

If you have questions, please contact K. Sivakumar (“Siva”) ([kasg@lehigh.edu](mailto:kasg@lehigh.edu)).

**MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on May 1, 2026, at 1:10 pm

UC 375 and Via Zoom

**Do the Minutes include approved R&P Changes? ~~Yes~~/No**  
**Do the Minutes include items ready for a vote of the entire Lehigh Faculty? ~~Yes~~/No**  
**Are there items requiring Board of Trustees approval? – ~~Yes~~/No**

The roster of senators present at the meeting is listed in Appendix 1.

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

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

The minutes of the 03/27/2026 Senate Meeting were included in the consent calendar. The minutes were deemed approved since no request was made to discuss them separately.

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

**2. Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Murray Itzkowitz**

Professor Kathy Iovine presented a Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Murray Itzkowitz. 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 George Shortess**

Professor Kate Arrington presented a Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus George Shortess. 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. Discussion on Lehigh Budget**

Provost Nathan Urban made a presentation. The slides are available at the Faculty Senate Course Site. The following were the salient points discussed.

- In its first year, the cost of the Lehigh Commitment program (guaranteeing free tuition for families with less than \$75,000 in annual income) was \$700,000. The favorable signal is an important factor we should consider. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professors Nandu Nayar and K. Sivakumar]
- Lehigh has made a conscious choice to attract Pell-eligible students, resulting in a higher financial aid budget. This can be offset by students from high-income families attending Lehigh without financial aid. Ultimately, admission is driven by reputation. [Provost Nathan Urban]
- Long-term revenue-generation ideas from land owned by Lehigh are being considered. These include the sale of some land and the construction of apartments on some. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professor Jenna Lay]

#### **5. Remarks by Faculty Senate Vice Chair Jenna Lay**

Professor Jenna Lay noted that the election of the Senate Vice Chair for next year (when she will become the Chair) will be conducted after the election of senators in all colleges is completed.

Professor Jenna Lay thanked Professor Peter Zeitler for his dedicated service as the Faculty Senate Chair for the last two years. He will be recognized at the Lehigh Faculty Dinner on 11/12/2026. The senators expressed their appreciation by their applause to recognize Professor Peter Zeitler's contributions.

#### **6. Defining and Modifying Academic Units**

Professor Anders Knospe made a presentation. The slides are available in Appendix 4.

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

During the follow-up discussion, the senators suggested several points for potential inclusion. These include the process of creating certificates under majors and minors [Professor Mike Spear], the implication of endowments for departments [Professor Nandu Nayar], the difference between program and department [Professor Jenna Lay], the CIM approval process [Subhrajit Bhattacharya], clarifying the number of departments or programs that Lehigh can have [Professor Peter Zeitler], and the procedure for dealing with personnel when a department or program is closed [Professors Angela Hicks, Anders Knospe, Jenna Lay].

### **7. Campus climate discussion about faculty roles (4/24 email from The Anti-Discrimination Working Group was the basis for discussion)**

During the discussion, the following points were made: The need for clarity as to when the Chicago principles will or will not apply [Peter Zeitler], the need to clarify how faculty can deal with situations when they arise [Professor Fillippo Casati], the need for being proactive rather than reactive [Professor Angela Hicks], the need for understanding climate issues from the perspective of students [Professor Haiyan Jia], and inviting students to attend the Faculty Senate meeting or have a joint meeting with the Student Senate [Professor Cathy Iovine].

### **8. Working-group report: Assessing faculty teaching**

Professor Haiyan Jia made a presentation. The slides are available in Appendix 5.

[Appendix 5 available at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>]

The following points were made during the follow-up discussion: we are giving too much weight to research [Professor Mike Spear], we already know who teaches well without any detailed documentation [Professor Mike Spear], we need to assess learning [Professor Jenna Lay], peer observation can be biased unless structures are established for observations being conducted by faculty outside the department [Professor Anne Meltzer], establishing procedures for online courses [Professor Ethan Van Norman], and peer observation and reporting of grade distribution were standard practice in the College of Business many years ago [Professor Nandu Nayar].

### **9. Year-end remarks by Professor Peter Zeitler**

Professor Peter Zeitler thanked the faculty senators for their engagement and noted that a year-end summary of the activities will be sent to all faculty members shortly.

Respectfully submitted by

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