

Approved on 12/05/2025

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

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

BIB 107 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 10/03/2025 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. Mid-year graduation motion (for January 2026)

The mid-year graduation motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. The motion is available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/January%20'26%20graduation%20motions.docx.pdf>

3. Previewing New Business and Other Items Brought Forward by Senators

Professor Mike Spear noted the recent passing of Dr. Alice P. Gast, the 13th President of Lehigh University. The Senators observed a moment of silence in President Gast's honor.

A detailed update on the working group studying the benefits (Professor Frank Gunter) would be presented in a subsequent Senate meeting; the issue of Labor Day as a holiday (Professor Angela Hicks) would be discussed later in the meeting; the new LTS policy related to software

updates on Lehigh campus computers (Professor Will Lowry) would be discussed later in the meeting; the FYRE program was addressed in a townhall style meeting on 11/04/2025.

4. Changes to R&P Section 3.21.1: Graduate Admissions (First reading)

The changes were moved and seconded. The documentation is available at

https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/DRAFT_3.21.1_4%2B1%20Proposed%20Policy%20Language%202025-10-02.docx%20-%20Google%20Docs.pdf

During the discussion, it was agreed to make suitable wording changes to clarify issues such as (1) whether a second-year undergraduate student (who has been admitted to a 4+1 program) can take a graduate course (Professors George Dupaul and Angela Hicks), (2) applicability for courses cross-listed between undergraduate and graduate programs (Professor Jenna Lay), (3) anyone who is not admitted to a 4+1 one program can request permission through a petition process (Professor Jenna Lay), (4) the maximum number of credits a student is allowed to take including the number of 400 level courses (Professors Subhrajit Bhattacharya and Jenna Lay), and (5) issues related to GPA cutoff for taking graduate courses (Professors Subhrajit Bhattacharya and Mike Spear).

5. Deletion of R&P Section 1.3.5.3: Visiting Lecturers Committee

The changes were moved and seconded.

Professor Peter Zeitler noted that this is in the spirit of eliminating committees, with the Faculty Senate taking on many of the erstwhile committees' roles.

The motion will be considered for a second reading during the next Senate meeting and approved.

6. Discussion of Research Misconduct Policy

Director of Research Compliance Naomi Coll provided an update. The slides are available at

[https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Research%20Misconduct%20Policy%20Faculty%20Senate%20Summary%20Oct%202025%20\(1\).pdf](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/Research%20Misconduct%20Policy%20Faculty%20Senate%20Summary%20Oct%202025%20(1).pdf)

The revised policy is available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/24-Oct-2025%20Research%20Misconduct%20Policy.docx.pdf>

The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

The policy's fuzzy language is intentional because the process is confidential until its completion, and information sharing is limited to what is required by law. The goal is only to correct the research impacted by the misconduct, and the policy does not discuss sanctions. [Director of Research Compliance Naomi Coll, in response to Professors Mike Spear and Peter Zeitler]

The role of Vice Provost for Research is intentionally left vague to allow flexibility; similarly, the policy's development did not consider instances of misconduct by the Vice Provost for Research, the President, and so on. We will do benchmarking before including senior administration personnel in the policy document. [Director of Research Compliance Naomi Coll, in response to Professor Frank Gunter]

The Provost decides on the penalty (for misconduct) in consultation with the college Dean. The Board of Trustees makes decisions on cases involving the President. [Vice Provost for Educational Innovation and Assessment Dom Packer]

The policy does not consider relevance but only applicability. [Director of Research Compliance Naomi Coll in response to Professor Angela Hicks' point about recent federal guidelines not matching with commonly accepted scientific principles]

It is necessary to clarify that only tenured faculty will investigate research misconduct by other faculty members. [Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs Larry Snyder]

The policy's effective date must be clearly stated. [Professor Mike Spear]

The next step is to solicit comments from the faculty at large. [Professor Jenna Lay]

7. Calendar Committee Proposal Regarding Labor Day

University Registrar Michael Dills-Allen noted that the proposal originates from complaints from faculty, students, and families, as well as from the lack of staff support on Labor Day.

During the brief discussion, issues such as the need for ensuring the same number of holidays on each working day to achieve balance (Registrar Michael Dills-Allen), substituting pacing break with Labor Day (Professor Frank Gunter), need to reduce inconvenience for students (Professor Jenna Lay), the need to ensure multi-section courses with recurring meetings are not unduly affected (Professor Mike Spear), other deadlines such as mid-term grades and dropping courses are considered (Professor Terry Napier), the adverse consequences of first year

students going home soon after the start of the semester for Labor Day holiday (Professor Angela Hicks), and the need to consider faculty members having children who are forced to stay home for Labor Day (Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs Larry Snyder) were raised.

8. Working Group Updates

Various Senate working groups presented updates on their activities. Professor Peter Zeitler noted that, for the R&P changes to go to the Board of Trustees in time for implementation the following year, the second reading and voting should be completed by the Senate at its March meeting.

9. New Business

Software Update on Lehigh-Owned Computers on Campus: Many senators expressed concerns about the new restrictive procedures that LTS has instituted for installing and updating software [Professors Angela Hicks, Jenna Lay, Will Lowry, Tom McAndrew, Frank Pazzaglia, and Mike Spear]. While there was recognition that LTS must consider cybersecurity threats, procedures must be clearly communicated to all faculty members to ensure faculty research, as well as classroom and lab activities, are not negatively affected.

Double-Counting of Courses for a Major and a Minor: Professor Mike Spear noted that the procedure for double-counting courses varies across colleges. Some senators (Professor Haiyan Jia) noted that advisees are not aware of the procedures. Professor Mike Spear noted that the procedure should be communicated to faculty and students.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Siva", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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