

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 7, 2018, 1:00 pm

Venue: University Center 308

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 11/02/2018

Professor Mahony called for any corrections to the minutes of the Lehigh University faculty senate meeting of 11/02/2018. 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. Alumni Relations

Ms. Jennifer Cunningham and Ms. Lindsay Drake from Alumni Relations provided information on a “Lifelong Learning” program to be conducted in Summer 2019. Faculty proposals are invited for sessions for the program. Details are available in Appendix 2 or by visiting the proposal page at https://lehigh.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7OKHybVmE2gkW6V.

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

3. University Ranking

Dr. Henry Zheng (Vice Provost) and Dr. Yenny Anderson (Assistant Vice Provost) from the Office of Institutional Research and Strategic Analytics made a presentation about Lehigh’s rankings over the years. The set of slides used by them are available as Appendix 3. Some salient points made during the ensuing discussion are listed below.

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

- Lehigh’s highest U.S. News and World Reports ranking was in 2010. [Vice Provost Henry Zheng]

- Universities ranking between 45 and 55 are very close in terms of overall score. A very slight change in one of the variables will affect the overall ranking. [Dr. Henry Zheng]
- Due to the proprietary and undisclosed U.S. News calculation of the “expected graduation rates” (higher than actual, which included inflated information) during the last six years, the actual graduation rate was unfavorably compared to the expected graduation rate. As a result, our rankings were unfavorably affected. The error has been corrected and will no longer adversely affect the next U.S. News and World Report rankings. [Vice Provost Henry Zheng in response to a question from Professor Josh Pepper; Engineering Associate Dean Greg Tonkay also noted that Lehigh’s expected graduation rate is higher than our peer universities]
- U.S. News and World Report recently increased the weight given to the number and graduation rates of Pell grant eligible students. The weight for this factor is likely to increase in the future due to its political importance (some U. S. senators are focused on this measure). Big public universities benefit more than other universities from this change. [Vice Provost Henry Zheng]
- It will be useful to understand how much of the change in our rating is linked to the improper use of data in the past. [Professor Doug Mahony; Vice Provost Henry Zheng and Assistant Vice Provost Yenny Anderson agreed that it is possible to do such analysis]
- Social mobility is something Lehigh should focus on and the data on number of Pell Grant recipients address that question. [Professor Jenna Lay]
- Senate will try to get an update from Professor George White [Managing Director, Student Access and Success]. Per Present John Simon, there is a tradeoff between supporting Pell Grant recipients with financial aid and the operating budget of the university. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Lehigh should be focusing on strategies toward what we think is right rather than adjusting our strategies solely aimed at ranking criteria (e.g., decreasing the cap to 19 rather than 20). [Professor Al Wurth]
- While we should be mindful of rankings, Lehigh should focus on what is important for our teaching mission. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Class size will be a good topic to talk with the Provost during the next Senate Executive Committee meeting. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Jeremy Littau’s concern about classes with enrollments that are much less than 19 could be cancelled]
- We should focus on the underlying trends for the decline in rankings rather than the nitty gritty of the criteria and weights. [Professor Herman Nied]

- It seems that R1 research ranking helps the overall university ranking. It will be good to know the progress of Lehigh in moving toward the R1 status. [Professor Tamás Terlaky]
- From the data, it seems that devoting more resources to the faculty helps improve overall university ranking. [Professor Al Wurth]

4. Update from the Calendar Committee

Professor Greg Tonkay (Chairperson, Calendar Committee) provided an update. The key points discussed are summarized below.

- The focus of the current committee was class teaching times aimed at improving the capacity utilization of classrooms. The committee took into account viewpoints and concerns from several constituencies such as faculty, students, athletics, music, housing, and so on. The report provides a description of the issues and alternatives rather than specific recommendations. [Professor Greg Tonkay]
- It is possible that there is some misunderstanding about the committee recommendations as reflected by discussion in some colleges/departments. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- The report has just been sent to Senate Executive Committee members. It will be sent to faculty senators shortly. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- The proposed plans can accommodate the anticipated increase of 1000 undergraduate students in the near future. [Professor Greg Tonkay in response to Professor Ray Pearson]
- There is confusion about the timing of implementation of the report. [Professor Jenna Lay]
- The provost is eager to share the report with the entire faculty. Provost Patrick Farrell is meeting with the Senate Executive Committee and his communication regarding this to all faculty will be delayed until clarity is obtained regarding the specific recommendations of the committee that are being adopted. The onus will be on the departments to ensure that no more than 30% of the classes are scheduled between 10 am and 2 pm. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- The proposed bus schedule will accommodate the changes in the class timings. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Josh Pepper]
- Optimal class time from the perspective of student learning was not a factor in the proposed changes. 75-minute time blocks are being standardized. But it does not

preclude 50-minute classes fitting into the 75 minute block. [Professors Doug Mahony and Greg Tonkay in response to Professor Jennifer Swann]

- It is surprising that the Student Senate has given feedback on the report but the Faculty Senate has not. [Professor Mellie Katakalos]
- Some delay was due to the formation of Faculty Senate. That is why, although the Provost wanted to share the report with the faculty earlier, he is delaying it until after he meets with the Senate Executive Committee. [Professor Doug Mahony]

5. Update from Senate Chair:

Professor Doug Mahony provided an update on several issues. The salient points are discussed below.

- Professors Kathy Iovine and Doug Mahony had a frank discussion with President John Simon and Provost Patrick Farrell about shared governance, need for enhanced communication, need for the Faculty Senate involvement in influencing the priorities and budget of the university, and other related issues. President Simon and Provost Farrell were open to addressing the concerns.
- A letter about parking issues from Senate Chair Doug Mahony would go out to all faculty.
- Senate agenda and a meeting follow up email will also be sent to all faculty henceforth.
- The Senate Executive Committee met with Vice President (Finance & Administration) Patricia Johnson and Executive Director of University Business Services Mark Ironside. Although faculty do not seem to understand how things related to parking are decided (e.g., ADA matters), Vice President Pat Johnson and Executive Director Mark Ironside are interested in getting faculty inputs. They were asked to send a detailed memo to all faculty describing how they are addressing faculty and staff concerns. These concerns include the different kinds of disabilities that need to be addressed, medical permit parking, accommodating newly hired faculty and staff who will start later than the parking request deadline, faculty who are on leave when the parking requests are due, and the equity issues related to staff and graduate students.
- Pegging parking fees to salaries would have resulted in faculty paying some \$1400 for parking and this was not considered practical. There are financial constraints involved in building parking structures. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Kelly Austin]
- Bus schedules must be adjusted in response to the new class schedules. [Professor

Kelly Austin]

- The \$250 salary increase is going to be permanent. It is not clear if this increase is applicable for part-time employees and post docs. [Professors Doug Mahony Dominic Packer in response to Professor Josh Pepper]
- Policy related to severe weather closings needs to be adjusted, especially with new parking regulations. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professors Craig Hochbein and Kathy Iovine]
- One reason for parking fee increase is the change in IRS rules; another reason is that any subsidy given toward parking will reduce student financial aid. [Professor Doug Mahony in response to Professor Mark Bickhard and Al Wurth]
- The parking fee increase is in reality a pay cut, as the fee increases are not offset by the taxable \$250 salary increase, and, despite the changes in IRS rules, it appears that Lehigh could reduce the pay cut by enabling employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay the new parking fees (which for the lowest paid employees represent a 2000% increase). [Professor Al Wurth]
- Senate Executive Committee has been asked for its input in capital projects. [Professor Doug Mahony]
- Senate Sub-committee chairs provided brief updates about the committee membership and activities.

6. Consent Calendar:

Three customary graduation motions were not added to the consent calendar seven days prior to the meeting. The items were unanimously added to the consent calendar. Professor Doug Mahony asked whether any faculty member desired to remove any of the Consent Calendar items for discussion on the floor. Hearing no such request, Professor Gunter declared the consent calendar items approved by faculty assent. The approved changes are available as Appendix 3.

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

7. First Readings:

Professor Frank Gunter introduced the following motions for a first reading.

R&P 3.4 Auditors

R&P 3.1.5 Full-time undergraduate students

Professor Jenna Lay requested that the wording of the previous version for a similar change passed by the faculty last year be available for comparison when the motion comes for a second reading.

These motions will come up for a second reading at the next meeting.

8. Memorial Resolution for Professor Don Hillman

Memorial Resolution for Professor Don Hillman (Computer Science and Engineering) was presented by Professor Liang Cheng. Senators stood for a moment of silence to honor Professor Hillman's memory. They approved the motion to include the resolution in the meeting minutes. The memorial resolution is available as Appendix 5.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siva". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

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

Secretary of the Faculty