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 1:36 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

Committee members present were: Vanessa Castagna; John Hardin; Cameron Mann; and Professor Kirk Alter (ex-officio). JoAnn Brouillette, committee chair, was not in attendance and her absence was excused. Other trustees present were 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; 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.

Trustee Hardin conducted the meeting in the absence of JoAnn Brouillette, committee chair.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its meeting held May 14, 2015.

II. APPROVAL FOR INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE (IPFW)

Dr. Vicky Carwein, chancellor of IPFW, requested approval to change the name of the Department of Consumer and Family Sciences to the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. She explained that the name change would reflect the evolution of the program from home economics to a hospitality and tourism management focus and be consistent with the degree program at the West Lafayette campus. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to seek full Board approval of the name change. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

III. DISCUSSION OF REVISED PROMOTION AND TENURE CRITERIA FOR THE WEST LAFAYETTE CAMPUS

Provost Dutta presented revised criteria for promotion and tenure on the West Lafayette campus based on feedback provided by the Academic Affairs Committee at its meeting on May 14, 2015. He read and explained the following three paragraphs, which he said
would be incorporated into the criteria document that the Committee had previously reviewed:

(a) In addition, all tenured or tenure-track faculty seeking promotion must document their commitment to active and responsive mentorship and engagement with undergraduate students, as well as their active role in mentoring, advising and supporting the academic success of at-risk students.

(b) Accomplishment in discovery also extends to guided inclusion of undergraduate students in faculty research activity that result in published work, scholarly publications, patents and entrepreneurial activity.

(c) Evidence of excellence in Teaching and Learning may also extend to substantial activity to innovate pedagogical models and materials, including wide-scale transformation of hybrid courses that lead to scholarly publications; the development of competency-based courses or curricula within an academic unit that lead to scholarly publications; and the creation of comprehensive, interactive web-based textbooks and other materials.

Discussion began with a question from Trustee Castagna about how the criterion relative to mentorship of at-risk students would be implemented and documented. Provost Dutta explained that this was a fairly complex domain and further discussions would be needed. Dr. Diane Beaudoin, director of institutional assessment in the Office of the Provost, responded to a data question about at-risk students, and further questions from members of the Board prompted discussion about promotion and tenure, to which academic deans Dr. Leah Jamieson, Dr. Christine Ladisch, and Dr. Jeffrey Roberts responded. Professor Alter remarked that although he liked how the document was written, he was concerned about how the criteria would be measured. Trustee Thompson encouraged everyone to not lose sight of what was intended by the additional criteria, which was acceleration of student success.

Provost Dutta proposed that the Committee refrain from voting on the revised criteria at that time in order to provide him the opportunity to share it with the Faculty Affairs Committee and the University Senate. Professor Alter said that it was important to send the message to the faculty that the Board strongly favored the criteria document as it was written but that wordsmithing would be permitted. Therefore, Provost Dutta will seek final approval from the Academic Affairs Committee and the Board at their next meetings in October.

As Trustee Hardin concluded this discussion, Chairman Spurgeon remarked that he was impressed by the manner in which Provost Dutta had attacked challenges since becoming Provost, and he offered the support of the Board.

IV. PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Dr. Jeffrey Roberts, Frederick L. Hovde Dean of the College of Science, made a presentation to the Committee and members of the Board to report on the progress of the College. He began by discussing student success and said that graduation rates had
increased because incoming students were now better prepared and the College had improved how it was meeting the needs of its students. Dean Roberts discussed the College’s initiatives and programs that promoted student success, saying he was most proud of its certificate program called “Learning Beyond the Classroom,” an approach to experiential learning. He was pleased to report that study abroad participation had doubled in the past five years. Dean Roberts also discussed employment data and student debt.

Turning to institutional excellence, Dean Roberts illustrated how the seven graduate programs in the College of Science were ranked, and he noted that all of the programs were internationally recognized. He also illustrated faculty research expenditures and awards, and he highlighted faculty honors. He discussed the Purdue Moves in which the College of Science was involved and said that there was an exceptional demand for the computer science major. Dean Roberts also highlighted faculty engagement and said faculty members were heavily engaged in entrepreneurship and startup companies. He then discussed classroom trends and noted that all Purdue undergraduates took at least one class from the College of Science. He was excited to share that a new professional master’s program in cyber security would debut in fall 2016 in response to projected demand, and he was pleased to discuss the College’s community outreach initiatives.

Dean Roberts then addressed operational excellence. He discussed the College’s organizational structure and provided an update on the faculty and staff makeup. He also shared how IT services in the College were successfully reorganized, as well as ways in which the College was operating more efficiently. To conclude his report, Dean Roberts discussed operational priorities and challenges, which included finding research and laboratory space and funding for lab renovations.

Following Dean Roberts’ report, he addressed a question from Trustee Castagna regarding ranking and said that the biggest driver of rankings is reputational stewardship.

V. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.