

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on April 4, 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. May 2025 and August 2025 Graduation Motions (Consent Calendar)

Since no request was made to discuss the items separately, they are deemed approved. They are given in Appendix 2.

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

2. First Reading: R&P 3.2.2.1 Cross-Listed Courses (Consent Calendar)

The proposal is available at

[https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/DRAFT%203.2.2.1%20Cross-listed%20Courses%20\(for%20consent%20calendar\).pdf](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/DRAFT%203.2.2.1%20Cross-listed%20Courses%20(for%20consent%20calendar).pdf)

Professor Frank Gunter noted that the changes involve correcting the language related to course changes with the establishment of the Faculty Senate.

3. First Reading: R&P 3.x.x Undergraduate Catalog Policy (Consent Calendar)

The proposal is available at

[https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/DRAFT%20New%20Catalog%20Policy%20Proposal%20\(for%20consent%20calendar\)_0.pdf](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/DRAFT%20New%20Catalog%20Policy%20Proposal%20(for%20consent%20calendar)_0.pdf)

Since the Educational Policy Committee initiated this change, this proposal only deals with the undergraduate program. The parallel change for graduate programs will be taken up later. [Professors Fathima Wakeel and Jenna Lay and Deputy Registrar Linda Bell in response to Professor Angela Hicks]

4. Second Reading: R&P 1.3.3.3, 1.3.5.1 Disciplinary Appeals Committee

The proposal was moved and seconded.

An amendment to add “*No member of the committee may serve on an appeals panel for a case they previously heard on a hearing panel*” was moved, seconded, and approved.

An amendment to add “2 elected faculty members from each college” instead of “2 faculty members from each college” was moved, seconded, and approved.

The proposal with the two amendments was approved and put to a vote.

The approved wording is given below.

1.3.5.1 University Student Conduct Committee

The University Student Conduct Committee shall be composed of 2 elected faculty members from each college and 4 elected from the faculty at large. The committee shall also have 10-15 undergraduate students (chosen by the Dean of Students Office in consultation with the current student members of the University Student Conduct Committee and the faculty chairperson of the University Student Conduct Committee), and 3-5 graduate students (chosen by the Dean of Students Office in consultation with the Graduate Student Senate and the faculty chairperson of the University Student Conduct Committee), and 10-12 administrators appointed by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs from the Student Affairs professional staff). This committee will be trained on all aspects of the University’s Student Conduct Process and members will serve on hearing panels and appeals committee panels. No member of the committee may serve on an appeals panel for a case they previously heard on a hearing panel.

5. Lehigh Pass Mobile Credentials

Vice President for Finance and Administration Chris Cook provided an update. The slides are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Transact%20Comms%20Plan%20Slides.pdf>

The salient points made during the follow-up discussion are given below.

- Specifying the phone system requirements for the software to work is important. [Professor Mike Spear]
- One person should have only one access mechanism to avoid duplicate uses. [Vice President Chris Cook in response to Professor Haiyan Jia]
- Procedures for handling emergencies such as lost phones will be incorporated. [Vice President Chris Cook in response to Chengshan Xiao]
- Compared to the current situation, no new data on student movement is being collected. [Vice President Chris Cook in response to Professor Frank Gunter about student privacy about their movements]
- Efforts will be made to collect feedback and plan a smooth rollout. [Vice President Chris Cook in response to Professor Al Wurth]

6. Discussion with President Joe Helble about Issues Related to the Evolving Federal Landscape

President Joe Helble provided an update. The following were the salient points made. Unless otherwise noted, the points were made by President Joe Helble.

- There are many areas in which Lehigh is doing well: research funding, recognition as an R1 university, external recognition for Lehigh faculty members, second largest student applicant pool from all 50 states and 139 countries, increasing ratio of Pell Grant eligible students, and our high retention rate.
- A working group is meeting regularly to monitor federal executive orders.
- Lehigh's discussions with our representatives in the Senate and the House are substantive, and they are receptive to hearing our perspectives.
- We assess that Lehigh's current grants will not be affected, but the future is uncertain, and it is best to prepare for adjustments.
- It is unclear how the federal government's actions will affect other universities beyond the current ones already in the news.

- Academic freedom is essential for Lehigh. That is why, after much careful thought, the decision was made not to rescind the recent invitation to a controversial speaker. However, the format was changed so students could learn from different perspectives. As a university, we have to collectively address issues related to academic freedom.
- There is no current plan to raise the income limit for the “Lehigh Commitment” program. This program applies to new students as well as continuing students. [in response to Professor Frank Gunter]
- Short-term financial shortfalls can be managed, but addressing the long-term shortage of federal funding is not feasible with our current financial plans. Some significant adjustments will be needed. Other universities have instituted hiring freezes and lower graduate student intakes. [in response to Professor Kristi Morin]
- Lehigh is in constant communication with other universities and university organizations.
- There are no changes made in our admission policies, but we can expect a lower yield from international applicants. While the situation with Columbia University is concerning, we do not currently want to discuss hypothetical situations. [in response to Professor Aladdin Yaqub’s comment related to the federal government targeting international students, and how Lehigh is going to address if restrictions are placed on academic freedom]
- Lehigh will not engage in racial profiling. We will follow our internal processes. When international students are involved, we are expected to follow specific procedures. We must protect the integrity of our admissions process. It is challenging to strike the right balance. Lehigh is constantly evaluating the evolving situation. [in response to Professor Seth Moglen’s concerns about academic freedom and increased police presence in events]
- Lehigh will work with other universities if we face situations currently faced by universities such as Columbia and Brown. We are not facing the problem now. [in response to Professor Anders Knospe]
- We must go beyond just providing information and offering support, including legal assistance to our international students. [Professor Haiyan Jia]
- Admission irregularities by domestic students are handled differently than by international students (due to implications for visa eligibility). Regarding events/speakers planned on campus, proper planning will help us to address any unforeseen issues. [in response to Professor Jenna Lay, who echoed the concerns from Professor Seth Moglen about police presence on campus and how the international students from Ghana were treated when the admissions issues arose]

- Future senate meetings will discuss the issues mentioned by President Joe Helble.
[Professor Peter Zeitler in response to Professor Frank Gunter]

7. Service Load and Equity Working Group

Professor Angela Hicks provided an update. The slides are available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Faculty%20Service%20Survey.pptx.pdf>

During the follow-up discussion, the following points were raised: relational service not being recognized [Professor Angela Hicks], the need to consider that many faculty work more than 40 hours per week [Professor Peter Zeitler], considering the data entry burden to track service allocation and quality of work effectively [Deputy Provost Larry Snyder], alternative path to promotion to Professor, and finding ways of rewarding leadership in internal service [Professor Peter Zeitler]

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Siva", written over a horizontal line.

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