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Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate

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9-23-2021

## **The Minutes of the Marshall University Faculty Senate Meeting, September 23, 2021**

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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## MINUTES OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTMBER 23, 2021, AT 4:00 P.M.

## MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** **CAM:** Adam Dalton, Mark Zanter, Jack Colclough, Rob Rabe; **CECS:** Nasim Nosoudi, Roozbeh (Ross) Salary, Sungmin Youn, Cong Pu; **LCOB:** Uyi Lawani, Doohee Lee, Uday Tate, Daesung Ha, Timothy Bryan; **COHP:** Sujoy Bose (*Secretary FS*), Carrie Childers, Annette Ferguson, Debra Young, Bethany Dyer; **COLA:** Anita Walz, Penny Koontz, Jana Tigchelaar, Megan Marshall, Kelli Prejean, Ida Day, Marybeth Beller, Robert Ellison, Boniface Noyongoyo, Barbara Tarter, Robin Riner (*Cross-refer w/Ex-Officio, Non-voting*), Amine Oudhghiri-Otmani (*Cross-refer w/Ex-Officio, Voting*); **COS:** Philippe Georgel, Jon Saken, Kyle Palmquist, Stephen Young, Bill Gardner Jr., Rosalyn Quinones-Fernandez, Sean McBride, Jiyeon Jung, Elizabeth Niese, Davide Andrea Mauro; **CITE:** (*Cross-reference Cong Pu in CECS*) **COEPD:** Mindy Backus, Mindy Allenger, Tim Melvin, Feon Smith-Branch, Andrew Burke (*unable to sign-in from mobile device*); **SOM:** Chris Risher, Subha Arthur **SOP:** Melinda (Mindy) Varney, Ruhul Amin, Sarah Plummer; **South Charleston:** Tracy Christofero (*Chair, FS*) **ULIB:** Eryn Roles, Paris Webb

Elizabeth Niese present.

Select by Colleges – [CAM](#), [CECS](#), [LCOB](#), [COHP](#), [COLA](#), [COS](#), [CITE](#), [COEPD](#), [SOM](#), [SOP](#), [South Charleston](#), [ULIB](#)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** [CAM:](#) Sandra Reed ; [COEPD:](#) George Watson; [SOM](#) alternate : Scott Gibbs, Vikram Shivkumar, Dana Lycans; [SOP](#) alternate: Tim Long, Michael Hambuchen; Charles “C.K.” Babcock; [COLA:](#) Joel Pekham, Puspa Damai; [COHP:](#) Robert Powell; [CECS:](#) Sarah Surber; [LCOB:](#) ;

**EX-OFFICIO, VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lori Howard (*Graduate Council – cross refer w/[COEPD](#)*), Amine Oudhghiri-Otmani (*ACF; cross refer w/[COLA](#)*)

**EX-OFFICIO, VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** N/A.

**EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robin Riner (*cross refer w/BOG Rep & [COLA](#)*)

**BOG REPRESENTATIVE:** Robin Riner (*cross refer w/Ex-Officio Non-Voting/[COLA](#)*)

**EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT -**

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Shawn Schulenberg.

**GUESTS:** Jerome Gilbert (President), Avinandan Mukherjee (Acting Provost), Layton F. Cottrill, Mark Robinson, Sherri Smith, Carol Hurula, Tracy Smith, Wendell Dobbs, Jeffrey Archambault, Jim Terry, Michael McGuffey, Melinda (no last name provided), Sarah Mollette, Asad Salem, John Biros, Stephen Tipler, Angela Strait, Chris Sochor, Mary Beth Reynolds, Brian Morgan, Carl Mummert, Kacy Lovelace, Luke Creasy (The Herald-Dispatch), Scott Davis, Monica Brooks, Nancy Lankton, Teresa Eagle, Michael Prewitt, Ginny Painter, Carter Truman, Denise Landry, Robert Bookwalter, Alyssa Parks, Leah Payne (Staff), Amie Maynard (Staff/Elections)

**UNRESOLVED:** +1 304-395-3871 (verify if Andrew Burke).

No Sign-in

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**MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Declaring that there was a quorum, Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Kristen Lillvis, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of agenda** as presented by Executive Committee – Moved & Seconded.
  - a. Moved by Amine Oudhgiri to amend the agenda by adding the LAC resolution, sent by Amie Maynard, earlier in the day. MSAP<sup>1</sup>.
  - b. Amended agenda MSAPAA<sup>2</sup>.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion made & seconded to approve presented FS minutes from:

Dates of Minutes	Discussion	Approval
April 19, 2021 & June 30, 2021	No discussion	MSAP <sup>1</sup>

3. **Announcements –**

Srl.	Items	Reports & Discussion	Votes
a)	Dr. Tracy Christofero, FS Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First meeting as Chair.</li> <li>▪ Thanked the Senators for election.</li> <li>▪ Thanked Amie Maynard, Sujoy Bose, Eryn Roles for facilitating the Chair’s transition.</li> <li>▪ Thanked Shawn Schulenberg for serving as Parliamentarian.</li> <li>▪ Thanked the President, Dr. Gilbert, for the return to campus plan considering everyone’s health &amp; safety.</li> <li>▪ Received approval from legal counsel, Layton Cottrill for FS, ExCom, &amp; Standing Committees to meet virtually – Oct. 14, Nov. 11, &amp; Dec. 9 FS meetings; and the Oct. 4, Nov. 1, &amp; Dec. 1 ExCom meetings will be virtual. Standing Committees can make own decision to use virtual meetings as desired.</li> <li>▪ 2021 Fall General Faculty meeting will be virtual on Monday, Sept. 27, and be available by video on <a href="http://www.livestream.com/marshallU">www.livestream.com/marshallU</a>.</li> <li>▪ Refer to FS website for updated meeting dates &amp; other related FS information.</li> <li>▪ Chair will be holding virtual office hours 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month through the end of this calendar year at 4-5 pm – Dates would Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 –</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> MSAP – Moved, Seconded, & Passed.

<sup>2</sup> MSAPAA – Moved, Seconded, & Passed as amended.

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		<p>opportunity to meet and chat without any official pressure or recording.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sign-in reminder via link provided in chat.</li> <li>▪ Review of Robert’s Rules for accessing the floor, attendance (3 absences max per academic year).</li> <li>▪ Reminder to Standing Committees Secretaries to send meeting minutes using template available on FS website to <a href="#">FS Office</a> after their meetings. Template can apply to ad hoc committees as well.</li> <li>▪ Next ExCom meeting on Mon Oct. 4, noon. Resolutions for agenda – due tomorrow, Sept. 24, to <a href="mailto:Senate@marshall.edu">Senate@marshall.edu</a> (or to <a href="#">Amie Maynard</a>).</li> <li>▪ Need a volunteer liaison for the Athletic Committee – Andrew Burke volunteered.</li> </ul>
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3. **MU Board of Governor’s report** – Robin Riner – Annual retreat 5-6 – This report addresses the public meeting from the 6<sup>th</sup>. No major action items, just reports to the BOG.
  - a. New members sworn in – Robin Riner, Elisa Parks (new student government President) Chad Pennington (new board member).
  - b. Academic Committee – No actions. Main focus – how to grow enrollment; how to better package higher-ed to potential students; Marshall’s market share of students in the State growing despite overall shrinking number of students.
  - c. Student Body President reported – All senate seats in student body positions filled this year. (Not common)
  - d. Finance Committee – Approved 2 action items - Received investment earnings update from Marshall finance. New Investment manager hired. New update for Shewey Building. Reported – need \$750,000 up-front from the University; Big Green is slated to pay it back once the money is raised (copy of report available from Finance Committee based on request).
  - e. Operations Update – Hal Greer Statue being erected in front of Henderson Center. Dedication on Oct. 9.
  - f. COVID-19 update – now changed.
  - g. How to reimagine twin towers and make it more inviting environment for students to live on campus.
  - h. No update from the Athletics Committee.
  - i. Executive Session – Resolution to name the site for the Hal Greer statue as the “*Hal Greer Memorial Plaza*”.
  - j. President’s report – Based on the strategic vision:
    - i. Make campus more appealing to non-majority students – using a consultant for recruitment, and enrollment management plan.
    - ii. Working group set up for external engagements on how to set up students with internship opportunities.
    - iii. Committee set up for evaluating path to R1 status.

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- iv. Policy review of our student conduct by a third party.
- v. Third party consultant will evaluate Corbly space once COB leaves.
- vi. Third party consultant will do a Title IX review on Athletics.
- vii. Board has asked of Athletics Department to provide a facilities master plan – awaited from Athletics.
- k. Chair’s Report – Mostly on the Presidential Search. Robin Riner (or Tracy Christofero) can provide updates if requested.

**4. Recommendations:**

Items	Discussion	VOTE
<p><b>SR 21-22-01 EC</b> Resolves that by a vote of the Faculty Senate that Bylaw #14 of ARTICLE IX within The Constitution of the Marshall University Faculty be amended to add the Division of Aviation as shown in bold italic font and update the name of the College of Information Technology and Engineering to College of Engineering and Computer Sciences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No discussion</li> </ul>	<p>MSAP<sup>1</sup></p>
<p><b>SR 21-22-03 EC</b> Recommends that MUBOG Policy No. AA-21 Faculty Workload should be amended by adding back mention of the workload area of Librarianship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No discussion</li> </ul>	<p>MSAP<sup>1</sup></p>
<p><b>SR 21-22-04 EC</b> Recommends that the university mandate that all faculty, staff, and students receive the COVID-19 vaccine barring limited legal exceptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Robust discussion.</li> <li>▪ Floor deferred by Dr. Lori Howard to Dr. Gilbert.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Gilbert – In regular (weekly/daily) discussions with Tracy Smith – Director of Health &amp; Safety for campus, who coordinates with the Health Dept., with personnel at</li> </ul>	<p>MSAPAA<sup>1</sup></p>

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	<p>Medical School, as well as with Larry Dial (Chief Clinical officer). Have been proactive with mandatory mask requirements (for all indoor spaces) in consultation with the faculty. Continue to encourage &amp; not require vaccines. Currently – employee vaccination rate of 87%. Student vaccine rate of 77%. Overall vaccination rate of 79%. Resources in place to test at a rate of 500-600 tests a day so as to test all unvaccinated people, also with provisions for random surveys. The infection rate on the website reflects the rate of those tested, and not of the entire campus. Now primarily testing 21% of the total population. The rate of infection currently posted is overestimates the total campus infection by a rate of 2%-3%. Fully prepared to change direction should infection rates climb. Threshold for action that includes suspension of activities, is where infection rates climb to 5% (530 positives of campus community, corresponding to 10-15% of the testing population) or higher. Latest numbers indicate 4.85% of infection rates (tested population), which, figuring conservative overestimation by a factor of 2, indicates 2.4% odd infections rates of the population. MU is doing rapid testing now, with results available within 15 minutes, and contact tracing within 24 hours, allowing rapid infection control. As such, while President acknowledged concerns with spread of COVID, <b>he does not feel mandatory vaccination is needed</b> due to our low infection rate.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concerns from faculty reg. ongoing infection rates in future.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Gilbert – We are implementing the same approach as President Biden at the national level, and we are ready to change direction when needed.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Motion Amendment</b> by Dr. Sandra Reed: “I move to amend the resolution: Recommends that the university mandate that all faculty, staff, and students receive the COVID-19 vaccine barring limited legal exceptions and continuing the university’s mask mandate.”</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SR 21-22-05 ACF</b> Resolution to Endorse ACF Issues for 2021-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resolution language per circulated resolution document, presented.</li> </ul>	<p>MSAP</p>

4. **Report of the University President** – Dr. Jerome Gilbert –

- a. Enrollment – Another decline this fall (expected in light of COVID) – we are down 525 non-high-school students – Total Head count 10,965 (includes high-school students) – down about 4.8% compared to last year. Enrollment continues to be very important & continued area of focus.
  - i. Will address enrollment efforts at the State of University address on Monday.
- b. **Established Crisis Relief fund** last week from funds made available from COVID-19 relief funds. Vice-President Mark Robinson made ½ million dollars available for distribution by the student government association to students, for unforeseen hardships from not just COVID, but also from recent events e.g., flooding. Student government screening applications for these funds, and then forwarding to finance department.

5. **Report of the Provost** – Dr. Avinandan Mukherjee –

- a. Thanks everyone for making the return to campus for the new academic year.
- b. Accomplishments from Academic Affairs:
  - i. **COVID-catchup Workshops** – Thanked Office of Student Success, led by Dr. Sherri Smith, & Dr. Katerina Schray with their team coordinating with the Departments of Math & Chemistry to proactively address the Pandemic-induced needs of freshmen enrolled in key Math & Chemistry courses this fall, by offering workshops to review basic concepts. This was done to supplement freshmen who had finished high school online without adequate preparation for college. Workshops were offered in-person; were free to students; and facilitated by our faculty members. This initiative was funded by COVID-19 relief funds. 133 unique freshmen signed up for a total of 157 registrations. 24 signed up for both (?). 77 attended all the scheduled sessions, and we received excellent feedback. We would like to repeat this in the future.
- c. **Interdisciplinary clusters** – In process of forming some clusters within Academics that traverse Schools & Colleges. Both teaching & research are interdisciplinary & important, and these efforts are going to be helpful in achieving that.
  - i. **Cluster 1 - Division of aviation** – This fall (2021) the commercial pilot, fixed wing BS program launched at the Bill Noe Flight School. Inaugural cohort of 20 students. Approved by the FAA. Hoping to grow this program quickly.

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1. Pending agency and other approvals, we anticipate a second program in Aviation in collaboration with Mountwest Community & Technical College – starting 2022.
    - ii. **Cluster 2 - Cybersecurity Area** – Interdisciplinary Institute for Cybersecurity will be officially launched on Oct. 13, at 2:00 pm in the Weisberg Engineering Building – joint collaboration between the College of Engineering & Computer Sciences, and the College of Science.
    - iii. **Cluster 3 - Aging in Appalachia** – Graduate council is coordinating various researchers across different colleges working on this interdisciplinary field.
  - d. Micro credentials and Certifications – Looking at various credit & non-credit micro-credentials and certifications, both in-person, as well as those offered online. We will get a new academic faculty fellow who will spearhead this initiative.
  - e. Working at behest of Dr. Gilbert on plan on faculty promotion increments to address the flaw in the adversely affected faculty who were recently promoted.
  - f. On direction of Dr. Gilbert, working with faculty salary equity study based on cost-of-living & equity – will look at average salaries, and where our faculty currently stand, to address salary compression over a period. This will require increasing our enrollment, without which the budget would be too limited for this initiative.
  - g. Digital P&T Process – Ongoing effort to convert from current hardcopy P&T process to a fully digital model, as spearheaded by Dr. Marybeth Reynolds. Will be implemented this fall with option to use old format this year. Full implementation next fall.
  - h. **Q&A for Provost: None.**
6. **Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) Report** - Amine Oudghiri-Otmani – ACF met twice since last FS meeting. Annual summer retreat took place virtually on July 15-16.
- a. ACF elected new officers & discussed annual legislative agenda which we just voted to endorse in SR 21-22-05 ACF above.
  - b. Unanimously voted to bring agenda to respective faculty senates for suggested changes before finalizing. At our most recent meeting last week Friday – agenda was finalized.
  - c. Discussion of legislation that prohibits University professors from holding public office – may be regulated by the Hatch Act of 1939 – voted to table the issue of State level representation for lack of sufficient information.
  - d. Discussion on adding a unionization initiative. Currently legal to unionize, but professors do not have right to collective bargaining or striking. Professors could be fired for striking from recent legislation following the recent teacher’s strike. Voted to table this issue of State level representation.
  - e. The HEPC interested in creating a new globalization initiative by tentatively creating the International Educational Advisory Council (IEAC) – In the works & discussion stage – not official yet. Stakeholders will include ACF (voice of faculty before IEAC), WV HEPC Advisory Council of Students, WV HEPC Council of Presidents, as well as external stakeholders, e.g. key foreign companies investing in WV, economic



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development agencies e.g. Department of Commerce, WV tourism industry, and K-12 education system.

- f. Short discussion on years of service formula in computing criteria for purchasing PEIA coverage following retirement.
- g. **Q & A for ACF Rep:** None.

**8. Reports from Standing Committees: No reports scheduled.**

Committee	Report by:	Report Specifics
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**9. Request to Speak and/or Answer Questions to the Senate: (5 minutes) –**

- a. **New Student Government Association President - Alyssa Sparks**, reported on projects that student government association is working on this academic year.
  - i. Discussed how the student government body works. Embodies the federal government functioning including appeals process working like the federal judiciary branch, and the legislative branch which is the full (student body association) Senate, where Senators are elected by their college peers whom they represent. Senators serve on 3 committees (Financial – Have budget of \$26000 to award student organizations for deserving projects; Campus Life Committee in charge of resolutions, & community service projects. Working with other Universities and technical organizations in the State for Community Services.
  - ii. Personally, working with Crisis Relief (vide Provost report) - COVID-funding – Fund students who are experiencing financial hardships – whatever the student needs.
  - iii. Student rep on Presidential Search Committee & the BOG.
  - iv. Student President has a cabinet of 12 people who ensure goals get achieved through the year – works closely with alumni association, other organizations on campus, and counseling center - Wants to bridge gap between Student government and Faculty Senate to get more things done.
  
- b. **Chris Sochor – Manager of Online Learning at Marshall. Presented updates on BB Ultra.**
  - i. BB Ultra updates going on. First step is Ultrabase course navigation, and second step is Ultra Course view.
  - ii. Dec. 16 – BB unavailable most of day during Ultrabase navigation implementation - Initially will only change how BB looks at login and will update the My Institution page. At this point, no changes to look/feel of

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the course. There will be new activities stream page that will allow to jump to the activity without opening the individual course.

- iii. There will be forthcoming webinars on Ultrabase navigation. Spring course shells will be created approx. Dec. 17, and faculty will be able to get used to the new navigation features.
- iv. Conversion to Ultracourse View - May 2022 – BB will be updated for Ultra Course View – BB will be unavailable for no more than 12 hours. Will be done before the summer intersession, and webinar training will be made available prior to the summer term.
- v. Faculty not teaching in summer are encouraged to check out the new features before they leave.
- vi. Updates, training, and other resources will be sent out via University Communications, and FS Listservs via Amie Maynard – Chairs are encouraged to share these with adjuncts as IT does not have updated adjunct lists.
- vii. Since changes will affect all faculty, and all students, look out for updates to Blackboard diligently.

**c. Adam Branscomb from Fairmount Properties**

- i. Redevelopment plan on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Firm was awarded the contract to develop the new Brad Smith College of Business, scheduled to open Spring Semester of 2024.
- ii. Plans for retail, office, residential and other engaging developments along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor.
- iii. Firm is requesting participants to serve as a small group of 6 – 8 volunteer focus group from the FS, to discuss some of the specifics of the housing aspects of this project, to be held virtually in October, 2021 (Date is TBD) – If interested, please reach out to the FS Chair, Tracy Christofero with your contact to participate in the focus group.

10. **New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:**

With agenda for elections addressed, this meeting was adjourned at approximately 17:00 hours (5:00 pm).

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dr. Sujoy Bose, Recording Secretary

Faculty Senate

**MINUTES READ:**

*Christoforo*

Dr. Tracy Christoforo, Chair

Faculty Senate

*Jerome A. Gilbert*

Dr. Jerome Gilbert, President

Marshall University

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