A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened in Room 326 of Stewart Center, Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana, at 1:44 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2014.

All committee members were present: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; Vanessa Castagna; John Hardin; Kelsey Quin; and Patty Hart (ex-officio). Other trustees present were Sonny Beck, Michael Berghoff, Gary Lehman, Thomas Spurgeon, and Don Thompson. Bruce White was not present.

Also in attendance were: Mitch Daniels, President; Deba Dutta, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Bill Sullivan, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; 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.

I. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

As recommended by Provost Dutta, and upon proper motions each duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval of the following appointments: Dr. Wendy Kline as the Dema G. Seelye History of Medicine Chair; Dr. Alan J. Zillich as the William S. Bucke Professor (College of Pharmacy); Dr. Weinong W. Chen as the Reilly Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Materials Engineering; Dr. Michael T. Harris as the Reilly Professor of Chemical Engineering; and Dr. Nien-Hwa (Linda) Wang as the Maxine Spencer Nichols Professor in Chemical Engineering.

Dr. Kline remarked that she was thrilled and honored by her appointment and offered her thanks. She shared the reasons for her love of the history of medicine and stated that it is crucial that the history of medicine be understood in order to address today’s problems.

Dr. Zillich remarked that the appointment was a great honor and offered his thanks, saying that when he was a freshman at Purdue, he could not have imagined it. He said that as the new head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, he was excited about the opportunities to expand the role of pharmacists.

Dr. Chen remarked that he chose to come to Purdue because of its great research environment and its high-quality faculty and students, and he said Purdue had visionary leaders. He discussed his current research and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to advance his career and Purdue’s reputation.

Dr. Harris remarked that he was humbled by the appointment, and he told a very moving story about his grandfather. Dr. Harris said he had always tried to honor his family by being excellent at what he did, and he thanked his colleagues and the university leadership for their support.
Dr. Wang, the first female professor in chemical engineering, thanked her colleagues and her husband for their support, and she expressed her appreciation for the excellent research environment that Purdue had provided. She discussed her current research to advance the recycling of polymer plastics, and she spoke about how Maxine Spencer Nichols would be very proud to see Purdue engineering today.

Trustee Brouillette remarked that this was an exceptional group of faculty. All supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

II. APPROVAL TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES, SPRING 2015

Trustee Brouillette stated that the Committee and the other members of the Board had received the credentials of three candidates, who had been recommended through the university process, to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree at spring 2015 commencement. She said the names of the candidates would not be revealed publicly at that time. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the slate of candidates. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Legal Counsel Schultz requested approval of a resolution regarding a process for conducting a holistic review of student academic regulations. The Committee had also received a memo that explained the purpose of the review from Dr. Frank Dooley, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Frank Blalark, University Registrar, who was in attendance.

Mr. Schultz walked the Committee through the requested resolution, explaining that Mr. Blalark would be able to answer substantive questions about the nature of these regulations, the need for the comprehensive review, and the work that had been done to date through a collaborative effort among Dr. Dooley, Mr. Blalark, and the members of the Educational Policy Committee of the University Senate. Mr. Schultz outlined each of the actions being requested through the adoption of the resolution.

Professor Hart stated that she appreciated that the memo and the resolution spoke to the faculty’s influence and involvement on regulations and procedures related to the university’s educational objectives. She also expressed the University Senate’s appreciation of the fact that the Educational Policy Committee was included in designing and conducting the review process. In response to a question from Trustee Castagna, Mr. Blalark explained what was meant by “holistic review,” and he provided some examples where regulations required updating or a more formal method of promulgation. In response to a question from Professor Hart about the description of the student academic regulations in the resolution, Mr. Schultz explained that this language was intended to describe them as being limited to the basic mechanics of the academic functions of the university, as opposed to substantive issues like curriculum decisions. Trustee Brouillette remarked that this was a good example of shared governance between the regional campuses, the University Senate, and the administration and that she appreciated Professor Hart’s comments. Trustee Hardin asked about the timeline for completion of
the review, to which Mr. Blalark responded that it would begin in spring 2015 and be completed by fall 2015.

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval of the resolution. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

IV. PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dr. Willie Reed, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, made a presentation to the Committee. He began by discussing veterinary medicine education in the United States. He shared that there were approximately 100,000 veterinarians, and he illustrated national enrollment data. He also provided data on the numbers of companion animals, livestock, and poultry in the country and outlined in what sectors veterinarians are employed, noting a shortage of veterinarians in public practice areas. He then provided an overview of the College. He illustrated Purdue’s improved position with regard to the enrollment of underrepresented students and noted that Purdue now led the Big 10. Dean Reed reported that since the first class was enrolled in 1959, the university had graduated 3,000 veterinarians and 1,000 veterinary technicians. He provided an overview of the degree programs and the faculty, and he discussed the veterinary teaching hospital and emergency service. He emphasized that the teaching hospital was an important component of the College and was considered a premier referral center because it offered a wide range of specialized services.

Dean Reed then focused on the College’s accomplishments relative to its strategic plan through 2014, beginning with a review of its vision and mission. He discussed the three directives of the strategic plan, as well as its areas of research focus and research funding. He illustrated how the College of Veterinary Medicine played an important role in drug discovery, and he spoke about the collaborative Center for Animal Welfare Science. Dean Reed commented on the College’s engagement efforts and the need for a new teaching hospital facility, and he indicated that 60% of the funding had been raised to build a facility in Shelbyville, Indiana to advance equine sports medicine. Dean Reed highlighted international programs activities and the significant increase in collaborations within and outside of Purdue.

To conclude his presentation, Dean Reed reviewed the future challenges and opportunities that would be addressed through the College’s new strategic plan, which was expected to be completed in spring 2015. He stressed that not only would a new hospital facility be needed in order to attract the best students and faculty and provide the best learning environment, it would be necessary for the College’s continued full accreditation.

Trustee Castagna asked if the parallels between human health and animal health provided for more funding resources, which Dean Reed affirmed, and Trustee Thompson asked a question about rankings. Dean Reed explained that although the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges did not endorse rankings because each college had its own mission, U.S. News & World Report most recently ranked the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine at 14th. He further explained that this ranking was very subjective and based on reputation. In response to a question from Trustee Hardin, Dean Reed said that tremendous support from state government would be needed for a new hospital because it is difficult for colleges of veterinary medicine to raise money for capital projects.
A copy of Dean Reed’s presentation was filed with the minutes.

V. UPDATE ON STUDENT GROWTH ASSESSMENTS

Professor Kirk Alter, chair of the Student Growth Oversight Committee, made a presentation to update the Academic Affairs Committee on the progress with student growth assessments. Professor Pat Kain, a member of the Oversight Committee, was also in attendance. Professor Alter reviewed why the assessment process was initiated, and he discussed the development and implementation of the pilot project. He defined the pilot instruments, provided data on the results of the pilot tests, which were administered during Boiler Gold Rush, and presented general preliminary findings. He then discussed the Oversight Committee’s ten recommendations for moving forward, which included a timeline.

Members of the Board then participated in a lengthy discussion with Professor Alter and Professor Kain, which included methods and forms of assessment, test instruments, experience of peer institutions, and challenges. Professor Kain said the Board was helpful in understanding the goals for the assessment, and Trustee Brouillette stated that the Board was committed to having a program in place to begin in fall 2015. Therefore, President Daniels suggested that the Oversight Committee move forward with a recommendation regarding a design for the fall 2015 implementation, which Professor Alter agreed to present to the Board at its meeting in February. A copy of Professor Alter’s presentation was filed with the minutes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.