Graduate Student Senate

General Assembly Meeting
July 15, 2020
https://lehigh.zoom.us/j/91392754216

@LehighGSS

ingss@lehigh.edu

Agenda

- Announcements

- Provost Nathan Urban

- Open Floor

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Information Pages for Graduate Students

Graduate Life Office Homepage:
https://gradlife.web.lehigh.edu/

Graduate Student COVID-19 Information Page:
https://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/organization/graduate

Lehigh COVID-19 Information Center:
https://coronavirus.lehigh.edu/

ICE SEVP

[OISS FAQ](#)

Student Town Hall - Thursday July 16th, 9:30 am

Thank you for calling your representatives!

Join the External Affairs Committee! Email
acs517@lehigh.edu for more information

Reach out to Annie Sanchez if you have input on these issues!

Mental Health - Self-Care

https://tinyurl.com/LehighSelfCare

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pdoAf-MkxeOB8pAM4qGge4TagErylDXJzijaoDCM7pY/edit?usp=sharing

- Natania and Sara have put together this self care guide.

Mental Health Resources

Counseling Center access is still available via Zoom or phone

After hours counselor always available.
Dial (610)758-3880, select "0" on the keypad

Therapists in the Lehigh Valley Database
　　Put together by grad student Natania Lipp

Keep up to date:
https://studentaffairs.lehigh.edu/content/covid-19-counseling-psychological-services-updates

Online Support and Connection

All of these resources are in the GLO newsletter

FEELING ISOLATED?

Lehigh Lookout

Learning To Connect

This 60-minute social interaction space will focus on building deeper and more meaningful connections—with yourself and with others. If you're open to exploring your relationships to self and others, this will be an opportunity to experiment with vulnerability in a compassionate environment. When you make space for curiosity, you may be surprised by the outcome.

Wednesdays at 3:30pm EDT. Click here to sign up.

📞 (610) 758-3880   ✉ incso@lehigh.edu   ⓘ @lehigh_UCPS

COFFEE BREAK

This 60-minute space is for anyone interested in taking a break, getting together, saying hello, updating each other on your current circumstances, talking about how you are negotiating life at this time and what you are doing to make it all work. Grab your mug and come fill your cup!

Thursdays at 3:30pm EDT. Click here to sign up.

📞 (610) 758-3880   ✉ incso@lehigh.edu   ⓘ @lehigh_UCPS

Live Better with Stress

This 60-minute workshop focuses on distress management with opportunities to talk about challenges, share coping efforts, and gain support in adjusting to COVID-19 and related stressors.

Tuesdays at 1:30pm EDT. Click here to sign up.

📞 (610) 758-3880   ✉ incso@lehigh.edu   ⓘ @lehigh_UCPS

Access the Career Center Virtually

Summer Career Coaching Appointments Available

Meet with your career coach, Ali Erk via Zoom or phone for in depth career support

Three Types:
Explore (30 minutes)
Advanced Career Prep
(30 minutes)
Mock Interview (60 minutes)

Sign up on Handshake!
lehigh.joinhandshake.com

The Hire-a-Grad Summer Initiative is underway!

• Keep checking on handshake for campus jobs just for grads.
lehigh.joinhandshake.com

• More jobs will be added over the next couple of weeks.

• Positions are available in all the colleges, minimum $15/hr.

• All positions are projects that can be done remotely.

Brought to you by the Provost Office, CAS, OIA and GLO

More Info:
https://careercenter.lehigh.edu/content/working-virtually-career-center

Aly Erk (Career Center):
- There are resources on Handshake, including COVID-19 remote opportunities

GRADS!

Open Enrollment Period is here!

Please make sure that you don't let your current insurance gap!

https://www.universityhealthplans.com/letters/letter.cgi?group_id=4

Are you a TA?

Preparing for Fall 2020: Workshops

Services
Help
News
Giving
About

The workshops described on this page are designed to help Lehigh faculty and TAs as they undertake course development work for Fall 2020. All Lehigh faculty, instructional staff, and teaching assistants are welcome to attend.

Each workshop will offer resources to pre-read/pre-watch and a Zoom session that offers

- a brief overview of the topic,
- brief presentations and guidance from faculty peers and CITL staff,
- time for Q&A,
- transition at 60 minutes for those who need to leave after the hour, and
- 30 minutes of guided, practical work on the topic, designed to help you in your individual course development work.

These workshops were developed by the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) and the Faculty Senate Working Group on Online Teaching and Online Curriculum, in coordination with the Provost's and College Deans' Offices.

They are supplemental to

- the Preparing to Teach in Fall 2020 guidelines,
- the Step-by-step Guide to Preparing to Teach A Blended or Fully Online Course, which instructors are encouraged to continue to use at their own pace,
- the LTS Teaching and Learning Searchable Knowledge Base, where you can find answers to a broad range of questions,
- the CITL Teaching Resources Page,
- recordings of past workshops on related topics, and
- workshops already underway in the College of Education, College of Business, and College of Health.

Additional information about these workshops, including descriptions, pre-reads, and registration will be added to the week-by-week schedule at the bottom of this page.

Registration is open for the first two weeks; registration links for weeks 3-5 will be added as the schedule is finalized.

https://lts.lehigh.edu/preparing-fall-2020-workshops

1,000 MILES
IN OUR GRAD STUDENTS' SHOES

We invite our
graduate students to walk/run a
collective 1,000 miles

How does it work?
Upload the miles you run/walk
each day to record our progress!
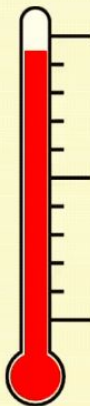
Prizes awarded for

Most miles walked

Most creative route

Best post-walk photo

1000 Miles have been logged!
and the winners are....

Farthest Distance
1st place ($50): Juan Valladares (289.71)
2nd place ($40): Alia Amer (164.6)
3rd place ($30): Kyle Brett (57.38)

Best Post-Run Photo
1st place ($50): Adam Heidebrink
2nd place ($50) Annie Sanchez

You Did It!

GLO is making
a historical record
for grads during
COVID-19

Music
Videos
Blogs

Share with us what you
are thinking and feeling

Look for posts on Facebook

facebook.com/groups/lehighglo/
from Kadia

Feelings
Poems
Pictures

email
gradshare@lehigh.edu

Orientation
Ambassadors Wanted!

We are not sure what Fall Orientation will look like during Covid-19, but if we are able to have events and you would like to help, please sign up.

Orientation is the week of August 17, 2020

Once signed up, if we are able to hold in-person events, we will send you a spreadsheet with the dates, times and events as orientation gets closer.

https://forms.gle/uF8TtsF26jDuyBw47

Provost Nathan Urban

Introduction by Provost Urban (Nathan):
- Previously was at Pitt; Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives
  - Hopes to be able to continue his own research as Provost - more informed perspective on graduate education and the life of graduate students at the university
- Priorities (pre-COVID):
  - Ways in which the research scope at Lehigh could be expanded
  - Lehigh could be a leader in graduate education; the US graduate education system is being looked at as a model internationally
    - There will be an increasing need for PhDs across society, not just as university professors

Question from Zach Arms: What plans has the university put in place for keeping infections that may start on campus from spreading into the community? This is especially important considering 1) the undergraduate party culture, and 2) the class and racial demographics of the South Side community?
- This is a work in progress and a great question
- A few things are being worked out:
  - For anyone coming onto campus, there will be a requirement to fill out a daily COVID symptom-tracking app. Eventually, this will be tied to building access
  - Developing a plan for testing of symptomatic individuals, individuals who are coming to campus from areas that have identified as hotspots

- - In PA, there is a recommendation for individuals coming from 17 states to quarantine for 2 weeks. This is part of the overall plan
    - Masks will be required when on campus; off-campus, masks are required by the governor (?)
    - COVID code of conduct - this will be a set of statements individuals will have to agree to if they're going to be on campus, stipulating some of these behaviors and rules
  - We can put in place various processes, policies, and procedures - and then there is how people actually behave. This is an issue of culture, commitment to community. There are a number of conversations happening about the importance of communicating to students
    - This will be the hardest to change, but may be the most effective
    - Reminders around campus - signage, buttons for people to wear, mask distributions (in case people forgot their mask)
  - "If we rely on punishment, principally, we will fail."
  - If we do not succeed and case numbers go up, ultimately, the response will have to be 1) limiting in-person classes, and 2) send people home. This is clearly one possible outcome, if case numbers don't stay low
  - Also planning to have a way of tracking case numbers and other factors in campus, including numbers of visits to the health and wellness center, compliance for mask wearing (how do we track this?), and ways to identify and track large gatherings of people
    - The intent is that some of this summary data will be publically available

Question from Sara Beachy: Concern about Lehigh custodial staff, particularly those who may be most vulnerable. Will there be extra precautions for them?
- The dining staff at Lehigh are not employed directly by Lehigh, but by Sodexo and another company
  - Lehigh has been working directly with these companies to figure out what they're doing to protect their staff

Comment from Jimmy Hamill: Feedback related to university communication; online education can also foster community. There has also been language that privileges the in-person experience over the online experience. In future communication, can we work to figure out a way to communicate that online and in-person are both options with different benefits and not privilege in-person
- Sure. It's most importance to emphasize that we need to provide a very high quality of education. Some people - probably more traditional faculty - hear that and think about effectively communicating and conveying information (and really focus on the content side of educational activity). Clearly, content is important.
- At the same time, community and relationships are super important - student will understand the content better, and feel a sense of responsibility to engage and do well
- Whether the educational setting is in-person or online, it's really important to

- convey the community and relationship piece
- From some focus groups at Pitt, the things that seem to matter most to students in these settings are the relationships/empathy/community

Comment from Heather Simoneau: Right now, the system is not set up for part-time students (e.g., things like when classes are held to time-to-completion). What are plans for attracting, supporting, and retaining part-time students so they have a better chance to finish their degree?
- Wasn't thinking about part-time students, but this is a great point. For part-time students who are already engaged in a field, there is a lot of interesting potential for them in earning a PhD
- What are some of the barriers?
    - Graduate classes tend to be held one time per day/week - there is limited ability if you're someone who has a job, and if there is limited flexibility associated with that job?
    - How do you encourage faculty to teach those classes at times that might be more accessible to a broader array of students? Faculty may be more amenable to teaching classes to part-time students outside of their favorite time slots if there is a larger number of excellent part-time students (critical mass problem)
    - Might be helpful to identify programs where there would be the greatest interest in part-time students enrolling, then working with the faculty in those programs to construct a schedule that would work for that
    - Another thing that could be a challenge is funding models; flexibility in this would be helpful for someone who has a full-time job. How could stipend/tuition remission be structured for a part-time student?
    - Allow graduate students to do their research in a different context, especially if it relates to that person's employment in an interesting and productive way. This could be very much a benefit to the student

Question from Secil Souzer: How many graduate students are incoming, relative to the normal numbers?
- We have actually a slightly higher number than normal. About a third are international students, some of whom may not be able to attend, may defer, or may go elsewhere

Question from Dylan Faltine-Gonzalez: What are Lehigh's plans for promoting anti-racism at Lehigh?
- Task force includes Provost Urban, CFO Pat Johnson, and Donald Outing
- First step: Gain an understanding, including data, about gaps and the situation of underrepresented students at Lehigh
    - From a data-informed perspective, this includes questions about time-to-degree, attrition
    - Will likely include surveys and focus groups to inform any future programs and efforts

- On the other hand, we need to think about the diversity of campus and the actual experience of BIPOC students on campus

Suggestion/Concern Form

Send the E-Board feedback

What issues are you facing as a grad?

Submissions can be anonymous

https://bitly.com/GSSsuggest

https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbjXb45qdh7

https://forms.gle/H45JrxGbjXb45qdh7

Open Floor

Announcement from Kathleen:
- Still accepting applications from the Creative Scholarship Institute (through the end of July)
    - This summer it will be shortened (3 days), plus regular special interest topics through the course of the year
    - Specifically crafted for doctoral students who are in the middle of their program
- This is an opportunity to re-center your values and purpose, as well as engage in creative professional development

Yvonne Lee (yrl210) - new member of GLO, supporting graduate student writing
- Email her with ideas and feedback!