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 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

All committee members 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, and Thomas Spurgeon.

Also in attendance were: Mitch Daniels, President; Deba Dutta, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; 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 TO CONVERT BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES TO BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREES

Provost Dutta requested approval to convert four programs in the Department of Art and Design in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts, College of Liberal Arts, from Bachelor of Arts degrees to Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees. The four programs were Interior Design, Industrial Design, Visual Communication Design, and Integrated Studio Arts. Provost Dutta explained that the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the accrediting body, differentiated between the two degrees, with a BA considered a liberal arts program and a BFA considered a professional degree program. Students currently in the programs would have the option to continue with a BA degree or switch to a BFA degree. Dr. David Sigman, chair of the Department of Art and Design, was in attendance to assist with answering questions from the Board. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval to convert the degrees. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

II. APPROVAL TO AWARD POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

Provost Dutta requested approval to award a posthumous Bachelor of Science degree to Lynda M. Glover, who was a student in the College of Health and Human Sciences on the West Lafayette campus and would have been a candidate for graduation in May 2015. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval to award the posthumous degree. Trustee Brouillette expressed the Committee’s condolences to Ms. Glover’s family. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.
III. FOR INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE (IPFW): APPROVAL TO DIVIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Vicky Carwein, chancellor of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, requested approval to restructure IPFW’s Department of Engineering by dividing it into the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Chancellor Carwein related the history of the engineering degree programs and explained that growth was the primary reason for the restructure. Dr. Carl Drummond, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, was in attendance to assist with answering questions from the Board. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to request full Board approval to divide the Department of Engineering at IPFW into the two departments. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

IV. PRESENTATION: HONORS COLLEGE

Dr. Rhonda Phillips, dean of the Honors College, made a presentation to the Committee and members of the Board to update them on the progress of the Honors College. She began by describing how the Honors College strived to provide a transformational opportunity for its students, who were also dual-enrolled in their disciplinary colleges. Dean Phillips discussed the vision and mission of the Honors College, and she outlined the four pillars, or core values, of the College – interdisciplinary academics, community and global experiences, leadership development, and undergraduate research.

Dean Phillips then provided data that summarized the fall 2014 freshmen class, and she discussed several highlights. These included the organization of the National and International Scholarships Office, which was housed in the Honors College. She also discussed the faculty and staff structure that had been established and plans of action that had been developed. Dean Phillips was excited to provide illustrations of the new Honors College building and its floor plan, and she discussed how the spaces would be utilized. She concluded her presentation with the College’s challenges and opportunities. These included engaging faculty across the disciplines, developing support for the research requirement, and fundraising.

The Board members asked Dean Phillips many questions during the lengthy discussion that followed her presentation. The discussion included admissions requirements, invitation-only admission, curriculum design, funding sources, eligibility of transfer students, identification of best practices, measuring student success, and marketing of graduates. Deans Akdridge, Jamieson, and Weiser were in attendance and addressed a question regarding their respective colleges’ relationships with the Honors College.

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.