

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on **December 3, 2021**, 1:00 pm

Via Zoom

**Do the Minutes include R&P items requiring Board of Trustee approval – Yes/No**

Faculty Senate Chair Professor Kathy Iovine 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 Prior Faculty Senate Meeting**

Professor Kathy Iovine called for any corrections to the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of **11/05/2021**. 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. Facilities Updates**

Ms. Erin Liston (Director of Planning, Design, and Construction) made a presentation. The slides used are available in Appendix 2.

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

The following are the salient points made during the discussion.

- Department-to-department reallocation of space occasionally occurs, mainly in the College of Engineering. [Ms. Erin Liston in response to Professor Kathy Iovine]
- Departments/colleges should reach out to Facilities for non-standard and non-routine maintenance matters. Although Facilities itself does not have any money, they will try their best to help. [Ms. Erin Liston in response to Professor Peter Zeitler]

- Space requests should follow the internal processes at the department and College level before the Facilities department gets involved. [Ms. Erin Liston in response to Professor Clay Naito]
- The senior administration is unhappy about the cost overruns for the Clayton Student Center. Labor and construction materials shortages contribute to some delays in completing projects. [Ms. Erin Liston ]
- The faculty will be able to see the plans for the renovation of the Clayton Student Center. [Ms. Erin Liston in response to Professor Frank Gunter; Ms. Liston agreed to update the Faculty Senate again in February/March]

### 3. Senate Subcommittee Updates

Chairs/representatives of the various subcommittees provided updates.

The following were the salient points made by the subcommittee representatives and others during the ensuing discussion.

#### Inclusive Community:

- Three town hall-style meetings were conducted on the Faculty Code of Ethics; Faculty voting to start on 12/06/2021. [Professor Ed Gomez]

#### Faculty Affairs:

- Course evaluation content and process are being reviewed; student accommodation requests are increasing, resulting in an increased burden for faculty members. [Professor Danielle Lindemann]
- Student course evaluations need to be made more engaging for students; otherwise, the purpose of student course evaluations would be lost. [Professor Peter Zeitler]
- Student evaluations should be only one form of teaching evaluation; additional elements such as evaluation of the syllabi, peer observations, and so on should be integrated into the evaluation of faculty teaching. [Professor Kelly Austin]
- Deeper concerns with course evaluations such as racial and gender biases, considering the assessment in the context of ease of courses, etc., must be addressed. [Professor Tony DiMaggio]

- Ways for increasing the response rates for course evaluations are available at <https://oirsa.lehigh.edu/current-semester-updates-course-evaluations> [Deputy Provost Jackie Krasas and Professor Kathy Iovine]
- Reasons for the increased number of student accommodations [Professor Parveen Gupta], lack of resources to ensure student accommodations [Professors Angela Hicks and Jim Gilchrist], the increase in the number as well as the types of accommodation including note-taking during classes [University Registrar Steve Wilson], and the inability of faculty to handle these requests without violating confidentiality [Professor Parveen Gupta] need to be carefully analyzed.

#### Academic and Student Affairs:

- Procedures for implementing the new guidelines for Professors of Practice are being discussed among the College Deans, and additional clarification is forthcoming. [Deputy Provost for Faculty Affairs Jackie Krasas in response to Professor Ray Pearson]
- There is a need to develop a streamlined process for the course and curriculum changes. [Professor Ray Pearson]

#### Research Environment:

- The subcommittee proposes to meet with the President regarding the transition in VP (Research). [Professor Craig Hochbein]

#### Major Initiatives:

Professor Peter Zeitler presented a proposal to recast the Major Initiatives Subcommittee. The proposal is given in Appendix 3.

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

Professor Kathy Iovine noted that the changes could be implemented as long as there is no objection from the Senate. This proposal does not require a formal vote.

#### Request for New committee involving faculty proposed by VP of Student Affairs Ric Hall:

The proposal is available in Appendix 4.

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

The response from the Major Initiatives Subcommittee is given in Appendix 5.

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

The following are the salient points made during the discussion.

- Since this is a new standing committee being proposed, faculty should not participate in this committee unless it is approved by the Faculty Senate. [Professor Kathy Iovine]
- Several senators shared the opposition. The feeling was that faculty should be consulted before constituting the committee, and the currently dormant Faculty Committee on Student Life could be involved in some manner to ensure institutional memory and adequate faculty voice. [Professors Frank Gunter, Jeremy Littau, Josh Pepper, and Peter Zeitler]
- This opposition by the Senate should be used as an opportunity to encourage the VP (Student Affairs) to support the FCSL and achieve some constructive engagement [Professor Jenna Lay supported by Professors Angela Hicks and Ray Pearson].
- Also, the senior administration can be informed about this development [Professor Peter Zeitler supported by Professor Josh Pepper].
- VP (Student Affairs) can explain the rationale to the Faculty Senate. [Professor Jim Gilchrist]

The proposal for the new committee was put to the vote and rejected by the Faculty Senate.

Professor Peter Zeitler will prepare a statement on the Senate's view of the proposal by VP (Student Affairs) and the path forward. After approval by the Senate Executive Committee, this statement will be shared with the VP (Student Affairs). The statement will also be appended to the minutes of the Senate meeting.

#### **4. Other Points Discussed**

- There is a need for the Lehigh Board of Trustees (BOT) to consider the 9% total inflation during the last two years and the projected 3% for the coming year before they make decisions about faculty raises for next year. [Professor Frank Gunter]
- While the salary equity study will not be complete before budget proposals for next year are presented to the BOT, incorporating the arguments related to inflation can be done for the current budget cycle. [Deputy Provost Jackie Krasas]

**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 left and right edges of the word.

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

**Secretary of the Faculty**