

**Marshall University Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 4:00 PM
MSC Don Morris Room (Microsoft Teams Streaming Only)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Casey Miller, Briana Nannen, Heather Stark, Olivia Trees, Phil Vallejo, Sandy York, Jamey Halleck, Uyi Lawani, Kevin Levine, Margie Phillips, Amanda Thompspn-Abbott, Mike Huesmann, Jerry Dooley, Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Tim Melvin, Ammar Alzarrad, Tanvir Chowdhury, Jodi Cottrell, Zach Garrett, Susanne Konz, Angela Graham, Shikeal Harris, Lisa Muto, Alysha Nichols, Shoshannah Diehl, Marybeth Beller, Clinton Brown, Puspa Damai, Megan Marshall, Marianna Linz, Daniel O'Malley, Shawn Schulenberg, Jana Tigchelaar, Raid Al-Aqtash, Kelly Beatty, Rick Gage, Philippe Georgel, Sean McBride, Kyle Palmquist, Devon Wright, Stephen Young, Jessica Buerk, Eva Patton-Tackett, Jim Denvir, Ruhul Amin, Mindy Varney, Kari Mika-Lude, Kelli Johnson, Larry Sheret

MEMBERS ABSENT: Feon Smith, Ross Salary, Simon Shim, Tiffany Davis, Boniface Noyongoyo, Anthony Viola, Tiffany Davis

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

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

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Zeli Rivas

SENATE STAFF: Hailey Bibbee

GUESTS: In person – Karen McComas, Brian Morgan, Carl Mummert, Brad D. Smith, E. Del Chrol, Doohee Lee, Wesley Stites, Anna Mummert, Eryn Roles, R. B. Bookwalter, Jerry Ross, Jodie Penrod, Mike Prewitt, Ginny Painter, Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Rohan Christie-David, Maria Gindhart, Vicki Stroehner, Kateryna Schray

Virtual: Susan Tusing, Monica Brooks, Miriah Young, Billy Gardner, Jr., Sonja Cantrel-Johnson, Simon Shim, Matt Tidd, Gary McIlvain, Jinju Wang, Allison Carey, Marcie Simms, Jessica Lowman, Feon Smith, Lindsey Harper, Carleen O'Neill, Kelli Prejean, Kelly Bradley, Stephanie Walker

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 as amended
2. Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2025 - approved
3. Announcements – Chair

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1. Now that the Senate passed revisions to MU BOG AA6, these documents are under shared governance review until November 26, unless we pass the motion under consideration later at this meeting.
2. The Five Families met last week to discuss the general approach to a policy on Faculty Misconduct, which was first drafted and passed by the Faculty Personnel Committee. Once we ensure we are aligned on general tenets, the FPC will forward us a version for consideration.
3. WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards—now federally mandated for higher education under updated ADA Title II regulations—require that all digital instructional materials be accessible by April 2026. Marshall’s own UPGA 14 Digital Accessibility Policy reflects this requirement, though the posted version still lists the old date of 2027. The point for us as faculty is straightforward: course content, syllabi, PDFs, slides, and media must meet these accessibility standards, and the university will be held accountable for compliance. Our strong performance in Anthology’s Fix Your Content Day—553 documented fixes—shows that we’re already making progress, but we need to continue building habits that ensure our materials are accessible from the start. Resources, workshops, and tool support from Marshall Online is available to help faculty meet these obligations. You can find more information at <https://www.marshall.edu/online/fycd/>.
4. Keep an eye out for a fundraiser and an evening of fun on December 4, Dancing with the Herd, sponsored by the Office of the Student Body President. On that night, four couples—Brad & Alys Smith, Toney & Cassie Stroud, Gerald & Lisa Harrison, and me & my husband Ariel—will compete to raise money for a variety of causes on campus. If you support me, the only faculty member participating, you will support the Study Abroad Student Support Fund. You can buy tickets and donate at <https://www.marshall.edu/dancingwiththeherd/>.
5. Upcoming Meetings and Events
 - a. This is the last meeting of the semester. The next Executive Committee meeting is January 12, to prepare items for the January 22 Faculty Senate meeting. All recommendations and resolutions for the January meeting are due to senate@marshall.edu by January 2.
 - b. The Chairman of our Board of Governors will visit the Faculty Senate during our February 19, 2026, meeting.

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- c. I will give my annual address to the Board of Governors during their April 8, 2026, meeting.

4.Recommendations/Resolutions

- a) **SR 25-26-06 CC** – Recommends Approval of the Listed **UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADDITION, DELETION, CHANGE** in the following college and/or schools/programs: **Geography Education; Digital Humanities; Creative Writing.** - approved
- b) **SR 25-26-07 CC** - Recommends Approval of the Listed **UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ADDITION, DELETION, CHANGE** in the following college and/or schools/programs: **CE 417, PSC 217, PSY 450, BSPPS 203, BSPPS 480, HST 210, PSC 460, BSPPS 340.** - approved
- c) Amend the motion recommending AA-6 that the Faculty Senate adopted on October 23, 2025. The purpose of this amendment is to make minor editorial corrections—such as removal of typographical errors—and to add procedural clarification regarding scholarship, research, and creative activities that occur after a faculty member submits their portfolio. – approved (pausing shared governance process). Motion to table until next meeting. - approved

5.Regular Reports

- a) University President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)

President’s Report – November 21st, 2024
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- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- Good afternoon.
- It’s hard to believe we are entering the final stretch of the Fall semester, with Thanksgiving next week and Winter Commencement just around the corner.
- It’s been an action-packed start to the academic year, with a flurry of events that have required us to pivot and persevere as a team.
- I’m proud to say that we’ve done just that ... and the results speak for themselves.

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- In that context, I thought I'd focus my comments on 3 topics:
 - Employee engagement
 - Enrollment
 - And economic development

- Let me begin with employee engagement.
 - As I often proclaim, Marshall is a special place.
 - At every moment of truth, I'm inspired by the collaboration and commitment that is evident across our campus and community.
 - From high school visits, community outreach and record-setting Green & White Days ... prospective students, parents and community members are experiencing Marshall's warmth, growth and potential ...
 - In classrooms, auditoriums and labs, our faculty continue to inspire minds and advance scholarship, creativity and research ...
 - Our students are setting the example through their academic achievements, athletic and artistic performances, and their service in support of each other during times of need, as well as times of celebration.
 - And our dedicated staff are working tirelessly to ensure a safe, high functioning and aesthetically beautiful campus that innovates and operates in ways that strengthen our academy and our community.
 - Together, we are leading this institution into the next chapter of great, unified by a shared strategic roadmap – Marshall For All, Marshall Forever.
 - Every voice matters and every contribution counts.
 - We recently closed out our third annual employee engagement survey ... also known as our virtual listening tour.
 - We had record-setting participation with 74% of our campus completing the survey, up 8% pts year-over-year.

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- That alone illustrates the level of commitment this campus invests in our collective future.
- The feedback is invaluable in identifying where we feel things are working well, as well as where we need to take our game to the next level.
- The hot-off-the-press results are in the context of a dynamic environment in which we and our peers are operating ...
 - Mercer, the outside firm who conducts this survey for us each year, and does for many other higher education institutions and companies in various industries ...
 - Informed us that this year, organizations are pleased to maintain prior year engagement levels, while most are experiencing meaningful engagement decreases as economic, social, technological and geo-political disruptions ramped up.
- This year's engagement score was 72, 1 point below last year, holding steady and quite positive overall ...
 - As a reminder, it requires a 5-point change to be considered statistically significant, but ...
 - 1pt is 1pt & an opportunity to diagnose & learn.
- Across the 52 dimensions surveyed where we were able to compare to our higher education peers, 11 items scored notably better than our peer group, with 6 items below.
- A sampling of areas where we outperformed other higher education institutions include:
 - My university is making the changes necessary to compete effectively +13 points
 - Senior leaders act in ways that are consistent with what they say (they "walk the walk") +10 points

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- Senior leaders give employees a clear picture for the direction the university is heading +10 points
- My university communicates effectively with employees on matters that affect them +10 points
- And my university responds quickly to meet students' changing needs and wants + 9 points
- Areas where we continue to lag our peers include:
 - People being held accountable for results -13 pts
 - I believe I'm compensated fairly for what I do -13 pts
 - I feel I have the right tools and resources to do my job properly - 11 points
 - The better my performance, the more I'll be rewarded - 10 points
- These underperforming areas are consistent themes ...
 - As we push forward to implement clearer goal-setting, coaching and performance management ...
 - We finalize our market-based comp adjustments that will be increasingly aligned with performance,
 - And we complete our transition to an Incentivized Budget Model, where resource allocation decisions will be made closer to the action in the colleges and departments.
- Overall, 82% of employees say they feel proud to work for Marshall University ... reminding us that we have an inspiring purpose and amazing talent to take our game to the next level!
- As we did last year, we will summarize these results in the coming weeks and will share the campus-wide insights and actions to be taken ...
- While local teams will focus on what needs to be done in their respective areas to create the best environment for our talent to do the best work of

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their lives.

- I am encouraged by the strong survey participation and steady year-over-year results, but I know we can do better.
- Which takes me to my second topic, enrollment in the context of national trends.
 - While the statewide Fall 2025 numbers won't be released until early December, early national data was published last week in Chronicle for Higher Education with 20% of schools reporting.
 - Early data suggests that Fall enrollment for undergraduate degrees increased 1.2% nationally ...
 - Pacing just above the nation's population growth of ~1%.
 - As we've been tracking, Fall 2025 undergraduate enrollment at Marshall increased +7.2% (including dual enrollment) and +3.8% if dual enrollment is excluded.
 - These results are all the more noteworthy when you consider that West Virginia posted negative population growth, versus a nationwide increase of roughly 1%.
- While Fall 2025 marks the 3rd consecutive year of enrollment growth, we objectively recognize the headwinds ahead ...
 - Fall 2025 is the last year before the enrollment cliff begins.
 - According to research conducted by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, West Virginia will be one of the top 5 states hit the hardest by the demographic cliff.
 - With a projected 26% decline in high school graduates between now and 2041.
 - That is why our Strategic Enrollment Management efforts are so important ...
 - As well as continuously innovating to ensure we have the most compelling value proposition ... grounded in affordability, flexibility and lifetime

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achievement.

- While most are awaiting the publishing of the Fall 2025 numbers ... we're already working hard on Fall 2026 ...
 - Over the past several weeks, we've participated in more than 150 recruiting events throughout the region.
 - We've expanded the Marshall Direct Admission program to the first Metro County (Boyd County, Kentucky) ...
 - And we're in process of launching the program in Lincoln, Boone, Jackson and Mingo Counties, as well.
 - We're exploring ways to build on the success of the expanded Metro region with a concept called the Border Benefit ...
 - Assessing the impact if we include all counties in our border states that fall within a 150-mile radius.
 - And we're preparing to invite an additional 220 freshmen into the Marshall For All Debt-Free Program in the Fall 2026 Class, as we continue to execute Tuition-Free WV for residents with a household income of <\$65K.
 - While it's still quite early, applications for the Fall 2026 are up 11% year-over-year, with completed apps trending +53%.
 - Finally, we're assessing a fresh approach to how we will administer institutional grants and waivers in the Fall of 2027 to ensure we are targeting the students with the greatest need, while being more efficient in merit and needs-based waivers.
 - These efforts, which feed into our student success efforts occurring across our campus,
 - And are the reason why Marshall is growing ...
 - It is also why others are reaching out to our campus to partner and learn more ...

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- Which takes me to my third and final topic ... the role we are playing in economic development.
 - We are proud to serve as a prosperity platform ... a platform that accelerates individual success, innovative ideas and economic impact ... in our community, our state and our nation.
 - We continue to be invited to the table to help advance prosperity for our citizens, based on the impact we're producing.
 - Since our last meeting, we've worked closely with our partners at the Marshall Health Network and our state leaders to submit an application for the Rural Health Transformation Fund.
 - If approved, West Virginia could receive more than \$100 million per year for five years under federal legislation.
 - The plan builds on a four-pillar health initiative and focuses on expanding access, improving quality, and removing barriers that keep West Virginians out of the workforce.
 - Marshall, along with WVU, Shepard and Blue Ridge CTC were also asked to lead the state-wide efforts to advance the strategic thinking behind positioning West Virginia as the Power Tech Center ...
 - Bridging the intersection between the nation's need for energy and the powerful technologies that are powering the 21st century economy.
 - Given our leadership in Advanced Manufacturing, micro-credentials, workforce development, and cybersecurity, we were tasked with stewarding this effort in a recent meeting in Martinsburg.
 - And our role goes beyond the national stage, to hosting international trade delegations.
 - On November 5th, we were invited by the Ambassador of Japan to join him and roughly 20 CEO's of Japanese companies in New York to define opportunities to attract more Japanese companies to do business in West Virginia

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- And in doing so, to create more job opportunities for our citizens and our communities.
 - It may be surprising to learn that West Virginia currently hosts 22 Japanese companies, producing more than 5,000 jobs and \$3.2B in investment in the state ...
 - And Marshall is at the forefront of these efforts.
 - Make no mistake, we are playing an active role in defining and driving economic prosperity across Appalachia.
- Putting a bow around it ...
 - Our campus is aligned and engaged ...
 - We are working hard to innovate and outwork the enrollment cliff headwinds ...
 - And we are at the table with our elected leaders to catalyze economic impact and prosperity for our citizens and our communities
 - We have charted a course to become the most admired and studied university in the nation ...
 - And while we are proud of the momentum we have built, we recognize that we still have hard work ahead of us ...
 - But as we are demonstrating ... by working together, we are setting a new standard for others to see and study.
 - **Marshall For All, Marshall Forever!**
 - And with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll conclude my comments and will be happy to take questions.

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b) Provost – Robert Bookwalter (15 minutes)

COLA search update

The new search is underway and closes 1.12.26. The committee is in place and will have two orientation and planning meetings prior to winter break. Applications will be reviewed in January and interviews will take place in February.

Enrollment update (data for Nov17, 2025)

Total	13,153(+7.4%)	(3yr +20%)
FTTE	9432	(5.1%) (3yr +11%)
Retention	76.4	(+79)

Distant	1,851 (+368 or 24.8%)	<u>60% increase in 3 years</u>
High School	2,310 (+490 or 26.9%)	(3yr +1372 or 146%)

Notes: Spring enrollment is up approximately 1200 students YTD at 8646.

New

We are pursuing **new projects** that will accommodate students following a delayed or non-traditional path in higher education.

One project aims to count Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). We already offer CPL for AP courses, CLEP exams, and some RBA portfolio work. We are exploring the options for extending credit for apprenticeships, and licensures, a broader range of portfolios, and certifications via micro-credentials.

Second,

We have partnered with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to **extend Learning and Employment Records (LER) in higher education.** We will work with AACRAO in the coming months to design a system that ethically and accurately establishes a record of student skills and competencies across diverse learning experiences.

These projects will **expand our reach to non-traditional students** and make a Marshall education available to several segments of learners who cannot pursue a traditional full-time, four year path to a Marshall education.

Budget

The Budget Advisory Committee is meeting regularly. **All support units and academic units will build fiscal 2027 budgets between now and February so that a budget can**

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be submitted to the BoG by April. All units are expected to find **5% savings in Service & Supplies** and all units will be expected to **have a PLAN for reducing expenditures by 2%.**

These structural budget adjustments are necessary to bring the deficit to zero by the end of the next fiscal year. **Enrollment growth has been well ahead of projections for the past 3 years and our recruitment staff are working hard to continue that trend. They are on the road for 150 events – high school and college fairs – this fall semester.**

That work has led to **positive enrollment funnel numbers for Fall 2026.**

YTD we see a 10% increase in applications; a 55% increase in completed applications; and nearly a 40% increase in Intent to Enroll.

This continued growth has us nearing our goal of balancing the budget. It is important to note that our budget planning has to include continued enrollment growth without increasing staffing.

Accommodating enrollment growth with our current staffing means finding efficiencies.

Looking forward to Fall 2026, **I have asked the Deans and Chairs to find efficient scheduling strategies.** One area of focus is **Low-Enrollment sections.** **Each semester we average over 800 low-enrolled sections which are paid in-load or as overload.** Meaningful reductions in that number would allow us to reduce sections while increasing enrollments AND preserving current levels of faculty research and administrative time.

Assurance Argument

We are close to the deadline for submitting our assurance argument to the Higher Learning Commission ahead of their accreditation **campus visit on January 26 & 27.**

Our campus assurance argument will be finalized in the next few weeks. Several teams of campus contributors are reviewing the arguments and evidence related to the **4 criteria under review:**

1. Mission:

1.A. Mission Alignment

The institution's educational programs, enrollment profile and scope of operations align with its publicly articulated mission.

1.B. Mission and Public Good

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The institution's operation of the academic enterprise demonstrates its **commitment to serving the public good.**

1.C. Mission and Diversity of Society

The institution **provides opportunities for civic engagement** in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

2. Integrity : Ethical & Responsible Conduct

2.A. Integrity

Actions taken by the institution's governing board, administration, faculty and staff demonstrate **adherence to established policies and procedures.**

2.B. Transparency

The institution **presents itself accurately and completely** to students and the public with respect to its educational programs and any claims it makes related to the educational experience.

2.C. Board Governance

In discharging its fiduciary duties, the institution's governing **board is free from undue external influence** and **empowered to act in the best interests** of the institution, including the students it serves.

2.D. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression

The institution **supports academic freedom and freedom of expression in the pursuit of knowledge** as integral to high-quality teaching, learning and research.

2.E. Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery and Application

The institution **adheres to policies and procedures** that ensure responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge.

3. Teaching & Learning for Student Success

3.A. Educational Programs

The institution maintains **learning goals and outcomes that reflect a level of rigor** commensurate with college-level work, including by program level and the content of each of its educational programs.

3.B. Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry

The institution's educational programs **engage students in collecting, analyzing and communicating information; in practicing modes of intellectual inquiry or creative work; and in developing skills adaptable to changing environments.**

3.C. Sufficiency of Faculty and Staff

The institution **has the faculty and staff needed for effective, high-quality programs** and student services.

3.D. Support for Student Learning and Resources for Teaching

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The institution **provides student support services** that address the needs of its student populations, as well as the teaching resources and infrastructure necessary for student success.

3.E. Assessment of Student Learning

The institution **improves the quality of educational programs based on its assessment** of student learning.

3.F. Program Review

The institution **improves its curriculum based on periodic program review.**

3.G. Student Success Outcomes

The institution's **student success outcomes demonstrate continuous improvement**, taking into account the student populations it serves and benchmarks that reference peer institutions.

4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources & Planning

4.A. Effective Administrative Structures

The institution's administrative structures are effective and facilitate **collaborative processes such as shared governance; data-informed decision making; and engagement with internal and external constituencies** as appropriate.

4.B. Resource Base and Sustainability

The institution's **financial and personnel resources effectively support its current operations.** The institution's financial management balances short-term needs with long-term commitments and ensures its ongoing sustainability.

4.C. Planning for Quality Improvement

The institution **engages in systematic strategic planning for quality improvement.** It relies on data, integrating its insights from enrollment forecasts, financial capacity, student learning assessment, institutional operations and the external environment.

The Commission will **hold open meetings to discuss these criteria** as well as meeting with targeted groups to inform their report. **Please note the Jan 26 & 27 dates and make time to participate in sessions related to your programs and your expertise.**

Events

The **Board of Governors will be on campus Wednesday, December 3.**

c) Board of Governors – Robin Riner (5 minutes) – no report, next meeting 12.3

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

The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) met in person on Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8 at Stonewall Resort. The following are important highlights from the two sessions:

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I- Friday's session was called to order at 3:00 p.m. We started with an introduction of new and returning members. The Chair then previewed agenda items from day #2, which included concerns

gathered by ACF representatives from the respective four-year and CTC institutions.

II- Senator Mike Oliverio from Monongalia County joined our Friday meeting in person and discussed progress around the state. He encouraged the ACF to invite legislatures to the college campuses and share higher education priorities with them. He emphasized the importance of being proactive in these discussions, finding common ground, and having clear, unified message. Senator Oliverio also explained the legislative process, entertained discussion about faculty, students, and staff voting rights on the BOG being removed, and discussed campus police turn-over due to lack of eligibility for pension and a bill to resolve the issue – among other topics like PEIA. The Friday meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

III- We started the Saturday session at 9 a.m. with a presentation by Dan Kimble, Government Relations, WVU. Major discussion points were PEIA, student scholarships (especially several types of scholarships through the HEPC), an opportunity for high demand workforce such as social work and nursing, supporting academic freedom, and building a strong relationship with the legislature.

Colin Street and Connor Waller, Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council of Students, were unfortunately not able to join us due to last-minute commitments.

IV- We were then joined in person by Chris Rasmussen, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, HEPC, whose presentation emphasized boosting student mobility and transfer in WV. As part of the presentation, statistics were shared that showed average credits to graduate with a bachelor's degree and possible credits from AP, dual credit, and credits from another institutions. The goal is to help students achieve postsecondary education goals in less time and at a lower cost. Although WV has three of four key polices in place to support transfer success, we still rank low in terms of supporting transfer success.

The Vice Chancellor then shared an HEPC/CTCS initiative to promote seamless transfer and mobility for students, which includes common course numbering as part of HB 3024, micro credentials, LER (Learning & Employment Records) – in addition to a ten-year (2022 – 2032) workforce growth projection as well as a graphic showing top ten postsecondary fields by degree.

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The presentation concluded with a discussion about GEAR UP and TRIO programs.

V- We were then joined by Clark Egnor, Director of International Programs, HEPC and Marcus Murrell, Director of International Admissions, Concord University, who discussed the Study WV and Global WV initiatives. Study WV brings the world to West Virginia by promoting WV as a prime international study destination, while Global WV takes West Virginia to the world by engaging faculty leaders in driving international relations, embedding global learning into the curriculum, expanding study abroad and faculty exchanges in STEM, healthcare, and business (among other fields), and forming a statewide system that connects faculty leadership and student opportunity.

VI- The ACF business meeting concluded the retreat. After approving minutes from the previous meeting, several faculty concerns were discussed, mainly classroom and assessment issues, online education, faculty workload and salaries, and academic freedom. We concluded the business meeting with a discussion of legislative and policy updates and formed workgroups for K-12, online learning standards, salary analysis and policy review, and international initiatives.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Our next ACF meeting is January 23 at 1 p.m.

e) Graduate Council – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)

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

SGA Food Drive:

1. During the last meeting, I announced that SGA and Student Affairs would be partnering to host an emergency food drive to help counter the effects of the pause to SNAP benefits that was occurring due to the government shutdown occurring at that time. I would like to personally thank Dr. Mary Beth Beller for her assistance with this initiative.
2. The response from the campus and alumni community is something to be celebrated. Almost immediately after announcing the initiative, we began to receive items from numerous offices on campus, faculty and staff, students, and our local alumni chapter.
3. The response has allowed us to host two pop-up food pantries since I last spoke to you. The first, on November 3rd, served 132 students, and the second, on November 10th, served 70 students. We had approximately 30 additional students come in throughout the week to pick up food privately. We plan to have an additional pop-up pantry prior to winter break.

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Advisory Council of Students:

1. On Tuesday, SGA's Senate passed a resolution to advocate for the restoration of student voting representation on Boards of Governors at West Virginia institutions of higher education. This is an effort by the ACS to ensure that advocacy efforts during the spring legislative session are uniform among all SGAs throughout the state.

Dancing with the Herd:

As I mentioned previously, Dancing with the Herd is being held on December 4th at 6:00 PM at the Foundation Hall. Tickets are now for sale, and the donation portals to support our couples are now open. This event is sponsored by the Marshall University Foundation and Alumni Association in partnership with the Office of the Student Body President. If you have any questions regarding ticket purchasing or donations, please reach out to me.

6. Standing Committee Liaison Reports

a) Government Affairs Committee – Marybeth Beller (4 minutes)

The Government Affairs Committee met October 5th and set meeting dates for the year. We will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00. All meetings will be held in TEAMS. Marybeth Beller chairs the committee, and Alysha Nichols is the recording secretary.

MU Day at the Legislature is scheduled for February 3rd. Sara Payne Scarbro reported that the administration is hoping to have heavy representation from the Marshall community. The committee requested that talking points be given to everyone attending the event well in advance so that we can all be educated on the issues and therefore better equipped to speak with legislators if the opportunity arises.

The PEIA Finance Board has proposed a 3% premium increase for employees, employers, and Medicare and non-Medicare retirees for fiscal year 2027, which begins in July. Additional proposals include a variable spousal surcharge, which averages \$200 per family and an increase of \$2.50 administrative fee for employers. Non-state employers will be required to have a minimum of 50% of their employees enrolled in the PEIA program.

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The PEIA Finance Board held public hearings on these proposals in Wheeling, Beckley, Martinsburg, and Charleston during the fall. It is expected to vote on the proposals at its December 4th meeting.

Charlotte Weber presented information that one item we need to continue to monitor is legislation, nationally and in the state, that could curtail research with China. Science Insider reported at the beginning of this month that Congress is considering passage of the SAFE Act, which stands for Securing American Funding and Expertise from Adversarial Research Exploitation. The legislation will deny federal funding to scientists who collaborate in any way with China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. Concerned faculty may read the article here: <https://www.science.org/content/article/u-s-congress-considers-sweeping-ban-chinese-collaborations>

Last year Delegate Holstein introduced the American Campus Act, which will prohibit students or researchers sponsored from these four countries from attending or working at West Virginia institutions of higher education. The bill was never taken up by committee, but Charlotte Weber reported that we are likely to see it introduced again in session.

The West Virginia Legislature will have its December Interim Meeting on December 7-9 in Charleston. The regular session begins January 12, 2026.

b) University Curriculum Committee – Tim Melvin (4 minutes)

Met October 17, 2025, 3:00 PM, VIA TEAMS

Course Changes ALL APPROVED BY UCC

BSPS 340 : Immunotherapeutics

HST 210 : History in Action Huntington WV Community/Ident

PSC 460 : Civil Rights & Liberties

Course Additions ALL APPROVED BY UCC

BSPS 203 : Combating Med Misinformation

BSPS 480 : Special Topics

CE 417 : Timber Design

PSC 217 : The U.S. Constitution

PSY 450 : Evolutionary Psychology

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Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 4:00 PM
MSC Don Morris Room (Microsoft Teams Streaming Only)**

New Programs

956 : Geography Education APPROVED BY UCC

957 : Social Influence TABLED: Concern was raised about the course title overlapping with titles in other colleges.

Program Changes APPROVED BY UCC

464 : BA, Creative Writing

663 : Digital Humanities (MINU)

Program Deletions – None

Course Inactivation – None

c) Faculty Personnel Committee – Clinton Brown (Chair) (4 minutes)

The FPC met on Tuesday, November 18. We reviewed and approved the changes to the COS Promotion and Tenure policy and forwarded that to the Provost.

We reviewed sabbatical application. There were a total of 18 sabbatical applications received. We voted to recommend approving all applications due to colleges not following the current AA-1 and we felt we cannot punish faculty for institutional mishaps. The committee noted this in our memo to the Provost and President. We further encouraged all senators and deans to meet to review the influx of changes to faculty personnel policies to ensure compliance with policies as they are many changes occurring simultaneously.

d) Research Committee – Philippe Georgel (4 minutes)

The Research Committee met on October 8, 2025, and November 12, 2025.

On October 8, 2025, the Faculty Research Committee(FRC) met under the direction of our newly appointed Chair: Dr. Richard Egleton (MUSOM) and a new Secretary: Dr. Virginia Liang (COHP) was selected.

Items discussed on October 8, 2025:

1. Quinlan Awards: Outline presented about the instructions for the selection of faculty eligible for Quinlan awards and update on the number of applicants. The rubrics to be used for selection are similar to the one used last year. (last updated in 2012). The selection process is under review.

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The committee continued the discussion initiated last year about increasing the limit of the Quinlan award to \$1,500 to compensate for the inflation. Financial limit at \$500.00 for the award has not been changed in more than 20 years

The committee is considering to potentially allow changes in funding allocations to increase the dollar value of the Quinlan awards. The MU Foundation has been contacted last year and provided information about the funds available.

Meeting on November 12, 2025:

Two student members, Colton Treadway and Casey Hayhurst, have joined the FRC. A calendar for the academic year has been established for the FRC to meet on the second Wednesday of every month

1. The applications for the Quinlan Funding, Research Committee Funding, and Research Scholar Awards. have been reviewed by the committee members.

Outline:

Cycle 1 2026 funding applications

· Quinlan R1- requested \$15,154 (29 applications), available \$14,500 for the year, \$7,250 for this cycle Insufficient funds Discussion and vote to allow support to all eligible applicants at a rate of \$300.00 per award. All eligible applicants for the Quinlan award have been approved by the Faculty Research Committee. One application is under review to ensure that all criteria are matched prior to making a final decision

· Research Committee Funding R1- requested \$1,000.00, (4 applications, one was retracted) available \$1,000.00 Sufficient funds. All applications were approved

· Research Scholars Committee Funding R1 – requested \$1,250.00 (5 applications), available \$1,500 Sufficient funds. All applications were approved (\$250 each)

e) Student Conduct & Welfare Committee – Tony Viola (4 minutes) – no report

f) Faculty Technology Committee – Nitin Puri (4 minutes)

- All faculty & staff should complete their mandatory Information Security awareness training by December 5, 2025, in accordance with UPGA 10
- MUIT is proposing a new autopatch roll out. Computers will be sent updates related to security, drivers, and critical OS updates on "Patch Tuesdays". Users can update as

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soon as they are received or snooze up to 10 days. On the tenth day, the update will be required.

- MUIT is seeking feedback on the cost of using Adobe Sign for the University. FTC provided feedback and this will be discussed during the budget advisory council.
- MUIT is seeking feedback for a new video management system. Faculty will be involved in the demonstrations and part of the steering committee for the decision.
- The FTC approved moving the new Equipment Lending policy to the next phase of shared governance.

7. Other Requests to Speak - none

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kelli Johnson

Kelli Johnson, Recording Secretary, Faculty Senate

MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE:



Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Chair
Faculty Senate

January 22, 2026

Date Signed

MINUTES READ:



Brad Smith, President
Marshall University

1/29/2026

Date Signed