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Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate

1-27-2022

The Minutes of the Marshall University Faculty Senate Meeting, January 27, 2022

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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MINUTES OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022, AT 4:00 P.M.

MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: **CAM:** Sandra Reed, Rob Rabe, Adam Dalton, John Colclough; **CECS:** Nasim Nosoudi, Roozbeh (Ross) Salary, Cong Pu, Sungmin Youn; **LCOB:** Uyi Lawani, Uday Tate, Daesung Ha, Timothy Bryan, Doohee Lee; **COHP:** Sujoy Bose (*Secretary FS*), Carrie Childers, Jodi Cottrell, Annette Ferguson, Debra Young, Bethany Dyer; **COLA:** Anita Walz, Penny Koontz, Megan Marshall, Kelli Prejean, Marybeth Beller, Robert Ellison, Boniface Noyongoyo, Ida Day, Barbara Tarter, Joel Pekham, Puspa Damai, Sabrina Jones (for Jana Tigchelaar), Robin Riner (*Cross-refer w/Ex-Officio, Non-voting*), Amine Oudhghiri-Otmani (*Cross-refer w/Ex-Officio, Voting*); **COS:** Philippe Georgel, Kyle Palmquist, Stephen Young, Bill Gardner Jr., Rosalyn Quinones-Fernandez, Sean McBride, Jiyoung Jung, Elizabeth Niese, Davide Andrea Mauro; **CITE:** (*Cross-reference Cong Pu in CECS*); **COEPD:** Mindy Backus, Mindy Allenger, Tim Melvin, Feon Smith-Branch, Issac Larrison, Andrew Burck; **SOM:** Chris Risher, Subha Arthur; **SOP:** Melinda (Mindy) Varney, Ruhul Amin, Charles "C.K." Babcock (substitute); **South Charleston:** Tracy Christofero (*Chair, FS*); **ULIB:** Eryn Roles, Paris Webb

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

[Current Faculty Senate Roster](#)

MEMBERS ABSENT: [CAM](#): Ed Bingham (substitute for Mark Zanter - on Sabbatical); [COEPD](#): ; [COS](#): ; [SOM](#) Komal Sodhi, alternates: Scott Gibbs, Vikram Shivkumar, Dana Lycans; [SOP](#): Sarah Plummer; Substitutes: Tim Long, Michael Hambuchen; [COLA](#): Jose Morillo, Jana Tigchelaar (sabbatical); [COHP](#): ; [CECS](#): ; [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: Brad Smith (President); Avinandan Mukherjee (Acting Provost); Jeffrey Archambault; Wendell Dobbs; Robert Bookwalter; Eagle, Teresa; Kelli Johnson; Monica Brooks; Mehdi Esmaeilpour; David Dampier; Karen McComas; Brandi Jacobs; Konz, Suzanne; Landry, Denise; Lankton, Nancy;-Kacy Lovelace; Jessica Lowman; Mummert, Carl; Payne, Leah (Staff); Chuck Somerville; Prewitt, Michael; Mary Beth Reynolds; Strait, Angela; Gretchen Beach; Lindsey Harper, Cassandra Mills (Staff).

UNRESOLVED: None.

No Sign-in

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

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1. Approval of agenda as presented by Executive Committee – Moved & Seconded. **MSAP**.

2. Approval of Minutes: Motion made & seconded to approve presented FS minutes from:

| Dates of Minutes | Discussion | Approval |
|------------------|---------------|----------|
| Dec. 09, 2021 | No discussion | MSAP |

3. Announcements –

| Srl. | Items | Reports & Discussion |
|------|---|---|
| a) | Announcements - Dr. Tracy Christofero, FS Chair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housekeeping - <u>Sign-in</u> (summary of attendees) – Attendance necessary to keep membership in Senate – 3 or less absences. ▪ Next virtual Executive Committee Meeting – 2/7/2022, @12:00 noon. ▪ Next virtual Chair chat – Friday, 2/18/2022, @4:00 pm. ▪ Next virtual Faculty Senate meeting is Thursday, 2/24/2022, @4:00 pm. – Committee recommendations are due tomorrow, 1/29/2022 to be on Feb agenda. ▪ Spring General Faculty meeting – Monday, 4/25/2022 , @2:00 pm. |

3. Recommendations:

| Items | Discussion | VOTE |
|--|--|------|
| SR 21-22-27 RC Recommends that additional questions/clarifications be added to the Faculty Senate Research Committee, Summer Research Award application. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion | MSAP |
| SR 21-22-30 SCWC Recommends that we create and distribute a commuter-student survey to gauge the needs of commuter students as well as | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion | MSAP |

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| their communication preferences. | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|

4. **Report of the University President** – Brad Smith – Thanks to faculty & staff for their work on teaching, research, & service, under less-than-optimal circumstances of a resurgence of COVID-19/Omicron in the setting of inclement weather, and leadership changes at the University. Reported on 5-items:

- a. Campus Health & Safety - University doing a good job overall, including masking/testing/vaccinations/contact tracing. Rising positivity rates is not the best indicator in a highly virulent variant e.g., Omicron (per expert opinions presented to the President) – Current focus on isolation, quarantine, & hospitalization rate – Arrangements to properly isolate, & quarantine positive individuals – for now about “400 beds” available in the University to quarantine/isolate. The average utilization of these beds has been 20, and as of now about 9 beds in use. The hospitalization has exceeded recent peak of 144 cases to 190 as of last Tuesday evening. About 453 hospital staff have tested positive. The projection from the hospital is that this will peak in about 2 more weeks before it subsides.
- b. Listening tour – 36 sessions scheduled upto April. Audience includes one-on-one with each BOG member, as well as parents, alumni, community leaders, elected officials. 15/36 sessions so far and information received will evolve over time. Details to be shared at the end of first 100 days (of President). Themes garnered so far:
 - i. Strategic enrollment strategy – Big opportunities. How can we improve numbers from in-state, out-of-state, and international, students, along with the numbers of adult learners?
 - ii. End-to-end student experience – How can we “wow” our students at every juncture.
 - iii. Identity – Who are we, how do we want to deliver value in future, and what do we want to be known for? – Opportunity to work together to define our image that covers R1/R2 status, Online/Hybrid/Classroom/combination.
 - iv. Finances & Resource accountability e.g. Freeze Committee, and transparency around decision-making.
 - v. Marketing – How do we tell our story more effectively? How can students & faculty help in telling our story? Suggestion made for marketing materials to feature less images of buildings and more pictures of people and faculty doing what they do.
- c. Academic update – Too early to call, but we are on track for where we have anticipated to be under COVID circumstances. Not the growth we are hoping for, and this is not a surprise.
 - i. # Of full-time distance students – increased 13%.
 - ii. Retention is positive fall-spring - 89% - 2.5 points than same comparable prior period.
 - iii. Increase of about 25% people admitted and 35% more deposits. Can build on this.

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- iv. Provost Search Update – Ongoing. Both volume, and quality of candidates interested are encouraging. Selection by Spring.
- d. Search Update – Athletic Director – 9 people on selected search committee – final candidates – will know within next few weeks hopefully.
- e. Economic Update – Trifecta announcements of new companies moving into the State –
 - i. NuCor – Mason county / Applegate – Steel Plant – Have visited MU and Marshall Medical. Plan for strong partnership to provide talent pipeline, diversity (women in advanced manufacturing), and onsite health clinic for them.
 - ii. Green Power Automotive – Electric School Bus company “Tesla of school buses”. Will locate in South Charleston to produce these school buses.
 - iii. Owen & Minor – Medical Supply company. Will employ 150 employees of Mylan of Morgantown (that has since closed).
 - iv. President will be attending State of the State address and more announcements to be forthcoming.
 - v. Feb 3: Big budget presentation - case to be made to legislators as to why Marshall is not an expense but rather an asset, and why the State should continue to invest in higher education.
- a. **Q&A for President:**
 - i. Steven Young – Question related to of-late CDC-recommendation of move away from cloth masks to N95 / KN95 – Availability to staff, faculty, & students?
 - 1. We have the masks and have been making them available to anyone who wants one.
 - 2. N95s need fit-testing but processes not yet in-place for fit-testing.
 - 3. Reach out to Deans for supply of needed masks.
 - ii. Marybeth Beller – Follow up question reg. masks – about distribution notification plan – if the University has a process how mask availability/distribution is being advertised to the constituents?
 - 1. Avinandan Mukherjee – Cloth masks were distributed via colleges & departments in past two semesters. Similar plan to be utilized, but clarification to follow. Tracy Smith will respond.

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

- a. Status as a Doctoral Institution – Became R2 in 2018 from “Masters/Large” institution prior. Up for 3-year reclassification cycle this year by the Carnegie Classification – we retain R2 status among ~6% of national universities in this category. Criteria over 3-year cycle includes inter-alia, 20 or more dissertation-based doctoral graduates, and R&D based research dollars of >\$5 million.
- b. Enrollment – Looking forward to great fall semester.
 - a. Graduate applications – (in addition to numbers reported by President) stand 10% higher than last year.
 - b. Distance-only Online program applications 29% higher than last year
 - c. Goal – To come back to 2019 fall figures which would be higher than 2021 figures.
- c. Green & White day coming up for Spring semester–

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- a. Feb. 11, & April 2nd
- b. Feb. 19 – Admitted student reception at 5pm in the Engineering building.
- c. April 30 – Spring Commencement – Mountain Arena – 2 events.
 - i. 9 am – LCOB, CoE, COS, CECS.
 - ii. 2 pm – COHP, COLA, COAM.
 - iii. Griffin McElroy is commencement speaker. Graduate of Journalism program, Class of 2009.
- d. Started a Department Chair Leadership Academy – Launched Jan 18. Chair of the Council-of-Chairs Dr. Allison Carey has worked on this. First cohort of 16 department chairs – All colleges & schools are represented – EAB is sponsor –
 - i. 8 sessions of 1.5 hours each, 2 being F2F.
 - ii. Program will conclude with a summer retreat in June.
 - iii. 5-University Presidents, 3 Provosts, 10 Deans, Several retd. department Chairs – Speaking in this program.
- e. University Research Days – First time this Spring. Marshall University will hold a student creativity and research symposium in April to showcase our best research out of all our colleges – 2 dates. Will have stakeholders from faculty, staff, students, community, board members, legislators, government personnel, and high school students participate.
 - i. April 19, Tuesday - Undergraduate Symposium.
 - ii. April 20, Wednesday – Graduate Symposium.

d. Q&A for Provost:

- iii. None.

6. **MU Board of Governor's report** – Robin Riner –

- a. No report.
- b. Next BOG meeting is on 2/10/2022.
- c. Share with Robin anything that needs to be presented to the BOG.

7. **Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) Report** - Amine Oudghiri-Otmani – The Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) held a virtual Zoom meeting on Friday, January 14. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- I. We lost the ACF Chair to a tragic car accident on Saturday, Dec. 4. At the January 14 meeting, we appointed a new Chair and Secretary. Randall Brumfield, HEPC's new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, also joined the meeting.
- II. There was discussion on whether to have an ACF resolution with regards to campus carry. It was decided that faculty have already endorsed the legislative agenda which included campus carry in the general statement regarding safety - supporting the ability of local BOGs to make decisions that are best for their individual campuses.
- III. Concerning Higher Education Day, the HEPC also decided not to hold a Higher Education Day at the Capitol this year (normally held the first or second week of February), but Marshall and WVU still plan to hold their individual days at the Capitol.

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Alternatives to Higher Education Day were suggested and included:

- a forum or meeting on individual campuses for those reps
- joining individual institutions on their days at the capitol
- sending ACF reps to the capitol and set individual appointments

Undergrad research day (Feb 18) was also mentioned as a potential time. ACF’s Legislative Correspondent generated a list of committee chairs at the capitol that would be important to meet with, and it was suggested to have two teams who would visit with legislators on two different days.

The following statement was suggested, “It is the opinion of the ACF that decisions of carrying weapons on campus should be left to the individual institutions, and not dictated by the state.” It was also suggested that faculty senates from different institutions could pursue this individually. A motion was made seconded and passed to wait and see which if any bills move forward.

- IV. In terms of budget and pay raises, inclusion of higher education faculty in the 5% pay raise proposal was discussed, but it was decided that this may be at the discretion of individual institutions and that action by ACF may not be possible.
- V. Finally, ACF briefly discussed institutional leaders’ upcoming meetings with the HEPC for input and discussion regarding the funding formula. ACF realized that a final model is still in flux but is expected soon. ACF are also concerned about the potential pitfalls of incentivizing degree awards, which ACF believes would result in erosion of standards. Dr. Brumfield promised to advise as the formula develops.

a. **Q & A for ACF Rep:** None.

8. Report from Graduate Council Chair – Lori Howard –

- a. Graduate council does not meet in December – no report.
- b. Will meet tomorrow.

9. Reports from Standing Committees:

| Committee | Report by: | Report Specifics |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| Academic Planning | Sean McBride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report received (if checked) ×. Report as submitted - ▪ The Academic Planning Committee has met 1 time thus far since the last APC report was delivered to Faculty Senate on November 11th, 2021: (1) On 11/15/21, 9-9:30am on MS Teams. The main purposes of this additional meeting were to evaluate and vote on two programs that |

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| | | <p>required additional discussion. They were the BA in Secondary Education and BA in Early Childhood Education. A quorum of 7 members was not obtained at this meeting and voting was done electronically post meeting (1 shy of a quorum was obtained during the meeting).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BA in Early Childhood Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APC Vote: Recommendation #2 - continue with corrective action ○ APC Comments: Briefly, the committee recommends creating a strategic enrollment plan, which is needed to support the viability of this program. An analysis needs to be included to address whether the program is sustainable with a single supporting full-time faculty member. ▪ • BA in Secondary Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APC Vote: Recommendation #1 - continue at current level ○ APC Comments: None <p>Overall results for 5-year program reviews in Fall 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “continue at current level” (4 programs - BS Math, BS Physics, BA Secondary Education, and BA Elementary Education) ▪ “continue at current level with resource development” (3 programs - BS Chemistry, BS Geology, and BA Psychology) ▪ “continue with corrective action” (1 program - BA Early Childhood Education). |
| <p>Athletic</p> | <p>Andrew Burck</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report received (if checked) <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Meeting in Nov. 2021. ▪ Discussed most efficient ways to get students enrolled back into classes. |
| <p>Budget & Academic Policy</p> | <p>Kelli Prejean</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How we are moving to Sun Belt Conference ▪ Written report received (if checked) ×. Report as submitted - ▪ Report covers meetings on 1/21/2022 & on 11/19/2021. ▪ Updates on appeals tracking websites ▪ Updates for Academic Dishonesty Course ▪ Recommendation to extend D/F repeat rule to all undergraduate students for courses |

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| | | <p>taken in Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 –Just a beginning request. Need input from other stakeholders before it goes to Senate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation to update Writing Across the Curriculum policy document— Recommendation approved at the BAPC’s 1/21/2022 meeting after a suggestion by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. That suggestion was to take out the following section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “WAC Class Sizes The suggested enrollment in all writing-intensive courses is 24 students. For the purposes of institutional research internally, this enrollment is credited at 36 students. Enrollments in writing-intensive courses need to be no more than 24 students so that each student's writing can receive appropriate attention from the instructor. Some departments may not be able to meet this standard.” ○ The rationale for removing this section is that the WAC program does not have the authority to determine class sizes, which is largely determined by department chairs, and Institutional Research has never calculated enrollment in WI courses by this measure. However, department chairs may use the 24-student cap for WI courses as a standard practice if they choose. ▪ Recommendation to amend course withdrawal policies—Associate Deans submitted proposed changes to BOG policy AA-15: Course Withdrawal, but the BAPC voted to table the item to collect more information before voting. ▪ Updates on pending appeals <p>Question: T. Christofero –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Previous discussion on collaborating with Graduate Council on Academic Dishonesty Policy to ensure consistency &/or standardization. Is this being done? |
| | | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ans: Not yet. Plans in place to coordinate course withdrawal policy – previously unclear if it applied across the board of undergraduate vs. graduate programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggestion to coordinate with Lori Howard (Chair, Graduate Council) to ensure communication with Faculty Senate on Dishonesty and Course Withdrawals. |
| Curriculum | Debra Young | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next meeting is scheduled for 2/18/2022 ▪ Written report received (if checked) <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Have not met in Dec. Met last Friday 1/21/2022. ▪ 4 Deletions, 4 Changes, and 3 Additions. ▪ Submission deadline is first of the month. ▪ Get anything that needs to be approved, please submit prior to end of the month. |
| Faculty Development | Ida Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report received (if checked) × ▪ Last Meeting was in October. Next meeting will be in February. ▪ Will discuss INCO applications at next meeting. |
| Faculty Personnel | Tim Bryan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written report received (if checked) ×. Report as submitted - ▪ The Faculty Personnel Committee has not met for the year. After repeated contact from the Senate Chair, the Interim Administrative Assistant for the Faculty Senate, and myself, the presumed chair has not scheduled meetings, provided minutes or overseen the election of a secretary. In addition, the chair had not retrieved faculty sabbatical requests as requested by the same three on multiple occasions. I retrieved the sabbatical requests. In addition, I made an email motion yesterday to rescind the election of the chair and hold another election. That motion has been seconded. Since then, the actual chair election has come into question based on consultation with our Parliamentarian because we did not have a formal meeting only a string of emails. As of this report, no meeting is formally scheduled to elect a chair and |

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secretary and proceed with the business of the committee.

- 8. **Request to Speak and/or Answer Questions to the Senate: (5 minutes)** – One request from the floor – Mindy Backus.
 - a. MU Paws program – Thanked everybody for voting last semester on MU Paws as an official program. Now the information is available online via the student affairs page. A request link is being prepared. Office in bottom of student center. Will have office hours, perhaps from middle-of-February onwards, to allow hopefully less impact of Omicron. Also plan to come into classrooms once Omicron wave subsides hopefully.
 - b. No questions for speaker.

10. **New Business:** None.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Sujoy Bose, Recording Secretary

Faculty Senate

MINUTES READ:



Dr. Tracy Christofero, Chair, Faculty Senate



Brad Smith, President
Marshall University