuses, and as well as in communities where alumni live around the world.
  + When we first launched this program, many thought that we would be lucky to recruit 50 volunteers … but as we have seen in previous years, the actual results continue to exceed expectations.
    - This year, despite being challenged by thunderstorms, we leaned into the “Thunder” in the Thundering Herd … and hosted 985 volunteers who actively participated in Community Cares Week!
    - 685 volunteered on our various campuses, and 300 volunteered in their hometowns as far away as China!
    - And when I say the community showed up … I mean everyone from:
      * The Marshall Early Education STEAM Center and the Child Development Academy … these are pre-school children!
      * To Leadership West Virginia, staff members from federal, state and local leaders’ offices, and Marshall’s ROTC program.
      * As well as employees from our various partners and suppliers… and 24 of our alumni chapters!
    - And trust me when I say they worked …
      * They worked 2,970 service hours …
      * Planted more than 2,020 flowers and shrubs,
      * Spread 3,500 bags of mulch,
      * Painted dorms, arenas and stadiums,
      * And hand-carried and placed ***28 tons*** of gravel, stone, pavers and rock!
      * The campus has never looked better … and our hearts are filled with gratitude for everyone’s contributions …
      * Both on our campuses and in their communities …
      * As our alumni brightened our campus, as well as their local neighborhoods, they left with a smile and simply stated … “tell them the Herd was here!”
      * This was an amazing “***We Are*** Marshall” Moment!
* Marshall Moments happen because of the dedication and hard work of incredibly talented people …
  + Which is why we place such a premium on who joins our ranks and who leads our teams.
  + As we’ve publicly shared, we are bidding farewell to two such leaders who have contributed so much during their time at Marshall …
    - Avi Mukherjee who has served as our innovative, action-oriented Provost …
    - And Christian Spears who has served as our transformational Athletic Director …
    - Both of these gentlemen are dear friends and are leaving us much better than they found us …
  + Please join me in thanking them for all they’ve contributed and for creating special Marshall Moments at every step along the way.
  + The searches for our next Provost, as well as our next Athletic Director are well underway.
    - Search Committees have been formed, search firms have been engaged, and applications are already being collected.
    - Our Provost search is being led by Academic Search, the same firm who conducted the last Presidential, Provost and key Cabinet searches for Marshall.
    - To build on the work that Avi has put in place, we are seeking a visionary, transformational Provost:
      * One who is steeped in the practice and appreciation of academic excellence, advancing research, scholarship and creativity.
      * One who is oriented to blaze trails versus follow paths, adopting best practices and piloting new approaches that will advance the transformational change occurring across our campus and across higher education,
      * And one who is skilled as a facilitative leader, furthering our strong commitment to shared governance, while doing so with the appropriate sense of urgency … making bold decisions with agility and speed.
      * Given the academic calendar, we are using the summer months to market the position and encourage applications, with on-campus interviews scheduled for the beginning of the Fall semester and a finalist to be selected in October for a January 2026 start.
    - Shifting to our Athletic Director search, we have once again partnered with CarrSports who has worked with us in the past to complete a comprehensive assessment of our Athletics Program in 2021, as well as conducted the search that led us to Christian.
  + This is an important moment in time for higher education, collegiate athletics, and Marshall University - and we are seeking to recruit an Athletic Director who is purpose-built for this moment in time:
    - One who possesses ***strong business acumen***, while striving to achieve academic excellence and athletic competitiveness.
    - One who is ***an innovative trail blazer***, adopting best practices and piloting new approaches that will advance the transformational change occurring across our campus and across collegiate athletics.
    - And one who is ***skilled as a facilitative leader***, furthering our strong commitment to One Marshall … capable of making bold decisions with agility and speed … in a collaborative manner.
* Thanks to Christian, much of the foundation is in place:
  + - From having hired talented coaches, establishing winning programs and conducting successful fundraising efforts,
    - To facility enhancements and engaging fan experiences,
    - We have received very strong interest and are on track to advance semi-finalists to campus for interviews in mid-July, with a final selection for our next AD by the end of July.
* Wrapping up, we are in the dawn of a new era at Marshall University, powered by our campus-wide strategy - Marshall for All, Marshall Forever.
  + This strategy is grounded in our enduring Vision and Creed, written nearly 25 years ago …
  + While our aspirations have been lifted … to become the nation’s benchmark in delivering the most affordable, flexible and achievement-oriented education to prepare students to thrive in the 21st century society and economy.
  + Make no mistake, we have heavy lifting ahead of us … but it is important to pause and celebrate shining achievements … special Marshall Moments such as these … and to thank all who have brought these moments to life.
  + Because of them … because of you … Marshall is making strides to become an exemplar in higher education …
  + And in doing so, we’re providing a roadmap to future prosperity for our students, our employees, our communities and for the country.
  + **Marshall For All, Marshall Forever!**
* And with that, Mr. Chairman, I’ll conclude my comments.