MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2015

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 1:38 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 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, 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.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its meeting held April 9, 2015.

II. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

As recommended by Provost Dutta, and upon proper motions each duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to seek full Board approval of the following appointments for the West Lafayette campus: Dr. Melanie R. Kuhn, Jean Adamson Stanley Professor of Literacy; Dr. Scott D. Sudhoff, Michael and Katherine Birck Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and Dr. Muhammad Ashraful Alam, Jai N. Gupta Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Dr. Kuhn said that she was honored by the appointment and thankful for being entrusted with the position. She discussed her work in the field of literacy education and said her appointment would provide her a great opportunity to continue her research, teaching, and service.

Dr. Sudhoff expressed his thanks and said he was deeply indebted to his colleagues. He discussed his technical love of designing motors and generators. He said that he and his colleagues were in a unique position to invent and that great things came from Purdue.

Dr. Alam spoke of his experience growing up in Bangladesh after an era of genocide. He said his honor of being a professor at Purdue was a testament to his teachers, and he
recognized the sacrifices and support of his parents and wife. He explained how technology gave him great hope for humanity and said Purdue had a unique opportunity to participate in and lead the rapidly changing technology.

III. APPROVAL OF REVISED PROMOTION AND TENURE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Provost Dutta requested approval of the proposed revised promotion and tenure policy and the proposed revised procedures for granting academic tenure and promotion system-wide. He explained the basis for the proposed revisions, and he highlighted three specific changes in the policy and three specific changes in the procedures. Professor Hart remarked that the changes to the policy and the procedures underscored accountability.

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to seek full Board approval of the revised system-wide policy and revised procedures. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF REVISED PROMOTION AND TENURE CRITERIA TABLED

Provost Dutta presented revised promotion and tenure criteria for the West Lafayette campus and each regional campus for the Committee’s approval. He outlined the revisions to the criteria for each campus, which was followed by full and frank discussion in which all members of the Board participated. During the discussion, Professor Hart expressed her belief that involving faculty in undergraduate research was most important. Trustee Brouillette observed that it was evident by the remarks given by the named professors earlier in the meeting that the influence and impact that faculty members had on students should not be underestimated, to which Trustee Thompson added that he hoped faculty members understood how important they were in changing students’ lives. Trustee Hardin remarked that faculty had choices about how to spend their time. Trustee Berghoff was concerned that this discussion of promotion and tenure was the first in his six-year tenure on the Board, and he felt that was unusual given the incredible influence and impact the faculty had on the reputation of the university. In response to a question from Trustee Berghoff, Provost Dutta assured the Board that Purdue’s promotion and tenure procedures and criteria compared exceedingly well to other universities.

Following discussion, Trustee Brouillette said that although the proposed criteria spoke to the university’s values and priorities, she charged Provost Dutta with revising the criteria to make the following explicit: mentoring and engagement, support of at-risk students, undergraduate research, and innovative pedagogy. Trustee Castagna further challenged the regional campuses to address these criteria in their documents as well.

Provost Dutta will bring the revised criteria back to the Committee at its meeting on July 16, 2015.

V. APPROVAL OF DEGREES FOR THE PURDUE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS (IUPUI)

Provost Dutta requested the Committee’s approval to convert two Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the Purdue School of Science at IUPUI to independent, site-approved degrees.
administered at IUPUI. He explained that both the Chemistry and Chemical Biology doctoral degree program and the Biology doctoral degree program had been in operation for many years under the oversight of the West Lafayette campus. He believed it made good sense for the degrees to now be site-administered given how the programs and the school had matured. Dr. Simon Rhodes, dean of the Purdue School of Science at IUPUI, was in attendance and further explained that the ability to administer the degrees at IUPUI would benefit the students, including logistically. Following discussion and upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to seek full Board approval to convert the degrees. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

VI. PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Maryann Santos de Barona, dean of the College of Education, made a presentation to the Committee and members of the Board to report on the progress of the College. In addition to her presentation slides, she provided a supplemental data document. She began her report with discussion of undergraduate and graduate student data, and she highlighted efforts that had contributed to student success, including early field experiences, study abroad, and undergraduate scholarships. She said that graduates of the College of Education were highly sought after and that for 2016, U.S. News & World Report had ranked the College at 38, out of 246 education schools nationally.

Dean Santos de Barona also reported that external funding for faculty research had shown steady growth, and she highlighted faculty awards and promotion and tenure success. She pointed to K-12 STEM education and social justice and diversity as two signature areas that the faculty had identified as both focal points for its research and areas in which the college could make the greatest impact. She also discussed data and activities relative to faculty engagement.

Dean Santos de Barona then provided an overview of the College’s organizational structure. She explained how teacher education was organized across six colleges with shared curriculum goals, jointly-appointed faculty, and a governance structure with representation from all participating colleges. Dr. Theresa Taber Doughty, Associate Dean for Learning, was in attendance and explained that program area leaders from the six participating colleges met monthly to address and coordinate the various components of teacher education. Dean Santos de Barona provided an overview of steps taken to improve operational efficiency, and she highlighted a few of many success stories, including internal Launch the Future grants that she hoped would result in external research funding. She was pleased to announce that the College had celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Dean Santos de Barona informed the Board members that the College’s highest strategic priority was research space, and she identified specific challenges it faced. She outlined the efforts that were underway to address the challenge of declining enrollment, which was a national trend, and she said the education landscape was a challenge that placed the teaching profession at a critical juncture. These challenges prompted many questions from the members of the Board and generated a lengthy discussion. Dean Santos de
Barona concluded her report presentation by reviewing the College’s plans for the next three to five years.

Following Dean Santos de Barona’s presentation, Trustee Thompson remarked that the Board understood that challenges she outlined were much broader than Purdue and he commended the College for its 97.8% placement rate. Copies of Dean Santos de Barona’s presentation and supplemental data were filed with the minutes.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Chairman Spurgeon invited the faculty to take note of the discussion that the members of the Board had during the meeting regarding promotion and tenure. He said the Board’s primary goal was providing a quality education and that the faculty was the foundation of that quality education.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.