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# Resolution to Oppose Political Interference in University Operations

Marshall University

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## Resolution to Oppose Political Interference in University Operations

*Whereas*, an article in the April 12, 2017, *Charleston Gazette-Mail* outlines that Governor Jim Justice has put pressure on the Marshall University Board of Governors and President Gilbert to make changes in university athletic personnel and management;

*Whereas*, this same article implies that, when President Gilbert did not comply, Governor Justice appeared to retaliate by pushing for President Gilbert's removal;

*Whereas*, political interference in university management and operations, without evidence of administrative malfeasance, threatens a core principle of Marshall University's Mission, which reads, "Marshall University will...support and strengthen the faculty, staff, student, and administrative governance structures in order to promote shared governance of the institution;"

*Whereas*, recent political interference at a number of universities across the country—including the University of Louisville, the University of Alabama, and the University of North Carolina—has threatened their national reputation, faculty retention, grant funding, and status, leading a number of them to be put on probation from their regional accreditation agencies;

*Whereas*, the University mission focuses on producing successful students, and whether they are student athletes is not germane to its goal of "provid[ing] affordable, high quality undergraduate and graduate education appropriate for the state and the region;"

*Be it resolved*, the Faculty Senate of Marshall University requests that Governor Justice respect state and university governing institutions and organizations, including the Marshall University Board of Governors, administration, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and Student Government Association, and refrain from interfering in university operations in the absence of evidence of malfeasance by these entities.

*We so resolve.*

**FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:**

APPROVED BY THE  
FACULTY SENATE:

Paige Muellerleile DATE: April 13, 2017

DISAPPROVED BY THE  
FACULTY SENATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:**

READ: Thomas A. Dill DATE: 4-13-17

COMMENTS: I would not have advocated for this  
only because I think we need to get past  
this. However, I respect the right of the  
Senate to take this action.

APPROVED BY THE  
FACULTY SENATE

Chris Muller DATE: April 13, 2017

DEAPPROVED BY THE  
FACULTY SENATE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: