A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of The Trustees of Purdue University convened in Room 326 of Stewart Center, Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana at 2:14 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2013.

All committee members were present: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; Vanessa Castagna; John Hardin; and Kelsey Quin. All other trustees were present: Sonny Beck; Michael Berghoff; Gary Lehman; Thomas Spurgeon; Don Thompson; and Bruce White. Also in attendance were: Mitch Daniels, President; Tim Sands, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Al Diaz, Executive Vice President for Business and Finance, Treasurer; Jim Almond, Senior Vice President for Business Services and Assistant Treasurer, Steve Schultz, Legal Counsel; and Janice Indrutz, Executive Assistant to the Board and Corporate Secretary.

Trustee Brouillette began the meeting by congratulating Provost Sands on having been appointed the new president of Virginia Tech.

I. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

As recommended by Provost Sands, and upon proper motions each duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval of the following appointments: Dr. Jozef L. Kokini as the William R. Scholle Endowed Chair in Food Processing; Professor Jay S. Gephart as the Al G. Wright Chair of Purdue University Bands and Orchestras; Dr. Mahdi Abu-Omar as the R. B. Wetherill Professor of Chemistry; and Dr. Dennis A. Savaiano as the Virginia C. Meredith Professor of Nutrition Policy. All were present and thanked the Board, their families, and their colleagues.

Dr. Kokini remarked that his appointment was an unexpected honor and said he is privileged to be at Purdue. Trustee Hardin thanked Dr. Kokini for coming to Purdue and said Purdue is blessed to have a food scientist of the first order, given Purdue’s regard of the scientific approach to the world food system.

Professor Gephart said he has great admiration for Al Wright, who was in attendance with his wife, Gladys. He spoke about Dr. Wright’s innovative approach to Purdue bands and the traditions he established, as well as his accolades outside of Purdue, calling Dr. Wright a legend in the band world. Professor Gephart thanked the Wrights, Trustee Castagna for spearheading the endowment, and the faculty and staff of Purdue bands.

Dr. Abu-Omar entertained the Board with a quiz to demonstrate his pride in the petrochemical industry, and believes Purdue, with its strong history in chemical sciences, can lead the way in finding innovative ways to replace petroleum.
Dr. Savaiano spoke about Virginia Meredith’s life as a farmer and her significant contributions to Purdue, where she began working in 1881. She was also the first woman to serve on the Purdue Board of Trustees. Dr. Savaiano stated the lesson learned from Ms. Meredith is that Purdue University is for everyone and it is an amazing honor to carry her name.

All supporting documents will be filed with the minutes.

II. APPROVAL TO MERGE THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY TO FORM THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY IN THE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY AT WEST LAFAYETTE

Provost Sands requested approval to merge the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology to form the School of Engineering Technology in the College of Technology. Dr. Ken Burbank, head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and interim head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology, was in attendance to assist with answering questions from the Board. He stated the merger was strictly administrative and there would be no change to the programs. Following discussion, and upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the merger. Supporting documents will be filed with the minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET HONORS COLLEGE

Following the Committee’s request at their meeting on July 16, 2013, to receive additional information, Chancellor Keon requested approval to establish an Honors College at Purdue University Calumet. He stated that it would follow the university’s strategic plan to recruit and retain more students, assist with stronger placement of graduates, and develop a strong alumni tie, and he discussed learning objectives for students in the program. Trustee Hardin expressed his support for the learning outcomes that Chancellor Keon hoped to achieve and asked for clarification of the budget. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted to request full Board approval to establish an Honors College at Purdue University Calumet. Supporting documents will be filed with the minutes.

Trustee Thompson then shared a story of a young man he knows who had been a student at a community college and who transitioned to Purdue University Calumet. He said this student has been given tremendous support, and he thanked Chancellor Keon for all his team of faculty and staff does.

IV. APPROVAL OF POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

As recommended by Provost Sands, and upon proper motions each duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval of posthumous Bachelor of Science degrees for Aaron M. Bulger and Scott A. Notary. Provost Sands expressed his sympathies to both families of these highly-regarded students. Supporting documents will be filed with the minutes.
V. APPROVAL OF COLLABORATION TO OFFER A SYSTEM-WIDE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Provost Sands requested the approval of a system-wide collaboration to deliver the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. He explained that this would be an innovative graduate degree program unlike any other offered by Purdue or any other university in the state. The program would be delivered primarily online and is a model for future collaborations. He introduced administrators of the programs at West Lafayette, IPFW, and Purdue University Calumet and acknowledged the efforts of everyone involved.

Trustee Hardin shared his hopes that this collaboration will be a model for other opportunities, and said he was impressed by the ideas to make the collaboration truly excellent. Trustee Brouillette echoed Trustee Hardin’s remarks and added this is a win-win on many levels, leveraging the resources and strengths of each campus to build a stronger whole and meet community needs. Chancellor Carwein said it was a tremendous collaboration, and she thanked Provost Sands and President Daniels for their support of “out of the box” thinking. She believes it is a wise use of resources with no duplication of efforts and it allows each campus to contribute in its own unique way. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval of the collaboration. Supporting materials will be filed with the minutes.

VI. HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES TABLED

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted to table decisions on the honorary doctorate candidates until the Committee can review the candidates with more clarification of the criteria, given this is the highest distinction bestowed by the university. The Committee will vote on conferral of the degrees at its next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.