

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SENATE COMMITTEE

Discussion Draft
(by Peter Zeitler, EES)

Formal engagement of Faculty Senate in planning of major University initiatives or programs:

Major Initiatives Standing Committee

To move major new University initiatives forward, it is essential that such initiatives receive meaningful faculty review and endorsement so that these programs can be successful through broad campus support and engagement.

For all new major University initiatives, before any approvals are made by either senior leadership or the Board of Trustees, these initiatives will be reviewed by the Major Initiatives Standing Committee (MISC), a Senate committee. When the Senate Executive Committee learns of major initiatives, they will charge MISC to conduct a study of a comprehensive prospectus and plan to be provided by senior leadership. The committee will consult broadly with the Lehigh faculty and with Senate and University committees concerned with relevant areas, including but not necessarily limited to, FFPOC, Grad and Research Committee, Personnel Committee, Senate Research Committee, and Educational Policy. This special committee should act in a timely fashion to issue a report and prepare a recommendation. The Executive Committee will make this report available for general faculty comment, bring the recommendation to the Senate for a vote, and finally forward to senior leadership the report and Senate vote on the recommendation. For any particular initiative, MISC can choose to expand its membership to include informed members of the faculty at large, including faculty who are advocates of initiatives as well as those who are impacted or express serious concerns.