



September 26, 2025

TO: Lehigh Faculty Senate  
FROM: Brett Ludwig, Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs  
RE: Preamble to Adopt the Chicago Principles

Dear Senators,

The Preamble draft team (Dr. Vassie Ware, Dr. Kyle Brett, and me) offer an amended Preamble to adopt the Chicago Principles for evaluation and consideration by the Faculty Senate. It is our hope that upon further discussion during the October 3 Senate meeting, your governing body will consider moving forward with a vote to endorse this Preamble to formally adopt the Chicago Principles at Lehigh University. Once Faculty Senate has voted to endorse, we have preliminarily added this topic to the Executive Session of the October Lehigh Board of Trustees agenda to request a formal vote of endorsement from the Board.

Since our last discussion on September 5, the draft team has been active in gathering feedback across the university. We have engaged in the following discussions:

- Lehigh Cabinet: August 25; September 15
- Lehigh Graduate Senate: September 10
- Lehigh Undergraduate Senate: September 16
- Lehigh Employee Relations Advisory Committee (ERAC): September 17

As a result of these productive and insightful discussions, we have addressed the following themes in the updated Preamble:

- Consideration of the language used to describe limitations to free expression on campus
- Consideration of the overt definition of our campus community for this purpose
- Discussion on the appropriate source document for the Chicago Principles
- Inclusion of language symbolizing the Chicago Statement as a set of guiding principles
- Consideration of the hierarchy question

Thank you in advance – we look forward to our time together on October 3.

Sincerely,

Brett Ludwig (on behalf of the Preamble draft team)