

**Marshall University Faculty Senate  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 26, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30pm  
Don Morris Room (MSC)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah McDermott, Heather Stark, Leah Turley, Sandy York, Jamey Halleck, Uyi Lawani, Kevin Levine, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Mike Huesmann, Feon Smith, Tanvir Chowdhury, Ross Salary, Simon Shim, Jodi Cottrell, Zach Garrett, Angela Graham, Shikeal Harris, Lisa Muto, Alysha Nichols, Marybeth Beller, Clinton Brown, Puspa Damai, Shoshannah Diehl, Megan Marshall, Boniface Noyongoyo, Daniel O'Malley, Shawn Schulenberg, Jana Tigchelar, Anthony Viola, Raid Al-Aqtash, Kelly Beatty, Rick Gage, Philippe Georgel, Sean McBride, Stephen Young, Jessica Buerck, Mindy Varney, Kari Mika-Lude, Kelli Johnson, Larry Sheret

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathaniel Ramsey, Phil Vallejo, Margie Phillips, Jerry Dooley, Tim Melvin, Ammar Alzarrad, Suzanne Konz, Marianna Linz, Kyle Palmquist, Devon Wright, Nitin Puri, Tiffany Davis, Ruhul Amin

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

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

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Zelideth Rivas

SENATE STAFF: Hailey Bibbee

GUESTS: In person – Brad D. Smith, Mohammed Abdulrahman, Andrew Morelock, Karen McComas, Carl Mummert, Marcie Simms, Anna Mummert, R.B. Bookwalter, Kelly Bradley, Vicki P. Stroher, Maria Gindhart, Bruce Felder, Gerald Harrison, Jim Denvir, Kateryna Schay, Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Wesley Stites

Virtual: Mark Zanter, Brian Morgan, Sonja Cantrell-Johnson, William Billingsley, Matt Tidd, Susan Tusing, John Maher, Allison Carey, Jodie Penrod, Diane Palmieri, Ginny Painter, Caitlin Trombley, Monica Brooks, Shannon Miller-Mace

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 2.19.26 - approved
3. Announcements – Chair

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Recreation Management; BS Geology; Certificate Information Assurance. - approved

c) **SR 25-26-22 APC** – Resolves Following **Undergraduate Degree Programs Develop or Expand Due to Demand**: BS Environmental Science; BS Cyber Forensics & Security. - approved

d) **SR 25-26-23 UCC** – Recommends **Approval of Undergraduate Program Addition, Deletion, Change** in the following: Musical Theatre Minor; BA Theatre; Biomechanics; Biomec Pre-Physical Therapy; Biomec Pre-Med; Biomec PrePhysician Assistant; BS Biochemistry; BS Professional Pilot. - approved

e) **SR 25-26-24 UCC** – Recommends **Approval of Undergraduate Course Addition, Deletion, Change** in the following: ART 204; BUSN 150; BUSN 152; BUSN 154; BUSN 156; BUSN 158; BUSN 160; BUSN 162; BUSN 164; BUSN 166; BUSN 168; BUSN 170; BUSN 172; GEO 451; HST473; SCLA 475; AVSC 200; AVSC 205; AVSC 206; AVSC 210; AVSC 211; AVSC 215; AVSC 220; AVSC 222; AVSC 305; AVSC 328; AVSC 329; AVSC 330; AVSC 331; AVSC 335; AVSC 340; AVSC 341; AVSC 345; AVSC 375 AVSC 376; AVSC 380; MUSE 425; THE 370; CD 461; HS 435; NRE 111; UNI103; THE 270. - approved

#### 5. Regular Reports

a) University President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- Good afternoon, my friends.
- As I've shared in recent monthly reports, the external environment remains dynamic and unpredictable.
- Higher education is at the center of this vortex ...
- Across the country, universities are navigating shifting demographics, policy changes, financial pressures, and evolving expectations about the role of higher education in society.
- To quote Joan Chittister, "the purpose of leadership is not to make the present bearable. The purpose of leadership is to make the future possible."
- It is moments like these when mission matters most.
  - What gives me confidence is we remain steadfast in our commitment to "inspire learning and creativity that ignites the mind, nurtures the spirit and fulfills the promise for a better future."
  - Our faculty are laser focused and committed to teaching, scholarship and service.

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- Two areas I'll foreshadow now for this group:
  - This means our baseline budget will be the better of the two scenarios we had prepared for ... flat with the 5% reduction in supplies & other services to continue our efforts behind Save to Serve ...
  - In that budget, we will also pass through a pay increase that the Budget Advisory Committee has helped develop ...
  - Using a progressive scale, similar to the progressive tax brackets, with more dollars going to those on the lower end of the pay scale ...
  - We will complement the state pay increase with \$550,000 in Save-to-Serve dollars, so we can finally achieve and officially declare that all employees' pay will have been brought to market levels as committed by FY'27.
  
- In addition to these two budget elements:
  - The Legislature also approved \$30 million for a new School of Medicine building, matching the \$31.8M previously approved at a federal level through Senator Capito ...
    - This gets us 2/3 of the way to the needed funding goal for a new School of Medicine building ...
    - And represents a significant investment in healthcare education and workforce development in West Virginia.
  
  - Finally, Marshall secured:
    - A fourth year of funding for the WV Grant Resource Centers totaling \$500,000 ... split 50/50 with WVU ...
    - As well as \$1 million to establish the new West Virginia Collaboratory, designed to strengthen research collaboration across the state.
  
  - I want to thank the many faculty and staff members who contributed their expertise and perspective during this process.
  - Your engagement continues to play an important role in shaping policy for higher education in our state.
  -
  
- **Let me now transition to my second topic: Women's Swim & Dive.**
  - As many of you know, this has been a challenging moment for our campus community ...
  - And especially for the young women who represent Marshall in that program.

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- Most notably the impact and implications of AI on education, the workforce and society ...
  - In doing so, we've enlisted the partnership of Paul LeBlanc, the former President of Southern New Hampshire University who now works for the Gates Foundation.
  - Paul has successfully led transformation in higher education during key technology shifts ...
  - And has deeply researched and written an incredible book on the potential implications of AI, which I had the chance to review in manuscript form.
  - It is amazing.
  - We are purchasing copies for campus leaders across our shared governance structure to read once published ...
  - And I've invited Paul to co-facilitate several campus strategy workshops with me over the summer break.
  - The insights from our Listening Tour, combined with this external work and Paul's collaboration will directly feed into those strategy workshops ...
  - I will foreshadow now that these workshops will include the Chairs, the Deans, the heads of the Five Families and the campus AI Task Force ...
  - Who, alongside the Administration, and ultimately the Board of Governors ...
  - Will synthesize and prioritize the Listening Tour feedback and these external trends to refresh our Marshall For All, Marshall Forever plan-on-a-page ...
  - By end of summer, our goal is to have a revised draft to share with the campus community in the early Fall,
  - Providing an opportunity for the broader campus community to review and contribute additional input and edits as appropriate...
  - Leading to a final draft that will set the course for the next five years of our journey ...
  - A journey to be a gold standard 21<sup>st</sup> Century Prosperity Platform that accelerates individual success, innovative ideas and economic impact for the state and the nation!
  - We have a busy summer ahead ...
  - But the greatest leaps forward occur in times of disruption and reinvention ...
  - And we're seizing the moment at Marshall University!
- So, as I close today, I'll return to where I began.
- Higher education is navigating a moment of significant change.
  - But change does not have to mean uncertainty.
  - At Marshall, I see something different.
  - I see a campus community that is focused on its mission.
  - A campus community that is willing to adapt and evolve ...

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We have received over 9000 applications, which is a 12% increase year-to-date  
Admits are up 31% and intent to enroll is up 4%  
Our summer orientation registrations are down 18%  
We are at about 1/3 of last year's final orientation numbers

I am grateful for the focused and dedicated work of the Enrollment Management team for continuing our pattern of growth and creating the promise of continued growth into next year.

That team, and the academic support and advising teams across Academic Affairs and in the colleges need our support to translate our strong application & admission numbers into strong orientation and enrollment numbers this summer.

**Office of Assessment**

The Office of Assessment will have training sessions and consultations in the coming weeks to help department chairs and faculty understand and learn the new assessment software.

Programs going through Program Review in 2026-2027 will have a virtual orientation session on April 10. [Psychology, Math, Chemistry, Physics, Education (Early, Elementary, & Secondary), Physical/Applied Science, Adult & Continuing Education, Leadership Studies, EdD, Counseling, School Psychology, MAT, EdS, Education MA].

**Budgets**

The BAC has been reviewing all budgets on a weekly basis with the aim of submitting the MU budget to the BoG for their April 8 meeting. Many of your questions about the FY2027 budget will be answered during and after that Board meeting.

**COLA Dean Search**

The COLA Dean search is underway. We have 3 finalists on campus this week and two next week. I encourage all interested folks to attend or livestream the campus presentations and complete the candidate feedback surveys to help us select the best next leader for the College of Liberal Arts.

The search website with candidate information and a link to the feedback survey is found at: <https://www.marshall.edu/cola-dean-search/>

The livestream can be accessed at <https://www.marshall.edu/livestream/>.

**Campus 365 project**

Plans for a Campus 365 initiative are being led by Robin Riner and Conrae Lucas-Atkins. The project aims to create processes for advancing initiatives that require input from 9-month employees throughout the year, rather than pausing or delaying those initiatives over the summer.

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Next BOG meeting is April 8

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

Next ACF meeting is 4/24

e) Graduate Council – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)

1. Next meeting 3.27.26

2. We have reported on most of the Graduate Program reviews and will review the final 2 at the next meeting

3. We will be reviewing and voting on the appeals policy for students. We have worked together with the BAPC to ensure we have a consistent (where possible) policy.

We have a number of faculty rotating off and we are awaiting the results for votes of new members from various colleges.

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

1. Collected 2000 items and several hundred dollars and were able to have a pop-up food pantry. Still collecting donations.

2. Collecting period and menstruation products in collaboration with the Women's Center.

3. Working on spring fountain ceremony.

4. SGA elections being held week of 3.30.26.

6. Standing Committee Liaison Reports

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

The APC has not met since my last report.

b) Athletic Committee – Suzanne Konz (4 minutes) – no report

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

This report summarizes the activities and discussions of the Budget and Academic Policy Committee from the February 17 and March 14 2025 meetings.

One of the agenda items in both meetings was the **Attendance and Excused Absences Policy**, which this body voted on today, so I will keep my remarks minimal. The committee worked to review and correct inconsistencies between the Board of Governors policy and the student handbook/catalog regarding excused absences as well as to clarify the process in cases of inclement weather.

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INCO application is due 4.1.26.

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

The physical facilities and planning committee has not met since my last report. The next meeting date has yet to be determined.

7. Other Requests to Speak

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Kelli Johnson*

Kelli Johnson, Recording Secretary, Faculty Senate

**MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE:**



Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Chair  
Faculty Senate

April 23, 2026

Date Signed

**MINUTES READ:**



Brad Smith, President  
Marshall University

April 29, 2026

Date Signed