

If you have questions, please contact K. Sivakumar (kasg@lehigh.edu).

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on **February 7, 2025, at 1:10 pm**

UC 375 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

The 12/06/2024 meeting minutes were included in the consent calendar. The minutes were deemed approved since no request to discuss them separately was made.

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

2. Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Jon Innes (Economics)

Professor Chad Meyerhoefer presented a Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Jon Innes. 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>]

3. Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Edward Evenson (EES)

Professor Frank Pazzaglia presented a Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Edward Evenson. 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 3.

[Appendix 3 available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>]

4. Consent Calendar: Second Reading of R&P Changes 2.2.3.1-2.2.3.1.9

The changes are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/R%26P%20Changes%202.2.3.1-2.2.3.1.9%20for%20Consent%20Calendar.pdf>

No request was made to pull out any item for a separate discussion. The changes were deemed approved.

The revised wording is given in Appendix 4.

[Appendix 4 available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>]

5. Consent Calendar: First Reading of R&P Changes 2.2.6.7, 2.2.6.9, and 2.2.6.11

The changes are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/R%26P%20Changes%202.2.6.7%2C%202.2.6.9%2C%20and%202.2.6.11%20for%20Consent%20Calendar.pdf>

No request was made to pull out any item for a separate discussion. The changes will come up for a second reading at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

5. Exploratory First Semester

Deputy Provost for Undergraduate Education Terry-Ann Jones provided an update. The details are available at

[https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Explore%20Lehigh%20Proposal%20\(RFC%20from%20Terry-Ann%20Jones\).pdf](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Explore%20Lehigh%20Proposal%20(RFC%20from%20Terry-Ann%20Jones).pdf)

A summary is available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Summary%20of%20Explor%20Lehigh%20Proposal.pdf>

The following were the salient points made during the follow-up discussion.

- Grading metrics of current courses will be followed for all students; no change is contemplated. [Deputy Provost Terry-Ann Jones in response to Professor Frank Gunter]
- All deans support the students selecting/switching colleges after the first year. [Deputy Provost Terry-Ann Jones in response to Professor Jenna Lay]
- An assessment of the program will be made during the spring semester of the second year. [Deputy Provost Terry-Ann Jones in response to Professor Will Lowry]
- The implementation will need coordination among colleges since some students may have to take a heavier load to keep their college options open. Some majors may not be available in practice for these students [Professor Mike Spear]
- The students will be provided high-touch advising to help them navigate through their academic paths and personal situations to ensure that the student's overall time to graduation does not increase. [Deputy Provost Terry-Ann Jones in response to Professors Angela Hicks, Haiyan Jia, Anders Knospe, and Mike Spear]

Professor Jenna Lay proposed a motion "to approve a pilot program for Fall 25, for a duration of 3 years, with reports back to senate at EOY 25-26 and EOY 26-27, followed by full CIM approval process (including college policy committees) if data suggests that the program is effective in supporting student exploration and retention in Fall 27." The motion was seconded. The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

Professor Anders Knospe proposed an amendment to postpone the discussion to the next Faculty Senate meeting in March 2025. The motion was seconded. It was supported by Professors Jeremy Littau (because CAS Policy Committee was not consulted), Chengshan Xiao, and Angela Hicks) but was opposed by Professors Mike Spear (because we already have all the information we need, and any delay will make implementation next year impossible), Frank Gunter, and Peter Zeitler. The amendment was put to a vote. The amendment failed.

The discussion on the main motion continued. Deputy Provost Terry-Ann Jones agreed to seek input from faculty (in response to Professor Ethan Van Norman).

The motion was put to a vote and approved.

5. First Reading: Senate Bylaws

Professor Peter Zeitler provided an overview. The details are available at

[https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/FS%20BYLAWS%20\(1\).pdf](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/FS%20BYLAWS%20(1).pdf)

During the follow-up discussion, Professors Eugene Han, Mike Spear, and Chengshan Xiao discussed the question of secret voting on Faculty Senate motions. Parliamentarian Doug Mahony and Professor Jenna Lay noted that the Senate can close a meeting and vote on sensitive issues. They added that the relevant Robert's Rules of Order would be followed.

6. Recent Executive Orders from Washington, Impacts, and Lehigh Response

Provost Nathan Urban provided an update. The following were the salient points made. Unless otherwise noted, the points were made by Provost Nathan Urban.

- A university-level committee meets every week (if necessary, more frequently) to prepare for and respond to developments.
- Communications are taking place with other University Presidents, Provosts, and members of Congress.
- 20% of Lehigh's 77M federal grants and contracts are potentially at risk. Lehigh is being careful not to unknowingly incur costs inconsistent with executive orders and other communications from government agencies.
- Lehigh must mobilize resources to address immediate and critical needs (cases in which interruption will cause great harm or inconvenience). We should be cautious in spending money on non-critical items in the future.
- Regarding promotion and tenure cases, the Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs is working on generalizing the COVID Impact Statement to consider the impact of external events on a colleague's progress toward tenure.
- We must better explain to outsiders (the public, government, and lawmakers) how our work helps advance society's well-being.
- Lehigh is not currently engaged in any lawsuits related to Federal funding issues.
- We should understand and plan for uncertainty and be prudent in our expenditures.
- We are not stopping ongoing searches. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professor Haiyan Jia]

- There are productivity loss concerns due to employees worrying about their family members affected by recent government orders. [Director of ADVANCE Marci Levine]
- Lehigh University must be careful in what we communicate in publicly released statements, and it is best to limit discussions and communications to be within Lehigh. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professor Angela Hicks]
- Disproportionately affected faculty should be represented in the University committee that is working on responses to the recent federal actions. [Professor Suzanne Edwards]

Respectfully submitted by

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Secretary of the Faculty