A meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2016, 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 December 18, 2015.

II. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT

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. Danzhou Yang as the Martha and Fred Borch Chair of Cancer Therapeutics. Provost Dutta explained that Dr. Yang would join the Purdue faculty in the summer from the University of Arizona. He discussed her research and research grants, and he referenced a letter in support of her appointment. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Yang thanked the College of Pharmacy and others for the nomination and remarked that it was a great honor. She briefly discussed her research and said she was excited for the opportunity to become part of the Purdue family with its long history of drug discovery.

III. APPROVAL TO AWARD POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

Provost Dutta requested approval to award a posthumous, non-thesis Master of Arts degree to Arnaud Brice Couturieux, who was a student on the West Lafayette campus.
and whose academic achievements met the criteria. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval to award the posthumous degree. Trustee Brouillette asked Provost Dutta to share the Board’s condolences with the student’s family. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

IV. 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 four Doctor of Philosophy degrees for the Purdue School of Science at IUPUI to independent, site-approved degrees administered at IUPUI. The four degree programs were addiction neuroscience, physics, mathematical sciences, and computer science. He explained that, as with such previous approvals by the Board, the programs had matured to a level that made it appropriate for IUPUI to have the flexibility to administer them under the auspices of the Purdue Graduate School. Dr. Simon Rhodes, dean of the Purdue School of Science at IUPUI, was in attendance and answered questions from Chairman Berghoff and Trustee Lehman. He informed the Committee that these were the last doctoral degrees for the Purdue School of Science at IUPUI to be converted to site-administered degrees. Upon proper motion duly seconded, the Academic Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval to convert the four degrees to site-administered degrees. Supporting documents were filed with the minutes.

V. PRESENTATION: COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dr. Craig Svensson, dean of the College of Pharmacy, made a presentation to the members of the Committee and the Board to update them on the progress of the College of Pharmacy. He was pleased to report that the College had a strong national reputation and was consistently ranked in the top ten through a variety of metrics, of which he provided examples. Dean Svensson also highlighted faculty excellence and student excellence, saying that students who graduated from the PharmD program continued to enjoy high levels of employment, with what he believed was the highest average entry-level salary for a Purdue program.

Dean Svensson then illustrated the organizational structure of the College, which he described as lean and efficient. He pointed out that the College of Pharmacy had the lowest number of administrators compared to its Big Ten peers despite having the highest student enrollment. Dean Svensson also discussed opportunities for the College to address the national problems of medical errors, medication adherence, access to care, and cost/time in pharmaceutical development. He shared that the Center for Medication Safety Advancement had become a national leader for training in patient safety, and he noted that pharmacists were the most accessible of all healthcare providers.

Dean Svensson also informed the Committee and members of the Board about its two key challenges – addressing four barriers to integrating interprofessional education within the didactic curriculum and the need for a new facility. He explained that the Heine Pharmacy Building was designed in the 1960’s for a program half its current size and said that a new facility was necessary if the College of Pharmacy was to remain one of
top pharmacy programs in the nation. A copy of Dean Svensson’s presentation was filed with the minutes.

Trustee Hardin commended Dean Svensson for his concise and logical presentation to the Committee. He reflected on the experience of his daughter, who had earned a PharmD at Purdue, and asked Dean Svensson to further discuss the didactic curriculum. Trustee Lehman asked how changes in the pharmaceutical industry over the last few decades had affected the profession, to which Dean Svensson responded that the curriculum had been most influenced by the involvement of pharmacists in the delivery of primary care. In response to a question from Trustee Thompson, Dean Svensson briefly spoke about practice laws.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.