

1 **FINAL DRAFT Engagement of Faculty Senate in planning and assessing major**  
2 **University initiatives or programs: Major Initiatives SubCommittee (MISC)**  
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5 **Text for web site (amounting to charge of committee)**  
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7 **Major Initiatives SubCommittee (MISC)**  
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9 *Rationale.* Growth and change are a vital to the health of any great university. When  
10 proposals are made for major new initiatives and programs, a consultative process  
11 helps establish a sense of faculty-administration cooperation in moving the University  
12 forward. Faculty review and ultimately Senate endorsement on behalf of the faculty can  
13 greatly help new programs be successful through helpful suggestions and most  
14 important, broad campus support and engagement. Proposed major University  
15 initiatives and programs should be reviewed by the Faculty Senate's Major Initiatives  
16 Subcommittee (MISC). This review should occur before the initiative or program's final  
17 approval, and before considerable effort is invested in planning deployment.  
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19 *Charge.* The MISC subcommittee will review major programs and initiatives referred to it  
20 by the Senate Executive Committee, who might learn of such initiatives from members  
21 of the administration, faculty, students, or staff. MISC will review proposals at two  
22 stages: at an early "possible-idea" stage, and most important, as a fully developed  
23 proposal that gives sufficient details to assess possible financial, programmatic, and  
24 staffing impacts and concerns. Programs reviewed by MISC will generally be new but  
25 could include existing programs proposed for major changes.  
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27 *Scope.* What is a major program or initiative will be left to the judgment of the Senate  
28 Executive Committee. Generally, such programs will be:

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- 30 • cross-departmental or cross-College
  - 31 • involve and impact a significant number of faculty, staff and students
  - 32 • involve significant budget changes that could have broader impacts
  - 33 • significantly change the culture and operations of the University
  - 34 • not fit within the scope of any single existing Senate or Faculty committee.

35 *Operation.* MISC will consult broadly with administrators and the Lehigh faculty at large,  
36 as well as those Senate and University committees concerned with areas relevant to the  
37 proposal (e.g., Graduate and Research Committee, Personnel Committee, Senate  
38 Research Committee, and Educational Policy). MISC should act in a timely fashion to  
39 issue a report and / or prepare a recommendation.  
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41 *Key Principles.* In assessing new opportunities associated with major initiatives, it will be  
42 important to analyze each opportunity for their explicit fit with Lehigh's priorities and  
43 vision for the future. Two key principles will guide discussion of how the new opportunity  
44 contributes to Lehigh's long-term future:

- 45
- 46 • Is the opportunity consistent with Lehigh's focus on the highest standards of  
academic rigor?

47 • Is the opportunity consistent with our vision of what Lehigh’s research portfolio  
48 should be in the future?  
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50 Practical Considerations. There are a number of practical considerations that might be  
51 examined by the committee. For example:

- 52 • Would the new initiative work best as a College-level or a Provost-level initiative?
- 53 • What are the criteria under which new investments in faculty or staff should be  
54 considered in connection with the proposed initiative?
- 55 • How would the new initiative mesh with or complement existing research centers  
56 or academic programs?
- 57 • What budget impacts will the initiative have and what revenue streams will support  
58 the initiative?
- 59 • Have potentially impacted constituencies been extensively and substantively  
60 consulted?

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62 Outcomes. MISC will draft a report that provides a concise assessment of the proposed  
63 initiative or program, possible suggestions for modifying the proposal, and in some  
64 circumstances, a recommendation for a Senate or whole-faculty vote of either  
65 endorsement or rejection of the proposal. The Executive Committee will make any  
66 report available for general faculty comment, and bring the results of any Senate or  
67 faculty vote to the senior leadership.

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69 Membership. Core membership of the subcommittee consists of three members of the  
70 Faculty Senate. For any particular initiative, MISC can choose to expand its  
71 membership to include informed members of the faculty at large, including faculty who  
72 are advocates of initiatives as well as those who are impacted or express serious  
73 concerns.