

Marshall University Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2026, 4:00 PM
MSC BE-5 (Microsoft Teams Streaming Only)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathaniel Ramsey, Sarah McDermott, Heather Stark, Leah Turley, Sandy York, Jamey Halleck, Uyi Lawani, Kevin Levine, Margie Phillips, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Jerry Dooley, Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Mike Huesmann, Tim Melvin, Feon Smith, Ammar Alzarrad, Tanvir Chowdhury, Ross Salary, Simon Shim, Jodi Cottrell, Zach Garrett, Angela Graham, Shikeal Harris, Suzanne Konz, Lisa Muto, Alysha Nichols, Marybeth Beller, Clinton Brown, Puspa Damai, Shoshannah Diehl, Marianna Linz, Megan Marshall, Boniface Noyongoyo, Daniel O'Malley, Shawn Schulenberg, Jana Tigchelar, Anthony Viola, Raid Al-Aqtash, Kelly Beatty, Rick Gage, Philippe Georgel, Sean McBride, Kyle Palmquist, Devon Wright, Eva Patton-Tackett, Nitin Puri, Jim Denvir, Ruhul Amin, Tiffany Davis, Mindy Varney, Kari Mika-Lude, Kelli Johnson, Larry Sheret

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Vallejo, Stephen Young

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 – Brad D. Smith, Kelli Prejean, Damien Arthur, Mohammad Abdulrahman, Deepak Subedi, David Gozal, Andrew Morelock, E. Del Chrol, Dave Dampier, Toney Stroud, Vicki P. Stroehrer, R.B. Bookwalter, Allison Carey, Maria Gindhart, Robin Riner, Bruce Felder, Carl Mummert, Mark Zanter, Brian Morgan, Rohan Christie-David, Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Shayna Morrison, Anna Mummert, Wes Stites, Kelly Bradley, Kataryna Schray

Virtual: Sonja Cantrell-Johnson, Susan Tusing, Michael Prewitt, Gretchen Beach, Shannon Miller-Mace, Craig Kimble, Monica Brooks, Ginny Painter, John Maher, Jinju Wang, Rich Jones, Billy Gardner, Jr., Raid Al-Aqtash

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 November 20, 2025 - approved
3. Announcements – Chair

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1. Our HLC Accreditors are scheduled to be on campus for a site visit next Monday and Tuesday, January 26-27. Please keep your eyes open for 1) meetings in which you are directly invited and 2) those that are open to the entire campus community. Should the impending winter storm this weekend cause disruptions, the university will email further instructions.
 2. Due to several requests from faculty members, we have asked the Office of General Counsel for guidance on what to do if ICE appears on campus. We will share this information with you as we learn more.
 3. Our shared governance working group has signed off on a draft of the Faculty Misconduct Rule, which will be shortly distributed to a few select groups for input before being released more widely. Our goal is to put this on the agenda for Faculty Senate review next month.
 4. The 2026 WV Legislative opened on January 14 for its 60-day session, which is scheduled to conclude on March 14. You will hear an update later in this meeting from our Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson. One date to put on your calendar: Marshall day at the Capitol is February 3.
 5. Upcoming Meetings and Events
 - a. We are in our last semester as a Faculty Senate, with just three remaining scheduled meetings. Academic units will hold elections 2026-28 Faculty Senate in March, receiving guidance from the Faculty Senate office in February. The newly elected senators will have their first meeting on April 30 at 4:00 PM in MSC Don Morris Room to choose their officers and executive committee.
 - b. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9 for items to be taken up at the February 19 Faculty Senate meeting. All recommendations and resolutions are due at senate@marshall.edu by January 30.
 - c. We may have a larger schedule than normal for our February 19 meeting. Please reserve a little more time calendar so that we can maintain quorum to complete all our business. As of now, we are scheduled to review the candidate for Spring commencement speaker along with any honorary degree candidates, the Chair of our Board of Governors will visit, and we may have a new BOG Rule on Faculty Misconduct to review, in addition to any other items that may come forward, including curriculum and program reviews.
 - d. I will give my annual address to the Board of Governors during their April 8, 2026, meeting.
 - e. We will hold the Spring General Faculty Meeting the next day, April 9, 2026, at 4:00 PM in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.
4. Recommendations/Resolutions
- a) SR 25-26-01 FPC – Recommends Revisions to MUBOG Rule AA-6 (on the table) - approved as amended

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- b) SR 25-26-04 BAPC – Recommends Revisions to UPAA-5 Midterm Grades – approved
- c) SR 25-26-08 APC – Resolves UG Degree Programs Continue at Current Level: BA English, BA , Journalism, BS Biomechanics, BS Computer Science, BS Occupational Safety and Health. – approved
- d) SR 25-26-09 APC – Resolves UG Degree Program Develops or Expands: BS Exercise Science. – approved
- e) SR 25-26-10 APC – Resolves UG Degree Program Improves: BS Computer and Information Technology. – approved
- f) SR 25-26-11 APC – Resolves UG Degree Program Discontinue after All Enrolled Students Complete It – BS Computer and Information Security. – approved
- g) SR 25-26-12 CC – Recommends Approval of the Listed UG Program Addition/Deletion/Change: Social Influence; Health Communication; Health and Wellness. - approved
- h) SR 25-26-13 CC – Recommends Approval of the Listed UG Course Addition/Deletion/Change: SCLA 490; ESS 485; ESS 486; ESS 487; ESS 488; HS 485; HS 486; HS 487; HS 488; CMM 474; CMM 479; GEO 101; HST 475. – approved
- i) SR 25-26-14 BAPC - Recommends Revisions to UPAA-4 Course Withdrawal – approved as amended

6. Regular Reports

a) University President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)

- Good afternoon and Happy New Year!
- I don't know about you, but for me ... I was excited to close the door on 2025 and launch into 2026!
- 2025 was a whirlwind of chaos, confusion and continuous change ...
 - Just think back to last January ... we navigated fires, floods, snow, a polar vortex, aviation challenges, executive orders, budget reductions, tariff escalations, research funding resets ...

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- And that doesn't even go near what's was happening to and around higher education campuses nationally ...
- It was a challenging year for many ... their families ... and for their institutions.
- Presently, 2026 looks like it could be more of the same ...
 - Geopolitical tension ...
 - Technological disruption ...
 - Social concerns ...
 - And economic uncertainty ... and it appears we have another polar vortex on its way over the weekend!
- As I've shared before ...
 - We don't get to choose what kind of adversity we face.
 - But we can choose how we face it, and who we face it with.
- Navigating times of transformational change requires strategic clarity, teamwork and adaptability.
 - And that describes how we're navigating this period at Marshall ...
 - We're succeeding because we have a strategic roadmap – Marshall For All, Marshall Forever
 - We are succeeding because we are working together
 - And as we have for 189 years, we are adapting to ensure we are well positioned to deliver in this new environment.
- With this context, I want to focus my report on 3 areas today:
 - Employee Communications
 - Student Success
 - And Government Relations
- Beginning with employee communications
 - In periods of significant change and disruption, there are two rules of thumb in leadership communications:
 - The first, to begin the conversation when you still have questions, not when you feel you have all of the answers ...
 - This builds transparency and inclusive culture where everyone's voice matters.
 - The second is to increase communications 3X over normal cadence and hold everyone accountable for sharing what they have learned.

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- With these two principles in mind, we will be implementing two important efforts during this Spring Semester:
 - The first is the introduction of a monthly cadence of the state of the university from me to the entire campus ... a combination of video and newsletter.
 - The second is the initiation of a campus-wide Listening Tour v2.0 ... scheduling 30 listening sessions between now and commencement
 - In these sessions, I'll share the progress we've made in service to the priorities that emerged from the 1st Listening Tour in 2022
 - Then we'll engage in authentic dialogue to capture the campus's input around three key questions:
 - What things are going well, and inspire confidence in the future at Marshall?
 - What things are not making fast enough progress, and worry you that if left unaddressed, will limit our ability to effectively serve our students and community in the future?
 - And finally, what is the one thing you worry I may not know, and no one has had the courage to tell me?
 - The outputs of this Listening tour will help refresh our Plan-on-a-Page and our areas of focus as we move forward.
 - Finally, on the topic of employee communication is the responsibility that you hold.
 - As elected representatives of your areas to serve on this council, you not only have the responsibility to represent your peers' voice when engaging with the administration ...
 - You also have the responsibility to cascade what the administration shares in these meetings with your peers ... factually and accurately.
 - Shawn and Kelli will continue to ensure the meeting notes are captured so you can do this efficiently, but I'm counting

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on you to do it...

- Strengthening our shared consciousness and understanding as we navigate this period of transformational change together.
- Which takes me to my second topic – student success.
 - As we've reported in each monthly meeting, our Strategic Enrollment Management plan is working ...
 - We've reversed a 13-year enrollment decline, growing enrollment 22% over the past 3 years.
 - Fall 2025 enrollment has now been published at a national level, and the results showcase how Marshall is well on our way to becoming a demonstration project for what is possible:
 - Total Enrollment: +1% vs MU +7.5%
 - Undergraduate: +1.2% vs MU +8.8%
 - Graduate: -.3% vs MU +3.5%
 - Freshmen: +1.9% vs MU +5.5%
 - The state of WV's preliminary enrollment grew ~1.5%, which again compares to Marshall's 7.5%.
 - And we've improved overall retention 4 % pts as well, improving our 1st year to 2nd year retention rate from 72.1% last year to 76.3% this year.
 - We are doing this while honoring our principle to grow students, not fees:
 - Marshall still offers the lowest net tuition rate when compared against all 4 year schools in WV ... all 14 schools in the SBC ... 110 schools in the SREB ... and 137 schools classified as Carnegie R2 institutions.
 - But low price doesn't mean cheap ... when you measure the ROI ... taking the average earnings 2 years after graduation, and divide it by the total cost of attaining their degree ... anything above a 1 is a positive ROI.

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- The national average for a 4 year degree is .86, while Marshall's is 1.47, and we've widened this gap in the past year ... again the highest in each of those categories.
- We've enrolled 400 students in the Marshall For All Debt-Free Program, and they are earning higher GPAs (3.2 vs 2.8) and retaining at a higher rate (83% vs 73%) than their Pell-eligible peers.
- And more than 868 students qualified for our Tuition Free WV program this past Fall.
- Make no mistake, students are why we exist, and we are fully committed to being the place where they can gain a valuable education ... graduate debt-free ... and have a job waiting for them on the other side.
- Which takes me to my third and final topic – Government Relations:
 - The Legislative session is in full-swing, with 950 bills put forth, 21 of which mention higher education.
 - Last week, I along with our Government Relations team met with our legislative leaders, and attended the Governor's State of the State Address ...
 - Both the Governor and Legislature are placing a major emphasis on economic development.
 - Marshall is deeply engaged, and many times the Quarterback in leading these efforts.
 - We, along with our friends at WVU will be hosting a Universities United Reception for our Legislative leaders in the evening of February 3rd
 - The hosting our respective University Days on February 3rd and 4th ...
 - Followed by our budget presentations to the House Finance Committee on February 4th as well.
 - Our foundational requests in our baseline budget submission include:
 - Pay increases and PEIA Assistance for EE's

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- The continuation of support to address deferred maintenance (including all facilities)
- And the on-going adherence to fund higher education institutions based on the Performance-Based Funding Formula we co-authored several years ago.
- Beyond these baseline requests, should additional funding available, we are seeking support for:
 - Our Science Building Renovation (\$20M)
 - A matching grant to support the building of a School of Medicine facility (\$30M)
 - And continuing support of the WV Grant Resource Center (in partnership with WVU, which has generated \$53M in grants for the state)
 - Our team is on-site in Charleston every day, and we are in direct communications with key leaders on critical policies daily.
- One final point in the context of Government Relations:
 - Over the past several weeks, there have been numerous incidents involving ICE agents around the country, including the City of Huntington.
 - Social media report suggested ICE agents were on Marshall University's campus, with employees and students being targeted.
 - I want to be clear and factual, because accuracy matters in moments like this.
 - The information that circulated about immigration enforcement activity on Marshall University's campus was misinformation.
 - ICE was not on our campus.
 - We were informed by law enforcement leadership that ICE was working in coordination with the West Virginia State Police on a

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limited set of targeted individuals, none of whom are affiliated with Marshall University.

- There were no raids taking place on our campus, and Marshall students, U.S. citizens, international students, and exchange students alike, were not being targeted.
 - The safety of our campus community is a top priority.
 - We maintain close, ongoing communication with local and state law enforcement, and our own University Police Department is fully engaged in ensuring that our campus remains safe, accessible, and welcoming.
 - At the same time, Marshall University has a long-standing policy of not issuing public commentary on political or social matters.
 - That policy is intentional and is posted on our website.
 - It allows us to remain focused on our core mission: educating students, supporting their success, and fostering a campus grounded in respect, dignity, and the rule of law.
 - While we adhere to the policy and choose not to engage publicly on this or related issues circulating online ...
 - You should know that silence should never be interpreted as indifference to student or employee safety or well-being.
 - We engaged with traditional media outlets to let them know the facts, and we responded to every inbound inquiry from students, parents or the media.
 - Now that you know this, you can assist with correcting any misinformation should you hear someone repeating an inaccurate claim.
- So, to wrap up ...
 - It is true ... 2025 was tough and 2026 is starting out a bit choppy as well.
 - We are surrounded by challenges ...

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- But pressure is a privilege.
- We may not get to choose the adversity we face ...
 - But we can choose how we respond and who we face it with ...
 - And I choose us!
 - Our plan is working ...
 - We're moving together as one ...
 - And we're adapting, because that's how we're built
 - That's who we are ...
 - We Are ... Marshall!
- Thank you for your example and for your ongoing support!
- Go Herd!

b) Provost – Robert Bookwalter (15 minutes)

Enrollment update (data for Jan 22, 2026)

Spr 26 Total 11,968(+9.0%) (5yr +12%)

Undergrads are up 13%; Grads are down 3.4%

FTTE 8711 (+3.0%) (3yr +12%)

Retention Total = 91.5% (+3.1%)

1st time frosh 87.5% (-1.6%)

Fully admitted 1st time frosh 89.3% (-2.4%)

Fall 2026

First Yr Funnel Apps +15%; Admits +52%; Intent to Enroll +16%

ALL applications Apps +9.5%; Admits +50%; Intent to Enroll +21%

Budget

This week all budget units submitted their 2027 budget plans. Next year's budget will be affected by the work of the WV Legislature over the next couple of months. All units were required to submit a budget that matched this year's expenditures – a flat budget – and a contingency plan for reducing expenditures by 2% next year. As President Smith has emphasized several times, we hope to implement a flat budget, but it may be necessary to implement the 2% cuts in order to adapt to allocations and move toward eliminating our structural deficit.

Chairs are preparing summer and fall schedules in the coming weeks. As I said in my previous report, I have asked the Deans and Chairs to find efficient scheduling strategies.

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For fall, I have asked them to reduce the number of paid sections by 5-10%. By reducing the number of paid low-enrollment sections, adjusting course caps where appropriate, and using strategic scheduling adapted to student demand, we can reduce instructional costs by bringing down the overall cost of adjunct and overload instruction. With your cooperation this coming year, we will reach the goal of a balanced budget and be poised to benefit from continued growth in our programs at Marshall.

Accreditation

Our Accreditation Team visit WAS scheduled for this coming Monday/Tuesday. The forecast for this weekend will almost certainly force is to reschedule. As of now, there will be 2 open meetings that faculty can attend:
Monday, Jan 26, 2:45-3:45 pm in DL Atrium & Tuesday, Jan 27, 11-12 in DL Atrium
LOOK FOR AN UPDATE FROM AA about the reschedule
As noted in my previous reports, HLC will review our report and our practices. The central questions focus on the quality of our programs, our courses, and instruction in our courses. They will look at our support services, our assessment of learning, the program review process, and our commitment to continuous improvement. In addition, they will study how closely our practices reflect our stated mission, whether we adhere to our published policies and guidelines, how transparent and accurate our communications are, and whether we support academic freedom for faculty and students and administrative governance that is free from undue influence. After reviewing our extensive report, and the hundreds of supporting documents in our package, I want say a couple of things here:
First, I am profoundly grateful to Susan Tusing for the thousands of hours of work that she devoted to compiling a report that highlights the excellent work being done by our students, our faculty, and our administration to help Marshall thrive, even in difficult times. Second, I am grateful to all of the faculty and administrators who deliver high quality programs and raise student outcomes. But importantly, who submit syllabi to the repository, who write meaningful annual program assessment reports, who compile and review assessment data, who complete your faculty annual reports, and who review and follow our published policies and procedures. The records we create in all of these areas are essential to a successful accreditation process because they allow us to 'show our work' to the outside reviewers.

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

Athletics committee:

- 92% graduate success rate (lead Sun Belt)

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- Are at 54.5/45.5% institutional/athletics budget support – institutional support is mostly salaries and tuition waivers/scholarships – still working toward 50/50, revising tuition waiver program to lessen institutional support

Academics committee:

- New MD/MA in Communication Studies and MD/MS in Health Informatics

Full Board:

- Swearing in of new members: Vicki Dunn Dionne and Charles Wendell
- Innovation district update (Toney Stroud):
 - Anchor building: Brad D. Smith Business School (existing), Innovation resource hub (construction beginning in the next year), Institute for cyber security (opening Fall 2027), WV center for energy technology
 - The Foundry (old ACF property): Kroger Marketplace, other businesses coming in, Advanced Manufacturing Center (will be next to robotics welding center, under construction now)
- AA-5: removes residency requirement for dependent tuition program – approved
- SA-1: student rights and responsibilities – approved
- Financial Audit for FY2025 (no changes made to financial statements by auditing team) – approved
- Increase in housing rates for the Landing (203% increase) – approved
- \$2M improvement on deficit for FY2026 (12M budgeted to 10M)
 - should be above break-even in 2028
- new mural on Smith Music Hall from NEA grant awarded to CAM – will be community engagement for design of mural
- Enrollment: 7.7% increase in enrollment (4.3 without dual enrollment)
 - Fall retention up to 4% from last year

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

d) Advisory Council of Faculty – Amine Oudghiri-Otmani (5 minutes) – no report

e) Graduate Council – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)

Meeting next on 1.30.

Agenda will be sent 1.23: Credentialling (approval of Grad Faculty apps up to 1.6); Planning (COB, COHP, COLA, COS); Curricular (COB, COHP, COS, Parm)

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

Fall Semester Recap:

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As the fall semester came to a close, two successful events were organized by students and brought great successes. First, my office planned and hosted the inaugural Dancing with the Herd on December 4th. This event successfully raised over \$38,000 for four student support funds here at Marshall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in this room who helped make this event such a wonderful success.

Additionally, SGA organized and hosted a Toy Drive Marathon on December 5th that included a YouTube livestream. The goal was to collect as many toys and write as many resolutions as possible. The number of resolutions written would deduct time from the livestream and any toy donated would add time. At the close of the night (around 3:30 AM), the livestream had been on air for nearly 20 hours and over 250 toys were donated. Additionally, 51 resolutions were written. This event would not have been possible without the close collaboration with Athletics and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

Moving Forward:

With focuses on alumni engagement during the fall semester, I am working to shift a significant portion of my attention to student success. With that, I have recently appointed a new Secretary of Student Success within our cabinet, and we are in the process of mapping an appropriate path forward.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the ACS, February will be a Month of Service for West Virginia Institutions (public and private). My team and I will be assisting the smaller schools throughout the state as well to make sure they have any assistance they need. Finally, due to graduation and other external factors, three cabinet positions had to be filled within SGA's executive branch. I was able to combine the tasks of existing members who had proven themselves to be exceptional leaders this fall, and I look forward to seeing many more successes from them!

7. Standing Committee Liaison Reports

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

The APC met on Nov. 18, 2025, and considered eight program reviews. (These were included among the recommendations for today's meeting; see details below for reference.)

- continue at current level:

- BA English
- BA Journalism
- BS Biomechanics
- BS Computer Science
- BS Occupational Safety and Health

- develops or expands due to demand:

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- BS in Exercise Science
 - improves through advancements in efficiency, quality, productivity, and focus:
- BS Computer and Information Technology
 - discontinue after all enrolled students have completed it:
- BS Computer and Information Security

The committee will meet again on Feb. 9 to consider reviews for six additional programs:

- BS Environmental Science
- BS Natural Resources and Recreation Management
- BS Geology
- BA in Criminal Justice
- BS in Cyber Forensics and Security
- Certificate in Information Assurance

b) Athletic Committee – Suzanne Konz (4 minutes)

Committee met: Tuesday, 11/18/2025

Meeting Location: Buck Harless Auditorium and Teams

A discussion was had about the Faculty Senate Constitution about the role of the Athletic Committee, and the responsibilities of the officers.

Election of officers was conducted:

Andrew Stringfellow was elected Chair

Boniface Noyongoyo was elected as Recording Secretary.

c) Faculty Development Committee - Liaison (4 minutes)

From Chair Schulenberg: INCO applications due on 2.1.26

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

The Government Affairs Committee met January 8th. The committee heard updates from Charlotte Weber and Sara Payne Scarbro from the university's Government Affairs office. MU Day at the Legislature is scheduled for February 3rd. The administration is hoping to have heavy representation from the Marshall community. In your email inboxes on Monday, January 19 you received Sara's Capitol Column newsletter that has details of the legislative session and details of MU Day at the Legislature. Please read it and make plans to attend. The Government Affairs Committee requested talking points for faculty so that we can be better equipped to meet with legislators. Sara and Charlotte indicated those would be forthcoming.

Currently 29 bills affecting higher education have been introduced. Of those, four are sponsored by leadership and are therefore likely to pass. Two are directed toward community and technical colleges: SB 445 (sponsored by the President), establishing the Learn and Earn program for community and technical colleges and HB 4693 (sponsored

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by both the Speaker and Education Chair) to declassify CTE teaching positions for counties to provide additional funding for certain positions. The bill maintains that state funding would continue to be made available for these positions, but now, if counties wanted to appropriate funds to boost the salaries of some faculty in the trades, they may not directly do so because such funding must be divided among all classified teaching positions.

The remaining two bills sponsored by leadership are currently on the floor in the House. HB 4002 (co-sponsored by Education Chair Ellington) establishes the WV Collaboratory. This bill establishes a Collaboratory, to be housed at and operated by Marshall University with the advice of an advisory group composed of members of WVU, WVSU, the House and Senate and the Chancellor of HEPC, as well as citizens appointed by the Speaker and Senate President. The purpose of the Collaboratory is “to conduct, manage, or participate in research projects and opportunities that may be of interest to citizens and policymakers within the state, including, but not limited to, research in the areas of workforce development, public education, economic development, and natural resources management, including, but not limited to, research related to the environmental and economic components of the management of the natural resources within the state and of new technologies for habitat, environmental, and water quality improvements”. It directs all state and local governments to cooperate with the Collaboratory and states that any work of the Collaboratory will not be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The State Treasurer’s Office provided a fiscal note with no information, other than to say the Collaboratory would be funded out of a special fund.

The bill is on Second Reading in the House Special Calendar for tomorrow.

HB 4081 (co-sponsored by the Speaker and Education Chair) creates the Higher Education Health and Aid Grant which is to be funded out of general revenue appropriated to the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC). The purpose of the program is to provide grants to state institutions of higher education that have one or more campuses to address student food insecurity and student health and hygiene inadequacies. The fiscal note had no details of costs. The bill is on Third Reading in the House Special Calendar for tomorrow.

Finally, another bill in the House is not sponsored by leadership but does have seven co-sponsors, three of whom are on the Education Committee (Chiarelli, Crouse and Willis). It could grow legs. HB 4587, Higher Education Accountability expands a federal ban on use of direct student loans (PL119-21, section 84001) for students to major in “low earning programs.” This is measured by taking the cohorts graduating in a major and measuring their median earnings over a 3-year span. If the median earnings do not meet or exceed the median earnings of employees in that field who do not have a degree, the degree program is defined as “low earning.” This bill would forbid public money to be spent in any way on low earning programs.

The Government Affairs Committee will meet again on February 5th, at 2:00, in TEAMS.

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e) Library Committee – Margie Phillips (4 minutes)

Last met 10.25. Have not met this semester.

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

The physical facilities and planning committee met on January 22nd.

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

- The Capital Expenditure’s Budget was presented with Brandi Jacobs giving a presentation that provided the committee with an overview of the budget and the financial principles the University uses to prioritize items within the budget.
- A question-and-answer session followed with concerns over placement of some items on the budget. In addition, concerns regarding some current issues across campus were raised by committee members.
- Members were tasked with soliciting feedback from their respective colleges and to provide that feedback by February 5th.

The next meeting will be scheduled for some time in March.

8. Mark Zanter – “Marshall for All” Mural (4 minutes)

<https://www.marshall.edu/mural/>

Funding has been secured, in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, for a new mural on the west face of Evelyn Holbrook Smith Music Hall. The project is a collaboration among the School of Art & Design, the College of Arts & Media, the Marshall Public Art Committee, and Marshall Communications, which will oversee public input.

[Nichole Westfall](#) — muralist and 2024 Governor’s Artist of the Year—will lead the work. Known for her bold, whimsical, Appalachian-inspired style, Westfall creates art that invites “joy to thrive.”

The mural will highlight the impact of the arts and public art, celebrate Marshall’s evolution from a Normal School to a modern university, and reflect the Marshall for All initiative and the university’s 2037 Bicentennial. Installation is anticipated for late April or early May 2026.

Public comment for the project is open through February 6, 2026, and focuses on design elements, Marshall’s ethos and asks participants to “Share Your Story.”

8. Other Requests to Speak

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:

Kelli Johnson

Kelli Johnson, Recording Secretary, Faculty Senate

MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE:



Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Chair
Faculty Senate

February 9, 2026

Date Signed

MINUTES READ:



Brad Smith, President
Marshall University

2/9/2026

Date Signed