

**Marshall University Faculty Senate  
Executive Committee Minutes  
Monday, February 10, 2025, 12:00 Noon  
MSC 2W16b/Microsoft Teams**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathaniel Ramsey (v), Heather Stark, Ross Salary, Uyi Lawani, Mike Huesmann, Zach Garrett, Shawn Schulenberg, Rick Gage, Jessica Buerk (v), Mindy Varney, Kelli Johnson, Amine Oudghiri-Otmani, Richard Egleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Riner, Allison Carey, Brea Belville (v),

EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Zelideth Rivas

GUESTS: Carl Mummert, Karen McComas, Andrew Morelock, Anna Mummert, Jim Denvir, Teresa Eagle (v), Sonja Cantrell-Johnson (v), Eric Blough (v)

The meeting was convened at noon by Chair Shawn Schulenberg. Chair Schulenberg reviewed meeting procedures and expectations.

1. Approval of Proposed Agenda - approved
2. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2025 - approved
3. Announcements – Chair
  1. The President has signed the following documents:
    - a. November 11 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
    - b. November 21 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
    - c. All Senate Recommendations/Resolutions, except for program reviews (07, 08, and 09), which always come later in the year.
  2. Just this morning, Physical Plant finalized a new home for our Faculty Award plaques. As you may remember, Kelli Johnson informed me in the fall that we had these plaques, unbeknownst to me, located on the 4th Floor of Drinko Library, and they had not been updated since 2016. Hailey Bibbee, our Office Administrator, has been working hard to update all plaques, including adding a new one for the Rucker Award. Thank you to Kelli and Hailey for your work, and I think they made a nice addition to the hallway immediately outside of the Senate Office in Old Main 310.
  3. The Board of Governors met last week and approved the Shared Governance Charter. The Senate is now tasked to elect its representative to the Shared Governance Review Committee. The Senate office will send out a call for nominations and we will hold an election at our March 27 Senate meeting.
  4. The Faculty Personnel Committee held an open forum on revisions to our Tenure and Promotion Policy (MU BOG AA 6, 7, and 9) and will integrate this feedback into a draft to consider before the end of this academic year.

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5. The Ad Hoc Post Tenure Review Committee met last week, and it was a productive conversation. The committee's work is far from over and they are integrating the feedback into their current draft.
6. The Budget Advisory Committee will meet this afternoon at 1PM. The agenda includes review of support unit allocations, service level agreements, and key considerations for the proposal we are to send to the Executive Budget Committee, in addition to hearing feedback from the President and Deans.
7. This past week, a student was struck by a vehicle and injured on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, near the same site where Maribeth Cox lost her life a little over three years ago. Since that incident, a handful of other students have also been injured in crosswalks around campus. Professor Jim Denvir has asked to say a few words and introduce a conversation on the topic at our February 20 Senate meeting, which I have placed on the proposed agenda. I have invited representatives from the administration to attend too, should we approve this as an agenda item later in this meeting.
8. Since we last met, new administrations have been inaugurated in both Charleston and Washington DC, and both have issued numerous executive orders possibly cutting both our research funding and implementing restrictions on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Regarding federal grant funding, the Trump administration proposed a broad federal freeze that was paused in the courts before the order was rescinded. Today, a new proposal is scheduled to go into effect that would restrict NIH indirect cost funding which covers things like equipment, operations, maintenance, accounting and personnel, is scheduled to go into effect today, to just 15 percent. Universities are bracing for the impact on their budget, as places like the University of Michigan announced that their current negotiated rate cap is 56%. I have not heard anything yet about what the impact will be on Marshall, but hopefully we will know more soon. In addition to these funding changes, both the federal government and the state have implemented new executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion, but the EOs are very vaguely worded, and our administration is currently searching for more clarity from Charleston. My own personal advice to faculty and chairs is this: do not proactively make any changes at the university, especially in the areas of teaching and research, until we have more guidance from university administration. I know this period of uncertainty is nerve racking for all.
9. The West Virginia Legislature begins its 60-day session this Wednesday, February 12. At the last Faculty Senate meeting, Dr. Marybeth Beller, our Faculty Senate liaison and the chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee, showed us how to track legislation on the legislature's website. She also discussed the potential impact of HR1, which would significantly change the legislative process. I encourage you to read up on this and reach out to your elected officials. Marshall Day at the WV State Capitol is scheduled for March 4. Please put it on your calendar and attend if possible. The format this year will focus on the six pillars, and we should hear more information about that soon.

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10. Upcoming Meetings/Events

- a. The Spring General Faculty meeting is scheduled for April 10th, 2025, at 4:00 PM in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Agenda items include honoring retiring faculty and the recognition of award-winning faculty.
- b. The items we consider today will be reviewed at our Faculty Senate meeting on February 20. Assistant Chair Varney will be the presiding officer.
- c. Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10 for items to be taken up at the March 27 Faculty Senate meeting. All recommendations and resolutions for those meetings are due at [senate@marshall.edu](mailto:senate@marshall.edu) by February 28.

4. Recommendations/Resolutions

- a. **SR 24-25-18 LAC** Recommends that the West Virginia State Legislature preserve and protect the seven Governor's Schools by ensuring that funding needs for each school are met. - approved
- b. **SR 24-25-19 CC** Recommends approval of the listed UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADDITION, DELETION, CHANGE in the following college and/or schools/programs: Community Health; Social Work in Healthcare; BA Biological Sciences Degree; BA Biological Sciences Major; Music Education PreK-Adult; BA Criminal Justice; Corrections; Law Enforcement; Legal Studies; BS Pharmaceutical Sciences. -approved
- c. **SR 24-25-20 CC** Recommends approval of the listed UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ADDITION, DELETION, CHANGE in the following college and/or schools/programs: BUSN 280; ESS 450; SCLA 101H; SCLA 150; ANT 362; GEO 101; GEO 223; HST 428; PSC 200; PSC 304; PSC 499; CJ 322. - approved

Entered executive session at 12:11 p.m.

Exited executive session at 12:21 p.m.

- d. **SR 24-25-21 EC** Confidential Recommendation for Spring Commencement Speaker. - approved
- e. **SR 24-25-22 EC** Confidential Recommendation for Spring Honorary Degree Recipient(s). - approved

5. Set Agenda for the Faculty Senate Meeting, February 20, 2025 - approved

- a. Approval of Proposed Agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes
- c. Announcements – Chair
- d. Guest Speaker: Geoffrey Sheils (MU Board of Governors)

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e. Recommendations/Resolutions

f. Regular Reports

- i. President – Brad Smith (15 minutes)
- ii. Provost – Avinandan Mukherjee (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 – Brea Belville (5 minutes)

g. Standing Committee Liaison Reports

- i. Legislative Affairs Committee – Marybeth Beller (4 minutes)
- ii. University Curriculum Committee – Tim Melvin (4 minutes)
- iii. Faculty Personnel Committee – Chair/Liaison (4 minutes)
- iv. Research Committee – Philippe Georgel (4 minutes)
- v. Student Conduct & Welfare Committee – Anthony Viola (4 minutes)
- vi. Faculty Technology Committee – Nitin Puri (4 minutes)

h. Campus Safety – Jim Denvir (15 minutes)

i. Other Requests to Speak

The meeting was adjourned 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Kelli Johnson*

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Kelli Johnson, Recording Secretary  
Faculty Senate

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**MINUTES APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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Shawn Schulenberg, Chair  
Faculty Senate

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Date Signed

**MINUTES READ:**

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Brad Smith, President  
Marshall University

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Date Signed

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