A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of The Trustees of Purdue University was held in Room 326 of Stewart Center, Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana at 2:35 p.m. on November 15, 2012.

All committee members were present: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; John Hardin; Miranda McCormack; and Thomas Spurgeon. Also in attendance were: Acting President Sands; Executive Vice President for Business and Finance, Treasurer Diaz; Senior Vice President for Business Services and Assistant Treasurer Almond; Legal Counsel Parent, and Corporate Secretary Indrutz.

I. INTRODUCTION

Chair Brouillette expressed the committee’s sympathies to John Hardin on the loss of his mother, and President Sands shared that he testified before the State Budget Committee earlier in the day.

II. PROJECT IMPACT AND ACTIVE LEARNING

Frank Dooley, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, provided an update on Project IMPACT. He reviewed the timeline of the project and accomplishments to date, noting there is interest and demand from faculty. He discussed how the six key partners work together, the course design model, the number of IMPACT courses being taught across nine colleges and their enrollment, and technology used. Dr. Dooley explained why space is an important dimension of the IMPACT courses and described the nature of a scale-up model, a particular model of using space. Joe Rust, president of Purdue Student Government, was present and provided a testimony of his own positive student experience with an IMPACT course. Discussion included using fellows as coaches so as not to exhaust the capacity of faculty, how new faculty will integrate into IMPACT, and whether or not to accelerate the program. Supporting material filed with minutes.

III. CORE CURRICULUM AND 120-CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENT

Dale Whittaker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, provided an update on the progress of the core curricula. He expressed that there has never been a time in Purdue’s history where this much change has happened in this short of time regarding curricula and praised the faculty. Dr. Whittaker discussed the external factors that have driven the core curricula and the resulting legislation mandating that each public state institution, including Ivy Tech Community College, meet a statewide transferrable core of 30 credit hours for implementation with the Fall 2013 semester. He answered questions from the committee regarding rigor and adequate preparation of students. Dr. Whittaker reviewed additional
legislation that limits all four-year programs to 120 credit hours with two exceptions – any program that is accredited or has licensure requirements or any program that has unique quality or employer requirements. Currently, as many as 179 plan to adjust to 120 credit hours and 43 plan to seek an exemption. He also discussed the University Senate’s reasons for moving to a core curricula and provided a list of courses that are being considered to meet foundational learning outcomes of the core curricula.

During discussion, Acting President Sands spoke about concerns of losing rigor and Trustee Hardin remarked that not only is the university educating students in preparation for a career, it is graduating citizens as well. Chair Brouillette applauded the direction of the legislation and feels it is justified. Supporting material filed with minutes.

IV. COACHE UPDATE

On behalf of Beverly Davenport Sypher, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Acting President Sands reviewed a few findings from the COACHE survey that Dr. Sypher introduced at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting held October 11, 2012. He also provided a timeline of the process followed to review and respond to the survey findings and discussed specific action items underway. Dr. Sands remarked that the COACHE survey is systematic and validated and has been very helpful. Deans Santos de Barona and Svensson were present and commented on relating the survey results to the College of Education and College of Pharmacy, respectively. Supporting material filed with minutes.

V. ACADEMIC PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Diane Beaudoin, Director of Assessment, reviewed the reasons for the Academic Program Assessment and what has been accomplished from this process that critically looked at all the academic programs on the West Lafayette campus. She noted that 278 academic programs were actually reviewed as opposed to 247 as indicated on the supporting material; 113 graduate programs were also reviewed. She provided a departmental example of the wide range of data gathered from the assessment, from which strengths, concerns, recommendations, and action plans for each program were derived.

Director Beaudoin described the makeup of the Validation Committee, which recommended a three-year cycle of such full simultaneous reviews. The Committee also created a framework for the data in order to provide better feedback to deans and department heads. Also being reviewed are the revenues and costs associated with each program, which was explained by Rab Mukerjea, Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment. Acting President Sands cautioned that how the financial data will be used needs to be very clear.

Chair Brouillette recognized the Academic Program Assessment as a major undertaking and would like to see new programs follow the same rigor, and Trustee Hardin remarked that there will always be pressure for greater value and to find ways for greater efficiency. Supporting material filed with minutes.

VI. FOUNDATIONS OF EXCELLENCE UPDATE

Vice Provost Whittaker reminded the Committee that the final report on Foundations of Excellence was provided to the Board in October and recognized Beth McCuskey, Associate
Vice President for Housing and Food Services, Christine Taylor, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and Melissa Exum, Vice President for Student Affairs, as co-sponsors with him on the project. He reviewed that Foundations of Excellence is designed to create a 24-hour learning environment for the student, with a focus on the first year. He identified the members of an action team and explained their role as removing barriers among organizations across campus, providing financial support, and making the recommendations a reality.

Dr. Whittaker highlighted the philosophy statement of Foundations of Excellence and discussed in depth its academic success priorities, instructor/faculty/staff development priorities, and student success priorities. McCuskey, Taylor, and Exum were present and commented that they are excited to see how Foundations of Excellence will impact students and that it is being done in a meaningful and purposeful way. Supporting material filed with minutes.

VII. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Spurgeon remarked that he is impressed with the programs being implemented to support the university’s mission and goals with the detail to ensure the greatest success.

Chair Brouillette noted the “toolbox” of major initiatives in process and the collaboration across campus. She emphasized that the trustees want an institution of excellence and that they see these initiatives as supporting this. She in turn offered the support of the board.

Trustee Hardin offered that there are still a few “silos” on campus with whom there needs to be communication and remarked that the faculty have ultimate responsibility for the quality of what is taught at the university.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.