A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 8:38 a.m. CDT on Friday, April 8, 2016, in the Student Union and Library, Alumni Hall, on the Calumet campus of the new Purdue University Northwest. Committee members present were: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; Vanessa Castagna; John Hardin; and Cameron Mann. Kirk Alter, ex-officio member, was not in attendance. 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 February 26, 2016.

II. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

A. BILL AND DEE O'BRIEN PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

As recommended by Provost Dutta, and upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval to appoint Dr. Michael J. Manfra as the Bill and Dee O’Brien Professor of Physics and Astronomy on the West Lafayette campus. Provost Dutta explained that Dr. Manfra was internationally known for his work on ultra-high-mobility, two-dimensional semiconductor quantum structures, and he informed the Committee about Dr. Manfra’s research funding and scholarship.

Dr. Manfra thanked the Board of Trustees, Provost Dutta, and Dean Roberts for the honor and said that being at Purdue since 2009 had been a great experience. He also thanked the O’Brien family for the opportunity to expand his research and include more students.

Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

B. ROBERT B. AND VIRGINIA V. COVALT PROFESSOR OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval to appoint Dr. Michael T. Harris as the
Robert B. and Virginia V. Covalt Professor of Chemical Engineering on the West Lafayette campus. Dr. Harris was formerly the Reilly Professor of Chemical Engineering in bridge status; the name change was the result of permanent, full funding. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

III. APPROVAL OF FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the list of faculty promotions for 2016-2017 that had been submitted to the Committee. Provost Dutta remarked that these faculty members were highly accomplished and highly regarded by their peers. A copy of the list of proposed promotions was filed with the minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL TO OFFER BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY TECHNOLOGY

Trustee Brouillette explained that the Purdue Polytechnic Institute (PPI) had collaborated with industry partners to develop a multidisciplinary technology program that would allow more flexibility in the curriculum to meet local industry needs and be offered at the PPI Statewide sites. Provost Dutta discussed the mechanics of the degree and said it was very innovative. He assured the Committee that the proposal had been fully vetted.

Trustee Castagna remarked that she thought this was the right thing to do for Purdue and the state of Indiana. Dr. Gary Bertoline, dean of the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, responded to Trustee Castagna’s question about how the levels of teaching and faculty would be maintained, and he explained how New Albany, Indiana, for example, would benefit from the program. Dr. Bertoline also alleviated a concern expressed by Trustee Thompson about “over-tailoring.”

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

V. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL TO HOUSE IU DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE PURDUE SCHOOLS AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

Trustee Brouillette outlined the proposal submitted to the Committee to house three Indiana University programs in the Purdue Schools at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). The proposal called for the IU doctoral program in Music Technology to be housed administratively in the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, and the IU master’s and doctoral programs in Applied Social and Organizational Psychology to be housed administratively in the Purdue School of Science. Provost Dutta remarked that this was the first proposal of its kind, and he expressed his belief that it would work well for both institutions.

Upon proper motion duly seconded, the members of the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the proposal to house the three IU degree programs administratively in the Purdue Schools at IUPUI. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.
VI. REPORT: UNIFICATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST (PNW)

Trustee Brouillette prefaced a report by Chancellors James Dworkin and Thomas Keon by thanking everyone at the Calumet and North Central campuses for the tremendous and amazing strides that had been made to unify the campuses. Chancellor Dworkin began the report by stating that although the unification was a lot of work, it was a great success, and he was pleased to have worked with Chancellor Keon to see the unification come to fruition. Chancellor Dworkin expressed his confidence that the Board of Trustees would be very proud of what the future held for Purdue Northwest.

Chancellor Keon then listed the major milestones that had been achieved during the two-year unification process. He outlined the savings generated by the unification, provided a snapshot of PNW’s administrative leadership, and spoke about the work ethic of the 5-person core team that developed the new PNW website. Chancellor Keon discussed additional technology aspects of the unification, as well as enrollment management, student affairs, advancement/marketing, and finance and administration, and he acknowledged several staff members for their efforts in these areas. He also discussed the unified staff leadership and athletic program, and he provided examples of the new PNW branding. To conclude the report, Chancellor Keon listed six actions yet to be taken, which included analysis of faculty and staff salaries.

Trustee Thompson commented that he had never seen anything like what Chancellor Keon and Chancellor Dworkin had accomplished and called it “new textbook.” He said, “Thank you for being so selfless, so thoughtful about this university and our students, and for being able to do this in a way that was unbelievably cohesive.” He further recognized the Chancellors’ immense level of integrity throughout. Trustee Thompson’s remarks were followed by applause. Trustee Spurgeon asked how students would travel between the campuses to take classes, to which Chancellor Keon responded that almost all the students lived between the two campuses. President Daniels believed it was an opportune moment to celebrate the unification, which he called a spectacular, homegrown success, and he offered his profound thanks to everyone who played a role in the unification for their cooperation, ingenuity, and spirit of “students first.” Trustee Lehman remarked about the number of hours the faculty and staff had devoted to the effort in addition to their other responsibilities and said, “They made it happen.”

A copy of the report presentation was filed with the minutes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.