

Remarks to the Purdue University Board of Trustees
Professor David J. Williams
Friday, September 27, 2013

The first time I spoke to you in July I said there were several issues that concerned me, and briefly touched on three. One was hate speech on our campus and I am pleased to tell you the Purdue Student Government has created a Purdue Creed, which is now scheduled to be introduced at Homecoming tomorrow.

Another is a desire to see Purdue develop a comprehensive, centralized English language program for our international students. I was pleased that you requested more information on this shortly after that meeting. This has generated considerable discussion on campus, with the group growing to over 40, including all kinds of people from across the campus. This is not necessarily a negative as long as the final decision is a **big one**, and not a band aid approach. Has this sudden interest generated turf wars. Of course. But I sense President Daniels is eager to put Purdue resources into this soon, and in my humble opinion, I think the person who should lead this effort is easily identifiable. The President asked for a report with recommendations by mid-October, and six discussion groups have been formed.

The third concern was establishing a permanent seat for a Purdue faculty member on the Board of Trustees. I will remind you that it is my intent, through my words and actions this year, to convince you of the merits of this proposal. I am not the type of person to pound my shoe on the podium, and intend to work on this in my own way this year.

Since July the University has identified funding for increasing our study abroad opportunities, an area where we lag behind our contemporaries. We have increased scholarships, and given \$6 million to the History Department for two chairs in the history of medicine and technology. Tuition remains frozen, and President Daniels has unveiled his first ten initiatives to move Purdue forward, with more coming. Think groups all over campus are working on other ideas for the University's future. This is an exciting time for Purdue.

However, I would be negligent if I didn't point out that in spite of all these wonderful things, our faculty remain at the bottom of the bottom quartile in salaries when compared with our contemporaries. **Dead last.** I am a member of a small group of faculty and administrators called the President's Council on Budget and Affordability that agreed to a 1% increase this year, while at the same time suggesting faculty could relinquish their raise for the good of Purdue. I urge you to identify this issue as a concern that needs a long range plan to, at a minimum, nudge us from the **very** bottom. This would go a long way in helping moral. I realize we are at the mercy of the State for recurring salary dollars, now at 23%. But there has to be a way to improve upon this situation.

As of this moment I have received a stream of email from faculty concerned with President Daniels' remarks regarding tenure as reported in *Bloomberg* today (Friday, September 20, 2013). I have yet to read the article, but this could form a part of my remarks.

Thank you.

David J. Williams
Chair
Purdue University Senate