

## Timeline of events

**Black :** Information from documents

**Green :** Information provided by Wyant

**Blue :** Information provided by Bissett

**Red :** Information provided by the registrar

**OCT. 28, 2008:** Student e-mails Maynard and Wyant to set up an advising appointment.

**NOV. 18, 2008:** Wyant offers three independent study courses.

**NOV. 20, 2008:** Student e-mails Elizabeth Coffey, administrative secretary, saying she wants to take all three independent study courses (eventually drops one).

**JAN. 2009:** Wyant is listed as Instructor of Record for all three courses.

**JAN. 2009:** Independent study courses meet to start the semester.

**FEB. 2009:** Wyant takes one week off for heart surgery.

**MARCH 12, 2009:** Daneker and Wyant e-mail back and forth. Wyant writes that she told the student she would work with her on a weekly basis at a time that was convenient for her to help her finish the course.

**MARCH 13, 2009:** Daneker e-mails Wyant writing that the student is trying to decide between the college of education or college of business.

**MARCH 16, 2009:** Student e-mails Wyant that she is still trying to decide which school she wants to enroll in and will decide after she talks to her parents.

**APRIL 23, 2009:** Student has not completed any of the coursework. E-mail between Templeton and Wyant: Student talked to Templeton saying she needed grades in the independent study courses to get into the Lewis College of Business. Templeton asks Wyant if the student will be able to finish all the coursework on time. Wyant writes that it will be difficult.

**MAY 1, 2009:** Meeting with student, student's father, Wyant, Templeton, Maynard and Daneker. Student, student's father and Templeton leave and discuss matter in her office. Templeton returns and says she will instruct the student.

**MAY 2009:** Wyant hires a lawyer.

**MAY 5, 2009:** Wyant's independent study course meets. Student, student's mother and Templeton attend along with the two other enrolled students. Student and student's mother look at the other students' work to determine whether student wants to finish course over summer.

# Grade scandal taints Marshall's integrity

## University violates Greenbook policy

BY STACI STANDIFORD  
THE PARTHENON

A Marshall University instructor changed a student's grades from incompletes to letter grades while another instructor was listed as the Instructor of Record, which is a violation of university policy.

The student, Emily Perdue, is the daughter of West Virginia State Treasurer John Perdue, as confirmed by a spokesman for the state treasurer's office. She received two incompletes in independent study courses in spring 2009 from professor Laura Wyant. The courses were then supervised by Rosalyn Templeton, dean of the College of Education and Human Services. Templeton changed the incompletes to letter grades while Wyant was still listed as the only Instructor of Record.

According to the Office of the Registrar, the incompletes were officially changed to letter grades Sept. 3.

In an e-mail from Provost Gayle Ormiston to Registrar Roberta Ferguson dated Sept. 29, Ormiston wrote, "I am requesting the addition of Dean Templeton as the primary instructor in the section file for these two sections."

According to instructor and enrollment data from the College of Education and Human Services, Templeton was added as an Instructor of Record the day Ormiston requested it.

Templeton would not comment on the matter and referred inquiries to Ormiston.

The Greenbook, Marshall's faculty handbook, states: "For any course primarily consisting of ... independent study ... the 'Instructor of Record' shall be the faculty member supervising the work the student does in the course."

When the classes began, Wyant was listed as the Instructor of Record for both Office Management and Developing Selling Curriculum independent study courses, according to the Office of the Registrar.

Ormiston declined to speak about the matter to The Parthenon but sat in on one of three interviews with Chief of Staff Bill Bissett, which occurred in Ormiston's office.

Although Bissett said it was a mutual decision between Wyant and Templeton that Templeton would instruct the student over the summer, Wyant disagreed.

Bissett did not reveal the student's name. Wyant said a meeting occurred May 1 with the student; her father; Templeton; Darlene Daneker, college of education associate dean for student services; Stan Maynard, college of education associate dean for academic programs; and herself.

Wyant did not identify the student as Emily Perdue or her father as John Perdue in her exclusive interview with The Parthenon.

During that meeting, Templeton, the student and the student's father went into Templeton's office and had a "submeeting," Wyant said. Only Templeton returned and said she would be supervising the student's work over the summer for the incompletes.

Wyant said the meeting was not a formality for incomplete grades. She did not object, but it was not mutually decided.

In June, Wyant and her secretary attempted to make a new section for the independent study courses and list Templeton as the Instructor of Record for the section and to have Perdue drop Wyant's sections and add Templeton's section.

When Wyant brought the paperwork to Templeton, she began signing the A and B forms but then decided she did not want to change instructors. She did not sign the add/drop forms, and the matter was dismissed, Wyant said.

University administrators are labeling this as "a simple clerical error."

According to the Office of the Registrar, Wyant was still the Instructor of Record when Templeton changed the grades.

"Because other students were in that course, it wouldn't have been historically accurate to go in and change because Templeton did not award the grades for the other students in the course," Ferguson said.

Bissett said Wyant and Templeton agreed late in the spring semester to be co-instructors.

"Co-instructor" is not an official term in the Office of the Registrar, Ferguson said. "We did add her name with

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**Laura Wyant**  
Professor in the College of Education and Human Resources

a percentage of responsibility that would indicate that she didn't award all the grades in the class."

Ferguson said Wyant's secretary informed the registrar June 11 that Templeton would be in charge of the resolution of the student's incompletes.

"As is clearly documented with a number of correspondences, Dr. Wyant turned the instruction for the resolution of the incomplete over to Dean Templeton," Ferguson said.

Ferguson said cases like these are not unusual. Frequently an instructor other than the Instructor of Record assigns a grade for an incomplete.

In the original grade change forms, Templeton did not fill out the section "reason for making grade change" when she sent them to the registrar, Bissett said.

"When it was sent to the registrar's office, and that was missing, that one element, based on what was on file, they sent it to Dr. Wyant," Bissett said. "Dr. Wyant received it. She then forwarded it back to the registrar saying, 'It was my understanding that we were co-instructors.'"

Ferguson said the grade change forms were sent to Wyant because she was listed as the Instructor of Record in the database.

"The grade change specialist was not aware that Dean Templeton was going to complete the instruction, so she followed procedure and returned them to the instructor for her verification," Ferguson said.

In reference to the grade being changed before the Instructor of Record was changed, Bissett said, logically, it could not have worked that way.

"Based on protocol, there'd be no way it could go in any other order cause you would have to have that form completed to go from incomplete to a grade," Bissett said. "So once that form missteps, the instructors would have to be corrected and then the grade assigned."

According to the registrar, the incompletes were changed to grades Sept. 3.

According to instructor and enrollment data, Templeton was added as an Instructor of Record on Sept. 29 after Ormiston requested it.

According to the registrar, the Instructor of Record was never changed and Templeton completed a new grade change form instead of filling out the rest of the original.

Ferguson said Wyant sent the original grade change forms back to her office with the memo that she had not seen the student's work and had not supervised her.

Wyant sent a letter to President Stephen J. Kopp on Sept. 18 to inform him of the situation. She sent an e-mail to Camilla Brammer, Faculty Senate chairwoman on Sept. 24.

Brammer would not comment on the situation and referred inquiries to Ormiston.

"I am not saying that this young lady did not do the work, and I am not saying that she did not earn the grade. I never said that, and I am not saying that," Wyant said. "I am saying that I cannot record a grade, no one can, for a student that they do not work with. Or they shouldn't be doing it if they are."

Staci Standiford can be contacted at standiford1@marshall.edu.

## FBI questions motive behind grade changes

BY STACI STANDIFORD  
THE PARTHENON

The FBI has contacted a Marshall University professor and expressed concern that she was asked to falsify grades for the daughter of an elected state official.

The FBI called and asked for a meeting with professor Laura Wyant, the Instructor of Record for the courses in question, Wyant told The Parthenon in an exclusive interview.

Wyant did not reveal the name of the student.

The prominent student has been identified by a spokesman for the state treasurer's office as Emily Perdue, daughter of West Virginia State Treasurer John Perdue.

In an e-mail dated May 5, Rosalyn Templeton, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, told Wyant to "give (the student) an 'I' for both courses, and I will do grade changes after she has earned them."

Templeton declined to speak to The Parthenon and referred all inquiries to Provost Gayle Ormiston.

In August, Wyant received two grade change forms asking for her signature to change the incompletes to grades. This is confirmed by Marshall Registrar Roberta Ferguson, Chief of Staff Bill Bissett and Wyant.

"I had been advised by my lawyer that if I signed those grade change forms, having not been the professor that worked with that student, then that would be falsifying records, and that's a felony," Wyant said.

When asked if that would be falsifying records, Bissett said, "That's not what happened."

After consulting her lawyer, Wyant met with two FBI agents for three hours, she said.

A spokesman for the FBI said he could neither confirm nor deny that they are working on an investigation.

Wyant said she hired a lawyer in May when Templeton decided she would be the student's instructor.

The second part of the FBI's investigation is whether John Perdue violated the state ethics law, Wyant said.

The West Virginia Ethics Act states, "Those in public service should use their positions for the public benefit and not for their own private gain or the private gain of another."

Wyant said a meeting occurred May 1 with the student; her father; Templeton; Darlene Daneker, college of education associate dean for student services; Stan Maynard, college of education associate dean for academic programs; and herself.

During that meeting, the student

asked whether she could discuss the matter privately with her father and Templeton. The three went into Templeton's office and had a "submeeting," Wyant said. Only Templeton returned and said she would be supervising the student's work over the summer for the incompletes.

Wyant said the meeting was not a formality for incomplete grades. She did not object, but it was not mutually decided.

Since her meeting with the FBI agents, they have called numerous times for more information, Wyant said.

"I am not under investigation, nor is anything that I have done under investigation," Wyant said.

Templeton became dean of the College of Education and Human Services on July 1, 2005. Since that time, 47 grievances have been filed against her by 18 of the college's faculty members, only one of which was Wyant, according to records provided by Ormiston.

Wyant said she has been at the university since 1974, and Bissett confirmed that she has never had a grievance filed against her.

Staci Standiford can be contacted at standiford1@marshall.edu.

## Parties involved



Roberta Ferguson  
Registrar



Bill Bissett  
Chief of Staff



Rosalyn Templeton  
Dean of college of education



John Perdue  
West Virginia State Treasurer



Gayle Ormiston  
Provost



Laura Wyant  
Professor in college of education

## Timeline by Staci Standiford

**SEPT. 29, 2009:** Instructor of Record changed to include Templeton.

**SEPT. 28, 2009:** Ormiston e-mails Ferguson asking that Templeton become an Instructor of Record.

**SEPT. 24, 2009:** Wyant e-mails Camilla Brammer, Faculty Senate chairwoman, asking for an investigation.

**SEPT. 23, 2009:** Ormiston's findings are released verbally to Kopp, Wyant and Templeton. No written findings released.

**SEPT. 23, 2009:** Ferguson returns to work.

**SEPT. 18, 2009:** Ferguson retrieves Wyant's letter from mailbox. Before she can respond, she is called away for a family emergency.

**SEPT. 16, 2009:** Wyant checks college records; incomplete is changed to a letter grade.

**SEPT. 14, 2009:** Wyant hand-delivers letter with same content as e-mail to registrar. Wyant checks the college of education records and the grade is still an "I."

**SEPT. 11, 2009:** Wyant e-mails Ferguson, attaching the original grade change forms, writing that she cannot change the grade because she did not see the work or supervise the student. Registrar confirms.

**SEPT. 3, 2009:** Incompletes are officially changed to letter grades.

**SOMETIME BETWEEN THESE TWO DATES:** Templeton fills out new grade change forms.

**AROUND AUG. 29, 2009:** Wyant receives grade change forms. Wyant, Bissett and Ferguson confirm.

**AUG. 24, 2009:** Templeton signs grade change forms as professor and chairwoman; dean signature is illegible.

**AROUND JULY 24:** Ormiston appoints Templeton as interim chairwoman of the division.

**JUNE 29, 2009:** Templeton accepts Wyant's resignation.

**JUNE 18, 2009:** Wyant e-mails administration that she will resign as chairwoman of the division.

**JUNE 17, 2009:** Wyant and her secretary fill out paperwork to make a new section of courses for student and make Templeton the Instructor of Record. Templeton starts to sign A and B forms but decides not to sign add/drop forms.

**MAY 5, 2009:** Templeton e-mails Wyant telling her to "give (the student) a 'I' in both courses, and I will do the grade changes after she has earned them."

**MAY 13, 2009:** President Stephen J. Kopp signs new policy for incomplete grades, effective fall 2009 semester.

**JUNE 11, 2009:** Registrar is informed that Templeton will be in charge of the resolution of the student's incompletes. Wyant is still the Instructor of Record.