

MEETING OF THE LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 1, 2023, at 1:10 pm

EWFM 520 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

Professor Frank Gunter called for any corrections to the minutes of the combined Faculty Senate and the Lehigh University Faculty meeting of 10/06/2023. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made and seconded. The Senate unanimously approved the minutes.

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

2. January 2024 Graduation Motions

The graduation motions were moved, seconded, and passed. They are given in Appendix 2.

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

3. Senate Chairperson's Remarks

Professor Frank Gunter provided an update on the following items.

- a. During President Joe Helble's meeting with the FSEC, it was agreed that (1) FSEC would have more access to the budget process, (2) there would be opportunities to provide more inputs to the strategic plan implementation process, and (3) discussion of shared governance would continue.

- b. FSEC will look into the concerns of the student senate regarding variations across multiple sections of the same course and equity issues in experiential learning.
- c. The FSEC will also discuss issues raised by the Educational Policy Committee, such as clarifying the override process for course registration, colleges limiting students to courses even if students have completed prerequisites, and a variable number of credits for a course across different colleges.

4. New Business

Audit Committee

Professor Dinissa Duvanova proposed the establishment of an audit committee to audit the initiatives of the administration and the faculty, covering areas such as hiring, expenses, and outcomes. This audit will also provide an incentive to involve faculty early in the process and increase transparency. A brief discussion ensued. The following were the salient points made:

- The SCUll can be consulted early in the process and it can do the audit (Professor Peter Zeitler)
- There is a lack of transparency in decision-making at the university (Professor Nancy Carlisle)
- The audit committee can examine the projects even after they are proposed (Professor Damien Thevenin)
- The committee can investigate if the early projections of cost-benefit analyses for projects continue to hold (Professor Frank Gunter)
- Although the Senate Chair and Vice Chair are privy to many discussions of strategic issues, they are also bound by confidentiality; furthermore, these two faculty representatives are not at the meetings in which actual decisions are made (Professor Peter Zeitler).

Course/Program Approvals

- Course approvals become automatic once EdPol and GRE approve them. Why not do the same thing for programs? [Professor Frank Gunter]
- Some minimal oversight should be there [Professor Angela Hicks]
- Committees are already led by faculty – why do we need an extra layer of Senate control? [Professor Damien Thevenin]
- The course approval process does not impact accreditation as long as we follow a process we say we follow. [Provost Nathan Urban]
- The Faculty Senate is working with the Registrar to make the CIM process simpler and more consistent. [Professor Frank Gunter]

Restriction on Student Registration (“Course Blocks” hereafter) for Courses

Departments using “course blocks” to delay/prevent student registration into some courses must be managed better. Currently, it is unclear how this practice helps the departments plan better when there is no shortage of space in the courses (Professor Dinissa Duvanova). Course blocks can help departments manage enrollments of majors and non-majors separately (Professor Anders Knospe), blocking practice should be subject to a little oversight outside the

individual departments, since blocking can have big effects on non-majors (Professor Anders Knospe), manage enrollments in courses with multiple large sections (Professor Nancy Carlisle), or balance enrollments in courses with a large number of sections with capacity constraints (Professor K. Sivakumar).

5. Presentation by Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs Larry Snyder

Lyterati Replacement

Two alternatives to replace Lyterari are being evaluated; steps will be taken to import old data from Lyterati to the new system; the new system will be implemented in Fall 2024

Faculty Celebration

Going forward, the faculty award celebration will take place in the fall, and the event will not include staff awards (the request for separate events came from staff)

6. Educational Innovations at Lehigh (Strategic Plan Initiative)

Vice Provost for Innovation in Education Bill Gaudelli made a presentation. The slides are available in Appendix 3.

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

The following were the salient points made during the discussion.

- We are developing these initiatives in technical collaboration with the vendors; they cannot offer programs independently to students since they are not accredited. [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli in response to Professor Dinissa Duvanova, who asked why Lehigh should pay for something that we can do ourselves and enable our vendors to become our competitors]
- How do these initiatives scale? Who is going to pay for this? [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- An initial contract has been signed between the vendor and LTS; the Provost's Office is providing the funds. [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli]
- We need to support interested faculty by providing release time and compensation. [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli]
- These experiments help us understand the efforts involved in curriculum redesign, which will help us make progress in teaching innovations. Doing nothing in this dynamic environment is not an option. [Provost Nathan Urban]

- The goal is to develop some core educational design principles to help us accelerate the pace of change and provide resources to implement those changes through the Office of Deputy Provost for Educational Innovation. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professor Mayuresh Kothare, who asked about the next steps]
- Lehigh (not the vendor) owns the content [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli in response to Professor Dinissa Duvanova]
- We need to do something to address the lack of student engagement in classes post-COVID. [Professor Nancy Carlisle]
- Recorded lectures may not be a solution for all students. [Professor Angela Hicks]
- There is no specific prescription as to the recording of lectures. The goal is to improve learning and link theory with real-world experiences. The Deputy Provost's Office will work with the faculty members to address their course objectives in implementing universal design principles. [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli]
- Will the average grade for students increase overall? Is this the outcome we are looking for? [Professor Mayuresh Kothare]
- The short-term goal is better student learning; measuring whether this translates into better grades may be challenging. As a university, we are also interested in long-term outcomes such as career success, economic well-being, etc. [Provost Nathan Urban]
- The intellectual property issues related to faculty syllabi have not been brought up as an issue that needs to be addressed at Lehigh. However, the university should be able to use the faculty-developed syllabi for a specific period. If such a requirement is becoming an impediment to faculty innovation, we should revise it after further discussion. [Provost Nathan Urban in response to Professor Kristi Morin]
- There is a lack of data about the efficacy of universal design in the college setting. Lehigh's experiments with UDL will help us systematically collect data to assess the effectiveness of these principles. [Vice Provost Bill Gaudelli, in response to Professor Frank Gunter's comment, that some of the UDL initiatives may increase the time to graduation, some research suggests that UDL principles are helpful at the high-school level but not at the college level, and successful professors are already using the principles of UDL without labeling them as such]
- Since the higher education setting is more homogeneous than the high school setting, it helps us collect data about student learning. Approaches like UDL are needed; our experiments can show if and how they work. [Provost Nathan Urban]

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siva". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a single horizontal line that extends slightly beyond the length of the signature.

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