

MINUTES
Marshall University Board of Governors
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Livestream and In-Person
Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation
August 4, 2026

Present: Kathy D'Antoni, Alissa Davis, Vikki Dunn-Dionne, Kathy Eddy, Donnie Holcomb, Ginny Lee, Angel Moore, Carleen O'Neill, Robin Riner, Geoff Sheils, Jim Smith, Charles Wendell

PH: Kipp Bodnar, Bill Smith

Absent: Charles Webb

I. Call to Order

Subsequently, upon confirming the presence of a quorum, Chairman Eddy welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Marshall University Board of Governors to order. She recognized Bill Smith, who joined the meeting virtually, and Geoff Sheils, whose term concluded in June, thanking both for their continued service while awaiting new appointments. The Chair then moved to the first order of business, the swearing-in of newly elected Student Government Association President Alissa Davis by Chief Legal Officer and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Corporate Relations Toney Stroud. Following the swearing-in, Mr. Stroud recognized former Student Government Association President Anna Williams, who has returned to Marshall University as a new employee in the Office of Legal Counsel. President Brad D. Smith then took the floor to recognize and welcome Marshall University's new Provost, Dr. Diane Petrella.

II. Minutes Approval

Upon a motion by Kathy D'Antoni, seconded by Vicki Dunn-Dionne, the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 10, 2026, were approved.

III. Committee Meeting Reports

Academic and Student Affairs

**A) Approval of Revisions to Board of Governors Rule No. SA-1
- Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors approve the revisions to Board of Governors Rule No. SA-1- Student Rights and Responsibilities.

** This Rule establishes regulations regarding student rights, responsibilities, and conduct at Marshall University.*

The proposed changes are as follows:

Expanded Jurisdiction and Reporting: University may address off-campus and online conduct that substantially affects the educational environment. Employees must report threats, injuries, hazing, weapons, drugs/alcohol, and discrimination or harassment.

Health, Safety, and Welfare: Creates a standalone violation for emotional/psychological abuse, clarifies physical abuse provisions, expands retaliation protections, and further clarifies Title IX and non-Title IX processes.

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Misconduct: Adds new prohibitions for deepfakes, synthetic media, AI-generated intimate images, AI impersonation, and other technology-based harassment or exploitation.

Privacy and Technology Protections: Prohibits unauthorized digital recording, monitoring, surveillance, and misuse of technology that infringes on privacy rights.

Virtual Classroom Standards: Updates virtual classroom provisions to include AI-generated media, online harassment, display of weapons or drugs, and academic integrity concerns in online learning environments.

Modernization and Clarifications: Updates conference references, housing procedures, terminology, formatting, and cross-references; removes redundant language and improves readability.

New Catch-All Violations: Adds “Other violations of this standard not listed” and complicity provisions throughout Standards 1-7, providing flexibility to address misconduct not specifically enumerated.

Key Impact: The revisions modernize the Code by addressing online conduct, AI-related misconduct, Title IX compliance, employee reporting obligations, retaliation protections, and emerging technology issues.

Upon approval of this resolution, this Rule will be posted at <https://www.marshall.edu/policies/> and a comment period will open and remain open until Wednesday, September 16, 2026. If substantive comments are received, a final policy will be presented to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

If no substantive comments are received, the policy will be considered approved in its current form with an effective date of the end of the comment period.

Upon a motion by Jim Smith, seconded by Donnie Holcomb, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Prior to committee reports, Dr. Kathy D'Antoni recognized several faculty and staff members for their outstanding achievements and service. Sarah Clemens developed a new AI in Speech-Language Pathology course in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Education, preparing future clinicians to ethically integrate AI into clinical practice.

Dr. D'Antoni also recognized Dr. Rosalynn Quinones, who leads the recently launched WV STEM Alliance, which aims to increase the number of students pursuing STEM degrees. With a strong focus on Appalachian communities, the initiative seeks to boost cross-campus collaboration, increase awareness of existing STEM programs for high school and undergraduate students and help them explore graduate school opportunities and STEM career paths.

Provost Report

Provost Diane Petrella gave the Provost Report. Provost Petrella provided updates on recent accomplishments and initiatives across the university. She reported that the College of Arts and Media celebrated America's 250th anniversary through One Vote!, an original musical featuring Marshall School of Theatre & Dance students, faculty and alumni in collaboration with regional partners. She shared that the College of Engineering and Computer Sciences achieved a top 13% national finish, with Marshall cybersecurity students, guided by Dr. Paulus Wahjudi, placing 65th out of more than 500 teams in the Spring 2026 National Cyber League competition. She reported that the College of Education and Professional Development launched the Marshall University Early Learning Collaborative, uniting the Child Development Academy and June Harless Center to strengthen early childhood education, educator preparation and community impact across West Virginia. She noted that the College of Health Professions graduated 407 students across 27 health professions programs, including 90 graduate and professional degree recipients, strengthening the healthcare workforce, with nearly 55% of graduates identifying as first-generation college students. She also shared that the College of Liberal Arts partnered with West Virginia University to launch an archaeology field school at Jackson's Mill, providing students with hands-on research experience while uncovering indigenous, early settler and African American histories at the historic site.

The Provost stated that the College of Science launched the WV STEM Alliance, led by Dr. Rosalynn Quinones, to expand STEM pathways for Appalachian students through increased awareness, collaboration and career exploration opportunities. She reported that the Division of Aviation launched AIRWV, a statewide K–12 aviation pathway in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education, creating new opportunities for students to explore aviation careers and pathways into Marshall Aviation, Engineering and Business programs. She also noted that the Lewis College of Business expanded global learning opportunities, with 16 students participating in an international management experience in Tokyo, Japan, and Seoul, South Korea, gaining firsthand insight into global business practices and preparing for success in an interconnected marketplace.

She shared that the School of Pharmacy secured a \$25,000 NASA West Virginia Space Grant Consortium research award to study how deep-space stressors impact immune cell metabolism, advancing biomedical research with national implications. She also recognized University Libraries, noting that Assistant Professor and Research and Instruction Services Librarian Dr. Diane Palmieri was inducted into the Society for Collegiate Leadership & Achievement (SCLA) Honor Society in recognition of excellence in leadership, scholarship and service.

In addition to updates from the academic units, the Provost highlighted student support services and programs designed to help students thrive. She reported that the Center for Student Success improved student outcomes through Supplemental Instruction, with participating students earning course grades an average of 0.92 points higher in historically challenging courses. She shared that the Division of Student Affairs reimagined New Student Orientation with an interactive model focused on student engagement, relationships and early connections to campus resources to strengthen transition, retention and long-term student success. Finally, she noted that Online Education expanded workforce-focused learning opportunities through SkillBridges, connecting online students with in-demand career skills, industry data and applied learning experiences.

Student Representative Update

Alissa Davis, Student Body President, gave the Student Representative update. Student Body President Alissa Davis began her report by expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to spend time with members of the Board and to serve as the student representative to the Marshall University Board of Governors under the leadership of Board Chair Kathy Eddy. She stated that she witnessed leadership she believes the student body would be deeply proud of, particularly the Board's attention to equitable services, accessibility and preparation for the future. She noted that these conversations centered around the Marshall For All, Marshall Forever vision and said she found the Board's commitment to that vision deeply inspiring.

She then shared several observations and foundational priorities for her office. She recognized Chief Enrollment Officer and Vice President of Enrollment Management Jerry Ross, Director of Orientation, Outreach, and Special Events Lisa Williamson, Vice President of Student Affairs Marcie Sims, and the many other individuals responsible for organizing summer orientation. She stated that she was very proud of how the Marshall University campus was displayed and represented throughout the orientation experience.

She reflected that incoming freshmen are naturally excited to begin their Marshall experience, even while experiencing the nerves and uncertainty she remembered from her own transition to college. She noted that this year she observed many incoming students forming an almost immediate connection to campus. Through conversations with students, she heard from individuals who felt that Marshall was the first place where they had found people who genuinely cared about how they were doing, understood where they were coming from and wanted to create opportunities for them to succeed. She emphasized how meaningful it was to see students who, for the first time in their lives, had found a place where they believed they

were capable of success, and she credited the Board and university leadership with helping to build that environment at Marshall.

Turning to two foundational priorities for her administration, she first addressed student transportation. Following a review of transportation needs around campus, she reported that many students are being supported through the new TTA bus pass system provided through Student Affairs. She stated that the program appears to be very successful in addressing transportation needs and eliminating barriers for students and recognized Student Affairs for its work in addressing this barrier.

She next addressed food insecurity, reporting that Student Government held three successful pop-up food pantry events in the Student Government office during the summer using remaining supplies. She stated that the success of these events demonstrates a need for continued discussion surrounding suggestions received through student feedback to increase accessibility. She emphasized that decreasing food insecurity is very important to her administration and noted that students experiencing food insecurity have been extremely grateful to Marshall alumni and other contributors for the food they have received.

She stated that Student Government will continue the pop-up food pantry events into the academic year, as eliminating barriers affecting students' basic needs remains a significant priority for her administration. She emphasized her goal of eliminating any barrier that could prevent a student from going to sleep at night, waking up the following morning and getting to class.

In closing, she encouraged members of the Board and university leadership to reach out regarding any student or Marshall University initiative that could benefit from student feedback, volunteers or other assistance. She expressed her willingness to help with those efforts and stated that she is grateful and deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve and work alongside the members of the Board throughout the coming year.

School of Medicine Update

Dr. David Gozal, Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs, presented the School of Medicine update. During his report, Dr. David Gozal provided several updates from the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. He reported that, following Board of Governors approval to purchase property at the corner of Northcott Court and Hal Greer Boulevard, the School of Medicine is working with Marshall University's Purchasing and Planning and Construction departments to select an architectural and engineering firm for the new School of Medicine building. He also provided an update on LCME accreditation, noting that the institutional self-study and independent student analysis have been completed. Institutional strengths and opportunities for improvement have been identified, and a comprehensive action plan with assigned leadership and measurable outcomes has been developed in preparation for the LCME accreditation site visit scheduled for March 14–17, 2027.

Dr. Gozal highlighted incoming medical student Riley Decker of Charles Town, West Virginia, whose interest in women's health began through her experiences as a competitive powerlifter and runner. Her interests led to research, advocacy, entrepreneurship and the co-

founding of a women's health venture focused on menstrual health and athletic performance. She has participated in published research in psychology and mental health, presented at national scientific meetings and worked on research projects involving athletic performance, health outcomes and women's health. Her clinical experience includes work in a women's and perinatal psychiatry clinic. She hopes to advance women's orthopaedic and musculoskeletal health through clinical practice and research, particularly for rural and underserved populations.

He also reported that the School of Medicine will have one incoming student enrolled in each of its new collaborative dual-degree programs, the MD + MS in Health Informatics and MD + MA in Communication Studies. Developed in partnership with Marshall University's colleges of business and liberal arts, the programs allow medical students to complement their medical education with advanced training in health informatics and strategic communication.

Dr. Gozal discussed Project PREMED (Providing Real-World Experiences for Marshall Educated Doctors), which provided 12 undergraduate students from West Virginia and seven other states with an immersive introduction to medical school. Participants learned about the admissions process, medical school curriculum and career opportunities in medicine while connecting with School of Medicine faculty, staff and current students.

He announced the appointment of internationally recognized neuroscientist Habibeh Khoshbouei, PharmD, PhD, as chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, effective October 1. Dr. Khoshbouei joins Marshall from the University of Florida College of Medicine, where she served as professor in the Department of Neuroscience and vice chair of research. Her research focuses on dopamine signaling, neuroimmune interactions, addiction and neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Gozal also recognized a transformational \$1 million gift from Bill and Lois Dolin establishing the School of Medicine's first endowed chair, the Bill and Lois Dolin Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery. Ali Oliashirazi, MD, longtime orthopaedic surgeon, educator and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, was named the inaugural chair holder. The gift represents the second-largest individual gift in the School of Medicine's history and will provide lasting support for orthopaedic resident education, faculty development and other departmental priorities. A dedication ceremony recognizing the Dolins and Dr. Oliashirazi's appointment was held July 22.

Additional leadership appointments included Richard Eggleton, PhD, as Interim Research Integrity Officer for the Marshall University Research Corporation (MURC), effective July 1, and Monica Valentovic, PhD, as Associate Dean for Health Sciences Graduate Programs, effective June 29. Dr. Gozal also recognized several recent faculty promotions within the School of Medicine and welcomed new incoming faculty members, highlighting the continued growth of the School's academic, research and clinical teams.

Dr. Gozal highlighted research and innovation across the School of Medicine, including 41 published research publications during May and June 2026. He discussed work by Dr. Chad D. Lavender, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery, who developed an innovative technology known as spatial arthroscopy in collaboration with Marshall Health Network and Intermed Labs. The technology uses Apple Vision Pro to bring the surgical view directly into a surgeon's line of sight during minimally invasive procedures, improving ergonomics and helping surgeons

maintain focus. The technology also provides a foundation for future capabilities, including digital overlays, voice commands and automated documentation.

He also highlighted research led by Abdelnaby Khalyfa, MSc, PhD, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Missouri, identifying an immune mechanism that may contribute to insulin resistance and metabolic dysfunction associated with obstructive sleep apnea. The study found that reducing inflammatory CD11b+ immune cells improved insulin sensitivity and decreased inflammation in a mouse model, identifying a potential target for future therapies.

Dr. Gozal discussed additional research examining the relationship between endometriosis and cardiovascular disease. The study was led by Dr. Nalini Santanam, in collaboration with Dr. Brenda Mitchell and Dr. Kristin Sinning, and examined cellular mechanisms that may help explain the increased cardiovascular disease risk associated with endometriosis. First author Jady Simon is continuing this research as a Ph.D. student under Dr. Santanam's mentorship and is the recipient of the 2026–2027 NASA WV Space Grant Graduate Fellowship.

Finally, Dr. Gozal recognized the City of Logan's 2026 Shining Star Award recipients for their vision, service, leadership and impact throughout Logan and the surrounding region. Recipients included the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Marshall Community Health Consortium, Marshall Rural General Surgery Residency Program, Dr. David Gozal, Dr. Paulette Wehner, Dr. Jodi Cisco-Goff, Jo Ann Raines Corn and Tammy Motes. He also noted the upcoming Standing Out in Our Field event scheduled for August 22.

Finance, Audit and Facilities Planning Committee

The following are action items from the Finance, Audit and Facilities Planning Committee:

A) Authorization of Acceptance of Funds from the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant Program

The following resolution was read:

Resolved, that the Marshall University Board of Governors authorize acceptance of funds from the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant program for projects: Corbly Hall Chiller Replacement, Morrow Library HVAC Unit, Science Building Chiller and the Memorial Student Center Roof.

Furthermore, the Board of Governors reaffirms its commitment to prioritize deferred maintenance projects at Marshall University and to ensure the necessary funding for this project to be completed safely and effectively; and

The Board of Governors authorize the President to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate the reallocation of funds for the above-listed project as part of the deferred maintenance program.

** In June 2023, the Marshall University Board of Governors approved the submission of thirty-one*

(31) deferred maintenance projects for consideration under the State Institutions of Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Grant Program. The program, administered through the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC) with funding support from the Governor's Office, was established to address critical deferred maintenance needs at public higher education institutions throughout the state.

As part of the funding process, the state retained eighteen percent (18%) of the total project allocation for future project phases and contingencies. The WVHEPC has subsequently authorized the release of approximately \$3.28 million in remaining funds to support Phase II of Marshall University's deferred maintenance initiative, commonly known as the "Shock and Awe" program. The Phase II funding will address several high-priority infrastructure projects that are critical to maintaining safe, reliable, and efficient campus operations.

The projects proposed for Phase II funding include:

- Corbly Hall Chiller Replacement (est. \$550,000): Replacement of the failing chiller serving Corbly Hall, which has experienced significant loss of cooling capacity and is at risk of complete failure. Reliable cooling is essential to support classrooms, administrative offices, the Early Education STEAM Center, and the future Dietetics program. An engineering assessment is currently underway; however, full replacement is the recommended solution.*
- Morrow Library HVAC Unit Replacement (est. \$212,000): Replacement of a failed rooftop HVAC unit serving Morrow Library. One of the building's five rooftop units is currently non-functional, while the remaining units have exceeded their expected service life. This project will improve climate control for building occupants and protect library collections, archives, and special collections while increasing overall system reliability and energy efficiency.*
- Science Building Chiller Replacement (est. \$825,000): Replacement of the aging chiller plant serving the Science Building. The existing system is in deteriorated condition, creating risks to research laboratories, instructional spaces, and sensitive scientific equipment. Failure of the system could significantly disrupt academic and research activities and create health and safety concerns. A modern, energy-efficient replacement is recommended.*
- Memorial Student Center Roof Repair and Replacement (est. \$1,693,100): Funding to support roof repair and replacement at the Memorial Student Center to address persistent leaks and deteriorating roof conditions. The project includes design services to evaluate the existing roof system, develop a comprehensive repair and replacement strategy, and assess and address any asbestos-containing materials through appropriate testing and abatement. The project will help prevent further water intrusion, protect building assets, and ensure the long-term integrity of the facility.*

Acceptance of the Phase II funding and authorization to proceed with the projects requires approval by the Marshall University Board of Governors and the President of the University. Upon approval, the projects will be submitted to the WVHEPC for review and recommendation and subsequently forwarded to the Governor's Office for final approval and release of funds.

Upon a motion by Charles Wendell, seconded by Kathy D'Antoni, without further discussion, a vote of aye, no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

Information Items

Of note, in the package, there are updates for:

Finance Update

Facilities and Operations Update

Internal Audit Update

Athletic Committee

There were no action items brought forward from the Committee.

Information Items

Of note, in the board package, there are updates for:

Athletics Report – Competitive Excellence & Winning the Right Way

- *Student-Athlete Success & Well-Being*
- *Competitive Excellence & Winning the Right Way*
- *Fan Experience & Community Engagement*
- *Revenue Growth & Resource Development*
- *Facilities & Capital Projects*

Noting that on July 1, 2026, President Brad D. Smith, per Board of Governors Rule No. GA-8, informed the Board of Governors via e-mail of two naming gifts in Athletics facilities. The working press level in the Joan C. Edwards stadium will be named the New Family Level in recognition of Stephen and Amy New's \$1 million pledge to Athletics. The new indoor practice facility field will be named the Alex Lawrence Field in recognition of Kim Lawrence's \$500,000 gift in honor of her late son.

IV. President's Report

**The President's report is attached as an addendum to the Board of Governor's minutes.*

V. Chairman Eddy's Report

During her report, Chair Kathy Eddy reflected on the activities of the previous two days and thanked members of the Board for their willingness to devote the necessary time to prepare for and participate in the Board training session, committee meetings and full Board discussions. She also expressed her appreciation to everyone involved in planning and coordinating the previous day's events, noting that their efforts contributed to a successful and productive experience.

Chair Eddy highlighted the thought-provoking discussion surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) and its growing importance throughout the country, across businesses and particularly within higher education. She emphasized that higher education must consider how it will respond to the rapid advancement of AI and prepare students for a changing future. She expressed appreciation to President Brad D. Smith and the university leadership team for recognizing that AI will continue to advance rapidly and for making it a priority to determine how it can effectively fit within higher education at Marshall University. She emphasized that this work will be paramount to the future success of Marshall students and stated that the discussions reinforced her confidence that the university is actively addressing the issue and preparing for what lies ahead.

Chair Eddy again thanked members of the Board for the significant time and commitment they continue to devote to Marshall University. She then asked whether there were any additional announcements and reminded members that the next meeting of the Marshall University Board of Governors is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7. With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Eddy adjourned the meeting.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Without objection, the Board Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D'Antoni, Secretary