

**Marshall University Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 23, 2025, 4:00 PM  
MSC Don Morris Room (Microsoft Teams Streaming Only)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Casey Miller, Briana Nannen, Heather Stark, Olivia Trees, Sandy York, Jamey Halleck, Uyi Lawani, Mike Huesmann, Feon Smith, Jerry Dooley, Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Tim Melvin, Ammar Alzarrad, Ross Salary, Simon Shim, Jodi Cottrell, Zach Garrett, Susanne Konz, Shikeal Harris, Lisa Muto, Alysha Nichols, , Shoshannah Diehl, Marybeth Beller, Clinton Brown, Puspa Damai, Megan Marshall, Boniface Noyongoyo, Daniel O'Malley, Shawn Schulenberg, Jana Tigchelaar , Anthony Viola, Raid Al-Aqtash, Kelly Beatty, Rick Gage, Philippe Georgel, Sean McBride, Kyle Palmquist, Devon Wright, Stephen Young, Jessica Buerk, Nitin Puri, Ruhul Amin, Mindy Varney, Kari Mika-Lude, Kelli Johnson, Larry Sheret

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Vallejo, Kevin Levine, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Margie Phillips, Tanvir Chowdhury, Angela Graham, Marianna Linz, Eva Patton-Tackett, Tiffany Davis

EX-OFFICIO, VOTING/NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Connor Waller, Richard Eggleton, Amine Oudghiri-Otmani

EX-OFFICIO, VOTING/NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Zeli Rivas

SENATE STAFF: Hailey Bibbee

GUESTS: In person – Karen McComas, Andrew Morelock, Anna Mummert, Doohee Lee, Jim Denvir, R.B. Bookwalter, Brian Morgan, Marcie Simms, Allison Carey, Eryn Roles, Robin Irner, Sherri Stepp, Ginny Painter, Brad D. Smith, Maria P. Gindhart, Vicki Stroeher, Rohan Christie-David, Jerry Ross, Matt Tidd, Jode Penrod, Julia Spears, Kelly Bradley, Kateryna Schray, Carl Mummert

Virtual: Sonja Cantrell-Johnson, Michael Prewitt, Tanvir Chowdhury, Charlotte Weber, Billy Gardner, Jr., Jinju Wang, Susan Tusing, Ji Bihl, John Maher, Kelli Prejean, Stephanie Walker, Rich Jones, David Dampier, Carleen O'Neal, Raid Al-Aqtash, Julie Snyder-Yuly, Clay Arens, Bruce Felder, Michelle Biggs, Jim Harris, Cara Bailey, Fatiha Nassir, Miriah Young

The meeting was convened at 4:00 pm by Chair Shawn Schulenberg. Chair Schulenberg reviewed meeting procedures and expectations.

1. Approval of Proposed Agenda – approved
2. Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2025 – approved
3. Chair Announcements – Chair

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1. Thank you to those who made it to the Fall General Faculty Meeting. The Livestream is available on the Livestream website. I especially encourage faculty to watch the President and CFO's presentation for updates on your strategic plan.
2. I announced at last meeting that we have several rule/policy changes coming at us soon. After a meeting with the Five Families, we decided to focus our energy on passing AA6 first, and then we will look at policies on Faculty Misconduct and Post-Tenure Review. We are establishing a few working groups on these policies, and we hope to have them refined before they come to the Senate
3. Reapportionment: Here are the numbers for the 2026-28 Senate:
  - a. **Aviation** -1 (2 to 1)
  - b. **COHP** +1 (7 to 8)

2026-28 Faculty Senate Reapportionment									
		2026-28			Ratio	2024-26			
Division	# Faculty	# Senators	Change	Notes	Fac/Sen	# Senators	Key		
AVI	10	1	-1		10.0	2	# Faculty	# Senators	
CAM	51	5	0		10.2	5	1-12	1	
CECS	41	4	0		10.3	4	13-19	2	
COEPD	52	5	0		10.4	5	20-32	3	
COHP	88	8	1		11.0	7	33-45	4	
COLA	129	11	0		11.7	11	46-58	5	
COS	92	8	0		11.5	8	59-71	6	
COB	52	5	0		10.4	5	72-84	7	
ULIB	17	2	0		8.5	2	85-97	8	
							98-110	9	

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SOM		<b>3</b>	0	+3 Substitutes	111.7	<b>3</b>	111- 123	10
SOP	18	<b>3</b>	0	+3 Substitutes	6.3	<b>3</b>	124- 136	11
So Charles		<b>1</b>	0			<b>1</b>	137- 149	12
							150- 162	13
Grad Council		<b>1</b>	0			<b>1</b>		
ACF		<b>1</b>	0			<b>1</b>		
SGA (NV)		<b>1</b>	0	Not Counted in Quorum		<b>1</b>		
TOTAL	886	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>			59		
<p>"the word faculty means all full-time employees who have current faculty appointments, including library track faculty, clinical faculty, associate deans, assistant deans, directors, associate directors, assistant directors, chairs, temporary faculty with one-year appointments, and term faculty. Faculty does not include deans, part-time faculty, and adjunct faculty."</p>								

**4. Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- a. The next Executive Committee meeting is November 10, to prepare items for the November 20 Faculty Senate meeting. All recommendations and resolutions are due to [senate@marshall.edu](mailto:senate@marshall.edu) by Halloween, October 31.

**4. Recommendations/Resolutions**

- a) **SR 25-26-01 FPC** – Recommends Adoption of Revised MUBOG Rule AA-6 – approved as amended

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- b) **SR 25-26-03 BAPC** – Recommends Approval of Definition for UPAA-2 Short-Term Military Leave - approved
- c) **SR 25-26-04 BAPC** – Recommends Approval of Revision to UPAA-5 Midterm Grades – recommitted to committee
- d) **SR 25-26-05 CC** – Recommends Approval of the Listed **UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ADDITION, DELETION, CHANGE** in the following college and/or schools/programs: **HON 301** - approved

5. Regular Reports

- a) President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)

<b>President's Report – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025</b>
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- Thank you, Mr. Chairman ... good afternoon.
- Given that we just reviewed a detailed update summarizing the State of the University at the Fall General Faculty meeting last week ...
- I thought I would focus my report on a few highlights and then open it up to any topics you may wish to discuss.
- Those highlights include:
  - First, a brief recap of the last week, from the Fall General Faculty Meeting to the vibrant energy of Homecoming Week.
  - Second, the exciting announcement welcoming Diane Petrella as our next Provost and SVP of Academic Affairs.
  - And finally, the continued strength of our shared governance model as important policy work is being advanced by this

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body.

- Let me begin with a brief recap of highlights from last week:
  - The Fall General Faculty Meeting was filled with important updates on our strategic and financial progress across campus:
    - As we closed out our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of executing our strategic roadmap – Marshall For All, Marshall Forever – we highlighted areas of progress and opportunities for continue improvement.
    - In the face of structural and cyclical headwinds, we are growing enrollment, improving student success and strengthening economic development in our community and the greater Appalachian region.
    - We have reduced our structural deficit to a forecasted ~\$10M deficit this year, with a pathway to a net positive position in FY27, while bringing our employee pay to market levels and making investments in deferred maintenance along the way.
    - We have work to do to strengthen our execution in internships and practicums for our students,

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- And the upcoming budget cycle will require us to prepare for two scenarios – a flat state allocation and a 2% reduction – but the implementation will be more unit specific as we use market-based data to invest where needed and reduce where necessary.
  - If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the Fall General Faculty Meeting, I encourage you to watch the video recording, as it sets the foundation for all that will be occurring in the coming year.
- The Fall General Faculty Meeting occurred in the midst of an action-packed, sunny Homecoming Week ...
- From on-campus activities and Jim Thornton from Wheel of Fortune serving as our Grand Marshal,
  - To Hoops in Huntington, a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Marching Thunder with alumni members, and a thrilling double overtime victory at the Joan, as well as on the soccer pitch at JMU...
  - With a Yeager Board Meeting, the MU Black Alumni Hall of Fame dinner and record-setting Green & White Day sandwiched in between ...

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- The community showed up in support of the amazing things Marshall has to offer for their families & their communities.
- Capping off the week was a text from Brian Morgan, who monitors our Power BI dashboards continuously ...
- Informing RB and me that we had crossed 13,000 enrolled students ... representing an 8.2% growth year-over-year and a 20.6% growth over the past 3 years.
- My tip my hat to you and your fellow employees for all you are doing to create these Marshall Moments in so many lives!
- Which takes me to my second topic – the selection of our next Provost.
  - While we are blessed to have RB serving as our interim Provost, and are grateful that he has agreed to extend his term through June 30<sup>th</sup> ...
  - We must prepare for campus life after RB!
  - After an extensive national search over the Spring and summer that produced 95 qualified and interested candidates...

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- One candidate rose to the top throughout the process, from the Search Committee to campus feedback, Chat GPT and my own diligence and reference checks ...
- Last Friday, we announced Dr. Diane Petrella will us in July from Kent State University, where she has served as dean of the College of the Arts since 2021.
- She has served as a Dean for nearly nine years, most recently at Kent State where she oversaw all academic, fiscal, development, personnel and administrative operations for the College of Arts ...
  - Which includes the nationally acclaimed School of Fashion Design and Merchandising, School of Art, School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, Kent State Museum, and numerous regional and national arts programs.
- Prior to her time at Kent State, she served as dean and professor at the University of Missouri–Kansas City Conservatory from 2017 to 2021, after holding a variety of leadership and faculty roles there.
- She holds a Bachelor of Music from Eastern Illinois University, a Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of North Texas, and an Artist Diploma from Texas Christian University.



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- Throughout her career, Dr. Petrella has demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence, student success and the arts as a vehicle for innovation and community engagement.
- She is a first-generation student herself, and her leadership experience and collaborative spirit will be instrumental as Marshall continues to advance our academic mission and elevate our impact across the region and beyond.
- She is also a “package deal” – with her husband Nick who will be joining us in the Fall of 2027 in a dual role in the School of Music, as well as working with the College of Business to help advance entrepreneurship in the Arts ...
- And there is a strong possibility that their triplets may be joining our student body at Marshall in the Fall of 2027 as well ... raising the good fortune of Marshall across many dimensions!
- We are very excited about Diane’s arrival this summer, and her family’s imminent arrival in the Fall of 2027.
- Which takes me to my third and final topic – the strength of our shared governance.
  - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Employee Engagement Survey concluded last week ... with employee participation rates increasing 74% year-over-year to 7% points ... our highest level ever!

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- While we won't have the results from the 3<sup>rd</sup> party research firm for several weeks, I wanted to thank you for your continued engagement and willingness to share your feedback and input.
- We call this our virtual listening tour, and each year we have taken note of the areas where we are performing well, as well as the opportunities for improvement ...
- And have worked to take action on those areas that we must strengthen.
- I will share more on the major takeaways and resulting priorities in the months ahead, but I wanted to thank you for once again demonstrating our commitment to navigating the future ... together ... through the Power of We!
- Speaking of the Power of We ... I am sincerely inspired by the work the Faculty Personnel Committee has advanced in several important policy initiatives ...
- It is not only the thoughtful, hard work they've invested into condensing and advancing important policies ... it is the inclusive manner in which the Five Families and the Administration have been invited to shape these policies together.
- Make no mistake, we are living our commitment to shared governance on a daily basis ... with true shared governance ... not as a weapon ... but as a catalyst for advancing our

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shared goals together!

- To close out my report ... let me assure you that our story is resonating and the interest in supporting our journey is increasing.
  - That was evident during Homecoming Week as alumni from across the globe returned and remarked on how much they feel the excitement and see the advancement you are creating!
  - None of this would be possible without the Power of We ...
  - In a world that is filled with angst and animosity ...
  - WE are hard-at-work becoming that demonstration project for the nation.
  - **Marshall For All, Marshall Forever!**
  - And with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll conclude my comments and will be happy to take questions.

b) Provost – Robert Bookwalter (15 minutes)

**Provost search update**

**As the President mentioned, Dr. Diane Petrella will join us as the new Provost in July 2026. I am happy to work with her as she assumes leadership at Marshall University.**

COLA Dean search update *[Note: I neglected to include this item in my remarks]*

This week, despite our best efforts to get to yes, we were unable to finalize a deal for the next Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. We will work with the search firm to repost the position; we will form a new search committee; and we expect to conduct interviews in the winter and early spring.

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**Enrollment update (Census data for Oct 13, 2025)**

<b>Total</b>	<b>13,003 (+8.2%)</b>	<b>(3yr +20%)</b>
<b>FTTE</b>	<b>9434 (5.1%)</b>	<b>(3yr +11%)</b>
<b>Retention</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>(+79)</b>

<b>Distant</b>	<b>1851 (+368 or 24.8%)</b>	<b><u>60% increase in 3 years</u></b>
<b>High School</b>	<b>2287 (+540 or 31%)</b>	<b>(3yr +1302 or 141%)</b>

**Notes:** Nearly 2400 of the 13,003 total are high school students in dual enrollment courses. FTTE is the more important number because it tracks tuition and fee-paying students. Those numbers are promising because our budget is based on a 1% increase and we are well ahead of that threshold in each of the past 3 year.

**[below are additional numbers that I did not cover in detail, in the interest of time]**

		#	incr/decr	pct
Resident	UG	10,200	912	9.8
Metro	UG	1412	225	19
Non-res	UG	1391	-156	-10.1
Distance	UG	429	89	26.2
	GR	1424	278	24.3

College by College

University College is up 19%

Pharmacy up 25%

CAM +11%;

Aviation is up 11%;

COLA, CECS & COHP all up 7.4%

COS is +5%;

SOM +2.7%;

LCOB +2%

COEPD down 1% (-16 students)

**Recruitment**

To keep our enrollments growing, Jerry Ross and his team continue to work on attracting students for fall 2026. Green & White days have been very successful – and thanks to all of you who have given your time to make those events a success.

Our recruiters remain busy on the road with 30-40 events a week through the fall semester.

**Budget**

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The fiscal 2026 budget cycle has begun. COEPD was the first academic unit to meet with the CFO and budget team to forecast their budget for FY2027. The other colleges will undergo a similar exercise in the next 2-3 months.

**Student Awards**

I want to congratulate three student-athletes for earning Sunbelt Elite Awards.

Karen McComas, our Faculty Athletic Representative attended the Sunbelt meetings recently. The Sunbelt names Elite Award winners in each sport from among the student-athletes who compete in the conference championship in their sport. These three Marshall student athletes have the highest GPA among all participants in the championship in their respective sports.

Those winners are: Logan Osborne in Football; Sophia Hurrion in Tennis; and Madeline Hart in Swimming & Diving.

**Events**

Let me remind you that we have Putlizer Prize winner Jane Anne Phillips at the Visiting Writers Series at 7:30 tonight in the Foundation Hall. We also have the International Festival from 4-8pm on Saturday in the Memorial Student Center.

**Follow-up**

Regarding the tenure and promotion question raised earlier today, in 2014 we did away with the norm of early promotion. It was common practice to apply for promotion to Associate after 4 years, while waiting for the 6<sup>th</sup> year to apply for tenure. President Kopp opposed this practice because, with promotion and tenure based on identical criteria, promotion to Associate was a de facto path to tenure. The university could not reasonably deny tenure to someone who had been promoted two years earlier. So we moved promotion to the 6<sup>th</sup> year and instituted the possibility of mid-tenure raises, since promotion raises in the 4<sup>th</sup> year were no longer available.

Section 6.6.2 of the proposed policy (AA-6) allows a modified promotion date in extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the Chair, Dean, and Provost. So early promotion is a possibility, but it is rare.

Thank you. I will take questions if you have them.

c) Board of Governors – Robin Riner (5 minutes)

**Athletics committee:**

- new AD Gerald Harrison: 3 pillars: holistic student athlete development, fan experience & community engagement, and revenue generation
- still committed to 50/50 split with Marshall subsidy

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- Niesha Campbell is the new deputy AD; currently searching for new CFO and assoc. AD for compliance
- new NCAA rule that institutions can't facilitate NIL deals

Academic & Student Affairs Committee:

- accreditation site visit is January 2026

Full Board Meeting:

- honored Kacy Lovelace and Ross Salary as outstanding faculty - will continue to honor faculty at meetings
- ACTION ITEMS (Finance Committee)
- reallocation of funds for deferred maintenance project - approved
- investment strategy for Marshall and SOM - approved
- CFO report: operating deficit about 2.5M better than projected, still aiming to break even in FY2027

Next meeting is December 3, 2025.

d) Advisory Council of Faculty – Amine Oudghiri-Otmani (5 minutes)

Next meeting is 11/7-8

e) Graduate Council – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)

Meeting on 10.24

f) Student Government Association – Connor Waller (5 minutes)

Advisory Council of Students (statewide) met last

All 4yr and 2 yr participating in Month of Service in the Spring

Student Government working with Alumni Affairs on an engagement event

**6. Standing Committee Liaison Reports**

a) Academic Planning Committee – Daniel O'Malley (4 minutes)

The APC will meet for the first time this year on Nov. 18, 2025 to consider 10 program reviews: BA Criminal Justice, BA English, BA Journalism, BS Biomechanics, BS Computer and Information Technology, BS Computer Science, BS Cyber

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Forensics and Security, BS Exercise Science, BS Occupational Safety and Health Information Assurance Certificate.

b) Athletic Committee – Suzanne Konz (4 minutes)

Meeting in November.

c) Budget & Academic Policy Committee – Jana Tigchelaar (4 minutes)

BAPC met on 9/24 and 10/20.

The committee began its work in September by reviewing its mission and addressing the Marshall 365 initiative's potential impact on committee responsibilities. The group began our discussion of **midterm grade reporting** and **total withdrawal procedures**. A significant portion of the meeting focused on clarifying and streamlining **academic appeals processes**, with the committee working to establish clear workflows for both undergraduate and graduate students across different appeal types (course grades, academic dishonesty, academic deficiencies, and dismissals). The committee also addressed **short-term military obligations** and excused absences.

In October, the committee followed up on these initiatives. The **military obligations policy** was successfully sent to Faculty Senate Executive Committee with definitional clarifications (establishing "short-term" as two weeks). The **midterm grade policy** generated post-approval faculty concerns, particularly regarding courses where cumulative assessment makes midterm grading impractical. The **total withdrawal policy** received substantial attention, with the committee working to align the written policy with current practices, update office names, clarify procedures for both undergraduate and graduate students (including summer/partial terms), address backdated withdrawals and financial aid implications, and add guidance for international students.

d) Library Committee – Margie Phillips (4 minutes)

No report

e) Faculty Development Committee – Chair/Liaison (4 minutes)

The committee met on October 13 to review the first round of INCO applications. Award letters were emailed out on October 15. The committee will meet again early next semester.

f) Physical Facilities & Planning Committee – Jamey Halleck (4 minutes)

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The faculty personnel committee met on September 11th.

At this meeting, new business consisted of the following items:

- David Brink-Roby was elected as the new Chair.
- Committee members were tasked with collecting input from their respective departments regarding the current capital project list and any other issues or concerns related to physical facilities and planning, before our next meeting. These concerns will be discussed in the upcoming meeting and incorporated into the next capital projects list.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd.

7. Other Requests to Speak

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Kelli Johnson*

Kelli Johnson, Recording Secretary, Faculty Senate

**MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE:**



Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Chair  
Faculty Senate

November 20, 2025

Date Signed

**MINUTES READ:**



Brad Smith, President  
Marshall University

1/13/2026

Date Signed