



NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

FACULTY SENATE MEETING:

Friday Sept 4, 2020

Finances

The Senate received an update about the financial picture from Pat Johnson. The measures we have taken already to reduce expenses have mostly offset the declining revenue due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, since a big part of that offsetting is from the suspended retirement contributions, there are no expectations for when those contributions will resume. There was a discussion about whether alternative offsets could be found by suspending construction of current projects, but the response was that such a move is not viable. However, we have suspended all new construction. One noteworthy tidbit is that we are saving \$800K to \$1M per month by limiting travel and entertainment.

Although merit raises have been suspended, newly tenured and promoted faculty should receive their pay increases. There was a statement that some newly tenured faculty had to specifically request their raises, but the details of that were not made clear. Departments should check to make sure that such raises are going through for newly tenured and promoted faculty.

The administration will be able to release more details about the budget after 10th class day and/or the October 2, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Hawk the Vote

The Senate heard a presentation about Hawk the vote, an initiative that would include canceling classes on election day to allow all Lehigh community members (faculty, staff, and students) to partic-

Executive Committee Members

- M. Kathy Iovine, Chair, College of Arts and Sciences - Biological Sciences
- Frank Gunter, Vice Chair, College of Business - Economics
- K. Sivakumar, Secretary of the Faculty, COB - Marketing
- Jill Forrest, Secretary to the Senate, Office of the Provost
- Eduardo Gomez, College of Health
- Craig Hochbein, College of Education - Educational Leadership
- Jeremy Littau, College of Arts and Sciences
Journalism and Communication
- Herman Nied, P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Science -
Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics
- George Nation, College of Business - Finance
- Herman Nied, P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Science -
Mechanical Engineering & Mechanics (Fall, 2020)
- Ray Pearson, P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Science -
Materials Science & Engineering

ipate in the democratic process. The overall response from the Senate was strongly supportive, especially for future years when the schedule can be planned in advance. For this year, the idea is to support accommodation as much as possible. One issue to be dealt with is how to avoid common hour exams on election day and the following day. One suggestion raised was to move Pacing Break to overlap with election day in future years. A number of other universities do this already.

Other Items

The Senate vote on the faculty ranks proposal was delayed in order to allow for more discussion and revisions. This proposal has been circulating for over a year. Please make sure to review and comment to your Senators so that we can move this forward to a vote in the near future.

A proposal was put forward to raise the cap on the value of quizzes/exams during the last five class days of the semester from 5% to 10% of the final grade. Some faculty were not in favor of this for the current semester as syllabi have already been developed and distributed and should have been in alignment with the current 5% rule. Other faculty raised the question of the value of this rule in the first place and advocated reviewing it. Senate may return to this for future semesters.

Lehigh is considering various options for the Spring semester Academic Calendar, including:

- 1) Delay Spring 2021 one week, cancel Spring Break.
- 2) Delay Spring 2021 by 10 days, cancel Spring Break, final exams pushed back to accommodate.
- 3) Commencement and start of Summer session would stay the same under either scenario.
- 4) The Provost would like feedback from faculty before finalizing the Spring calendar, please send feedback to your Senators as soon as possible on these two options.