Senate Update

Bermuda Institute of Oceans Sciences
For the Faculty

Strengths

Accomplished, highly productive, currently well funded

Instant critical mass in Oceans Sciences (an area of interest in EES strategic plan)

Offer new perspectives—drive new areas of research/collaborations

Ability to offer new/expanded range of courses

Weaknesses

6 - 7 BIOS expected to join EES / Biology departments

- Would be housed here but research would be in Bermuda

Incorporating existing BIOS faculty circumvents autonomy and self-determination of EES and Biology

Some instructional/POP at BIOS would remain in Bermuda—strain departmental resources without direct benefit
BIOS Facility

**Strengths**

- Prestigious
- Scholarly Excellence
- Offers potential for new course offerings/designs
- New/strengthen research opportunities for students/faculty

Oceans/Robotics

- Climate/Education/Finance

**Weaknesses**

- Labs need renovations/equipment updates
- On-site residences for faculty/staff/students need of update
- Cost of maintaining facilities/ship currently met with soft money but would remain ongoing liability
- Sustainability: Currently relies on soft money to run operations
Opportunities

Strengthen BIOS ability to attract and retain talent

Other departments/colleges (Rossin, CAS, COH) may be able to attract new researchers

Rossin sees strategic alignment with BIOS (robotics/CS)

Lehigh- attract new group of students

Threats

Threat to existing departmental identity (EES / BIOS)

Long term risk of financial liability not communicated to faculty / Deans

- Current environment of budget reductions
- Uncertain future of government funding

Clear plan for integration not communicated

Shifting rationales for acquisition (climate institutee/Ocean Sciences/Robotics/Grant Stream)
Unanswered Questions

Home for BIOS (CAS / Provost)

Financial Impact

Divert funds from other Lehigh Initiatives

Faculty integration (existing BIOS with existing departments)

Can benefits be realized without acquiring BIOS?
Next Steps

- Waiting on BIOS *Pro forma*
- Make summaries/reports available to all Senators
- Take a ”Sense of the Senate” resolution
- Communicate to the broader faculty Senate position on BIOS