Faculty Senate Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 14, 2026, 12:00 Noon

MSC 2W16b/Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT: Phillip Vallejo, Ross Salary, Boniface Yemba, Mike Huesmann, Zach Garrett, Marybeth Beller, Rick Gage, Jessica Buerk (v), Mindy Varney, Eryn Roles, Richard Egleton, Amine Oudghiri-Otmani
MEMBERS ABSENT:
EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Holland (v), Alissa Davis
EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Riner
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Andrew Morelock
FACULTY SENATE STAFF: Hailey Bibbee
GUESTS: Carl Mummert, Gautam Pillay

The meeting was convened at 12:06 p.m. by Chair Rick Gage.

1. Approval of Proposed Agenda -approved
2. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2026 - approved
3. Announcements – Chair
    a. New Committee Roles
        i. The Research Committee has elected new leadership. Mohammad Karim will serve as Chair and Shane Welch will serve as Faculty Senate Liaison.
        ii. The Faculty Personnel Committee has elected Nancy Lankton as their new Chair and Billy Gardner will serve as the Senate Liaison.
        iii. We also have liaisons in place for APC, BAPC, FDC, SCWC, LC, and (hopefully) GAC

    b. Committee Liaison Appointments
        i. Liaison appointments are still being finalized.
        ii. I am still looking for liaisons for:
            - Athletic Committee,
            - Physical Facilities & Planning Committee
            - Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
            - Faculty Technology Committee
        iii. My goal is to have all liaison appointments finalized very soon so committees can begin operating normally this semester.

    c. AI Policy Update
        i. The AI Policy Working Group continues to meet.
        ii. We recently added a representative from Graduate Council.
        iii. An early draft is now circulating among stakeholders for review and comment.
        iv. Revisions are inevitable, but I believe we are getting closer to a document that provides meaningful guidance while remaining flexible enough to accommodate the rapid pace of change in this space.

v. Our goal is still to move thoughtfully, but not unnecessarily slowly.

d. Informal Executive Committee Meetings

i. One thing I'd like to get feedback on from the Executive Committee today is how you'd like to handle communication between formal meetings. In the past, Shawn periodically scheduled informal "check-in" meetings during weeks when we didn't have a formal Executive Committee meeting. These were used primarily for updates and discussion rather than formal business. I'd be interested in hearing whether you would like to:

- Continue those informal meetings.
- Receive periodic email updates.
- Receive a short weekly briefing.
- Use some combination of those approaches.
- Or simply wait until the next scheduled meeting.

e. Academic Calendar Development

i. Early conversations have begun regarding the next Academic Calendar cycle (2028-2032).
ii. Conrae Lucas-Adkins is Chairing the committee and has already reached out to the Senate.
iii. Stakeholder input is being gathered now in hopes of identifying concerns early and avoiding some of the issues encountered during previous calendar discussions.
iv. I have encouraged broad consultation and asked to be kept informed as the process moves forward.

f. Commencement Speaker / Honorary Degree Process

i. Nominations are now open for Spring 2027 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree recipients.
ii. Nominations will remain open through October 1.
iii. I've already begun receiving questions and input regarding the process.

g. Upcoming Dates

i. Faculty Senate - Items considered today will be reviewed at the Faculty Senate meeting on September 24.
ii. General Faculty Meeting - October 1 at 4:00 PM, Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
iii. Recommendations & Resolutions - Any recommendations or resolutions for the October cycle are due to senate@marshall.edu by October 2.
iv. Executive Committee - Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 12

Questions/Comments for the Chair:

1) Egleton: AI task force - With the AI task force, I just wanted to remind everyone that a lot of the journals are starting to put out recommendations or requirements on AI. So it might be worthwhile if the committee also had that kind of thing for scholarly activity. Because the policy can't tell people all the rules, we can ask to please check to make sure that you follow the rules for the body that you're getting your grant from or the journal you're sending your paper to. We don't want stuff to be sent back to us because of AI.
2) Egleton: For the speaker nominations, we typically recommend 10-12 people to President. The more options, the better.
3) Salary: Conversations have occurred with the provost regarding the need for a license for AI checking tool, especially as it relates to thesis/dissertation documents. We have nothing here and need to enforce students' writing from their own brains rather than AI.
4) Yemba: Policies for journals now include required statements on extent on AI use for transparency. You should say to which extent you use AI in your work.

4. Set Agenda for the Faculty Senate Meeting, September 24, 2026 - approved
    a. Approval of Proposed Agenda
    b. Approval of Minutes
    c. Announcements – Rick Gage
    d. Recommendations/Resolutions
    e. Regular reports
        i. University President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)
        ii. Provost – Diane Petrella (15 minutes)
        iii. Board of Governors – Robin Riner (5 minutes)
        iv. Advisory Council of Faculty – Amine Oudghiri-Otmani (5 minutes)
        v. Graduate Council – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)
        vi. Student Government Association – Alissa Davis (5 minutes
    f. Standing Liaison Reports
        i. Government Affairs Committee – Chair/Liaison
        ii. University Curriculum Committee – Chair/Liaison
        iii. Faculty Personnel Committee – Billy Gardner, Jr.
        iv. Research Committee – Shane Welch
        v. Student Conduct & Welfare Committee – Marianna Linz
        vi. Faculty Technology Committee – Chair/Liaison
    g. Other Requests to Speak

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:

/s/ Melinda Varney

Melinda Varney, Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

10/26/2026

Rick Gage, Chair
Faculty Senate

Date Signed

MINUTES READ:

10/29/2026

Brad Smith, President
Marshall University

Date Signed