MINUTES
Marshall University Board of Governors
Microsoft Teams Meeting at
Livestream and In-Person
Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall
June 10, 2026

Present: Kathy D'Antoni, Vikki Dunn-Dionne, Kathy Eddy, Donnie Holcomb, Carleen O'Neill, Robin Riner, Geoff Sheils, Bill Smith, Connor Waller, Charles Webb

PH: Kipp Bodnar, Ginny Lee, Angel Moore, Jim Smith, Charles Wendell

Absent: Samuel Moore

I. Call to Order

Subsequently, upon confirming the presence of a quorum, Chairman Sheils called the meeting to order. Chairman Sheils also took a moment to recognize and thank outgoing board members Bill Smith and Student Body President Connor Waller for their dedicated service. President Smith then recognized Chairman Geoff Sheils and thanked him for his leadership and service as Board Chair. Each was presented with a gift from the board in appreciation of their time and contributions.

II. Minutes Approval

Upon a motion by Bill Smith, seconded by Donnie Holcomb, the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 6, 2026, were approved.

III. Classified Staff Council Update

Lacie Bittinger, Classified Staff Council Chair, gave the Classified Staff Council Annual Update. During her report she began by expressing appreciation to the Board of Governors and university administration for ensuring classified staff have a voice in the shared governance process. She also recognized Carlene O'Neill for her service as the staff representative to the Board and thanked her for regularly communicating Board discussions and updates to staff. Lacie noted that Marshall's commitment to shared governance is not common at all institutions and emphasized the value staff place on being included in university decision-making processes.

Lacie also highlighted the establishment of the Non-Classified Staff Council, noting that the new council provides an important avenue for representation for non-classified employees. She explained that the Classified and Non-Classified Staff Councils begin meetings together, allowing both groups to receive the same updates and information before conducting their respective business separately. She stated that despite differing employment classifications, staff remain united in their commitment to serving the university.

She emphasized the critical role staff play in supporting the university's mission, noting that staff contribute to nearly every aspect of campus operations, including facilities management, student recruitment, enrollment services, academic support, and student success initiatives. She shared that Marshall currently employs approximately 499 classified staff members. Lacie highlighted several accomplishments and points of pride among classified staff over the past year. She reported that 106 classified staff members utilized Marshall's tuition benefit during the previous 12 months, representing approximately 20 percent of the classified workforce. Of those employees, 14 earned degrees during the past year. Additionally, approximately 180 classified staff members hold degrees from Marshall University, reflecting a strong commitment to lifelong learning and the institution.

She also provided updates on several staff-led initiatives and events. Classified and non-classified staff once again partnered to host the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for students and employees who remained on campus during the holiday break. Through donations and volunteer efforts, approximately 125 meals were served to students, international students, student-athletes, and employees working during the holiday period. Lacie also highlighted staff participation in Community Cares, where employees volunteered throughout the community and assisted in leading project teams. In addition, she noted strong staff participation in the President's Listening Sessions, including a dedicated staff session that provided employees an opportunity to share feedback and engage directly with university leadership. She thanked the President's Office for scheduling sessions at times that accommodated varying employee work schedules. Lacie also recognized staff participation in Marshall Day at the Capitol, where employees represented the university and advocated on behalf of Marshall despite challenging winter weather conditions.

Lacie further highlighted the annual Service Awards Luncheon held on May 26, which recognized employees for their years of service to the university. This year, 71 employees were honored for service milestones ranging from 10 to 40 years, and 26 retirements were recognized. She noted that these milestones demonstrate the dedication, loyalty, and long-term commitment many employees have to Marshall University.

She concluded her report by discussing several ongoing concerns expressed by staff. These included compensation, rising PEIA insurance costs, and the desire to see voting privileges restored for faculty, staff, and student representatives serving on the Board of Governors. Lacie expressed appreciation for the state-approved salary increases distributed this year and thanked the administration for implementing a tiered distribution model, which provided greater benefit to lower-paid employees. While appreciative of the raises, she noted that compensation and healthcare costs remain significant concerns for many staff members. Lacie thanked the Board for its continued support of Marshall University employees and invited members to contact her with any questions regarding the Classified Staff Council and its initiatives.

IV. Committee of the Whole

A) Approval of Revisions to Board of Governors Rule No. GA-3 - Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual & Domestic Misconduct, Stalking, and Retaliation Policy - Including Title IX

The following resolution was read:

> *Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the revisions to Board of Governors Rule No. GA-3 - Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual & Domestic Misconduct, Stalking, and Retaliation Policy - Including Title IX*

* *The revisions to Board of Governors Policy GA-3 modernize and clarify the University's discrimination and sexual misconduct framework to ensure full alignment with updated Title IX regulations, federal nondiscrimination requirements, and institutional operational needs, while preserving existing protections, standards, and access to resources under the prior policy.*

The changes do not fundamentally alter how reports are handled or how misconduct is prohibited, or the evidentiary standard, available supportive measures, or institutional authority to address misconduct. Instead, they improve legal precision, clarify jurisdictional distinctions, expand transparency around procedures and protections, and strengthen alignment with pregnancy, disability, and sex discrimi-nation obligations.

Core Rationale for Revisions

I. Alignment with Updated Title IX Regulatory Framework

A. Distinguishes clearly between Title IX sexual harassment and Non-Title IX sexual misconduct, ensuring compliance with 34 C.F.R. § 106.30 and§ 106.8(c).

B. Explicitly requires dismissal of Title IX complaints that fall outside federal jurisdiction while preserving the University's ability to address the conduct under other applicable policies.

C. Clarifies jurisdictional boundaries and procedural pathways that were previously blended, reducing ambiguity and strengthening the clarity and defensibility of the University's response framework.

II. Addition of a Standalone Sex Discrimination (Non-Harassment) Process

A. New Section 1. 7 establishes prompt and equitable procedures for sex discrimination that does not meet the Title IX harassment threshold.

B. These procedures address discrimination related to pregnancy and related conditions, athletics, admissions, employment decisions, and other disparate treatment on the basis of sex.

C. The process applies a preponderance of the evidence standard and provides for written outcomes and appeal rights, creating a clearly defined procedural pathway for sex-based discrimination claims that fall outside the Title IX sexual harassment framework.

III. Enhanced Pregnancy and Parenting Protections

A. Explicit cross-references to Title IX pregnancy and related conditions requirements (34 C.F.R. § 106.40).

B. Directs students and employees to appropriate, coordinated processes (TIXO, HR, OSAA).

C. Although pregnancy protections were previously referenced in scope, the revised policy provides operational clarity needed to ensure consistent compliance with Title IX requirements.

IV. Clarification and Expansion of Definitions

A. Key terms were refined or expanded, including: Actual Knowledge / Consent / Incapacitation / Confidential Resource I Mandatory Reporter/ Sex Discrimination / Sexual Exploitation

B. These clarifications improve consistency and understanding across the policy, reduce ambiguity in application, and support more effective training, communication, and fair implementation during investigations and grievance processes.

V. Strengthened Retaliation Protections

A. Explicitly provides that retaliation reminders may be included m all written communications issued under the policy.
B. Clarifies that bad-faith false statements may be subject to discipline while preserving protections for good-faith reporting and participation.
C. Formalizes existing practice and reinforces clear expectations for all participants in the grievance process, supporting consistent application and institutional compliance.

VI. Expanded Transparency in Grievance Procedures

A. Codifies procedural timeframes as targets rather than guarantees.
B. Clarifies the circumstances under which live hearings are used versus written questioning, particularly for employee respondents.
C. Aligns appeal standards across grievance processes, providing clearer expectations for parties while preserving fairness and due process.

VII. Updated Confidential Resource List and Training Expectations

A. Expands the list of confidential campus resources.
B. Requires annual training related to confidentiality and Clery obligations.
c. Reflects current campus operations and clarifies how individuals may access support without unintentionally triggering mandatory reporting obligations.

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

V. Committee Meeting Reports

<u>Academic and Student Affairs</u>

A) Approval of 2025-2026 Academic Program Review Recommendations

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the 2025-26 Academic Program Review Recommendations.

Undergraduate Certificate Programs	Recommendations
Information Assurance	Continue at current level

Undergraduate Degree Programs: Baccalaureate Degree Level	Recommendations
Biomechanics-BS	Consolidate this program as one of five majors in the Health & Movement Sciences BS degree (approved by BOG in June 2025).
Computer and Information Security-BS	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.
Computer and Information Technology-BS	Improve program through advancements in efficiency, quality, productivity, and focus. • Create a comprehensive 5-year plan for program development • Develop and execute a plan for the systematic collection of assessment data and its use for continuous improvement • Complete annual assessment reports for each year of the next review cycle
Computer Science-BS	Continue at current level
Criminal Justice-BA	Continue at current level
Cyber Forensics and Security-BS	Develop or expand the program due to demand • Add a faculty member when resources in the college will allow
English-BA	Continue at current level
Environmental Science-BS	Develop or expand program due to demand • Add a faculty member when resources in the college will allow
Exercise Science-BS	Consolidate this program as one of five majors in the Health & Movement Sciences BS degree (approved by BOG in June 2025). After consolidation, the major should add an additional faculty member, when resources in the college will allow, in order to reduce the faculty/student ratio.
Geology-BS	Continue at current level
Journalism and Mass Communications-BA	Continue at current level
Natural Resources and Recreation Management-BS	Continue at current level
Occupational Safety and Health-BS	Continue at current level

Graduate Degree Programs: Master's Degree Level	Recommendations
Athletic Training-MS	Develop or expand program due to demand. • Add additional teaching faculty, when resources in the college will allow, to be shared with the Athletic Training major in the new BS in Health & Movement Sciences program.
Biomechanics-MS	Consolidate this program as one of four majors in the Health & Movement Sciences MS degree (approved by BOG in April 2025). After consolidation, the major should build enrollment and clarify how assessment leads to program action.
Computer Science-MS	Continue at current level
Criminal Justice-MS	Continue at current level
Cybersecurity-MS	Improve program through advancements in efficiency, quality, productivity, and focus. • Develop and execute a plan for the systematic collection of assessment data and its use for continuous improvement • Complete annual assessment reports for each year of the next review cycle • Develop an expanded, detailed 5-year plan for program development
Cyber Forensics and Security-MS	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it (similar program in CECS).
Data Science-MS	Continue at current level
English-MA	Continue at current level
Environmental Safety and Health-MS	Continue at current level
Exercise Science-MS	Consolidate this program as one of four majors in the Health & Movement Sciences MS degree (approved by BOG in April 2025). After consolidation, the major should improve assessment data so they can implement their 5-year plan as suggested by the Graduate Council.
Forensic Science-MS	Continue at current level
Journalism-MA	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.
Natural Resources and the Environment-MS	Continue at current level

Graduate-level Certificate Programs	Recommendations
Digital Communications	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.
Digital Forensics	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.
Integrated Strategic Communications	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.
Media Management	Discontinue the program after all enrolled students have completed it.

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

B) Approval of Board of Governors Rule No. AA-17 - Faculty Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve Board of Governors Rule No. AA-17, Faculty Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

** This rule establishes a comprehensive, fair, and academically sound framework for addressing faculty misconduct while protecting academic freedom, due process, and shared governance and ensuring accountability and professional conduct. The policy:*

1. Ensures consistent procedures across the institution.
2. Provides faculty-led adjudication of serious sanctions.
3. Aligns Marshall University with American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Recommended Institutional Regulations, MUBOG Rules No. AA-6 and AA-16, and WV Code.
Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to restrict academic freedom, protected speech, or lawful participation in shared governance.

Key Provisions
- Applies to all faculty, including administrators when acting in faculty roles.
- Uses a three-tier misconduct framework:
 - *• Tier 1 (Minor): Corrective, non-disciplinary actions.*
 - *• Tier 2 (Serious): Formal review and possible discipline.*
 - *• Tier 3 (Grave): Possible suspension, tenure revocation, or dismissal.*

- Ensures due process, including notice, investigation, hearing, and appeal rights.
Governance and Decision-Making
Serious cases are reviewed by faculty-led panels (Faculty Personnel Committee), with appeals to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The President issues the final institutional decision.
Process Summary
Complaint - Classification - Investigation - Hearing - Decision - Appeal - Final Action Sanctions Outcomes range from corrective actions and warnings to salary reduction, suspension, or dismissal depending on severity and pattern of misconduct.
Conclusion
The policy establishes a faculty-led, tiered disciplinary system focused on fairness, consistency, and accountability while safeguarding academic freedom.

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

Prior to committee reports, Dr. Kathy D'Antoni recognized several faculty and staff members for their outstanding achievements and service. Dr. Rick Gage was honored as the recipient of the 2025–2026 Marshall & Shirley Reynolds Outstanding Teacher Award and was also recognized for his re-election to the Faculty Senate for a third term (2026–2028).

Dr. D'Antoni also recognized Patricia Proctor, Director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy and Pre-Law Advisor, who received the Women of Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her longstanding dedication to student mentorship, civic engagement, and leadership.

Provost Report

Interim Provost Robert Bookwalter gave the Provost's Update. Dr. Bookwalter began his report by noting that the Board meeting was taking place during student orientation week and expressed his excitement about seeing prospective students arrive on campus, meet with advisors, and begin their Marshall journey. He reflected on the importance of helping students find their place at the university, develop their talents, and ultimately graduate prepared for successful careers and meaningful lives. He stated that supporting students through that process has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of his career in higher education.

Dr. Bookwalter reported that faculty and students continued to achieve significant success across the university. During the reporting period, Marshall faculty and students secured 16 new grants, including four grants involving students. Faculty and students also produced 14 new publications, including one student-authored publication, and delivered 54 professional presentations, five of which were presented by students.

He highlighted several nationally recognized student achievements. Students in Marshall's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications earned four first-place awards and four finalist awards in the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence competition. Marshall's Speech and Debate Team concluded the season ranked tenth in the nation. Marshall's esports teams also achieved national success, with the Call of Duty varsity team finishing seventh nationally, the Valorant team finishing eighth, the Super Smash Brothers team placing third nationally, and the Overwatch team finishing fifteenth in the country.

Within the College of Arts and Media, Dr. Bookwalter reported that Theater Professor Leah Turley began her term as President of the West Virginia Theatre Association. Student journalist Baylee Parsons earned first place in feature writing and was named a finalist in editorial and opinion writing in the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards competition.

In the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences, civil engineering students earned several honors at the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Symposium. The team placed third overall in the Concrete Canoe Competition, second in the Steel Bridge Competition, and third in the Sandcastle Competition. Dr. Bookwalter also recognized Hamzeh Al-Qawasmi, who received the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, allowing him to pursue doctoral studies at Rice University in biomedical engineering.

Within the College of Education and Professional Development, Dr. Maggie Luma of the June Harless Center served as lead author on the forthcoming book chapter, "Institutionalizing AI Literacy in Teacher Preparation," with contributions from Dr. Tisha Duncan, Taylor Browning, Sissy Isaacs, and Dean Kelly Bradley. The June Harless Center also secured a

$40,200 grant to support visually impaired students, expand services through a shared psychologist model, and advance a new testing center initiative.

Dr. Bookwalter announced that Dr. Scott Davis would serve as Interim Dean of the College of Health Professions following the retirement of Dr. Michael Prewitt. He thanked Dr. Prewitt for his years of service and leadership. He also highlighted the accomplishments of Doctor of Physical Therapy students Justin Grant and Christopher Pinkerton, who received third place for Best Poster from the Technology Special Interest Group of the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting.

Within the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Bookwalter announced that Dr. Christoper Marrow would join Marshall University on July 1 as the new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He expressed appreciation to Dr. Kelly Prejean for her service as Interim Dean during the past year. He also highlighted several faculty achievements, including Dr. Robin Riner's publication of two book chapters addressing ethical challenges within the adversarial legal system and narrative construction and morality in accounts of taking life. Dr. Riner also received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and continued advancing interdisciplinary research in language, ethics, and public discourse.

Dr. Del Kroll received the Ovatio Award from the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in recognition of distinguished service to the profession and was appointed Executive Director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy, succeeding Dr. Montserrat Miller. Dr. Sid Roy, Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities, was elected President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, reflecting her national leadership and scholarly impact.

Within the College of Science, the Department of Natural Resources and Earth Sciences received royalty funds generated through a patented DNA-based process developed by former students working alongside Dr. Liz Murray. The innovation resulted from student research conducted in collaboration with faculty and supported through grant funding. Dr. Sachiko McBride organized the Twelfth Annual West Virginia Science Olympiad Tournament, which brought approximately 170 students from nine high schools to campus. She also organized Family Science Fun Day, which welcomed approximately 187 children and parents to campus for science-focused activities.

Dr. Bookwalter reported that the Division of Aviation received a $900,000 federal grant secured through Congressman Riley Moore. The funding will support expansion of Marshall's aviation facilities at Martinsburg Airport and accommodate growing enrollment within the aviation program.

Within the Lewis College of Business, Glen Midkiff received the Dr. Robert P. Alexander Mentorship Award from the Lewis College of Business Executive Advisory Board in recognition of his mentorship and commitment to student success. The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation hosted the Eighth Annual West Virginia Innovation and Business Model Competition, featuring eight student ventures. More than $9,000 was awarded to support the continued development of those projects.

In the School of Pharmacy and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Dr. Michael Hambuchen and Todd Davies, Ph.D. published research identifying a potential breakthrough in managing agitation associated with methamphetamine and cocaine use, particularly in cases involving opioid use. The study included contributions from several student researchers.

Dr. Ruhul Amin, pharmaceutical sciences graduate student Raji Lukmon, and former Marshall student Jihan Amin presented cancer-related research involving actinomycin-D and resveratrol at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting.

Dr. Bookwalter also highlighted accomplishments within the Center for Student Success. FAM (Friend of Marshall) Peer Mentors hosted fifteen events attended by 487 students. Center for Student Success Assistant Director Morgan Conley was invited to present at the 2026 Share Vision Conference on Mental Health at Marshall Health Network, where she shared expertise related to improving outcomes for youth in foster care.

Marshall Online, Information Technology, Academic Affairs, the Office of Accessibility and Accommodations, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Blackboard, and Adobe collaborated to host a campus-wide Digital Accessibility Fix-It-Thon. More than 80 participants generated 203 accessibility reports and completed 546 accessibility improvements in a single day, advancing Marshall's progress toward federal accessibility compliance requirements scheduled to take effect in April 2027.

Additional updates from Student Affairs highlighted student support initiatives and community engagement efforts. The ACE (Access, Connections and Engagement) Center provided professional attire to students preparing for employment and internships. The Office of Military and Veteran Affairs assisted seventeen military dependents in accessing benefits and university resources. Marshall students raised $10,478 for Hoops Family Children's Hospital, volunteered at Harmony House, supported students in recovery, assisted survivors of interpersonal violence, and provided 96 meals to children and mothers participating in recovery programs.

Dr. Bookwalter also noted that Marshall Online continues utilizing artificial intelligence tools to assist faculty with online course development, map student learning and employment outcomes, connect students with support resources, improve accessibility, and strengthen student success initiatives. Marshall Libraries continued providing leadership in campus artificial intelligence initiatives, including participation in the Presidential AI Task Force, integrating AI instruction into the Master of Science in Library Science curriculum, and promoting responsible AI use through education on data security, intellectual property, bias detection, and ethical implementation.

Concluding his report, Dr. Bookwalter noted that this would be his final report to the Board in his current capacity. He expressed gratitude to the Board of Governors for its support of Academic Affairs, thanked Chairman Geoff Sheils for his leadership and support, and offered special appreciation to Kathy D'Antoni for her partnership on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. He also thanked President Smith for his confidence, leadership, guidance, and support during his service as Provost. Reflecting on his 39-year career at Marshall University, Dr. Bookwalter stated that it had been a deeply fulfilling experience and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside outstanding faculty, staff, students, and university leaders throughout his career.

Student Representative Update

Connor Waller, Student Body President, gave the Student Representative update. In his final report to the Board of Governors, Connor Waller reflected on his tenure as Student Body President and student representative, highlighting key accomplishments and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve Marshall University students.

Connor shared that when he began his term, he entered the role with several goals centered on enhancing student experience, improving student wellness, and supporting student success. As the year progressed, he gained a deeper understanding of student needs and worked alongside fellow student leaders and campus partners to pursue initiatives that aligned with those priorities. Among the accomplishments highlighted were the expansion of pop-up food pantries to provide resources directly to students, the development of partnerships between the Student Government Association and numerous university departments and organizations, including Athletics, Admissions and Recruitment, Student Affairs, and the Marshall University Foundation, and the creation of the inaugural Dancing with the Herd event. Connor noted that the event successfully raised more than $38,000 to support student-centered causes and represented one of the most meaningful accomplishments of his term.

Connor also reflected on the challenges and lessons learned throughout his leadership experience. He acknowledged that there were decisions he would approach differently today and conversations he wished he had engaged in sooner. He emphasized that leadership is not defined by perfection, but by a willingness to remain accountable, learn from mistakes, and continue moving forward. He stated that those experiences ultimately contributed to his growth as a leader and reinforced the importance of learning from both successes and shortcomings.

He spoke highly of Marshall University's commitment to shared governance and student engagement, noting that students are provided with a meaningful voice in the university's decision-making processes. Connor expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board and stated that he consistently felt heard and respected while representing the student body. He thanked President Smith, Chairman Sheils, members of the Board, university leadership, and the campus community for their support throughout his term.

Connor concluded by welcoming incoming Student Body President Alissa Davis, who was in attendance, and expressed confidence in her leadership and ability to serve Marshall students effectively. He stated that serving as Student Body President and student representative to the Board had been one of the greatest honors of his life and that he leaves the role with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve Marshall University.

School of Medicine Update

Dr. David Gozal, Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs, presented the School of Medicine update. Dr. Joseph Gozal presented the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine report, highlighting student achievements, residency placement success, research accomplishments, program growth, and future initiatives.

Dr. Gozal began by recognizing the graduating medical school class and reported that all graduating students successfully matched into residency and specialty training programs through the national residency match process. He noted that the Class of 2025 achieved one of the strongest residency match outcomes in the school's history and emphasized that residency training is a critical next step in a physician's professional development.

He also recognized three doctoral students who completed their Ph.D. programs with distinction. Each graduate produced multiple publications in nationally and internationally recognized journals. Dr. Gozal stated that their accomplishments reflected both the dedication of the students and the mentorship provided by faculty members.

Special recognition was given to Dr. Tenant Rotenberg, who completed the M.D./Ph.D. program. Dr. Rotenberg's research focused on the impact of COVID-19 on blood clotting complications and explored both the epidemiology and biological mechanisms associated with those conditions. Dr. Gozal noted that Dr. Rotenberg received fellowship support from a national medical association and successfully matched into residency training at Marshall University. He described him as an exceptional student with a promising future in medicine and research.

Dr. Gozal reported that the School of Medicine will welcome the incoming Class of 2030 this summer. The class will consist of 99 students, making it the largest entering class since approval was granted to expand enrollment. He noted that the incoming class achieved some of the highest academic credentials in school history, including significantly improved scores on national admissions metrics. He stated that the academic profile of the incoming students exceeds national averages in several areas and will provide opportunities to further elevate the school's educational programs.

He emphasized the importance of continuing to recruit students from West Virginia and reported that the incoming class maintains strong representation from the state. He noted that attracting West Virginia students remains a priority because many graduates choose to remain in the state to practice medicine after completing their education and residency training.

Dr. Gozal also highlighted the graduation of 29 students from Marshall's Physician Assistant Program. He shared examples of graduates who demonstrated a commitment to serving rural communities and improving healthcare access throughout West Virginia. One graduate, Emma Groe of Charleston, West Virginia, chose Marshall's program because of its emphasis on rural medicine and plans to practice in a rural healthcare setting. Another graduate, Donovan Spencer, was recognized for his volunteer service through a vision clinic that provides eye examinations and eyeglasses to underserved populations. Dr. Gozal also noted that Donovan Spencer became the first student from Marshall's medical program to be accepted into Harvard University's prestigious Medical Research Scholars Program.

Looking ahead, Dr. Gozal reported that 126 residents and fellows will begin training at Marshall this summer. The incoming group represents 17 states and 25 countries. He announced that the School of Medicine successfully matched all available positions in its newly accredited Psychiatry Residency Program. Overall, Marshall currently trains 342 residents and fellows, representing the largest graduate medical education program in the institution's history.

Dr. Gozal reported that approximately $700,000 had been raised through philanthropic support and scholarship gifts. He specifically acknowledged several donors whose contributions will help reduce educational debt for medical students and support future healthcare professionals.

He highlighted several significant faculty research accomplishments. One study examined the relationship between COVID-19 infection, smoking history, and lung cancer risk. Researchers found that individuals with a history of smoking who contract COVID-19 may face an increased risk of developing lung cancer and identified potential biological mechanisms that may contribute to that risk. The study also suggested that vaccination may reduce some of the associated risk factors.

Dr. Gozal also discussed Researchers at Marshall University, led by Abdelnaby Khalyfa, MSc, PhD, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Missouri, have identified new evidence suggesting that microscopic particles produced in the gut, known as gut luminal exosomes, may contribute to inflammation and chronic disease associated with aging. Additionally, Dr. Gozal welcomed Dr. Sharad Taheri as the new leader of Marshall's initiatives focused on obesity, diabetes, and metabolic disease. He described Dr. Taheri as an internationally recognized physician-scientist whose work has advanced understanding of obesity, diabetes prevention, lifestyle interventions, and community-based health strategies. Dr. Taheri 's research has involved large-scale population studies involving millions of participants and aligns with Marshall's broader healthcare and research priorities.

Dr. Gozal concluded by highlighting ongoing innovations in patient care, orthopedic medicine, cancer treatment, and medical technology. He also recognized numerous students who presented research at national conferences and received academic awards. He noted that future Board meetings may include presentations from incoming students whose personal stories and accomplishments reflect the mission and values of the School of Medicine.

Naming of Clinic Room

At the conclusion of Dr. Gozal's remarks, per Board of Governors Rule No. GA-8, Naming Policy for Programs and Facilities, Sections 4.1.1. and 4.1.2, President Brad D. Smith informed the board that he has authorized the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine to name the resident clinic room on the obstetrics/gynecology floor in Dr. David Jude's name. There will not be a monetary donation or solicitation involved.

Finance, Audit and Facilities Planning Committee

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

A) Approval of FY2027-32 Capital Project List

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the attached FY2027-32 Capital Project List

* *In accordance with Finance, Facilities, and Audit Committee requirements, Marshall University must annually submit a rolling five-year capital appropriation request to the Marshall University Board of Governors (MUBOG) and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC). This Capital Project List formally communicates the University's capital priorities to the State of West Virginia.*

Inclusion on the list does not guarantee funding; however, it positions the University to be considered should state funding become available. Recent state allocations, including the $21 million "Shock and Awe" investment, demonstrate the importance of maintaining an approved and current capital priority list.

FY2027-32 Capital Project List
The proposed FY2027-32 Capital Project List was developed by the Division of Operations in consultation with campus stakeholders, including Academic Affairs, Athletics, Facilities and Operations, Information Technology, and the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. The list includes new construction, major renovations, deferred maintenance, and capital projects exceeding $100,000.

The draft list was reviewed with faculty and staff through the Physical Facilities and Planning Committee of the Faculty Senate on January 22, 2026, distributed to campus stakeholders on February 13, 2026, and was presented as an information item at the April Board of Governors meeting.

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.

B) Authorization of Reallocation of Funds from the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant Program

The following resolution was read:

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

Furthermore, the Board of Governors reaffirm its commitment to prioritize deferred maintenance projects at Marshall University and to ensure the necessary funding for these projects to be completed safely and effectively; and

The Board of Governors authorize the President to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the reallocation of funds for these projects as part of the deferred maintenance program

** 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.*

Some of Marshall's projects came in under budget; therefore, staff now seek authorization to reallocate funding for projects, as follows:

- *Reallocations of $31,500 from Electrical Systems Upgrades (WVHEPC-M-001), $34,000 from Fine Ars Renovations (WVHEPC-M-009) and $14,500 from Roof Replacements (WVHEPC-M-025), a total of $80,000 for additional demolition expenses from Holderby Hall Demolition (WVHEPC-M-014)*
- *Reallocation of $27,500 from Electrical Systems Upgrades (WVHEPC-M-001) for additional expenses to address repairs beyond scope for Smith Hall/Henderson Center Concrete Work (WVHEPC-M-013)*
- *Reallocation of $2,700 from Roof Replacement (WVHEPC-M-025) for additional expenses associated with Old Main Structure Repairs-Phase I (WVHEPC-M-023)*
- *Reallocation of $4,425 from Memorial Student Center Restroom Repairs and Renovations (WVHEPC-M-015) and $4,785 for Henderson Center E Level Sanitary Pipe Replacement (WVHEPC-M-007) for $9,210 additional expenses associated with Classroom and Restroom Repair/Renewal (WVHEPC-019)*

By authorizing this request, Marshall will be able to use and transfer funds from deferred maintenance projects that finished under budget, as well as reduce budgets for other projects, to finance outstanding repairs and ensure the scope of work is completed satisfactorily.

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

C) Approval of Acquisition of Property Located on Northcott Court

The following resolution was read:

> *Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the acquisition of property located on Northcott Court, as described below. It is further resolved that the President of Marshall University is hereby authorized to execute any necessary documents to effectuate this purchase.*

** Marshall University wishes to acquire 3.894 acres located on Northcott Court, Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, West Virginia. The acquisition will be accomplished by way of an assignment and purchase involving Fairmount Properties.*

Marshall's interest in the property is to develop it for the location of the new Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and Community Health Institute, subject to compliance with all State code and processes with respect to property acquisition and construction project practices. The objective is to enable the School of Medicine to have a stand-alone facility.

The purchase price of the property would be three million, three hundred dollars ($3,300,000), plus an administrative fee of three hundred fifty thousand dollars ($350,000) to be paid to Fairmount Properties for their interest in the property and provision of due diligence materials. This acquisition is being funded through an appropriation from the State of West Virginia.

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

D) Approval of Metro Tuition Rate Expansion - Phase 1 (Fall 2027) and Phase 2 (Fall 2028)

The following resolution was read:

> *Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve expansion of the Metro tuition rate in a phased approach beginning in Fall 2027 and continuing in Fall 2028, as described below.*

** Marshall University continues to look for ways to maintain its affordability mission and remain true to our enduring financial principle of Growing Students, Not Fees. To that end, we are presenting for approval the expansion of the Metro tuition rate. We are proposing a two-phased approach as outlined below.*

Phase 1 – True 150-Mile Radius (Fall 2027)

The current 150-mile radius for the Metro tuition rate applies only to the states of Kentucky and Ohio.

Beginning in Fall 2027, we are proposing a true 150-mile radius that will expand the Metro rate to additional counties over seven states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

The university currently enrolls approximately 28 students from these counties in undergraduate, graduate and online programs. In order for the university to break even on this proposal, we will need to add approximately two additional undergraduate students from these counties and an additional six graduate students. Phase 1 will be the foundation for moving toward Phase 2 – The Border State Benefit.

Phase 2 – The Border State Benefit (Fall 2028)

We are proposing to offer the Metro tuition rate to any student who resides in a state the borders West Virginia. This will include students from Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. This expansion of the Metro rate will be effective beginning in Fall 2028. The university currently enrolls approximately 173 undergraduate and 109 graduate non-resident students from these five states. In order for the university to break even on Phase 2, we will need to add approximately 91 additional undergraduate students and an additional 41 graduate students.

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

E) Approval of Restructuring of Institutional Merit Awards Beginning with Fall 2027 Freshman Class

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, the Marshall University Board of Governors approve restructuring of the university's financial aid merit awards beginning with the Fall 2027 freshman class, as described below.

** Marshall University proposes a shift in institutional financial aid strategy to align practices with peer institutions and provide increased clarity for prospective students and their families, as well as to help us to remain true to our enduring financial principle of Growing Students, Not Fees.*

This proposal is a two-part approach that will simplify the university's merit waiver structure and shift financial aid policy to a "last-dollar-in" approach for institutional merit waivers. These changes will be effective with the Fall 2027 class of incoming freshmen.

Part 1
The university currently offers 11 separate merit award categories with varying names, criteria and award levels. We propose to consolidate the 11 awards down to 4 awards under a single brand, the John Marshall Scholarship. The John Marshall scholarship will have four levels based on high school grade point average (GPA) and/or standardized test scores. Additional information is provided in the following pages.

Part 2
The university currently permits merit waivers to be stacked on top of other financial aid sources, without limits. This approach requires refunds to student accounts for amounts beyond the institution's Cost of Attendance, necessitating significant institutional subsidy in some cases. We propose changing to a "last-dollar-in" approach that will allow institutional merit waivers to be applied to a student account only until the account reaches a balance of $0, and will permit a maximum refund of $750 per semester to help cover books and other expenses. This proposal will align university policy with common national practice and help the university better anticipate cash outflows. Additional information is provided in the following pages.

Upon a motion by Donnie Holcomb seconded by Kathy Eddy, 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

<u>Athletic Committee</u>

There were no action items brought forward from the Committee.

Information Items

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

Athletics Report - "Student-Athlete First: Building Champions Beyond the Game"
Student-Athlete Success & Well-Being
Competitive Excellence & Winning the Right Way
Fan Experience & Community Engagement
Revenue Growth & Resource Development
Facilities & Capital Projects

VII. President's Report

***The President's report is attached as an addendum to the Board of Governor's minutes.*

VIII. Report from the Nominating Committee/Election of Officers

Board of Governors member Bill Smith was given the floor to present the Nominating Committee report. He explained that each June, the committee meets to discuss officer positions for the upcoming year. Mr. Smith shared that he spoke with each of the nominees, all of whom agreed to serve if elected: Kathy Eddy as Chair, James (Jim) C. Smith as Vice Chair, and Dr. Kathy D'Antoni as Secretary. 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. Mr. Smith respectfully submitted the committee's report and thanked the Board. He then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers.

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

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

Upon a motion by Bill Smith, seconded by Vicki Dunn-Dionne, the board entered Executive Session under the authority of WV Code §6-9A-4 to discuss Matters involving Commercial Competition and Personnel.

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

X. Chairman Sheils Report

Chairman Sheils began by reflecting on his eight years of service on the Board and expressed his appreciation to fellow board members and university staff for their support and collaboration. He thanked the board for the opportunity to serve, noted the valuable experiences and relationships gained during his tenure, and expressed confidence in Kathy Eddy's leadership as incoming chair. Chairman Sheils also encouraged board members to attend the upcoming Board of Governors training sessions scheduled for August 3-4, recognizing the significant planning and effort invested by university to make the sessions beneficial and informative.

He then recognized Chief of Staff Ginny Painter, who reminded board members that pre-meeting materials would be distributed earlier than usual due to the increased volume of required reading. She noted that instructions and materials would be sent within the next one to two weeks.

Chairman Sheils concluded by opening the floor for additional comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and service.

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment

Without objection, the Board Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

____

Kathy D’Antoni, Secretary

President's Report
June 2026

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

- Good afternoon, my friends.

- As we've discussed, the external environment remains dynamic and unpredictable.

- Higher education is at the center of this vortex …

- Across the country, universities are navigating shifting demographics, policy changes, financial pressures, and evolving expectations about the role of higher education in society.

- We can't predict every turn ahead, but we can prepare ourselves to respond with agility, confidence and purpose.

- The future doesn't belong to those who are certain … it belongs to those who possess conviction and are most ready.

- With that context, I want to focus my update on the work we are doing over the summer to strengthen our conviction and ensure our readiness for any scenario:

    - These include synthesizing the feedback collected from 30 listening sessions conducted over the past 90 days.

    - Defining a range of future enrollment scenarios and preparing specific actions to effectively navigate should that scenario play out.

    - Refining our approach to strengthening student success through the work of an Action Learning Team.

    - And transforming our multi-year efforts behind AI to lead in this era of transformation.

- **Let me click down on each, beginning with the highlights of the most recent Listening Tour.**

    - Having completed ~30 listening sessions with more than 1,000 participants over the past 90 days, we've loaded all the feedback into AI to summarize what we've heard.

    - The overall tone of the sessions has been notably optimistic, with participants consistently expressing confidence in the university's direction, leadership, transparency, and student-centered mission.

- Specifically, participants believe Marshall is:
  - Moving forward rapidly,
  - Increasing in national relevance,
  - Building institutional confidence,
  - Strengthening enrollment and reputation,
  - Becoming more innovative and collaborative,
  - And operating with greater transparency and accountability than in previous eras.

- While encouraging, the listening tour has also revealed clear tension:

  - Marshall's growth, ambition, and transformation are beginning to strain …

  - Our people …

  - Our systems and infrastructure …

  - And our operational capacity required to sustain long-term success.

  - Specifically, the areas highlighted include the need to identify pathways that:

    - Sustain momentum responsibly,

    - Scale institutional capacity,

    - Support employees more effectively,

    - Modernize operations and infrastructure,

    - Prepare students for a rapidly changing AI-driven future,

    - And preserve Marshall's relationship-centered culture during growth.

- This feedback sets the stage for the work we are completing over the summer and into the Fall …

- **Which takes me to my second topic: defining a range of future enrollment scenarios and preparing specific actions to effectively navigate should that scenario play out.**

  - As we've discussed, higher education continues to navigate the disruption of the 3 D's: demographics, digital and doubt.

  - Over the summer, we are conducting a deeper analysis into our internal scenario planning for all three … while defining "if-then" options.

        - Across the nation, the enrollment cliff has arrived.
        - For the past four years, we've defied gravity and bucked this gradual softening, but we must be prepared for all scenarios.
        - Matt Tidd has been working with the cross-campus Budget Advisory Committee to identify potential scenarios …
        - As well as levers and options that might be available as we navigate through the uncertainty in the next several years.
        - In support of this work, we are engaging with external thought partners to refresh our assessments of our organizational structure, opportunities for revenue optimization, as well as identification of areas of waste and inefficiency.
        - Similar to the work we conducted in 2022 across campus, our goal is to identify areas where we can increase our effectiveness in serving our students …
        - While reducing friction …
        - Streamlining our work …
        - And taking action to lower cost where necessary.
    - As we wrap the final year of Save-to-Serve 1.0, which has focused primarily on savings in supplies and other services …
        - We now need to reimagine new approaches to daily activities where we can increase efficiency …
        - Freeing up resources to reinvest into:
            - Performance-based pay,
            - Deferred maintenance,
            - And strategic investments as we move forward.

- **Which takes me to my third topic, the work underway with our Student Success Action Learning Team.**
    - The Action Learning team is being led by our VP of Institutional Research, Brian Morgan …

- Brian is stewarding a team of 15 individuals representing internal domain experts and our shared governance constituents …

- Their objective is to conduct an internal and external assessment of best practices to define a model where:

    - Retention rates consistently approach or exceed 80%,

    - Graduation rates meet or exceed peer benchmarks,

    - Equity gaps are significantly reduced,

    - And student success efforts are:

        - Coordinated across units,

        - Proactive and timely,

        - And are data-informed and action-oriented.

    - We seek a model where responsibility for student success is clearly defined and shared institution-wide,

    - And students experience a seamless, "one-stop/concierge" model of support.

- In short, a model where student success is driven by a cohesive, intentional system comparable to leading institutions.

- **Which takes me to my final topic - advancing our efforts to strengthen and adapt to the impact and implications of AI on education, the workforce and society …**

    - Every university is asking how AI will change education.

    - We believe the better question is "how should education change because of AI?"

    - Marshall must choose to lead rather than react.

    - We must prepare students, not only for their first job, but for a lifetime of adaptation and growth.

    - As I've previously shared, we've invited Paul LeBlanc (the former President of Southern New Hampshire University and current advisor to the Gates Foundation)…

    - To co-facilitate several campus strategy workshops with us over the summer break.

- The first with be held on July 13th and 14th:
    - Which will include the Chairs, the Deans, the heads of the Five Families, the campus AI Task Force and our Cabinet …
- And the second will be August 3rd and 4th:
    - Which will include each of you as the Board of Governors.
- These workshops will focus on:
    - Grounding ourselves in the culmination of internal and external trends, data and best practices …
    - Acknowledge, identify and name the central tensions AI is creating for Marshall …
        - Surfacing discomfort, ambiguity, and tradeoffs … not just the promise, but also the perils.
        - In doing so, we will ensure all perspectives are heard and respected,
        - Grounding the discussion in evidence from the AI survey/listening tour, peer benchmarking, and students' lived experience.
    - We'll translate key insights into action by producing a clear list of what we seek to protect and preserve,
    - As well as what must change.
    - And we'll align on 3–6 strategic imperatives connected to the Marshall for All strategy, to refresh our Plan-On-A-Page
- By end of summer, our goal is to have a comprehensive internal and external assessment to share with the campus community in the early Fall,
- Providing an opportunity for the broader campus community to review and contribute additional input and edits as appropriate…
- Leading to a final refresh of our plan-on-a-page that will set the course for the next five years of our journey …
- A journey to be a gold standard 21st Century Prosperity Platform that accelerates individual success, innovative ideas and economic impact for the state and the nation!

- We have a busy summer ahead …
- But the greatest leaps forward occur in times of disruption and reinvention …
- And we're seizing the moment at Marshall University!

- So, as I wrap up … I'll return to where I began.
  - Higher education is navigating a moment of significant change.
  - But change does not have to mean uncertainty.
  - At Marshall, I see something different.
  - I see a campus community that is focused on its mission.
  - A campus community that is willing to adapt and evolve:
    - Our thinking …
    - Our approach …
    - And even our decisions when new data or new opportunities require us to …
  - Marshall University is not reacting … we are responding
  - Our work is not always easy …
  - But it is meaningful…
  - And it is worth doing.
- Marshall For All … Marshall Forever!
- Go Herd.