



To: PVC

From: Executive Faculty Council (EFC)

Re: PVC Response to Lab Loading Proposal

Date: May 18, 2018

In September, Super Senate (now United Faculty Senates) submitted a charge to the Executive Faculty Council (EFC) to recommend an appropriate ratio of converting lab hours to work load units. The Super Senate charge asked that EFC conduct research to: identify the history of lab loading at each of the five colleges, identify how the current ratio for lab loading impacts student instruction and student success, and identify other college or university models for lab loading. The Super Senate charge asked that EFC recommend an appropriate ratio of converting lab hours to work load units, provide a rationale for which lab offerings would be impacted, recommend funding options, and provide a report outlining the budget and staffing impact at each of the five colleges.

The EFC, in consultation with the Lab Loading Ad Hoc Committee, proposed these final recommendations to the PVC:

- Load 1 laboratory hour as 1 workload unit
Board Policy D.5.1.2 defines Laboratory as: "Faculty member provides supervision; introduces information; schedules the lab work; provides individual skills instruction"
- To determine the feasibility of proposed funding options, appoint a subcommittee of Lab Loading Ad Hoc Committee members and the Chief Budget Officer from each of the five colleges to investigate the matter further.

The ad hoc committee requested further support from those with more budget expertise to identify funding options for incremental increases to the current lab loading ratio

The laboratory sections discussed in this recommendation provide our students with hands-on activities. The faculty members teaching these laboratory sections are providing an environment for their students to apply the content they are learning about in their lecture courses. Laboratory courses are a crucial component for continued student success in the STEM fields and for our student's successful transition into the workforce and/or professional schools and careers. Because of the great importance of laboratory sections to both students and the faculty who teach



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them, the EFC holds a commitment to ensuring they can continue in the capacity they do now and with the high quality they do now, and holding them as a priority means faculty being compensated fairly for the laboratory hours they teach. This commitment to the high quality experiential learning that students have in laboratories and a commitment to fairness are what inspired the EFC's decision to accept the Lab Loading work proposal.

In the EFC's view, the PVC response to the Lab Loading Proposal did not address the recommendations made to the PVC.

In addition, each of the three categories identified in the PVC response appear to be new work proposals. In order for the EFC to consider taking on that work, the PVC would need to submit a work proposal charge to the EFC.

The EFC requests a further conversation on this recommendation take place between the PVC and representatives of the Lab Loading Ad Hoc committee. The EFC is also requesting to present the Lab Loading recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 17, in accordance with the EFC process.