

**COMBINED MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE AND UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY**

Minutes of the Meeting held on **May 3, 2024, at 1:10 pm**

Maginnes 102 and Via Zoom

**Do the Minutes include R&P Changes? Yes/No**  
**Do they require a vote of the entire Lehigh Faculty? Yes/No**  
**Do they require Board of Trustees approval? – Yes/No**

The roster of senators present for the meeting appears in Appendix 1.

[Appendix 1 available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>]

**1. Minutes of the Prior Faculty Senate Meeting**

Professor Frank Gunter called for any corrections to the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on **04/05/2024**. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made and seconded. The Senate unanimously approved the minutes.

The approved minutes are available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>.

**2. Academic Freedom/Free Expression**

Background Information (Provided by Professor Frank Gunter)

In September 2022, President Helble addressed the Senate concerning Academic Freedom and Free Expression. Since then, he appointed a committee to make one of three choices relating to Lehigh’s statement of academic freedom: (1) Keep our current strong but unique Policy on Academic Freedom (R&P 2.1.1); (2) Adopt the University of Chicago Statement of Free Inquiry which is perceived to be the gold standard – adopted by over 80 schools. (3) Write a new Lehigh academic freedom statement.

On behalf of the committee, Professor Ziad Munson initiated a discussion. He noted the following: (1) R&P applies only to faculty; the Chicago Statement applies to the entire institution, including students, faculty, and staff; (2) The Chicago Statement can function as a single stand-alone policy to support other documents such as the Principles of our Equitable

Community, ERAC Guidelines for Staff and Managers, Faculty Code of Ethics, etc. (3) It is useful to have a widely accepted and broader statement because higher education is under attack. The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

(Faculty Secretary's Note: Given the exploratory nature of the discussion to help the committee collect feedback and ensure a frank discussion, individual faculty members are not identified here. Only responses by Professor Ziad Munson are identified specifically.)

- Although the Free Expression committee did not talk to alums, alumni concerns were discussed. [Professor Ziad Munson]
- Any adopted statement will apply to the entire Lehigh community, including contract employees. [Professor Ziad Munson]
- No policy can provide guaranteed protection of free expression; Widely adopted statements at the university level can set norms and develop a culture of dialog. [Professor Ziad Munson in response to a question about any research on the effectiveness of free expression statements]
- We should be concerned about how the policy is implemented.
- The recommendation will go to Lehigh's Board of Trustees (BOT) after voting by the Faculty Senate and Entire University Faculty. To avoid any conflict of interest, if the decision is to create a separate statement instead of adopting the Chicago Statement, a separate committee will be formed to undertake the task. [Professor Ziad Munson in response to questions about the procedure for adoption]
- Some students and colleagues are concerned about the implementation of any adopted statement due to the inherent power differences on campus.
- Effective implementation of free expression cannot occur if individuals can decide without guiding principles; the Chicago Statement provides a set of reasonable standards to rely upon when individuals and administrators make decisions. [Professor Ziad Munson]
- Sometimes, these statements will become ideological statements with no real teeth.
- Any policy is only as good as the administration's effort to implement it.
- The Chicago statement can provide a basis for developing formal policies and an institutional culture. [Professor Ziad Munson]

### 3. Use of Inclusion Statements in Hiring

Professor Grace Caskie made a presentation. The slides are available in Appendix 2.

[Appendix 2 available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>]

Small group discussions were held to obtain feedback from the senators. Additionally, links for providing online feedback were also made available.

### 4. Second/Final Readings

#### 1. R&P 1.3.2.1: Educational Policy Committee (Revision to Ed Pol Membership)

This item Does not require a vote of university faculty but must be submitted to BOT for final approval (R&P 1.2.6, para. 1)

#### 2. R&P 3.1.4.2: Undergraduate Leave of Absence

Section 3 changes do not require a vote by university faculty or BoT. (R&P 1.2.6, para. 4)

#### 3. R&P 3.14.5.1: Apprentice Teaching

#### 4. R&P 3.15.1: Summer Session

#### 5. R&P 3.15.2: Winter Intercession

These are available at  
<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/consent-calendar>

Professor Frank Gunter asked if anyone would like to pull any item from the consent calendar to discuss at the meeting.

“**R&P 3.14.5.1: Apprentice Teaching**” was discussed separately. All the others are deemed approved.

#### **R&P 3.14.5.1: Apprentice Teaching**

Senators continued to raise issues related to the language of the section. These concerns include: the change does not resolve the underlying issue [Professor Mike Spear], the need for broader consultation [Professor Nancy Carlisle], the need to clarify the difference between hired graders and Apprentice Teachers [Professor Peter Zeitler], clarity needed for why grading by students is not allowed since it is part of a student’s education [Professor Angela Hicks], student senators’ concern about students grading their peers [Professor Sibel Pamukcu], need

to resolve inconsistencies between course catalog and R&P and the meaning of course grading versus grading certain course elements [Professor Mike Spear], the need to accommodate undergraduate grading since a large number of undergraduate student are involved in grading [Vice Provost for Library and Technology Services Greg Reihman], and clarity needed on what exactly is being changed and the rationale for the same [Professor Jenna Lay].

An amendment to delete “or any portion of the course” from the last sentence of the first paragraph was proposed, seconded, and put to the vote. The amendment failed to pass.

Changes to **R&P 3.14.5.1: Apprentice Teaching** was put to the vote. The Senate rejected the changes (with 18 senators voting against the proposal and no votes recorded in favor).

The revised text for all approved changes is listed below.

### **1.3.2.1 Educational Policy Committee**

The committee on educational policy attends to such matters as are referred to it by the Faculty Senate, by college faculties, by faculty regulations, or by the president. The committee is responsible for the study of the university curriculum, long-range academic plans, and undergraduate academic rules and regulations. The committee will make appropriate recommendations to the president and the Faculty Senate.

As needed, the committee advises and assists with the Offices of International Affairs and Study Abroad by: 1) examining proposals, programs, courses, initiatives, and policies pertaining to Study Abroad; 2) developing and implementing quality criteria for Study Abroad programs; 3) ensuring alignment between university academic policies and study abroad policies and credit recognition; and 4) consulting with faculty in respective colleges on a core of acceptable and available programs that meet the curricular needs of each college. Where needed, the committee may consult with the Director of Study Abroad Programs, the Chair of the Modern Languages and Literature Department, or other relevant program leaders.

The committee consists of eleven tenured members of the teaching faculty, the provost, and the dean of each of the five colleges. If the dean of a college is not present, the associate dean of the respective college may vote in his/her absence. The eleven faculty members will serve three-year nonconcurrent terms. Three will be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences, three from the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science, two from the College of Business, two from the College of Health, and one from the College of Education. All faculty members may vote in the meetings, but none shall be permitted to vote in absentia or to send a voting delegate.

The Registrar or his/her delegate serves as a non-voting member of the Educational Policy Committee. One undergraduate student from each undergraduate college, including one student representing all intercollegiate programs, shall be non-voting

members. Two graduate students, one from the College of Education, shall be elected by the Graduate Student Council to be non-voting members. One of the elected faculty members shall chair the committee. At the final meeting of the spring term, the committee shall elect one of the faculty members as chair-elect for the coming year. Both the chair and the chair-elect take office on July 1. Meetings of the committee shall, upon request to the committee chair, be open to other individuals in the university community. Students, faculty, and administrators who attend under this provision shall be nonvoting listeners, although the chair is empowered to invite them to address the committee. The chair is also empowered to close certain meetings so that only voting members are present to transact committee business. The minutes of the committee are sent to the Provost's Office and posted on the Lehigh University Faculty Senate's website. The committee chairperson or another designated elected member of Ed Pol serves as an ex officio member in Senate Subcommittee on Academic and Student Affairs.

#### **3.1.4.2 Undergraduate Leave of Absence**

Each student is expected to complete the baccalaureate degree by attending Lehigh for four consecutive academic years. Requests for a leave of absence must be completed according to the procedures of the university. The leave of absence form must be signed by the student's adviser; associate dean of the college and the completed form must be submitted prior to the start of any subsequent enrollment at another college or university. Leaves can only be taken for a maximum of two continuous years, and count towards the overall maximum time to degree.

If unapproved leaves are taken, students are declared as non-returning and must contact Academic Life and Student Transitions to determine if a petition for readmission is needed. Courses taken at another college or university while on an unapproved leave will not be permitted to transfer toward a Lehigh University baccalaureate degree. Additional information may be found on the Dean of Students website and student handbook.

Current Lehigh University students are prohibited from concurrent enrollment at any other college or university without prior approval from the SOS Committee. Unapproved courses taken concurrently cannot be applied to a Lehigh degree. An exception is made for cross registration at another LVAIC institution.

Only a limited number of students may apply to programs like the American University Internship, and the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Shipboard Education. For procedures concerning application for these programs, students need to contact the Associate Dean of their college.

Students cannot assume that a leave will be granted to study at another college or university (this policy does not apply for study abroad through the auspices of Lehigh Abroad or LVAIC programs). Students may take courses at another institution during a summer term without requesting an academic leave of absence. Check with the Registrar's Office for limitations and processes for transfer course approval.

### **3.15.1 Summer Session**

Regularly matriculated undergraduates may attend summer session courses. Undergraduates from other institutions must apply for admission to Registration and Academic Services.

Students may take no more than a total of 16 credits per summer session, or 8 credits per summer term. Exceptions may be petitioned to the SOS committee.

#### Drop/add Period

First or Second Session:

A student may add any course up until the end of the 2nd day of the summer session. From the 2nd to the 4th day of the summer session, students wishing to add a course must follow the procedures for a late add. After the 4th day of the summer session, students must petition to add a course. A withdrawal from a course within the first 4 days of the summer session is not recorded on the student's record. Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the 4th day, but not after the 15th day of instruction, must follow the procedure for a late withdrawal. A student who officially withdraws from the university or a course between the 5th and 15th day of instruction receives a grade of W in the course(s) for which he or she is registered. A W may not be awarded after the 15th day of instruction.

Full Summer Session:

A student may add any course up until the end of the 1st week of the summer session. From the end of the 1st week to the end of the 2nd week, students wishing to add a course must follow procedures for a late addition. After the 2nd week of the summer session, students must petition to add a course. A withdrawal from a course within the first week of the summer session is not recorded on the student's record. Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the 1st week, but not after the 10th week of instruction, must follow the procedures for a late withdrawal. A student who officially withdraws from the university or a course between the 2nd and 10th week of instruction receives a grade of W in the course(s) for which he or she is registered. A W may not be awarded after the 10th week of instruction.

### **3.15.2 Winter Intersession**

Regularly matriculated undergraduates may attend winter intersession courses. Students may take no more than a total of 4 credits per winter intersession. Exceptions may be petitioned to the SOS committee.

A student may add any course up until the second day of the winter session. From the 3rd to the 4th day of the winter session, students wishing to add a course must follow the procedure for a late addition. After the 4th day of the winter session, students must petition to add a course. A withdrawal from a course within the first 2 days of the winter session is not recorded on the student's record. Students wishing to withdraw from a course after the 2nd day, but not after the 10th day of instruction, must follow the procedures set up for a late withdrawal. A student who officially withdraws from the university or a course between the 3rd and 10th day of instruction receives a grade of W in the course(s) for which he or she is registered. A W may not be awarded after the 10th day of instruction.

## **5. First/Initial Reading**

### **R&P 3.6. Provisional Courses**

This is available at  
<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/consent-calendar>

There was no request to discuss this item separately. The change will be approved after the second reading.

## **6. Senate Chairperson's Remarks**

Professor Frank Gunter encouraged faculty members to attend the undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies.

This was the last Faculty Senate meeting with Professor Frank Gunter as the Faculty Senate Chairperson. The senators expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siva". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a single horizontal line that extends slightly beyond the right side of the word.

K. Sivakumar ("Siva")  
Arthur Tauck Chair and Professor of Marketing  
**Secretary of the Faculty**