

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

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on May 2nd, 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 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 03/07/2025 Senate Meeting, the 04/04/2025 Senate Meeting, and the 02/21/2025 University Faculty Meeting minutes 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. Discussion of New Business

Professor Frank Gunter drew attention to the note about teaching evaluations on the Senate website and requested that the senators review it for discussion later during the meeting.

3. Consent Calendar

R&P 3.1.2 Scheduling of Classes (1st reading; via Ed Pol)

R&P 3.10 Scholastic Probation (1st reading; via Ed Pol)

Details are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/consent-calendar>

Professor Angela Hicks requested that R&P 3.1.2 be taken off the consent calendar for separate discussion. Points were raised about the involvement of larger groups in consultation (Professor Angela Hicks), the goal of making things easier (CAS Associate Dean Professor Kelly Austin), the changes going too far driven by faculty convenience but inconveniencing student athletes and students participating in extra-curricular activities (Professor Frank Gunter), and the need to consider the issues faced by students in 4+1 programs (Professor Mike Spear). Professor Jenna Lay noted that suitable changes would be made before bringing this item back to the Senate for discussion.

Professor Frank Gunter requested that R&P 3.10 be taken off the consent calendar for separate discussion. He noted that the language is vague and that the proposed changes appeared to be too significant to be processed as a consent calendar item. Registrar Michael Dills-Allen noted that further consultation with Deputy Provost for Academic Affairs Terri-Ann Jones would be conducted to finalize the language before bringing this item back to the Senate.

4. Second Reading of R&P 3.x Catalog Policy

The changes were moved and seconded. They are 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)

A revised proposal by deleting the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph was made, seconded, and put to a vote. The revision was approved.

However, after further discussion, a vote was taken to undo the deletion. This was approved.

The original motion was put to a vote and passed.

The approved text is given below.

3.X.X Undergraduate Catalog Policy

Undergraduate students are expected to complete the curriculum in the catalog in effect at the time they first become a student. Individual exceptions to those requirements can be made by the appropriate academic department and college by communicating them to the Registrar. Per 3.1.4.2, students are expected to maintain continuous attendance while pursuing their undergraduate degree, but may take an approved Leave of Absence for up to two continuous years. Students who return from an approved Leave of Absence maintain their catalog of entry. Students who leave for

more than two consecutive calendar years without an approved Leave of Absence or officially withdraw from the University must return under the current catalog requirements. Students who are allowed to return after being academically disqualified from attendance maintain their original catalog requirements, so long as it is within two consecutive calendar years.

Catalog year is applied at the degree level and applies to all curricula attached to that degree, such as majors, minors, and concentrations. Students may elect a later catalog under which to fulfill the degree requirements; they may not elect an earlier catalog, nor use a combination of requirements from different catalogs. Students adding an additional degree or certificate may follow a different catalog for the second program of study, but must fulfill all additional curriculum requirements outlined in the additional catalog. Students have the option to adopt more current catalog requirements for graduation, but cannot go backwards. Once a student selects a more current catalog, they are unable to return to their previous catalog requirements. Similarly, if a student requests to change to an academic program that is available in the more current catalog but is not available in their catalog, then the student must adopt all requirements outlined in the more current catalog. A subsequent change to a different major will not allow the student to return to their previous catalog.

In cases where the fulfillment of degree requirements is due to pending transfer credit or degree exceptions from the college or department, the Registrar will allow the student to retain their original catalog requirement to receive their degree, so long as it aligns with 3.20.1.

5. R&P 3.2.2.1 Cross-Listed Courses (second reading)

After a brief discussion, a motion to send the changes back to the Educational Policy Committee was made, seconded, and voted on. The Senate voted to support the motion.

6. Problems facing international students

Vice President and Vice Provost for International Affairs Cheryl Matherly and General Counsel Frank Roth provided an update. They were joined by Acting Director of the Office of International Students & Scholars Nichole Hunley and Assistant General Counsel Ian Oakley. Key points made during the update:

- The issues are unprecedented in their nature and scope, resulting in uncertainty and confusion.
- Changes in student visa status to SEVIS made by the government without notification have now been reversed.

- OIA has been in constant touch with international students and scholars; all affected Lehigh students are now back in status.
- Students and scholars were advised to be conservative about travel and avoid nonessential travel.
- Geopolitical trends are discouraging international students from applying to U.S. universities, but the U.S. remains a desirable destination for higher education. [Vice President / Vice Provost Cheryl Matherly, in response to Professor Frank Gunter, about the Chinese Government discouraging students from applying to U.S. universities]
- There is no systematic mechanism in place for covering student legal fees. Many attorneys charge minimal fees, and currently, the unexpected legal expenses are not high. Some assistance is already available for covering rent and food. [Vice President/ Vice Provost Cheryl Matherly in response to Professor Subhrajit Bhattacharya]
- Regarding the timing of student assistantship payments, Lehigh followed legally permissible methods since money can be paid only when students are in a legal status. [Acting Director Nichole Hunley, in response to Professor Angela Hicks; Vice President / Vice Provost Cheryl Matherly concurred by stating that Lehigh did not want to put the students at risk]
- The office of the General Counsel cannot provide student representation because Lehigh University is the client, and sometimes, student interests may not be consistent with university interests. Students are responsible for finding their own legal help. [General Counsel Frank Roth]
- Currently, there is no change in Lehigh's strategy for international admissions. [Vice President / Vice Provost Cheryl Matherly in response to Professor Hiayan Jia]
- It is helpful to contact OISS if students or scholars have any questions or require clarification. [Acting Director Nichole Hunley]

7. Lehigh's response to AACU statement and related matters

The Faculty Senate discussed Lehigh's response to the AACU statement. The details are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/aacu%20senate%20resolution.pdf>

Professor Frank Gunter proposed his own resolution, and Professor Peter Zeitler offered the alternative resolution from the Faculty Senate (see the link provided above). After a brief discussion, Professor Frank Gunter withdrew his resolution, and discussion continued about the Senate resolution.

The following points were made during the ensuing discussion: the need to address the larger Lehigh community beyond the faculty (Professor Angela Hicks), Lehigh's absence from the list of signatories to the AACU statement is loud (Professors Monica Hershberger and Haiyan Jia), the importance of the Faculty Senate being on the record (Professor Peter Zeitler), the need for voting on the proposed resolution and discuss further action in the summer (Professors George DuPaul and Will Lowry), the need to take a vote by Lehigh's Board of Trustees since Faculty deserve an answer from them (Professor Herman Neid), and the need do so something since many of our peers have signed on to the document (Professor Al Wurth).

The resolution was put to a vote and passed with 19 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes.

Professor Peter Zeitler noted that the issue would be further discussed at the upcoming Faculty Senate Retreat, scheduled for the following week.

8. New Business

Professor Frank Gunter noted some well-established limitations of teaching evaluations and argued for changes to be made to radically improve them at Lehigh. Professor Peter Zeitler said that the Office of Educational Innovation (under Senior Deputy Provost Bill Gaudelli) is interested in taking up this issue, and a Faculty Senate standing committee or an ongoing panel would be needed to focus on this important issue. Professor Jenna Lay noted that new questions were added to the teaching evaluation without faculty consultation or notification. Professor Anders Knospe suggested this as a topic for the upcoming Faculty Senate retreat. Professor Angela Hicks asked that we also discuss service and leadership.

Respectfully submitted by

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