

Marshall University

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Resolutions

Faculty Senate

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2-3-2023

### SR 22-23-29 FPC

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Personnel Committee Resolution

## SR 22-23-29 FPC Resolves to create Ad Hoc Course Evaluation Steering Committee

**Whereas** AA-24 requires the administration of course evaluations in every course, every semester. These evaluations are a way for the instructor and the department to gauge areas of strengths and weaknesses and should be regarded as a constructive professional development tool for faculty. They are also used in promotion and tenure documentation.

**Whereas** the Student Government Association passed a resolution in November 2022 asking the university to extend the student evaluation period until the day before grades are posted (Sunday). However, such a change would make those instructors who keep running totals vulnerable to students who are upset about their final exam grades and potentially take it out on the instructor in their evaluations.

**Whereas** the validity and reliability of student course evaluations has been questioned by numerous studies. For example, researchers have demonstrated that course evaluations suffer from measurement bias. Specifically, classes with lighter workloads or higher grading distributions have better scores from students, nonelective and quantitative courses are rated lower than others, and higher-level discussion-based courses are rated higher than large introductory courses. Additionally, studies suggest there is significant equity bias in course evaluations as instructor's gender, race, ethnicity, accent, sexual orientation, and disability status all impact how student ratings.

**Whereas** the new modality of teaching i.e., synchronous versus asynchronous, online versus in person, traditional versus HyFlex, a one-size fits all approach to course evaluations is problematic and needs revision as questions may not be applicable in all courses.

**Whereas** online course evaluations have significantly lower response rates than traditional paper formats impacting their generalizability.

**Whereas** current student evaluations do not represent an instructor's effectiveness (i.e., whether students are meeting course learning objectives), but instead focus more on instructor characteristics such as personality.

**Be it resolved** that the Marshall University Faculty Senate Executive Committee creates an Ad-Hoc Course Evaluation Steering Committee. The Committee will be led by the chair of the Faculty Personnel Committee and voting members of the committee shall consist of one representative from the faculties of each academic unit as defined in Bylaw #14 of the Faculty Constitution, two members of the student government association, one member from the BAPC & FDC faculty senate standing committees. Each voting member shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate Chair with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Ex-Officio, non-voting members shall consist of the Assistant Provost for Online Learning, Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, and Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Assessment and Quality Initiatives.

# Faculty Personnel Committee Resolution

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**Be it further resolved** that the Faculty Personnel Committee suggests that the Faculty Senate Executive committee charge this committee to create an innovative course assessment plan that includes multiple data points and multiple types of assessment to improve student experiences and provide useful reliable data for faculty members regarding their teaching. This Ad Hoc Committee will submit its recommendations to the Faculty Senate for review before the end of the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

*We so resolve.*

### FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE FACULTY

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



DATE:

2/13/2023

DISAPPROVED BY THE FACULTY

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

DATE:

### UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

READ:



DATE:

2/23/2023

COMMENTS:

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