

Remarks to the Purdue University Board of Trustees
Professor David J. Williams
Saturday, December 14, 2013

Last July, during my remarks to you for the first time as Chair of the University Senate, I outlined several issues that concerned me and that I was going to work on this year. One was our efforts in ESL for our international students. This is a very real problem, and not just at Purdue. You listened to me and asked for more information. Shortly afterwards, President Daniels formed a task force that eventually grew to over 40 people. A proposal for hopefully solving this issue was accepted by President Daniels and at the November meeting of the University Senate I had the privilege of announcing things will change in a very significant way by the Fall Semester of 2014 with the formation of the English Language Support Program at Purdue University.

That, my friends, is how shared governance can, should, and does work at Purdue University. This initiative was faculty driven from the beginning. You and the President listened, and responded. I thank each of you who participated, and in particular President Daniels for his support.

Another issue I mentioned is having a permanent seat for a Purdue faculty member established on the Board of Trustees. After consulting with Steve Schultz, the University's attorney, and Patty Hart, the vice chair of the Senate, I changed my request and emailed President Daniels to request having a Purdue faculty member placed on the Board's Academic Affairs Committee in an *ex officio*, non-voting capacity. I am very cheered to learn there is significant traction on this. Key questions need to be discussed and answered. Chief amongst these is how this individual would be selected, and what role the Board of Trustees and the University Senate would play in the selection process. This could be a significant milestone in the history of this University, and again, would send a powerful signal of how shared governance is practiced at Purdue University.

I conclude my remarks with warm congratulations to both Tim and Al for the recent significant changes in their lives. I have joked with Al about the fact we are the same age, are both the product of a classic 12-year Catholic education, and we both married beautiful women. I have had the good fortune of working on a number of projects with Al and will personally miss him and Angela very much. And Tim, I think Virginia Tech is getting a fantastic new president, and I had the opportunity to tell them so last week. Mercifully we have each of you next semester.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to each of you.

David J. Williams
Chair, Purdue University Senate