

SENATE MOTION:**Formal engagement of Faculty Senate in planning of major University initiatives or programs**

To move major new University initiatives forward, it is essential that such initiatives receive meaningful faculty review and endorsement so that these programs can be successful through broad campus support and engagement.

The proposed Lehigh acquisition of the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences (BIOS) represents a type example of such an initiative, but to date, thorough consultation with the faculty, presentation of a considered rationale for the acquisition, quantitative estimates of its costs, and assessment of its impacts on many academic programs have all been lacking.

For all major University initiatives, before any decisions are made by either senior leadership or the Board of Trustees, a special faculty committee appointed by the Faculty Senate should evaluate a detailed proposal for the initiative and make a recommendation to the senior leadership, endorsed by the Senate, on if and how to proceed. The committee should consult broadly with the Lehigh Faculty and with Senate and University standing committees concerned with relevant areas, including but not necessarily limited to, FFPOC, Grad and Research Committee, Personnel Committee, Senate Research Committee, and Educational Policy. This special committee should act in a timely fashion to issue a report and prepare a recommendation for Senate approval, once a sufficiently detailed and a comprehensive proposal is presented to them by senior leadership.