



NEWS & NOTES

March 5, 2021

This newsletter contains a brief summary of the proceedings of the Faculty Senate Meeting held on **March 5, 2021**. 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

Provost Urban Updates

□ **Benefits and Merit**

○ Full restoration of retirement benefits July 1, and 2% increase in merit pool planned for next fiscal year, budget approved by BoT. No retroactive restoration of these benefits planned. The collective retirement benefit savings are \$15M. In order to compensate that, it would cost both the next year's merit raises (\$3.3M total) and also the next set of hiring

□ **Mental health and wellness**

○ During the week of March 22 - avoid high-stakes assignments and exams if possible, will be some programming offer across University for students

□ **Fall Planning**

○ Assumption: Vaccines will be available widely by this time to support the plan. Working toward adding the vaccine to the required list of vaccines for students and exemptions handled as they are for the other vaccines.

○ Expected that classes for undergrads will be in person, roughly normal capacity for student housing, isolation housing will also be available. More flexibility for graduate classes, as was the case pre-COVID. There will be some sort of COVID testing procedure in place.

○ Summer - plan to have face to face classes to the extent that we have had them in the Spring, prioritizing classes for Lehigh students as opposed to programs for high school students or students from other Universities.

Second Readings

R&P 1.3.2.2 dealing with Ex Officio Members of GRC

A motion on revising R&P 1.3.2.2 dealing with Ex Officio Members of GRC. Discussion about whether deans have a vote on GRC. Motion tabled until this can be sorted out.

First Readings

Removal of Harassment Policy from R&P

Karen Salvemini presented a proposal to remove harassment policy from the appendix of R&P. Passed the first read.

New Business

□ Proposal for a Commission on Student Life with a careful look at the Greek system managed by the Faculty Senate. The sense of the discussion is that this is tied to the strategic DEI plan, and there is concern that that plan has not been seen by the Senate. We need more information about the nature and scope of Greek life, and its impact on the student environment and social life.

□ There are R&P rules that all University committees have to be coordinated with the senate, and that doesn't seem to be happening.

○ "The creation of any new temporary university committee with Faculty participation shall be coordinated with the Executive Committee of the Senate. The Senate must approve the creation of any new permanent university committee with Faculty participation." -- per R&P 1.3.1



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Upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting Dates for Spring 2021:

Friday, April 2, 2021 • Friday, May 7, 2021