

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nathanial Ramsey, Sarah McDermott, Heather Stark, Leah Turley, Henning Vauth, Sandy York, Jamey Halleck, Uyi Lawani, Kevin Levine, Margie Phillips, Amanda Thompson-Abbott, Jerry Dooley, Conrae Lucas-Adkins, Mike Huesmann, Tim Melvin, Tanvir Chowdhury, Ross Salary, Jodi Cottrell, Zach Garrett, Angela Graham, Shikeal Harris, Brandy McGhee, Lisa Muto, Alysha Nichols, Clinton Brown, Puspa Damai, Shoshannah Diehl, Marianna Linz, Megan Marshall, Shawn Schulenberg, Jana Tigchelaar, Anthony Viola, Raid Al-Aqtash, Kelly Beatty, Rick Gage, Philippe Georgel, Sean McBride, Kyle Palmquist, Devon Wright, Stephen Young, Jessica Buerk, Jinju Wang, Mindy Varney, Tom Hisiro, Larry Sheret

MEMBERS ABSENT: Feon Smith, Ammar Alzarrad, Simon Shim, Marybeth Beller, Boniface Noyongoyo, Daniel O'Malley, Eva Patton-Tackett, Nitin Puri, Ji Bihl, Usha Murughiyan, Ruhul Amin, Tiffany Davis, Michael Hambuchen, Mary Platz, Jen Sparks, Kelli Johnson

EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Egleton, Amine Oudghiri-Otmani, Brea Belville

SENATE STAFF: Hailey Bibbee

GUESTS: In person – Avi Mukherjee, Michael Prewitt, Ben Eng, Doohee Lee, Sherri Stepp, Bill Gardner, Brian Morgan, Carl Mummert, Matt Tidd, Ginny Painter, Bruce Felder, Anna Mummert, R.B. Bookwalter, Maria Gindhart, Brandi Jacobs-Jones, Jim Denvir, Robin Riner

Via Teams – Mark Zanter, Monica Brooks, Sonja Cantrell-Johnson, Feon Smith, Teressa Eagle, Vicki Stroehrer, Gena Chattin, John Maher, Hillary Adams, Katelyna Shray, Marcie Simms, Charlotte Weber, Cicero Fain, Eryn Roles

The meeting was convened at 4:00pm by Chair Shawn Schulenberg. Chair Schulenberg reviewed meeting procedures and expectations.

1. **Approval of proposed agenda** – moved/seconded/approved as written
2. **Approval of minutes**
 - a. September 26, 2024 – approved as written
3. **Chair Announcements** – Shawn Schulenberg
 - a. The President has signed the following documents:
 - i. August 26 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
 - ii. September 5 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
 - b. Shared Governance Charter: At the last Faculty Senate meeting, we approved the MU Shared Governance Charter (SR 24-25-03 EC) with two amendments. In the meantime, many of our shared governance partners have also approved of the Charter with their own amendments. To coordinate our efforts, once each body initially approves the Charter with amendments, we are going to bring the heads of the families together to conference these amendments and send a final version to each body for approval.
 - c. Faculty, administrators, and staff have communicated to the Senate office that it is not always clear when the Standing Committees are meeting or where to find the meeting links. As a result, the Faculty Senate has asked all standing committee chairs to communicate this information to us in advance so that we can post the information and

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
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virtual ink on our website in a centralized location. In addition to posting this information on each Standing Committee page, we hope to host a calendar on our website of all meetings in the Faculty Senate system. We have also begun posting liaison reports to the standing committee page for more to view.

- d. We are still searching for liaisons to the Faculty Development Committee and Faculty Personnel Committee.
- e. Faculty Technology Committee: Nearly all members of the FTC are elected except for the School of Pharmacy. The committee is scheduled to have its first meeting on November 14. The body will elect its officers and review its first items for consideration.
- f. Stay tuned for the announcement of our second generative AI short course, "Introduction to Generative AI and Ethics," on the Marshall Skills Exchange. We are reviewing the last-minute feedback and hope to advertise it by the end of next week.
- g. We held the Fall General Faculty meeting on October 3 in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Thank you to all those who could attend. A copy of the recording is available on livestream and the slide decks are available on the Faculty Senate website.
- h. Our last Executive Committee meeting of the semester is scheduled for November 11, for items to be taken up at the November 21 Faculty Senate meeting. All recommendations and resolutions for those meetings are due at senate@marshall.edu by November 1 at 5:00 PM.

4. Recommendations/Resolutions

- a. S SR 24-25-04 BAPC Recommends Temporary Modifications of MU Academic Suspension – approved as written
- b. SR 24-25-05 BAPC Recommends Modifications to the Proposed Academic Calendar for Summer 2025 and Beyond – approved as written

5. Regular Reports

i. Provost – Avinandan Mukherjee (15 minutes)

- 4 highlights
 - Enrollment
 - There are three critical dates for enrollment reporting:
 - an internal census date – this occurs three weeks from the start of classes and is when we wind up the internal enrollment numbers and present them to the media,
 - a state census date (Oct 15th) – this is when we report numbers to the Higher Education Policy Commission, and
 - a federal census date (Jan 18th) – this is when we report numbers to IPEDS.
 - From the internal and state census, we are seeing a rise in enrollment: 12% growth in overall headcount over the past two years, 21% for new full-time, first-time freshmen over the past two years, and nine out of

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
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ten segments have grown. We are the fastest-growing university in West Virginia!

- We have received 3,145 applications for 2025. Our target for applications is 10,000. Our target for enrollment in 2025 is 2,000.
- We are seeing an increase in:
 - graduate student applications (109%),
 - distance applications (89%),
 - international student applications (50%), and
 - non-traditional applications (59%).
- We are seeing two segments with a decline in applications:
 - metro applications (-40%), and
 - redefined metro area
 - transfer applications (-13%).
- We have six Green and White days.
 - Past dates include two in September and two in October (315 students participated).
 - We need to catch up to last year.
 - Two more dates are set: November 15 and 16.
- Transfer
 - West Virginia has a lower rate of college attendance (only 47% go to any college).
 - Community college educates 41% of all U.S. undergraduate students.
 - In a study, 84% wanted to transfer to a 4-year college.
 - 33% actually transfer and only 16% complete a B.S. degree program in six years.
 - In West Virginia, 21% actually transfer and 7% earn a B.S. degree.
 - West Virginia is one of the four best states for transfer.
 - We are visiting two-year colleges (Mt. West, Bridge Valley, New River and Southern West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges).
 - We are promoting the newer B.S. in Applied Sciences as a flexible pathway to help transfer students.
- Student Success
 - Thank you for approving a request to exempt full-time, first-time freshmen from suspension.
 - We are introducing a UNI 280 class. This provides foundations for success based on a design-for-life approach using innovation catalysts in the innovation center.
 - Our FAM program is doing really well.
 - 35% of students in our freshman class have connected with a peer mentor.
 - Supplemental instruction and intercultural dinners are going well.
- Honors College
 - 280 students have been admitted (18% higher than last year).
 - Admitted students are in the top 10% of their class.

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

- 14% are students of Color.
- 29% are from out of state.
- 21% are legacy students (those with relatives who have graduated from MU).
- The top colleges with Honors College students include the:
 - College of Science (30%),
 - College of Engineering (20%),
 - College of Health Professions (17%),
 - College of Business,
 - College of Liberal Arts,
 - College of Arts and Media, and the
 - College of Education.
- I'd like to provide a faculty spotlight. We have a new faculty member, Dr. Liang Wang, who is the founding director of the Marshall Global Health Institute. Dr. Wang is a tenured professor of Public Health at Marshall University's College of Health Professions. Dr. Wang has just been elected as a fellow of the British Royal Society for Public Health.

No questions

ii. **Board of Governors** – Robin Riner (5 minutes)

- We last met on Oct 9th.
- We had three action items in the following areas:
 - Athletics – We approved affiliate membership in the American Athletic Conference just for swimming and diving because the Sunbelt took swimming and diving out.
 - Deferred maintenance funds: We approved an item to reallocate some of the deferred maintenance funds. Some of the projects came under budget. We were able to shift money to some other projects.
 - Expanded metro rates: we approved expanding the metro tuition rates. Notably that expansion now includes Columbus and Lexington.
- Budget
 - We are continually tracking our deficit.
 - We are on course to break even by 2027 and see a \$5 million profit in 2028.
 - We were also told that \$1.25 million this year was contributed to salary increases.
- Next meeting is November 4th and my virtual office hours are November 22nd.

iii. **Advisory Council of Faculty** – Amine Oudghiri-Otmani (5 minutes)

ACF has not met since our last Faculty Senate meeting. The ACF Fall Retreat will be held at Stonewall Resort November 8-9th.

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

iv. **Graduate Council** – Richard Egleton (5 minutes)

Graduate Council has not met since our last Faculty Senate meeting and will meet on September 27th. Plans for that meeting include setting up forms for policies passed last year, mostly regarding cross-level courses.

Updates:

- The President has signed the September Minutes, which means that the graduate faculty status in Redbook has been updated, excluding the ones that are being reviewed in the meeting tomorrow.
- Some progress on the graduate Student Government Association. We are setting up a structure for the graduate student government and working on bylaws.
- A new graduate student representative has been elected to the Graduate Council (Sydney Hughes - an online graduate student).

v. **Student Government Association** – Brea Belville (5 minutes)

- Two resolutions were passed:
 - Senate resolution for the creation of Praxis exam study channel on the Marshall U app.
 - The shared governance charter (with inclusion of a student representative on BAPC).
- Funding is still available for student organizations. If you are a faculty advisor, please encourage your student organization to submit a funding request.
- We are partnering (and competing) with WVU SGA for a joint community outreach service project.
 - 100% of donated items (at MU) go back into MU community.
 - Donated items benefit the MU Food Pantry, Branches, A.D. Lewis Center
 - The student organization that brings in the most items will be recognized at a football game (November 2nd).
- SGA released a safety PSA regarding the crosswalk at 20th Street by the Rec.
- We will have a day of service (SGA and Greek Life) November 1st. We will clean up around the fountain prior to the Fountain Ceremony.

6. **Standing Committee Liaison Reports**

- i. Academic Planning Committee – Daniel O’ Malley (Not present, provided report, read by Faculty Senate Chair) (4 minutes)

The APC will be evaluating 15 program reviews later this month:

Nine programs in the College of Health Professions (COHP), five programs in the College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS), one program in the College of Liberal Arts (COLA)

The APC will meet on Wednesday, October 30, to evaluate and vote on these program reviews.

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

ii. Athletic Committee – Tom Hisiro (4 minutes)

We held our initial meeting Oct 8th.

- In previous years, we have had communication and organizational issues.
 - Shawn Schulenberg took the initiative to get involved and to ensure that we got off to a tremendous start this year and he helped with the establishing the agenda for this first meeting.
- We elected Andrew Stringfellow (College of Education) as the Chair, and David Steele (Sports Business Program) as our Recorder.
- We had an outstanding presentation by Beatrice Crane, Senior Athletic Director. The presentation is available on Faculty Senate website.
- We highlighted the organization chart of the Athletic Department.
- The Campus Collaboration Center of Excellence, the Executive Summary evaluation report the “game plan” - championship efforts in the areas of pace, progress, planning, performance, and pride. These categories will continue to be highlighted.
- There will be three additional meetings this coming year (December, February, and May).
- There are two upcoming events - Fountain ceremony (Nov 14th at noon) and the tribute game (Nov 16th).
 - I had extra tickets if anyone needs any.

iii. Budget and Academic Policy Committee – Jana Tigchelaar (4 minutes)

We met on Friday, September 27th. Items discussed at the meeting included the two agenda items from today, modifications to the summer term calendar and the excused absence policy (noting the burden on Student Affairs). We discussed: a secure location for grade appeals and gathering information for AI policies from peer institutions. Our next meeting is November 15th.

iv. Library Committee – Margie Phillips (4 minutes)

Met over the Summer

- The Physical Plant is working on an ADA-compliant pathway to the West elevator (\$14,000-20,000).
- Elections of officers
- Save to Serve: We identified close to \$300,000 in overlapping and low-use resources to meet a three-year S2S commitment. MURC picked up up Relaxys to help offset the loss of SciFinder Scholar for Physics and Chemistry. In Sept, the EBSCO version of PsycInfo and PsycArticles had not started before the Proquest was discontinued; the library obtained trials until contracts are finalized. We received requests to reinstate the ProQuest Arts & Humanities database and the PTSD database; we are looking into pricing.
- The support of Dimensions was discontinued in June. It was due to low use. MURC is aware and they may retain it.
- South Charleston – This past summer, the university expanded its support for Marshall Health, Aviation, and flexible manufacturing. This necessitated moving the SC Library

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

from the Byrd building to the other building across the parking lot. Two library faculty/staff were relocated to the Huntington campus.

- The Governor's Office of Arts, Culture, & History and the State Librarian asked to start up an MLS program to tackle the librarian storage in West Virginia. We submitted a program proposal to the Graduate Council this Fall on ALA requirements to ensure good candidates for accreditation.
 - ~12% of public librarians have MS degrees. It is required for them to be able to receive federal funding to support their libraries, so the governor's office has a vested interest in supporting us in this endeavor.
 - Living Archives Center: Collaboration meetings to bring Voice to West Virginia to Marshall during this academic year. Partnering with Kate Long in West Virginia Public Radio and Voices of West Virginia to move the archive to the MU Library.
 - The Library has a whole array of exhibits, displays, author talks, glass donations, and student programs happening throughout the libraries for this Fall, and they're asking all of us to participate.
- v. Faculty Development Committee – Liaison/Chair (report given by Faculty Senate Chair) (4 minutes)
- The committee met on October 18th to review its first round of Inco Grant applications. There were a total of 23 applications with 16 approved. Letters for this round were emailed earlier today. \$12,461.00 was awarded in round one, but there are two more INCO cycles left this academic year. The next deadline is February 1st, so we encourage faculty to apply.
- vi. Physical Facilities and Planning Committee – Jamey Halleck (4 minutes)
- We have not yet met and have nothing to report.

7. Other Requests to Speak

- a. Clinton Brown asked the Chair for clarification regarding how the Faculty Senate-approved Shared Governance Charter will be handled after other edits are suggested. According to the Chair, when this comes back to Faculty Senate, it will be an up or down vote. There is no date at this point for when that will come back to the Faculty Senate.
- b. Clinton Brown asked a question regarding policies and admin procedures with a concern that the admin policy states that any of the shared governance bodies can recommend a change, but it has to go to the President's office to initiate the actual change. He continued to say that we could recommend something or any of the standing committees could recommend something, but then the President's office has the final say. He reiterated a concern that the Faculty Senate does not have power if the president can squash anything we send.
 - i. With no objections from the Senate, Robin Riner spoke on the matter, stating that a proposed amendment to Admin 20 and not the Shared Governance Charter would be where the Faculty Senate would seek that change if they chose to do so.
 - ii. The Chair spoke to the matter mentioning that having a Shared Governance Charter is better than is still better than what we had before when no such Charter existed.

Marshall University Faculty Senate
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 24, 2024, 4:00 PM
Memorial Student Center, Don Morris Room/Microsoft Teams

- iii. Richar Egleton mentioned that there were shared governance policy members at the Faculty Senate meeting.
- iv. The Chair mentioned that he would follow up with President Smith.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Varney

Melinda Varney, Assistant Chair, Faculty Senate

MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE:

Dr. Shawn Schulenberg, Chair
Faculty Senate

Date Signed

MINUTES READ:

Brad Smith, President
Marshall University

Date Signed