



NEWS & NOTES

February 4, 2022

This newsletter contains a brief summary of the proceedings of the Faculty Senate Meeting held on **February 4, 2022**. As a reminder, faculty can view the full details of Senate meetings by reviewing the minutes found on the Faculty Senate Website. faculty senate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes

Updates and campus information - Kathy

- Upcoming Faculty Meeting with Provost Urban on Budget on March 25 at 2pm
- Faculty Forum on Controversial Topics (First topic: Academic Freedom) will take place on Wednesday, February 16 from 7:00 – 8:30pm
- Call to consider standardization of course buyouts for service positions (e.g., Chair, Associate Dean, Executive Committee of Senate) across departments/Colleges

Senate Subcommittee reports were given, see the full minutes for details.

Open discussion - issues Faculty Senate should address this semester

- Request to reevaluate barriers for dual degrees, minors, and similar programs.
- Continued concern about faculty wages not increasing with inflation. Merit raises which do not keep up with inflation are misnamed.
- Concerns about increased faculty workload, including service and teaching demands that resemble overloads but are not compensated as such.
- Issues of decreased student morale. Lack of dining options and activities/opportunities on campus as contributing factors.
- Need to follow up on conversation with Greek Life as connected to DEI initiatives.
- Issues with Lyterati and consistency of faculty reporting and reviews in the system. Process does not feel like it has much value, particularly in the context of concerns about merit increases.
- Concerns about additional requirements sent by CDY for background checks, including requirements for access to social media accounts, which could be summarized and released to the provost office.
- Concerns about safety and police being collapsed into one program, with the Lehigh Police Chief in charge.

President Helble Comments and Q&A

- President Helble discussed the upcoming strategic planning process, as well as other priorities.
- Senate reiterated the importance of addressing inflation and faculty compensation.
- Senate asked President Helble to comment on the low morale of the students on campus. Faculty reiterated concerns about student dining options.
- Senate requested an update on the Go Campaign and its impact on financial aid.
- Senate asked how we could address barriers to dual degrees, minors, intercollegiate programs, etc.

All supporting documents to the topics mentioned above can be found on the Faculty senate website: faculty senate.lehigh.edu/meeting-documents

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Friday, March 4, 2022