**MINUTES**

**Marshall University Board of Governors**

**Special Board Meeting**

**Live Stream and In-Person**

**April 1, 2024**

**Present:** Kathy D’Antoni, Patrick Farrell, Carol Hurula, Samuel Moore, Robin Riner, Geoff Sheils,

Bill Smith, Walker Tatum

**PH:** Shawn Ball, Kathy Eddy, Ginny Lee, Angel Moore, James C. Smith

**Absent:** Kipp Bodnar, Donnie Holcomb, Chad Pennington

1. **Call to Order**

Upon verifying the presence of a quorum, Chairman Sheils initiated the commencement of the meeting. Chairman Sheils extended a warm welcome to all attendees and stated that the meeting was for a special purpose.

Chairman Sheils subsequently turned the meeting over to Mr. Patrick Farrell, Chair of the Athletics Committee. Mr. Farrell said the special meeting was convened to address the approval of a contract within the Department of Athletics. Mr. Farrell stated that he would give the floor to President Brad D. Smith, so he could make a statement before moving on to the Action Items.

President Smith began by expressing gratitude to Mr. Farrell and acknowledged the special nature of the board meeting. He reflected on the bittersweet farewell to Coach Dan D’Antoni, a cherished figure at Marshall University, highlighting Coach D’Antoni’s longstanding history with the institution as a student athlete and coach. Despite the difficult decision not to renew Coach D’Antoni’s contract, President Smith noted that Coach D’Antoni’s endorsement of Cornelius “Corny” Jackson as his successor made the transition smoother. President Smith praised Coach Jackson’s qualifications and the mutual respect between Coach D’Antoni and Coach Jackson, which facilitated an internal succession process without the need for an external search.

President Smith read a statement from Coach D’Antoni in support of Coach Jackson.

He then shifted focus to Coach Jackson’s experience and commitment to the university’s values, expressing confidence in Coach Jackson’s leadership abilities to continue the basketball program's success. President Smith presented a contract proposal for Coach Jackson as head coach, outlining the terms: a three-year contract with a base salary of $350,000, additional performance-based incentives totaling $100,000, standard perks, and a mutual buyout clause. President Smith expressed belief in Coach Jackson’s ability to elevate the program’s excellence and thanked the fans and stakeholders for their support, emphasizing their role in propelling the program forward.

Following President Smith's statements, Mr. Farrell reminded everyone that Athletics contract procedures adhere to Marshall University Board of Governor’s Rule GA-7. He then specified that the President sought express consent for the contract terms concerning the head coach position for men's basketball. Mr. Farrell indicated that the Athletics Committee would handle the matter initially, followed by the full board.

Outlining the proposed recommendation, Mr. Farrell stated that the Athletics Committee intended to move forward the recommendation to grant express consent to the President for terms and conditions of a personnel contract.

Subsequently, the following resolution was considered by the Athletics Committee:

*Resolved, that the Athletics Committee hereby grants its express consent to the President for the terms and conditions outlined for the position of head coach for men’s basketball.*

Upon a motion by Samuel Moore, seconded by James C. Smith**,** with no discussion, a vote of aye, and no opposition, the motion carried.

1. **Committee of the Whole**

Chairman Sheils discussed the Action Item for the Approval of Recommendation from Athletics Committee Granting Express Consent to President for Terms and Conditions of Personnel Contract.

The following resolution was considered by the Board of Governors:

*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 men’s head 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.*

Upon a motion by Patrick Farrell, seconded by Samuel Moore, with no discussion, a vote of aye, and no opposition, the motion carried.

**III. Adjournment**

Hearing no opposition, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy D’Antoni, Secretary