

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on September 6, 2019, 1:00 pm
Venue: Linderman Library 200

Faculty Senate Chair Professor Douglas Mahony called the meeting to order.

The roster of senators present for the meeting appears as Appendix 1.

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

1. Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of 05/03/2019

Professor Doug Mahony called for any corrections to the minutes of the Lehigh University faculty senate meeting of 05/03/2019. These had been posted at <https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes>.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Memorial Resolution for Professor Eric Varley

A Memorial Resolution for Professor Eric Varley (Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics) was presented by Professor Philip Blythe. Senators observed a moment of silence to honor Professor Varley's memory. They approved the motion to include the resolution in the meeting minutes. The memorial resolution is available as Appendix 2.

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

3. Remarks by Senate Chair Doug Mahony

Senate Chair Doug Mahony provided an update. The salient points are listed below.

The University Faculty meeting will be held at 4:30 pm on 11/04/2019. Discussion regarding metrics to assess Path to Prominence will be on the agenda.

A faculty committee has visited BIOS. Additional information regarding financials, BIOS faculty absorption into Lehigh, and other aspects will be shared as and when they become available.

Provost Search Committee has been appointed by President John Simon.

College level discussions are being initiated by the respective deans to consider making changes to Lehigh's annual honors convocation.

R&P 2.2.3 has been approved by the faculty in May and this will be communicated to the faculty. [In response to Professor Jenna Lay]

4. Update by Provost Patrick Farrell

Provost Patrick Farrell updated the senate regarding several matters. The following are some of the salient points made during the discussion. All the comments are made by Provost Patrick Farrell unless otherwise noted.

- Answers to questions related to BIOS have been prepared and answers to additional questions raised will be posted.
- Vice President Alan Snyder is organizing a workshop to assess research opportunities in collaboration with BIOS.
- Some additional issues related to due diligence, financials, and governance are still to be sorted out. If these details are sorted out and the administration is comfortable with going forward, a proposal related to BIOS will be presented to the Lehigh Board of Trustees at their October 2019 meeting for their decision.
- Currently, the proposal is for an institute focused on ocean sciences and not for a full-fledged academic department. If there is sufficient interest, the domain may expand to related areas beyond ocean sciences and this is similar to the evolution of any other academic domain in Lehigh. [Provost Patrick Farrell in response to Professor Peter Zeitler's question that the rationale for Lehigh's new academic and research focus on ocean sciences resulting from BIOS did not originate from the current academic departments.]
- Clusters are programs; the BIOS will be similar in concept to cluster hiring at Lehigh but each faculty member will have a home department and some faculty may have a split appointment between a department and the institute. [In response to Professor Frank Gunter's question regarding BIOS faculty coming in as cluster hires]
- We have to be flexible regarding where the ideas for a cluster comes from. BIOS will give Lehigh a focus on ocean science and areas beyond ocean science; given the obvious link to climate change, this will be useful to Lehigh in the future. Given the small number of faculty interested in ocean sciences, the cluster proposal could not have come from the current Lehigh faculty and the proposal provides Lehigh an opportunity leapfrog into new domains. [In response to Professor Jenna Lay's point that normally, ideas for clusters originate from

current Lehigh faculty since the responsibility for the academic programs rests with the faculty]

- Furthermore, the established reputation of BIOS can help Lehigh as well by keeping the entity as BIOS in the near future. [In response to a remark by Professor Damien Thévenin that the benefits to Lehigh from BIOS have not been clearly articulated.]
- The faculty should take a look at what is considered as teaching and what is considered as service for everyone. [In response to Professor Kelly Austin's comment that the way BIOS faculty would be evaluated for teaching and service will be very different from what is being done at Lehigh; for example, study abroad and short courses are not considered as part of the main teaching responsibility of faculty]
- The main issue is that 90% of BIOS operations budget comes from soft money; this is a risk but that is not unique to Lehigh or BIOS. This needs to be managed. Other risks related to building, facilities, human errors are similar to what is at Lehigh currently and they are manageable. The biggest challenge may be the geographic distance between Lehigh and BIOS. [In response to Professor Liang Cheng's question about efforts at mitigating the risk involved in the BIOS proposal]
- The expectation is that the BIOS proposal will be cost neutral. Even though some more due diligence is needed to assess financials, the main focus is on the activities of BIOS and not on finances since there is no expectation of big surplus or deficit arising from the incorporation of BIOS into Lehigh. [In response to Professor Jeremy Littau's comment that perhaps BIOS wants Lehigh to acquire them due to their large debt]
- More articulation is needed regarding the benefits of BIOS to Lehigh, especially in the context of climate change. [Professor Ageliki Nicolopoulou]
- Since some faculty members already have collaboration with BIOS, what is the additional benefit from the new proposal? [Professor Jenna Lay]
- The reputation of BIOS is very good; they would like to maintain it and strengthen it further; the integration of BIOS with Lehigh will help in broadening Lehigh's footprint in the domains of climate change, underwater robotics, and other areas that would be identified in the future. Without the acquisition of BIOS, we may miss some of the new opportunities.
- Faculty can send in their questions related to BIOS and responses will be provided.

5. Consent Calendar:

Professor Doug Mahony noted that the items listed under the current consent calendar were already approved by the Senate. Due to some processing problems related to inputting information in CIM, some of the information was re-entered and hence showed up on the consent calendar. Therefore, no action needed to be taken.

6. Update about Capital Projects

Mr. Brent Stringfellow (Associate Vice President/University Architect) provided an update on various projects and answered questions from the faculty senators. The slides used by him are in Appendix 3.

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

Mr. Stringfellow noted that discussions commenced about Lehigh becoming a tobacco-free campus and invited the Faculty Senate to send a representative for participating in these discussions. Details are at

https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/190901_Tobacco%20Free%20Campus%20Policy%20DRAFT.pdf

Mr. Stringfellow also noted that a Safety Committee is being set up and representative from the Faculty Senate will be asked to participate.

7. Update from Faculty Senate Subcommittees

Professor Doug Mahony urged faculty senators to volunteer as members of the various subcommittees and as representatives for other university committees. The respective subcommittee chairs updated the senate about their mission and their upcoming activities. The details of the subcommittee are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/subcommittees>

Professor Doug Mahony noted that elections will soon be conducted for the “at large” positions in university standing committees.

8. Proposal to Establish Major Initiative Subcommittee

Professor Peter Zeitler presented details regarding the “Major Initiatives Subcommittee.” The details are available at

<https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/sites/facultysenate.lehigh.edu/files/MISC%20V5.pdf>

The following is the summary of salient points made during the follow up discussion.

- BIOS is an example of the type of issue that can come under the subcommittee. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- Establishment of the subcommittee will help with the credibility of decision process at Lehigh and can establish a different culture. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- Given the landscape of higher education, more proposals similar to BIOS are likely to come up in the future. We need a set of processes and metric to evaluate such proposals. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Most curricular issues will be handled by one of the other senate subcommittees; only large-scale issues will come up before this subcommittee. The Senate Executive Committee can assign issues for the subcommittee. The subcommittee need not be an impediment but a constructive voice. [Professor Peter Zeitler in response to Professors Matt Melone; concurred by Professor Jeremy Littau]
- Once the subcommittee issues a report on a particular topic, the senate or the faculty should take follow up action. It is also possible for the subcommittee to endorse a proposal by the university leadership. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- If the senate and senate subcommittees do things properly, there will not be a need for the senate to pass resolutions. [Professor Doug Mahony]

The senators endorsed the setting up of the subcommittee.

A follow up discussion ensued regarding what to do with BIOS. Here are some points made:

- President John Simon has said that no final decision has been made but the time available for decision making is short. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- One thing the senate can do is to come up with a resolution that reflects the diverse views on BIOS held by the senators and communicate the same to the administration. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Details related to BIOS should be available in one central place for the faculty to examine before the University takes a decision on the issue. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- The Senate could ask the relevant committees to propose changes that need to be made to absorb BIOS faculty into Lehigh. [Professor Craig Hochbein; concurred by Professors Doug Mahony and Kelly Austin]
- The committee can also examine whether BIOS is a good thing for Lehigh. [Professor Ageliki Nicolopoulou]

- There is a need to examine if promotion and tenure guidelines need to change for other colleges since colleagues from other colleges may have discomfort with the changes; these changes can be far-reaching to include teaching load, service assignments, etc. [Professors Kelly Austin and Craig Hochbein; concurred by Professor Doug Mahony]
- These issues can be examined by the various subcommittees of the senate. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- There is no impact statement from the Provost's office that can be a basis for the subcommittees to review how the issues will impact various aspects of the academic mission. [Professor Jenna Lay]
- There is also no independent critical assessment of BIOS. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- The administration is planning to conduct due diligence only if the decision is to go forward with the acquisition of BIOS. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Faculty in the concerned departments can be asked evaluate the faculty from BIOS so complications need not arise if the department does not want to hire a faculty member from BIOS. [Professors Kelly Austin, Jim Gilchrist, Kathy Iovine, Jeremy Littau, and Peter Zeitler]

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siva" with a horizontal line underneath it.

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

Secretary of the Faculty