



# NEWS & NOTES

March 4, 2022

This newsletter contains a brief summary of the proceedings of the Faculty Senate Meeting held on **March 4, 2022**. As a reminder, faculty can view the full details of Senate meetings by reviewing the minutes found on the Faculty Senate Website. [facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-minutes)

## Action items/requests for faculty feedback

- There will be a University Faculty Meeting on March 25, 2-3:30 PM discussing the upcoming fiscal year, with Provost Urban in attendance. Faculty are encouraged to attend and give feedback, including feedback about this year's "merit" raises. The zoom link will follow.
- Denise Beautreau (Director, Center for Student Access and Success) discussed a new pilot program, in which the registrar will contact faculty members with a list of LUSI and transfer students in their classes to ask that they be prioritized when entering midterms grades into Banner. They request your participation if you are contacted. Senate members agreed that this is important.
- SCUII Subcommittee (chair: Peter Zeitler) reported on discussions with Christine Cook, the VP for Strategic Planning and Initiatives about faculty involvement in the upcoming strategic plan. Feedback is requested on what faculty believe should be prioritized in these discussions.
- Inclusive Community Subcommittee (chair: Ed Gomez) requested feedback or suggestions for new directions as they move forward from the Code of Ethics, noting that they are particularly looking for novel ideas on ways they can help without duplicating the efforts of other DEI initiatives on campus.

## Additional Discussions and Announcements

- A new program for mental health training for department chairs and other community members to help them identify students who might benefit from additional services.
- Members of the Senate voiced their frustration with the implementation of changes to mask policies in classrooms and labs and observed that the short time period between the announcement and implementation of the change created difficulties that could have been avoided.
- Donald Outing (Vice President for Equity and Community) spoke on his office's work to define priority metrics and focus on implementation of the recently published DEI plan. An action plan will be released after spring break and there will be an upcoming campus survey.
- Rick Hall (VP Student Affairs) spoke about a committee on Wellness (spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, environmental, financial, occupational) building on the model of Lavender and Hutnick, and requested faculty members to serve on the committee. This topic will be taken up again in April.
- There was a first reading of a proposal presented by Doug Mahony to make changes to how faculty are selected on the Council of Equity and Community. Some additional details are still to be worked out before the second reading.
- Frank Gunter (Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate) spoke on returning the Faculty Senate to in-person meetings in the fall and the many limitations of zoom meetings. Other senators highlighted the inclusive aspects of zoom meetings, highlighting that they allow the participation of a wider group of senators and that they believe attendance at Senate meetings has increased since they moved online.

All supporting documents to the topics mentioned above can be found on the Faculty senate website: [facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-documents](https://facultysenate.lehigh.edu/meeting-documents)

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting: Friday, April 1, 2022**