

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on February 2, 2024, at 1:10 pm

EWFM 520 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. Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Robert Barnes (Philosophy and Computer Science)

Professor Gordon C.F. Bearn presented a Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Robert Barnes. The Senators observed a moment of silence. They approved the motion to include the resolution in the meeting minutes. The memorial resolution is available in Appendix 2.

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

2. Minutes of the Prior Faculty Senate Meeting

Professor Frank Gunter called for any corrections to the minutes of the combined Faculty Senate and the Lehigh University Faculty meeting of 12/01/2023. 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>.

3. Senate Chairperson's Remarks

Professor Frank Gunter provided an update on the following items.

- a. Commencement – Faculty members are encouraged to attend; professional development accounts can be used for buying academic regalia.

- b. Revisions to R&P Section 1 will be sent to the Board of Trustees for approval at their February 2024 meeting.
- c. Revisions to R&P Section 2 will be considered in Spring 2024.
- d. Colleges are asked to nominate faculty candidates for the upcoming election to the faculty senate.
- e. Code of Ethics: Revisions to the code of ethics and the process for investigating violations are forthcoming.
- f. All the pending course and program changes in the CIM system have been approved.
- g. Response to UG Student Senate Remarks – Discussions are ongoing, but responses are not ready.

4. Committee on Free Expression

Professor Doug Mahony provided an update. The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

- The charge to the committee is to recommend whether we should adopt a statement on free expression and, if so, whether the “Chicago Statement” with suitable modifications or a new statement should be adopted. A different committee will address the development of the statement itself. The deadline for the current committee is by the end of the Spring 2024 semester. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professors Frank Gunter and Peter Zeitler]
- There was no specific problem that precipitated the formation of the committee. The committee proposes to conduct a survey to assess current problems and the various documents already existing at Lehigh. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Chad Kautzer]
- Making a recommendation regarding the adoption of the Kalven Report (universities not taking a position on external issues that do not affect academic matters) is not the charge of the current committee. Subsequent committees can take different viewpoints into account before making their recommendations. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Kevin Narizny]
- According to the Rules and Procedures of the Faculty (R&P), only full professors can speak on behalf of the university. This needs to be clarified. [Professor Frank Gunter]

5. Strategic Plan Initiative: “Invest in Strategic Interdisciplinary Research”

Vice Provost for Research Anand Jagota provided an update. The slides are available in Appendix 3.

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

The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

- There is a need to consider the costs and benefits of faculty time spent preparing the proposals that were not funded. [Professor Nancy Carlisle]
- All teams that submitted proposals indicated that they found the process beneficial to generate new ideas. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota]
- Proposals that are not funded will also be supported to develop the proposals further. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota in response to Professor K. Sivakumar's question about the status of the unfunded proposals]
- The idea is to provide sufficient time and resources for the funded proposals to be successful and evaluate them after a few years. For the rejected proposals, help will be given to develop the proposals further after consultation with the faculty members who submitted the original proposals; a new call for proposals will be issued, and both prior unfunded proposals and new proposals will be welcome. The exact timeline will be announced later. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota in response to Professors Chad Kautzer and Mike Spear]
- The main criterion was whether Lehigh could be a prominent player in the proposed domain in the coming few years. The funded proposal already demonstrated existing efforts and impact. The two proposals supported with planning grants to develop further are nascent ideas. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota]
- The criterion seems to be different from the ones communicated earlier. Many faculty assumed that preference would be given to new ideas that result in new collaborations. The change in the evaluation criterion is problematic, and a thoughtful explanation should be provided. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- The response to Professor Doug Mahony's comment would be given in writing. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota]
- The original idea of funding up to three proposals still stands. Two proposals are provided planning grants for further development. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota in response to Professor Lindsey Reuben]
- All the white papers submitted were shared with everyone who submitted proposals, although they were not available to the entire campus; because of this sharing, two teams merged to write a combined proposal. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota in response to Professor Will Lowry's comment about lack of transparency in the consideration of proposals]

- Cross-college research centers will involve faculty with joint appointments across colleges. While the process for revising R&P related to MOUs for joint appointments across colleges (currently, MOUs are not equipped to handle such cases) can be done relatively quickly, revising promotion and tenure guidelines for such appointments needs broader discussion. [Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs Larry Snyder]
- We should be thoughtful about these R&P changes [Professor Peter Zeitler] due to (1) the issues related to faculty splitting their research among departments and centers [Deputy Provost Larry Snyder], (2) R&P being focused on process rather than interdisciplinary research [Professor Frank Gunter and Deputy Provost Larry Snyder], (3) research centers not being academic centers. [Vice Provost Anand Jagota], (4) the need to address the stability of external funding for graduate students associated with research centers [Professors Angela Hicks and Mayuresh Kothare], and the usefulness of examining similar structures for graduate student involvement in research centers in the College of Education [Professor Kristi Morin].

6. New Business

Graduate Student Issues

- There are several issues related to the software used for graduate student admissions. [Professors Anders Knospe and Nancy Carlisle]
- The Senate Executive Committee will discuss these issues and will route the matters to the appropriate Senate subcommittees. [Professors Frank Guner and Peter Zeitler]

7. Changes to Section 3 of R&P

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, Professor Sibel Pamukcu introduced the proposed the following changes:

- i. R&P 3.1.4.2: Undergraduate Leave of Absence
- ii. R&P 3.7.3.2: Make-ups for Final Examinations
- iii. R&P 3.8.4: Drop/Add Period

The details are available at

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Regarding R&P 3.1.4.2., some concerns were expressed about the absence of faculty roles through SOS (Professors Frank Gunter and Angela Hicks). Professor Kelly Austin noted that the faculty role is implied but can be added explicitly if necessary. Any required changes will be made before the second reading. There was no discussion about the other two proposed changes.

Professor Sibel Pamukcu also noted that R&P 3.15.1 and 3.15.2 (which were deleted by Senate action in the past) must be reinstated with new language to limit the number of credits. These changes will be proposed in the future.

8. Senate Subcommittee Updates

- a. Budget and Finance (BF) (Professor Frank Gunter): The subcommittee has spent time understanding the process; participation will start in due course.
- b. Faculty Affairs (FA) (Professor Al Wurth): There is a sense that faculty members do not get timely information about policies; Professor Frank Gunter will work with Vice Provost Yenny Anderson regarding data comparing Lehigh salaries with other benchmark universities.
- c. Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) (Professor Lindsey Reuben): All course proposals have been cleared in the CIM system.
- d. Inclusive Community (IC) (Professor Grace Caskie): Work related to fraternities and sororities needs to start; discussions with offices about inclusive communities are ongoing; variations in faculty searches using DEI statements are being looked into.
- e. Subcommittee on University Issues and Initiatives (SCUII) (Professor Angela Hicks): A survey about faculty service will be conducted with the help of the Office of Institutional Research; discussion needs to start about how service is being evaluated (in response to Professor Peter Zeitler); a working group to study faculty workload equity has been formed (Deputy Provost Larry Taylor); if this task is temporary, the Senate Executive Committee should discuss the topic; if this is a permanent arrangement, then the entire Senate will be involved (Professor Frank Gunter).

Respectfully submitted by



K. Sivakumar ("Siva")
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Secretary of the Faculty