A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 1:32 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2015, in Room 326 of Stewart Center on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

All committee members were present: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; Vanessa Castagna; John Hardin; Cameron Mann; and Professor Kirk Alter (ex-officio). All other trustees were present: Sonny Beck, Michael Berghoff, Michael Klipsch, Gary Lehman, Thomas Spurgeon, and Don Thompson.

Also in attendance were: Mitch Daniels, President; Deba Dutta, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity; Bill Sullivan, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer; Jim Almond, Senior Vice President and Assistant Treasurer; Steve Schultz, Legal Counsel; and Janice Indrutz, Executive Assistant to the Board and Corporate Secretary.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its meeting held on October 8, 2015.

II. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEST LAFAYETTE CAMPUS

As recommended by Provost Dutta, and upon proper motions each duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the following appointments for the West Lafayette campus: Dr. James M. Lowenberg-DeBoer as the College of Agriculture Professor of Excellence in International Entrepreneurship; Dr. Srinivas Peeta as the Jack and Kay Hockema Professor in Civil Engineering; and Dr. Issam Mudawar as the Betty Ruth and Milton B. Hollander Family Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Lowenberg-DeBoer thanked the Committee and the Board members for the recognition and for understanding the importance of international agriculture and international entrepreneurship. He explained that though Purdue has long been engaged nationally, it had used a charity model internationally, and he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to focus his scholarship on how to develop for-profit business solutions in a developing world.

Dr. Peeta remarked that it was an honor and a privilege to be named the Jack and Kay Hockema professor, and he thanked the Hockemas for their generosity and for their belief in, and support of, the civil engineering program. He also thanked his sister, who was in attendance from California, as well as his wife and daughter. Dr. Peeta shared that he had
spent his career at Purdue because of its worldwide reputation for quality and its outstanding colleagues and students. He said that his work to view infrastructure system challenges holistically often involved multidisciplinary collaboration and that he felt a responsibility to excite future generations.

Dr. Mudawar expressed his gratitude to both the Hollander family and his colleagues for the honor. He recognized that with the recognition came high expectations and pledged to take full advantage of the opportunity to forge new research and teaching initiatives to benefit a new generation of students, junior colleagues, and the Purdue community. Dr. Mudawar discussed four areas on which he would focus and said he looked forward to the challenges ahead.

All supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT FOR THE FORT WAYNE CAMPUS

Trustee Brouillette explained that Dr. Vicky Carwein, chancellor of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), had requested approval to change the name of the ITT Chair of Wireless Communication and Applied Research to the Harris Chair of Wireless Communication and Applied Research because the Harris Corporation had acquired the ITT Aerospace/Communications Division. Chancellor Carwein was in attendance and further requested that Dr. Todor Cooklev, who had previously been appointed as the ITT Chair, be reaffirmed as the Harris Chair. She informed the Committee that Dr. Cooklev had created and licensed the first-ever spinoff company out of IPFW. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the name change and Dr. Cooklev’s reappointment. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF PH.D. IN NURSING

Provost Dutta requested approval of a proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree in nursing in the College of Health and Human Sciences on the West Lafayette campus. He explained that less than 1% of the nursing workforce was prepared at the doctoral level and informed that the United States Health Resources and Services Administration predicted a dire shortfall of doctoral-educated nurses by 2020. Provost Dutta said that because nursing researchers were in high demand, the Ph.D. program would be an answer to this critical need at both the state and national levels. He further described the degree program as research-based, distinct from the system-wide Doctor of Nursing Practice, and a unique, transdisciplinary approach to nursing and healthcare.

Dr. Jane Kirkpatrick, head of the School of Nursing, and Dr. Chris Ladisch, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, were in attendance to assist with answering questions. In response to questions from Trustee Hardin and Trustee Lehman, Dr. Kirkpatrick said there was only one other doctoral nursing program in the state, which was offered at IUPUI and focused on traditional healthcare practice groups. She explained that Purdue’s program would be incredibly unique through its work with engineering and other disciplines in a non-academic health sciences environment. Dr. Kirkpatrick noted that her colleagues at IU were excited about Purdue’s program and said
that together, Purdue and IU would take nursing in the state of Indiana to a new level. In response to a question from Chairman Berghoff, Dr. Kirkpatrick said that graduates would be employed not only in academics, but also in administrative roles within healthcare systems as nursing researchers who analyze data and outcomes in order to address the serious problems with healthcare.

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing on the West Lafayette campus. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

V. APPROVAL OF FORMAL DECISION TO REALIGN PUC COLLEGE OF NURSING UNDER ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR UNIFIED CAMPUS

Dr. Tom Keon, chancellor of Purdue University Calumet (PUC), requested approval of a resolution to realign the PUC College of Nursing and the Purdue University North Central Department of Nursing under Purdue University Northwest (PNW). He explained that because the Indiana State Board of Education viewed the realignment as a transfer of control, the resolution served as the Board’s declaration that the two programs should indeed be unified, thus ensuring that the Indiana State Board of Education would license the programs. The realignment would be effective upon the accreditation of PNW by the Higher Learning Commission.

Trustee Brouillette stated that the request was straightforward, and upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the resolution. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

VI. APPROVAL TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES

Trustee Brouillette acknowledged that the members of the Committee and the Board had received background information on two candidates who had been nominated to receive honorary doctorate degrees at the May 2016 commencement ceremonies, the names of whom would remain confidential. She said the candidates had gone through the prescribed vetting process under the new criteria that had been established. Trustee Castagna remarked that the candidates were excellent, and upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the two candidates. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

VII. PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dr. David Reingold, Justin S. Morrill Dean, made a presentation to the members of the Committee and the Board to report on the progress of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve at Purdue University and said he had spent the last nine months as dean learning about the College and Purdue.
Dean Reingold began his presentation by highlighting a number of the College’s 40,000 alumni, who he said were bold and visionary leaders with remarkable careers, of whom Purdue could be proud. He then illustrated a roadmap he had developed to guide the College. It identified four broad goals that Dean Reingold believed were responsive to CLA faculty priorities and goals of the administration – 1) strengthen undergraduate experience, 2) upgrade graduate education, 3) enhance faculty excellence, and 4) expand revenue sources.

Dean Reingold then discussed the challenges that fell within each goal. He observed that the national trend of declining enrollment, which had been more dramatic at Purdue, was impacted by a number of forces which, he believed, included a cultural failure to articulate the value of a liberal arts degree. Dean Reingold reviewed the organizational structure he had devised for the College, which he believed would better position it to move forward, and he elaborated on key strategies for accomplishing the four goals he had outlined. These strategies included offering a curriculum that was tied to the labor market and professional development, as well as creating a Graduate Education Task Force.

Dean Reingold recognized that the College of Liberal Arts had true intellectual strength, as evidenced by faculty citations, research grants, and research awards on which the college would build. He voiced his confidence that the College had real and unique opportunities to leverage its strengths, such as the Online Writing Lab and the C-SPAN archive, and he expressed his commitment to finding creative ways to generate revenue sources in order for the College to emerge as a leader in innovative liberal arts education and scholarship. He concluded his presentation by expressing his unflinching belief in the potential of the College.

Trustee Castagna congratulated Dean Reingold and welcomed him to Purdue. She asked him to elaborate on his ideas for innovation, which he said would involve taking a very close look at the majors offered, and she expressed her belief that he was on the right track. Trustee Brouillette thanked Dean Reingold for his good work and expressed her appreciation for the direction in which he would take the College. She emphasized that a strong liberal arts program was necessary to have a strong university. Dr. Leah Jamison, John A. Edwardson Dean of Engineering, was in attendance and remarked that she had attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) because of its strong humanities program. Trustee Hardin remarked that Dean Reingold was the Justin S. Morrill Dean for a reason. Trustee Thompson asked Dean Reingold to briefly discuss demand trends, and Chairman Berghoff asked Dean Reingold to help the Board and the university find ways to reinforce the value of offering CLA courses to non-majors.

A copy of Dean Reingold’s presentation was filed with the minutes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.