

SENATE MOTION

Formal engagement of Faculty Senate in planning of major University initiatives or programs: Major Initiatives Standing Committee

RATIONALE

To move major new University initiatives forward, it is essential that such initiatives receive meaningful and transparent faculty review. When such review ends in Senate endorsement, it will greatly help these programs be successful through broad campus support and engagement.

Having a Senate standing committee ready to address initiatives will help establish a sense of faculty-administration cooperation in moving the University forward. Ideally existence of such a committee would lead to fewer ad-hoc advisory committees that tend to obfuscate the development of new proposals, and would provide both administration and faculty a clear way to move new ideas forward.

Ideally (along with the other main Senate committees?) such a major-initiatives committee should receive R&P status in order to underscore its formal role in University governance.

DRAFT OF MOTION (version 3)

For all new major University initiatives, before approvals are made by either senior leadership or the Board of Trustees, these initiatives will be reviewed by the Major Initiatives Standing Committee (MISC), a Senate committee. When the Senate Executive Committee learns of major initiatives, they will charge MISC to conduct a study of a comprehensive prospectus and plan to be provided by senior leadership or those planning the initiative.

MISC will consult broadly with the Lehigh faculty at large as well as those Senate and University committees concerned with areas relevant to the proposal (e.g., Graduate and Research Committee, Personnel Committee, Senate Research Committee, and Educational Policy). MISC should act in a timely fashion to issue a report and prepare a recommendation. The Executive Committee will make this report available for general faculty comment, bring the recommendation to the Senate for a vote, and finally forward to senior leadership the report and Senate vote on the recommendation.

Membership of MISC will comprise three members of the Faculty Senate. For any particular initiative, MISC can choose to expand its membership to include informed members of the faculty at large, including faculty who are advocates of initiatives as well as those who are impacted or express serious concerns.