

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**  
Sixth Meeting, Monday, 23 March 2020, 2:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order Professor Cheryl Cooky
2. Approval of Minutes of 17 February 2020
3. Acceptance of Agenda
4. Remarks of the Senate Chair Professor Cheryl Cooky
5. Remarks of the President President Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
6. Question Time
7. Memorial Resolutions
8. Résumé of Items Under Consideration  
by Various Committees For Information  
Professor Deborah Nichols
9. Senate Document 19-20 Nominees for Vice-Chair of the Senate For Action  
Professor Frederick Berry
10. Senate Document 19-13 Proposed Changes to the Foundational  
Outcomes Language of the University Core Curriculum For Action  
Professor Andrew Freed
11. Senate Document 19-14 Grief Absence Policy Revisions For Action  
Professor Andrew Freed
12. Senate Document 19-17 Degree Requirements for Civics  
Literacy For Discussion  
Professor Andrew Freed
13. Senate Document 19-15 Revised Academic Progress and  
Records Committee (APR) Charge For Discussion  
Professor Andrew Freed
14. Senate Document 19-18 Mental Health Statement- University  
Senate Resolution For Discussion  
Professor David Sanders
15. Senate Document 19-19 Food Insecurity and Grocery Store  
Resolution For Discussion  
Professor David Sanders
16. Senate Document 19-16 SAT and ACT and  
Undergraduate Admissions For Discussion  
Professors Andrew Freed and David Sanders
17. New Business
18. Adjournment

## UNIVERSITY SENATE

Sixth Meeting, Monday, 23 March 2020, 2:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** *President Mitchell E. Daniels, Joseph W. Camp (Secretary of Faculties and Parliamentarian), Cheryl Cooky (Chair of the Senate), Deborah L. Nichols (Vice-Chair of the Senate), Kolapo Ajuwon, Jay T. Akridge, Taylor Bailey, Jonathan Bauchet, Stephen Beaudoin, Alan Beck, Peter Bermel, Frederick Berry, Bharat Bhargava, Jordan Jo Boileau, Colleen Brady, Sylvie M. Brouder, Robert X Browning, Min Chen, Sharon Christ, Laura Claxton, Matt Conaway, Martin Corless, Chittaranjan Das, Jim Dworkin, David Eichinger, Christine Erickson, Donna Ferullo, Ray Fouché, Alexander Francis, Andrew Freed, Ariel de la Fuente, Catherine A. Hill, Stephen Hooser, Ayhan Irfanoglu, Jules Janick, Signe Kastberg, Ralph Kaufmann, Julius J. Keller, Todd Kelley, Neil Knobloch, Jozef L. Kokini, David Koltick, Nan Kong, Ellen Kossek, Janice Kritchevsky, Eric P. Kvam, Douglas LaCount, Seokcheon Lee, David J. Love, Robyn Malo, Stephen Martin, Eric T. Matson, George P. McCabe, Tim McGraw, Michael McNamara, Larry Nies, Song No, Robert Nowack, Jan Olek, Erik Otarola-Castillo, Alice Pawley, Rodolfo Pinal, Linda Prokopy, Bob Pruitt, James Pula, Li Qiao, Darryl Ragland, Randy Rapp, Jeremy Reynolds, Jeff Rhoads, Elizabeth (Libby) Richards, Paul Robinson, Leonid Rokhinson, Chris Ruhl, Audrey Ruple, Ala Samarapungavan, David Sanders, Dharmendra Saraswat, Steven Scott, Lou Sherman, Qifan Song, Brandon H. Sorge, Rusi Taleyarkhan, Hong Tan, Dorothy Teegarden, Steve Wereley, Nicole J. Olynk Widmar, Kipling Williams, John S. Yaninek, Jane F. Yacilla, Haiyan (Henry) Zhang, Stacey Baisden, Heather Beasley, Natalie Carroll, Frank J. Dooley, Keith Gehres, Peter Hollenbeck, Lowell Kane, Carl T. Krieger, Lisa Mauer, Beth McCuskey, Jamie L. Mohler, Manushag Powell, Alysa C. Rollock, Katherine L. Sermersheim, and *Stephanie L. Dykhuizen (Sergeant-at-Arms)*.*

**Absent:** Kathleen Abrahamson, Steven S. Broyles, Edward J. Delp III, Clifford Fisher, Klod Kokini, Shuang Liu, Matthew Lynall, Julie Mariga, George P. McCabe, Greg M. Michalski, Felicia Roberts, Daniel W. Smith, Megha Anwer, Michael B. Cline and Jeremy Wampler.

**Guests:** D. Bangert (J&C), J. Ching (Exponent), A. Darling (WLF1), K. Wong Davis (Enrollment Management), J. Fish (Purdue Online), M. Gruver (CELD), L. Mason (Graduate School), J. McCann (POL), J. Neal (UCC), A. Nickel (M&M), V. Pacheco (CELD), N. Scott (BOT), P. VanFossen (C&I), and H. Walter (PSG).

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chairperson Cheryl Cooky.
2. The minutes of the 17 February 2020 Senate meeting were approved as distributed.
3. The March Senate Agenda was approved as distributed.
4. Senate Chair Cheryl Cooky presented Remarks of the Chairperson (see Appendix A).
5. President Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. presented Remarks from the President (see Appendix B).
6. Question Time.

- Professor Linda Prokopy thanked the President and others who initiated the funds to help struggling students and asked about the allocation of the funds mentioned by President Daniels during his remarks. President Daniels does not have the answer but will get her an answer from the operating team as soon as he can.
- Professor Sanders thanked Chair Cooky and President Daniels for their remarks as they were important and moving. He noted that during the February Senate meeting President Daniels mentioned that students and their families would have spent \$600 million more if Purdue had raised tuition at the average Big 10 rate from 2013 to 2020. He is interested in the breakdown of the \$600 million figure by students from Indiana, domestic out-of-state students, and international students. President Daniels said most of the savings would have accrued for out-of-state students as most of our tuition is paid by out-of-state students. We did not differentiate among the student group, but that time could come. When we held the line on tuition, we did it for everyone regardless of the state or country of origin. We have not discriminated and want to continue to attract students from other states and countries. During those years, we did reduce the percentage of international students. Roughly two-thirds of the savings that would have accrued to non-Hoosiers would have shifted to students from other U.S. states.
- Professor Jozef Kokini also thanked President Daniels for his overview of the current situation. He suggested that the changes to our educational system mentioned by President Daniels may involve downsizing of the system. Given that Purdue is a world-class University with tremendous strengths, he wanted to know if this was an advantage or disadvantage for Purdue. President Daniels stated we need to upsize, not downsize higher education in the U.S. The education system may need to diversify to be delivered to different people at different points in life and in different modes. He does not foresee a shrinkage in the amount of learning that occurs by students in post-secondary education. We were already seeing changes in the types of students such as those older than traditional-age students. It is likely we will see an acceleration of these changes. Universities are scrambling to deal with the current situation as they try to deliver courses in new ways. We will all learn a lot about how to do that. On the demand side, students will ask questions about the means of receiving their education. He can imagine ways in which this works to our long-term advantage. It will be to our advantage, if we can continue to offer an unquestionably valuable education taught to high standards rigorously and adapt some of the new delivery modes more quickly than other institutions. We are also a more affordable option than many institutions. In times like these, there is opportunity for institutions that adapt or evolve effectively and swiftly and emerge at least as strong or stronger than before. That should be our goal.
- Professor Paul Robinson asked if any consideration had been given to identifying the PPE on campus that could be provided to local health care community in case they run out. President Daniels said this has been done. In addition, Purdue may be able to produce more PPE. He thought we are already 3-D printing components for masks, for example. Purdue is also prepared to provide temporary quarantine space for at-risk patients and health care workers, if we are called on to do so. We are also beginning to prepare for drive-by testing to start with the Purdue community. If we and the state can muster the resources, he would like to help the community in that way, too.
- Professor Alice Pawley suggested there is not enough recognition of the trauma to students, staff, and faculty from the situation this semester. She teaches a class of 120 students first-year engineering students. She suggested we are likely to have

students who die. She has been contacted by students who do not know how they will pay their bills as part-time jobs have dried up. These are not ideal learning conditions. She asked: "How are we designing various educational policies in recognition of the trauma many of us are experiencing or coming to experience?" She has heard about possible suspension of students going on probation, permitting Pass/Fail grading for required courses and even having a global policy on Pass/Fail, how this semester will affect overall grade point averages. She would like to see a summary of core educational policies that are currently being discussed for revision. President Daniels said there will be a bulletin soon, if it has not gone out already, from Provost Akridge that addresses these very issues. There will be flexibility for students that has never existed. The general tilt is to continue with grading and fair evaluation but provide necessary flexibility for students. The administration has heard from many faculty members who are supportive of flexibility in this situation. We have given refunds already for room and board. We will continue to do what we can to alleviate the concerns and anxiety that people are naturally feeling. He said to look for a bulletin that goes into more detail about Pass/Fail options and about leeway that has not been in our policies in the past. Professor Cooky has spoken with Vice Provost Beth McCuskey about these concerns. Vice Provost McCuskey noted that our Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Office remains in business. The CAPS staff has done individual training to be able to deliver services remotely and they are doing more tele-counseling. We have some limited in-person staff available for walk-in clients. The more we can do to acknowledge the human aspects of this situation affecting our students and communicate our support of them and to each other as well, the better chance we have of getting through this together. Provost Akridge mentioned we are working with Associate Deans and the Senate and we should have something out tomorrow or Wednesday at the latest dealing with the issues raised by Professor Pawley. We will have good solutions to provide a safety net for those students who struggle. We will continue to provide instruction and assessment as we normally would. Secondly, we will use all available student support resources made available virtually including supplemental instruction. A great deal of effort has been put in to get the courses stood up and all the student support services that assist students in their academic endeavors will be available.

7. No Memorial Resolutions were received since the February Senate meeting.
8. Representing the Steering Committee, Professor Deborah Nichols presented the *Résumé of Items under Consideration (ROI)* by various standing committees (see Appendix C).
9. Professor Fred Berry, Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced *Senate Document 19-20, Nominees for Senate Vice-Chair*, for Action. A motion was made and seconded to approve the document. Professor David Sanders made a motion to postpone the vote and his motion was seconded by Professor Ralph Kaufmann. The motion reads as follows:
  - "Given the importance of the pending report from the commission of inquiry, it is moved that the vice chair election be delayed until the report from EPIC is provided to the Faculty Affairs Committee."

Professor Kaufmann objected to voting "yes" or "no" via Zoom as it is not a secret vote. He asked for a Qualtrics vote instead. His request was granted and a Qualtrics voting survey was created and distributed to the Senators. This voting method allowed for

anonymity. In her role as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, Professor Prokopy noted that the EPIC report will not be done until after the April Senate meeting. A postponement would mean we do not vote this academic year on the position of Vice-Chair. In addition, the members of the EPIC do not think anything they are discussing will impact anything happening in the Senate this year. None of the alleged charges under investigation have anything to do with the election of a Vice-Chair of the Senate. It is unclear to Professor Prokopy, regardless of the report from the EPIC, why this would impede moving forward with the Vice-Chair election at this time. Professor Sanders disagreed and suggested the Senate needs to hear the report. In addition, he asked if the Chair could decide if he is able to say whatever he wants to say on the Senate floor. The Parliamentarian noted that the Chair could decide if comments are relevant or dilatory. Professor Nichols then read the description of dilatory tactics from the AIP Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (p. 130). Following the discussion of the motion, the vote was taken via the Qualtrics survey and the motion to postpone was defeated with 15 votes in favor and 61 in opposition with four abstentions.

The candidates then spoke to the Senators about their vision for the Senate and faculty governance. During the remarks period, one candidate spoke against the candidacy of one of the other Vice-Chair nominees. Those remarks prompted Professor Erik Otárola-Castillo to call for decorum from the Senators when speaking about colleagues. Following the remarks by the candidates, the vote was taken with the following results:

- Professor Stephen Beaudoin 58 votes
- Professor Ralph Kaufmann 18 votes
- Professor Jozef Kokini 4 votes
- Professor David Sanders 7 votes

With a clear majority of the votes, Professor Stephen Beaudoin was elected as the next Vice-Chair of the Senate with a term beginning 1 June 2020.

10. Professor Andrew Freed, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) introduced **Senate Document 19-13**, *Proposed Changes to the Foundational Outcomes Language of the University Core Curriculum*, for Action. Professor Freed explained the rationale for the proposed changes. A motion to approve the document was made by Professor Nichols and seconded by Professor Beaudoin. No discussion occurred and the vote was taken. Senate Document 19-13 was approved by majority voice vote with one vote in opposition.
11. Professor Freed introduced **Senate Document 19-14**, *Grief Absence Policy Revision II*, for Action. Professor Freed explained the rationale for the proposed changes. He also explained that the EPC removed specific examples from the previous version to avoid confusion, i.e., if something is not included in the examples, it would be something different and not applicable to this policy. At the end of the document the EPC made more general recommendations that both students and faculty should use good judgment on what are acceptable reasons for missing classes. The EPC also changed faculty are “encouraged” to “required” to cooperate with students who miss coursework due to religious observances. Removing the list of specific examples and changing the wording associated with religious observances were the two changes based on recommendations voiced during the February Senate meeting. Professor Ruple made a motion to approve the document and was seconded by Professor Nichols.
  - Vice President Rollock noted that some words were dropped from the document in Section 2. Professor Freed stated this was an erroneous deletion and the words will be reinserted. The corrected document will be posted on the Senate’s website.

The discussion ended and the vote was taken. Senate Document 19-14 was approved by majority voice vote with one vote in opposition.

12. Professor Freed introduced Senate Document 19-17, *Degree Requirements for Civics Literacy*, for Discussion. Before providing the rationale for the document, Professor Freed noted the voting results from the EPC members. Professor Freed provided background to explain where we are today via a PPT presentation (see Appendix D). He also provided the report of the Civics Literacy Working Group (see Appendix E). Discussion followed Professor Freed's review of the work done to create the document.
  - Senator Taylor Bailey asked for examples of option #3 in the document concerning civics-related, Purdue-hosted and sponsored events. Professor Phillip VanFossen was present and elaborated on the discussions surrounding this point by the members of the Civics Literacy Working Group. The Working Group members wanted to present a wide variety of lecture opportunities for students to complete option #3. The Working Group members know that work needs to be done to identify the types of acceptable opportunities as well as how to document participation in the activities. With technology and software such as Portfolium, the ability to document student participation exists. For example, his center on campus co-hosts with the Krannert School the Purdue Series on Corporate Citizenship and Ethics. The program has invited speakers ranging from Ken Burns to former politicians and attorneys general as speakers and these activities would satisfy option #3. In terms of contact hours, that will need additional work to have equivalence between this option and a 3-credit hour course. Option 3 would be done by the students over their undergraduate career and would not have to be done in one semester academic year.
  - Professor David Koltick expressed concern about a long-term burden associated with option #3 as opposed to completing the requirement in one semester. He is also concerned about the verification/documentation that students have attended the lectures or other activities.
  - Professor Pawley wondered why this requirement is not part of the Core Curriculum process as the Working Group has drawn a similarity between the Core Curriculum process and this proposal. She was also concerned about who would oversee the external examination process and how faculty would be involved in the process. Vice Provost Dooley noted that many universities have a Civics Literacy requirement as part of their core curriculum while others have it as a separate degree requirement. One of the options for Purdue is to make it part of the Core. Courses identified for option #1 would come out of the Humanities and Behavioral Sciences and this would be a nice framework as they would fall directly into these areas. Vice Provost Dooley's suggestion is that it should be faculty that shape what this looks like and should include faculty such as Professors VanFossen, Jay McCann, and Robert Browning. He would submit to the Senate that should be the group to look at this. Professor VanFossen mentioned that in Florida, due to legislative requirement, they are using the U.S. naturalization/citizenship 100 item test question bank in the Canvas learning management system. They are using it similarly to the way Purdue uses the WebCert program for certification of faculty on our campus. It is loaded into the student's Canvas account and is password protected. The students need to earn 60 out of 100 to pass the requirement. Professor VanFossen explained we would develop our own online instrument. The Working Group members expressed concerns about using the citizenship test questions as these have been called into question for their validity and predictive power in terms of the nature of the questions.

We would develop our own instrument with key civics knowledge as part of it. We would not use the question whole cloth as Florida does. Professor McCann agreed with the summary of the deliberation presented by Professor VanFossen. We are trying to develop an exam that is psychometrically appropriate and will get the coverage that is substantively relevant. This is just the first step in our process. A pilot test was circulated and served the first step in an assumed iterative process.

- Professor Sanders noted the poll of faculty suggested there is strong opposition to using an examination to satisfy the Civics Literacy requirement. We do not have examinations for other requirements for graduation. Professor Sanders took issue with the way the Civics Literacy Working Group was created and its description in the document as they do not accurately reflect what happened. He did not agree that as a first step the University Senate determined a baseline of civics literacy knowledge for new Purdue undergraduate was needed. He stated this never happened. He disagreed that the Senate provided consent of assembly for this report and consent of assembly is not in our Bylaws. Hence, the updates from and report of the Working Group were not approved by the Senate. The report of the Working Group is not emerging from the Senate in Professor Sanders' opinion. It is permissible for the EPC to make the recommendations that are in the document, but the report did not come out of the normal Senate processes. Professor Cooky reminded the Senate that President Daniels is a voting member of the Senate and he did introduce the original Civics Literacy proposal at the Senate meeting of January 2019. Professor VanFossen asked for and received permission to respond to Professor Sanders' first point. Professor Natalie Carroll, Immediate Past Chair of the Senate, worked with people across campus to send out a broad survey to students, staff, graduate students, and faculty. Professor Sanders is correct that one of the items on the survey was to determine support or opposition to a stand-alone test for the Civics Literacy requirement. About 58% of faculty were opposed to a stand-alone test. What the working group is proposing is a response to the faculty opposition. The Working Group is not asking for a stand-alone test. In fact, the Working Group is not asking for anything specific, but sent the recommendations to the EPC which is asking for Senate consideration of the proposal. It is not a test alone, but a test-plus in response to faculty concerns.
- Professor Dorothy Teegarden also expressed concerns about a stand-alone test, who would control the test, and what it means for our students. We need to ensure faculty are involved in developing the test. Vice Provost Dooley noted in terms of the exam component we have expertise on campus for construction of exams of this type. We also have subject matter experts on campus. Other states are using exams that can serve as models for us. Most of the people with expertise are part of the committee that developed the report. He echoed Professor VanFossen that an exam alone is not enough to capture the value side of the equation. If we have a Civics Literacy requirement, we want to have test-plus and then we will look for the options to get there. As with any exam that is out there, it would be constantly evaluated and updated, and the validity of the questions would be ascertained to avoid bias. With respect to faculty oversight, the existing Undergraduate Curriculum Council members spend a great deal of time and effort on a five-year cycle reviewing the foundational outcomes to ensure this is what we want to do. They are quite rigorous in their review process. Vice Provost Dooley would expect the same model to be followed here as well.
- Professor VanFossen referred the Senate to the Working Group's report and page 2 has a brief overview of specifications for what a Civics Literacy instrument might contain.

- Professor Cooky encouraged the Senators to review the report and refer questions to her or members of the working group.
13. Professor Freed next introduced *Senate Document 19-15, Revised Academic Progress and Records (APR) Committee Charge*, for Discussion. Professor Freed explained the rationale for the document and referred the Senators to the Senate website which has the current charge to the APR Committee. The APR Committee had been moribund for many years and one consideration was to disband the committee. In discussions with the members of the EPC, it was determined that a large part of the work of the EPC involves student regulations. The EPC was finding it difficult to work through all the regulations. Following the discussions, it was decided to restart the APR Committee with Professor Sammie Morris as the current Chair. Under the leadership of Professor Morris, the APR has done the bulk of the work associated with student regulations, such as the changes to the Grief Absence Policy approved at today's meeting. The current work of the committee does not match exactly with the existing charge, so the proposal is designed to reflect the current situation. Any questions about the document should be sent to Professor Freed prior to the next Senate meeting.
  14. Professor David Sanders, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) introduced *Senate Document 19-18, Mental Health Statement on Course Syllabi*, for Discussion. Professor Sanders explained the rationale for the document. This is a student-sponsored document coming from through the SAC and builds on the work of the Student Senate. This proposal is asking for faculty to add Purdue's mental health statement to their syllabi. It will serve to remind students of the availability of mental health resources for those who need them. The proposal also encourages, not requires, all course instructors to take time during the first week of classes to speak about the various mental health resources available to students.
    - Professor Koltick noted that in his department people are not in favor of putting so many statements in their syllabi. Syllabi are getting very long with all the statements that are being added. He suggested this could be done during student orientation. Vice Provost Dooley mentioned that he has heard the same suggestion from other faculty members as the "boilerplates" for syllabi have steadily expanded. We have an option in the new Brightspace learning management system to take the syllabi statements that are consistent across campus and include them in one section to automatically become part of the syllabi. The instructor-created portions of the syllabi would focus on course-specific material. Professor Brady supported the idea of putting the consistent statements in Brightspace. Professor Koltick stated that the syllabus is a contract between the student and instructor, and he opposed bogging down the system with additional statements.
    - Professor Pawley stated that she treats her syllabus as a contract and puts many statements in it, especially during these difficult times.
  15. Professor Sanders introduced *Senate Document 19-19, Food Insecurity and Grocery Store Resolution*, for Discussion. Professor Sanders explained the rationale for the document and noted this is another student government-generated document. Due to the importance of this document and the fact the document somehow did not end up on the February Senate Agenda, Professor Sanders called for a motion to suspend the rules to allow a vote on the document at the current Senate meeting. Professor Pawley made the motion to suspend the rules. It was simultaneously seconded by Senator Bailey and Professor Beaudoin. The motion to suspend the rules was passed with a greater-than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority in favor and two votes in opposition.



- During the discussion period on the main motion, Provost Akridge provided the administration's efforts including Student Life's involvement in a food pantry. PGSG President and University Senator Bailey have been involved in food drives and making food available for those in need. The Honors College is looking at instances of food insecurity across the campus. The College of Agriculture with the involvement of other Colleges leads a food drive in the spring semester. Provost Akridge is not familiar with the PRF efforts towards opening a grocery store as described in the latter part of the document, but PRF representatives can speak to those efforts.

Following the discussion period, a motion was made by Professor Conway to approve the document and the motion was seconded by Professor Kip Williams. The motion was approved by a greater than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote in favor.

16. Professors Freed and Sanders introduced **Senate Document 19-16, *SAT and ACT and Undergraduate Admissions***, as a joint document from the EPC and the SAC, for Discussion. Professor Freed presented the background information from the EPC. In the EPC, healthy debate led to the EPC members not coming to agreement to bring the document to the Senate floor. It is now coming to the floor as a joint EPC/SAC document. Some of the EPC members were for the document, some were opposed to the document and some were undecided. In the end, the EPC members decided this debate should occur on the Senate floor. Professor Sanders provided the SAC perspective. This document has been under consideration for nearly two years. Professor Sanders spoke against this document as the SAC representative. He posed questions to the Senate about how they would decide if they knew the test results could be used by journalists, politicians, and school districts in ways the test-makers did not intend to be used. For example, by comparing how well school districts use resources or how good a college is. He noted that the proposal favors privilege and does not predict anything of an academic nature. Students from schools that prepare students by teaching to the test will do better. The tests measure opportunities available to some students, but not to all students. Those with the opportunities tend to do better than those without the same opportunities. He is strongly opposed to using the standardized test results as part of the admissions process. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Kris Wong Davis provided the Admissions Office perspective via a PPT and a White Paper (see Appendices F and G).
  - Professor Beaudoin expressed appreciation for the admissions data and asked if we have data about graduation success and success at the University. Math performance is a good predictor at least for first-year math courses, but does it correlate with overall success measures? Vice Provost Wong Davis said that slide #14 from the PPT answers the question.
  - Professor Brady wondered what should replace the data point currently in use. Professor Freed stated that the EPC did not take a position on the matter. Professor Sanders suggested that the top X% of students from any Indiana high school be admitted to Purdue. This proposal would provide substitute data and promote diversity and equity in the incoming student population. However, the SAC members decided to leave that out and separate the issues. Professor Brady addressed the suggestion of admitting a top percentage from each school and this is something to consider at the April Senate meeting. She noted that Vice Provost Wong Davis shared data concerning grade inflation and that it is tied to socio-economic factors. We need to be cautious about replacing the current process with one that works more poorly. Professor Brady would like to see data from institutions like Purdue that have eliminated standardized tests by the time the issue is discussed at the April Senate meeting. Vice Provost Wong Davis wondered if the discussion involved test-

blind (elimination) or test-optional institutions as the data would be different from each type of institution. Professor Brady is interested in the test-blind institutions. Vice Provost Wong Davis said we could reach out to some open enrollment schools and look at their graduation and retention rates. Those institutions that have recently enacted these policies do not have much in the way of retention or graduation data. We can look at some long-standing test-blind institutions for their data. Those with long-standing policies would probably not be peer institutions.

- Professor Cooky wondered how the document arrived at the floor of the Senate if most of the EPC members did not support the document. Professor Freed noted that the inclusion of a fourth voting option of “undecided and discussion should occur at the Senate” led to half of the committee believing the arguments were good on both sides and, hence, its appearance at the Senate.
- Professor Sanders will reserve additional comments for the April Senate meeting.

17. Under New Business Professor Audrey Ruple introduced **Senate Document 19-21, COVID Statement**, for Discussion. Professor Ruple explained the proposal and its rationale. Professor Prokopy made a motion to suspend the rules and allow a vote on the document at the current Senate meeting. Her motion was seconded by Professor Rhoads. A motion to approve the document was made by Professor Beaudoin and Seconded by Professor Rhoads. The document passed by unanimous vote. Provost Akridge noted that the international community at Purdue thanks the Purdue community for its support of the Asian community.
18. Having no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** University Senate Nominating Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Nominees for Vice Chairperson of the University Senate  
**REFERENCES:** Bylaws, Section 3.20b, c  
**DISPOSITION:** Election by the University Senate

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate to serve as Vice Chairperson of the University Senate for the academic year 2020-2021. The nominees for Vice Chairperson are:

Stephen Beaudoin	Chemical Engineering
Ralph Kaufmann	Mathematics
Jozef Kokini	Food Science
David Sanders	Biological Sciences

Candidate biographical sketches are attached.

### **Stephen Beaudoin**

Stephen P. (Steve) Beaudoin is a Professor in the School of Chemical Engineering. He joined the faculty at Purdue in 2003, following 7 years on the faculty at Arizona State University. He teaches primarily required undergraduate courses in chemical engineering, and performs research on particle and powder adhesion with current applications in energetic materials engineering and detection. He currently serves as the Leader of the Trace and Vapor Sensors Research Thrust in ALERT (Awareness and Localization of Explosives-Related Threats), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security-sponsored Center of Excellence in Explosives Research, and is the founding Director of the Purdue Energetics Research Center (PERC), which has grown from ~\$4M in external support in 2017 to over \$22M in 2019. Beaudoin has been a PI or co-PI on research programs with a value of ~\$50M, including ~\$8M credited to Beaudoin. He has authored over 100 articles in the refereed literature and delivered 66 invited and 130 contributed presentations at technical conferences. His H-index is 33. Beaudoin has won the Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation; has been named a Purdue University Faculty Scholar (2006 – 2011) and was an inaugural Purdue University Provost Fellow (2009). He has won numerous teaching and mentoring awards at Purdue, including election to the Teaching Academy as a Fellow (2018); the Outstanding Faculty Fellow Award from the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Suites (2017); the College of Engineering A.A. Potter Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Instruction (2017); the Shreve Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Instruction in Chemical Engineering (2017, 2020); the College of Engineering Outstanding Mentor Award (2015); and the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Purdue OXE (student honor society; 2007).

Beaudoin has served the University in many capacities. At the University level, he has served as the Academic Director, Teaching and Learning Technology (2015-2018); as Interim Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (2014-2015); and as an inaugural member of the Provost's Diversity Leadership Group (2004-2008). He has served the College of Engineering as a Lead of a Dean's Strategic Plan Implementation Team (2011 – 2014); as a Member of the Diversity Action Committee (2008-2012); and as a Member of the Grade Appeals Committee 2004 – 2006). Finally, he has served the School of Chemical Engineering as Associate Head (2007 – 2008); as Director of Undergraduate Studies (2008 – 2009); as Director of Graduate Recruiting (2011 – 2014) and as Director of Undergraduate Recruiting and Retention (2005 – 2014).

This is Beaudoin's 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the University Senate. He has served the Senate as a Member of the Steering Committee (2015 – 2018; 2019 – present), Advisory Committee (2019 – present), and as the Co-Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Purdue Global (2017 – 2019).

## Ralph Kaufmann

Ralph Kaufmann is a professor in the Department of Mathematics, who joined the Purdue faculty in 2007. He has been full professor since 2012 and has a courtesy appointment in the Department of Physics & Astronomy since 2020. His research interests lie in algebraic topology, algebraic geometry, mathematical physics and higher structures. He has published extensively in these areas. He is a co-founder and co-chief editor of a professional journal.

He earned a double BSc in mathematics and physics, as well as an MSc in physics, an MA in Philosophy and a PhD in mathematics. He held post-doctoral positions at two of the internationally leading research institutions -the Max-Planck-Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, Germany and the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques near Paris, France.

He is in strong demand as a speaker nationally and internationally, is a frequent guest at the world's foremost institutes for mathematical research institutes and a sought-after referee for journals and government foundations. His research has been funded by the NSF, a Humboldt Foundation fellowship, the Simons Foundation and the European Research Council as a Marie Curie Fellow. He has twice been a member of the Institute for Advanced study at Princeton. As a student he was a summer fellow at CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research and a fellow of the national merit scholarship foundation of Germany.

Besides extensive research in several fields of mathematics he has reached across disciplines with co-operations and research initiatives jointly with physics, chemical engineering and philosophy. He has also written commentaries for a poet and about mathematical language in art and other disciplines. Through this he has had the opportunity to gain insight into the different cultures of several colleges and departments.

Ralph Kaufmann has a great passion for teaching, teaching both small and large lectures. He is particularly involved in undergraduate service courses, advanced undergraduate courses and graduate courses. He is and has been an advisor to many PhD students. He has been awarded the Ruth and Joel Spira award for excellence in graduate teaching and mentoring.

Ralph Kaufmann became a member of the senate in Fall 2015 as a senator at-large for the college of science and was re-elected in Fall 2018. He was member of EPC committee from 2015 until 2018 and was the chair of the EPC for 2016/17 and 2017/18. During this time, he was been part of the senate leadership and served on the advisory committee. Since Fall 2018 he has been a member of the FAC. He has furthermore volunteered for many subcommittees, such as academic integrity, academic rigor and transfer credit evaluation. His further service contributions come through several departmental committees, such as the personnel committee, undergraduate, graduate committees, through the university grievance committee and through service on the science dean search. He is currently on the UCAP committee in the College of Science and since Fall 2018 a representative of the Faculty Council of the College of Science.

Ralph Kaufmann is married with two sons. His wife Birgit is a full professor with a joint appointment in the Mathematics and Physics & Astronomy. Their sons are attending the West Lafayette schools.

## Jozef Kokini

Biographical sketch not received. [Link to CV](#)

## David Sanders

David Sanders is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Purdue University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Yale College in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. He conducted his Ph.D. research in Biochemistry with Dr. Daniel E. Koshland, Jr., who was then editor of the journal *Science*, at the University of California at Berkeley. David Sanders originated the idea of the "Molecule of the Year" feature in *Science*. His Biochemistry Ph.D. thesis concerned his discovery of a critical biochemical reaction that underlies how bacteria sense and respond to changes in their

environments. Following a position as a Visiting Scientist at the University of California at San Francisco, where he studied signal-transducing GTPases, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, which is affiliated with M.I.T. It was there that he began his studies on the entry of viruses into cells with a focus on the inhibition of infection and applications to gene therapy.

Dr. Sanders joined the Markey Center for Structural Biology at Purdue University in 1995, where he was Executive Committee Representative of the Purdue University Life Science (PULSe) Molecular Virology program and is also a member of the Birck Nanotechnology Center and the Oncological Sciences Center. He was the discoverer of a biochemical reaction that leads to the entry of cancer-causing retroviruses into cells. Professor Sanders also is the author of two U.S. patents on novel gene-therapy delivery techniques. His work on the Ebola virus led to his participation in the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Biological Weapons Proliferation Prevention Program, a product of the Nunn-Lugar legislation. His responsibilities included inspecting the Vector laboratory in Siberia, which was the site of biological-weapons development in the era of the Soviet Union. He has investigated the transmission of viruses from other animals to humans and is often invited to speak on ethics, biodefense, evolution, gene therapy, vaccination and influenza viruses in public forums. Dr. Sanders has been interviewed by media around the world about his research, the role of science in public policy, and the future of higher education. He is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award for his work on an enzyme that is involved in production of the greenhouse gas and potential energy source, methane. He is also an American Cancer Society Research Scholar and received the Lions Club Cancer Research Award. Professor Sanders was the 2015 Haines Lecturer in Biochemistry at Wabash College and is the 2019 Moses Passer Lecturer at Cornell University. He was the 75th Anniversary of Los Alamos National Laboratory Lecturer on Scientific Integrity. He was also a principal investigator on a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Experiment Grant for the reform of the undergraduate premedical curriculum. Dr. Sanders serves on the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) Science Policy Committee and Research Enterprise and Breakthroughs in Bioscience Subcommittees. He was elected to the American Association of University Professors National Council in 2018. He also was elected to the West Lafayette City Council in 2015.

At Purdue University, Dr. Sanders has served on numerous committees at the departmental, college, and university level. Among the posts he has filled, Prof. Sanders has served as Convener of the Department of Biological Sciences Safety, Undergraduate Studies, and Undergraduate Curriculum Reform Committees. He has been the yearly organizer of the Professor Miriam Hasson Memorial Lecture. Professor Sanders was elected the inaugural Chair of the PULSe Admissions Committee. He was elected Chair of the College of Science Grievance Committee and Chair of the University Grievance Committee. Dr. Sanders has served as a member of the College of Science Faculty Council and the Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee. He also served as the Purdue University representative on the Indiana State Core Transfer Library Life and Physical Sciences Academic Panel. Professor Sanders has served on the Purdue University Senate Faculty Affairs Committee and is currently a member of the Student Affairs Committee. He was elected three times to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee and was elected in 2015 as Vice-Chair and subsequently served as Chair of the University Senate. He also serves as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee.

### **Approving**

Frederick Berry  
Rayvon Fouché  
Michael McNamara  
Larry Nies  
Jan Olek  
Jeremy Reynolds  
Qifan Song

### **Absent**

Martin Corless  
Robert Nowack

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** *Educational Policy Committee*  
**SUBJECT:** Revision of Senate Document 11-7 Appendices, 20 February 2012, revised 11 February 2015, revised 19 November 2018

**DISPOSITION:** University Senate for Discussion and Vote

**REFERENCE:** Senate Document 11-7 Appendices, 20 February 2012, as revised 11 February 2015, 19 November 2018

**PROPOSAL:** Update and clarify language for the Humanities (HUM), Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS), Written Communication (WC), Information Literacy (IL) and Science, Technology and Society (STS) foundational learning outcomes.

**RATIONALE:** The proposed language changes are intended to: 1) clarify for instructors, students, advisors, and the Undergraduate Curriculum Council what is required for each foundational outcome to be adequately met; 2) better align the Purdue University Undergraduate Core and the Indiana Statewide Transfer General Education Core; 3) ensure that all Purdue undergraduates achieve a solid education that reflects the most current scholarship related to core skills and outcomes.

## Proposed Revision to Humanities Foundational Learning Outcome

Existing	Proposed
<p><b>Human Cultures – Humanities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss history and the basic principles and operation of government with a view to being a responsible citizen.</li> <li>• Discuss economic, social, and cultural diversity within a global context.</li> <li>• Describe the cultural, social and historical dynamics that influence individuals and groups.</li> <li>• Explain the perspective of the culture of another country through the study of world languages, arts, spiritual traditions, mythology/literature, and/or through study abroad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Humanities:</b> Includes content in classics, history, languages, the law, literature, the performing arts, philosophy (including ethics), religion, and visual arts.</p>	<p><b>Human Cultures – Humanities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize and describe humanistic, historical, or artistic works or problems and patterns of the human experience.</li> <li>2. Apply disciplinary methodologies, epistemologies, and traditions of the humanities and the arts.</li> <li>3. Analyze and evaluate texts, works, objects, events, or ideas in their cultural, intellectual, or historical contexts.</li> <li>4. Create, interpret, or reinterpret artistic and/or humanistic works through performance, analysis, or criticism.</li> <li>5. Analyze diverse narratives and evidence in order to explore the complexity of human experience across space and time.</li> <li>6. Describe the history, literature, languages, arts, philosophy, religion, or traditions of other world cultures.</li> <li>7. Identify the history and the basic principles and operation of government in the United States or other countries.</li> </ol> <p>*At least 4 of these 7 outcomes must be met for a course to be approved to meet the Humanities Outcome</p> <p>*A course may be approved to meet either the Behavioral and Social Sciences outcome OR the Humanities outcome, but not both</p>

## Proposed Revision to Behavioral and Social Sciences Learning Outcome

	Proposed
<p><b>Human Cultures – Behavioral and Social Sciences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss history and the basic principles and operation of government with a view to being a responsible citizen.</li> <li>• Discuss economic, social, and cultural diversity within a global context.</li> <li>• Describe the cultural, social and historical dynamics that influence individuals and groups.</li> <li>• Explain the perspective of the culture of another country through the study of world languages, arts, spiritual traditions, mythology/literature, and/or through study abroad.</li> <li>• <b>Behavioral/Social Sciences:</b> Includes content in anthropology, psychology, cognitive science, organization theory, sociology, economics, history, counseling, political science.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Cultures – Behavioral and Social Sciences</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical patterns, and/or historical contexts within a given social or behavioral domain</li> <li>2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of contending explanations or interpretations for social, behavioral, or historical phenomena</li> <li>3. Demonstrate literacy in social, behavioral, or historical research methods and analyses</li> <li>4. Recognize relevant evidence supporting conclusions about the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations</li> <li>5. Recognize the extent and impact of diversity among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts</li> <li>6. Identify examples of how social, behavioral, or historical knowledge informs and can shape personal, civic, ethical, or global decisions and responsibilities</li> </ol> <p>*At least 4 of these 6 outcomes must be met for a course to be approved to meet the Behavioral and Social Sciences Outcome</p> <p>*A course may be approved to meet either the Behavioral and Social Sciences outcome OR the Humanities outcome, but not both</p>



## Proposed Revision to Information Literacy Foundational Learning Outcome

	Proposed
<p>Information literacy is the ability to recognize the extent and nature of information need, then to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the needed information. It involves designing, evaluating and implementing a strategy to answer questions or achieve a desired goal.</p> <p><b>Key Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine the extent of information needed (define the research question, determine key concepts and types of information needed)</li><li>• Access information using effective, well-designed search strategies and relevant information sources.</li><li>• Evaluate information and its sources critically (analyzes assumptions and evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position)</li><li>• Communicate, organize and synthesize information from several sources.</li><li>• Access and use information ethically and legally (citations and references; paraphrasing, summary, or quoting; distinguishing between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution)</li><li>• Propose a solution/hypothesis that indicates comprehension of the problem and is sensitive to contextual factors as well as the ethical, logical, or cultural dimensions of the problem.</li><li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.</li></ul>	<p><b>Information Literacy</b> is the ability to accurately and ethically use information, including locating, evaluating, and synthesizing information, to pursue a line of inquiry.</p> <p><b>Key skills:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify a line of inquiry that requires information, including formulating questions and determining the scope of the investigation.</li><li>2. Locate information using effective search strategies and relevant information sources.</li><li>3. Evaluate the credibility of information.</li><li>4. Synthesize and organize information from different sources in order to communicate.</li><li>5. Attribute original ideas of others through proper citing, referencing, paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting.</li><li>6. Recognize relevant cultural and other contextual factors when using information.</li><li>7. Observe ethical and legal guidelines and requirements for the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.</li></ol> <p>*All of the key skills must be met for a course to meet the Information Literacy outcome</p>

**Proposed Revision to Science, Technology, and Society Foundational Learning Outcome**

Existing	Proposed
<p><b>Science, Technology and Society:</b> the ability to understand and apply basic scientific, quantitative, and technological content knowledge.</p> <p><b>Key Skills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and reflect upon the complex issues raised by technological and scientific changes and its effects on society and the global world by making sense of, evaluating, and responding to present and future changes that shape individuals’ work, public, and personal lives. Courses meeting this content area may focus on issues such as global warming; biotechnology; GMO foods; and computing and information science as it relates to security, privacy, and the proliferation of global information. Consideration should be given to scientific and technological changes from fields such as agriculture, computer science, engineering, education, health sciences, etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Science, Technology, and Society</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> Discuss examples of scientific and/or technological changes and the costs and benefits for individuals and specific societies.</li> <li><b>2.</b> Describe ethical implications of technological and/or scientific developments.</li> <li><b>3.</b> Explain how social factors have shaped the development or application of science and/or technology, including tools and strategies by which societies promote, constrain, or otherwise influence scientific and/or technical innovation.</li> </ol> <p>*Societal context under consideration may be past, present and/or future</p> <p>**All of the outcomes must be met for a course to meet the Science, Technology, and Society outcome</p>

## Proposed Revision to Written Communication Foundational Learning Outcome

Existing	Proposed
<p><b>Written Communication</b> -- clear expression of ideas in writing; includes grammar, organization, and structure. Varying levels and types of writing skills are required for different jobs. The ability to convey ideas concisely and coherently is important.</p> <p>Key skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrates understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task(s) and focuses on all elements of the work.</li><li>• Uses appropriate and relevant content to explore ideas and/or demonstrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's understanding, and shaping the work.</li><li>• Demonstrates attention to and successful execution of organization, content, presentation, format and stylistic choices in writing.</li><li>• Demonstrates use of credible, relevant resources to support ideas that are situated within the discipline and genre of writing.</li><li>• Uses language that effectively communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency.</li></ul>	<p><b>Written Communication</b> -- clear expression of ideas in writing; includes grammar, organization, and structure. Varying levels and types of writing skills are required for different jobs. The ability to convey ideas concisely and coherently is important.</p> <p>Key skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Produce texts that use appropriate formats, genre conventions, and documentation styles while controlling tone, syntax, grammar, and spelling.</li><li>2. Demonstrate an understanding of writing as a social process that includes multiple drafts, collaboration, feedback, and reflection.</li><li>3. Examine critically, summarize, apply, analyze, and synthesize information as the basis for developing original ideas and claims.</li><li>4. Develop, assert and support a focused thesis with appropriate reasoning and adequate evidence.</li><li>5. Compose texts that exhibit appropriate rhetorical choices, which include attention to audience, purpose, context, genre, and convention.</li><li>6. Demonstrate proficiency in identifying, reading, evaluating, analyzing, and using reliable sources.</li></ol> <p>*All of the key skills must be met for a course to meet the Written Communication outcome</p>

## **Committee Votes**

### For:

Frederick Berry  
Frank Dooley  
Hossein Ebrahimejad  
Jennifer Fecher  
Andy Freed  
Keith Gehres  
Nan Kong  
Eric Kvam  
Stephen Martin  
Tyson McFall  
Sandy Monroe  
Li Qiao  
Jenna Rickus  
Jeff Stefancic  
Hannah Walter

### Against: none

### Not present:

Steven Broyles  
Christine Erickson  
Donna Ferullo  
Ayhan Irfanoglu  
Julius Keller  
Greg Michalski  
Libby Richards

**TO: The University Senate**

**FROM: Educational Policy Committee**

**DISPOSITION: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption**

**REFERENCE:** Academic Regulations and Procedures: Classes (University Senate Document 6-5, March 19, 2007)

**PROPOSAL:** *Updating class absence policies: by 1) clarifying terms 2) updating policies due to the changing needs of students 3) provision added for jury duty*

**RATIONALE:** *The current class absence policies are insufficient in providing adequate time away from campus and flexibility in times of grief, military duty, jury duty, and family leave. Guidelines in these areas are essential for not only protecting the academic standing of students but also for providing guidance to Purdue faculty on approved procedures for handling student absences consistently.*

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<p><b>A . Attendance</b></p> <p>The resources of Purdue University are provided for the intellectual development of its students. Courses with defined schedules are provided to facilitate an orderly and predictable environment for learning, as well as to provide assurance of a registered student's right to access the course. Scheduled courses allow students to avoid conflicts and reflect the University's expectation that students should be present for every meeting of a class/laboratory for which they are registered. Faculty are responsible for organizing and delivering a course of instruction and for certifying student accomplishment on the basis of performance.</p> <p>The University recognizes that the learning mission can be enhanced significantly by extracurricular experiences. Students participating in University-sponsored activities should be permitted to make up class work missed as a result of this participation. Ultimately students are responsible for all required coursework and bear full responsibility for any academic consequences that may result due to absence.</p>	<p><b>A . Attendance</b></p> <p>The resources of Purdue University are provided for the intellectual development of its students. Courses with defined schedules are provided to facilitate an orderly and predictable environment for learning, as well as to provide assurance of a registered student's right to access the course. Scheduled courses allow students to avoid conflicts and reflect the University's expectation that students should be present for every meeting of a class/laboratory for which they are registered. Faculty are responsible for organizing and delivering a course of instruction and for certifying student accomplishment on the basis of performance. Coursework is defined as the assessment(s) used by the instructor to determine the student's grade, as outlined in the course syllabus.</p> <p>The University recognizes that the learning mission can be enhanced significantly by <del>co</del>extracurricular experiences. Students participating in University-sponsored activities should be permitted to make up class work missed as a result of this participation. Ultimately students are responsible for all required coursework and bear full responsibility for any academic consequences that may result due to absence.</p> <p><b>Additionally, the University recognizes that in some circumstances, absence from class is unavoidable or is necessary to fulfill a required obligation. As such,</b></p>

	<p>the University has established the following as reasons to be granted an excused absence from class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grief/Bereavement</li> <li>• Military Service</li> <li>• Jury Duty</li> <li>• Parenting Leave</li> </ul> <p>Procedures and remedies for granting these absences for is specified in the sections below. The student bears the responsibility of informing the instructor in a timely fashion, if possible. The instructor bears the responsibility of trying to accommodate the student either by excusing the student or allowing the student to make up work, when possible.</p>
<p><b>1. General Attendance Issues (University Senate Document 10-8, March 21, 2011)</b> Instructors are expected to establish and clearly communicate in the course syllabus attendance policies relevant to individual courses. Course attendance policies must be consistent with University policy.</p> <p>It is recognized that occasionally it may be necessary for a student to be absent from a scheduled course activity for personal reasons beyond his/her control (e.g., illness, family emergency, bereavement, etc.). The University expects each student to be responsible for class-related work missed as a result of an unavoidable absence; this work may be made up at the discretion of the instructor.</p> <p>Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observances, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible and the instructor should strive to accommodate the student. Individual course policies may state expected notification periods. For unanticipated or emergency absences where advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by e-mail, phone, or by contacting the main office of the department that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in</p>	<p><b>1. General Attendance Issues (University Senate Document 10-8, March 21, 2011)</b> Instructors are expected to establish and clearly communicate in the course syllabus attendance policies relevant to individual courses. Course attendance policies must be consistent with University policy.</p> <p>It is recognized that occasionally it may be necessary for a students to be absent from a scheduled course activity for personal reasons beyond his/her <b>their</b> control (e.g., illness, family emergency, <del>job/internship interview</del> bereavement, etc.). The University expects each student to be responsible for class-related work missed as a result of an unavoidable absence; this work may be made up at the discretion of the instructor.</p> <p>Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities <b>or and</b> religious observances, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible and the instructor should strive to accommodate the student. Individual course policies may state expected notification periods. <u>Additionally, instructors <b>must</b> <del>should</del> clearly and explicitly state, in their course syllabus, <b>procedures in which assignments and assessments can be made up</b> <del>which assignments and assessments are appropriate to be provided as make up work for their course.</del></u> For unanticipated or emergency absences where advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by e-mail, phone, or</p>

cases of bereavement, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students. A member of the Dean of Students staff will notify the student's instructor(s) of the circumstances. The student should be aware that this intervention does not change in any way the outcome of the instructor's decision regarding the students' academic work and performance in any given course.

Regardless of whether these absences are anticipated or unanticipated, instructors are to allow for absences in accordance with the Student Bereavement Policy and in all other cases, are encouraged to accommodate the student. In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student can jeopardize his/her academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.

Students holding the opinion that they have been wrongly denied an excused absence or the opportunity to make up missed work should contact the head of the department offering the course or the Office of the Dean of Students to attempt to resolve the conflict.

by contacting the main office of the department that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, ~~and in cases of bereavement,~~ the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students. A member of the Dean of Students staff will notify the student's instructor(s) of the circumstances. The student should be aware that this intervention does not change ~~in any way~~ the outcome of the instructor's decision regarding the students' academic work and performance in any given course.

~~Regardless of whether these absences are anticipated or unanticipated, instructors are to allow for absences in accordance with the Student Bereavement Policy and in all other cases, are encouraged to accommodate the student. In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student can jeopardize his/her academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.~~

~~Students holding the opinion that they have been wrongly denied an excused absence or the opportunity to make up missed work should contact the head of the department offering the course or the Office of the Dean of Students to attempt to resolve the conflict.~~ *Moved to Section 8: Procedures*

**2. Conflicts with Religious Observances**

The University values a community with diverse backgrounds and traditions and recognizes that conflicts between regularly scheduled curricular activities and religious observances of some members of our community can arise. Instructors are encouraged to cooperate with students in dealing with work missed due to absences resulting from participation in religious observances.

Students requesting special consideration in scheduling are encouraged to make this known to instructors well in advance, minimize the length of the absence, and be flexible in arranging alternative

**2. Conflicts with Religious Observances**

The University values a community with diverse backgrounds and traditions and recognizes that conflicts between regularly scheduled curricular activities and religious observances of some members of our community can arise. Instructors are **encouraged required** to cooperate with students in dealing with **course** work missed due to absences resulting from participation in religious observances.

Students requesting special consideration in scheduling are encouraged to make this known to instructors well in advance, minimize the length of the absence, and be flexible in arranging alternative

<p>times to complete any assignments they might miss. Students holding the opinion that they have wrongly been denied an excused absence or the opportunity to make up missed work due to an absence for a religious observance should contact the head of the department offering the course to attempt to resolve the conflict.</p>	<p>times to complete any assignments they might miss. <del>Students holding the opinion that they have wrongly been denied an excused absence or the opportunity to make up missed work due to an absence for a religious observance should contact the head of the department offering the course to attempt to resolve the conflict.</del> <i>Moved to Section 8: Procedures</i></p>
<p>[No text]</p>	<p><b>3. University Excused Absences</b>  The University Senate has authorized <b>recognizes</b> the following <b>as</b> types of absences <b>that must</b> <del>to</del> be excused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Absences related to those covered under the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS)</i></li> <li>• <i>Absences related to those covered under the Military Absence Policy for Students (MAPS)</i></li> <li>• <i>Absences related to those covered under the Jury Duty Policy for Students</i></li> <li>• <i>Absences related to those covered under the Parenting Leave Policy for Students</i></li> </ul> <p>These policies apply to all students currently enrolled on the Purdue University West Lafayette campus and <b>State-Wide</b> Purdue University Polytechnic State <b>Wide</b> locations.</p>
<p><b>3. Grief Absence Policy for Students (University Senate Document 10-6, March 21, 2011)</b>  Policy Statement: Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS).</p> <p>GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.</p>	<p><b>4. Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS)</b>  <del>Policy Statement: Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS).</del></p> <p>Students will be excused with <u>no penalty will be applied to a student's attendance</u> bereavement leave and the student will <b>be</b> given the opportunity to <b>make up coursework as defined in the course syllabus for bereavement leave. This also includes being granted leave even in those incidences where a student does not travel from campus</b> <del>earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.</del></p>



Scope: This policy applies to all full-time and part-time students currently enrolled in the Purdue University System.

Immediate Family: Students are eligible for up to three (3) days of excused absence over five (5) consecutive calendar days for the death of a spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild or sibling, or a corresponding in-law or step-relative.

Relative living in the student's home: Students are eligible for up to three (3) days of excused absence over five (5) consecutive calendar days for the death of an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin living in the student's home.

Relative: Students are eligible for one (1) day of excused absence for the death of an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin.

In the event of the death of another family member or friend not explicitly included within this policy, a bereaved student should petition for grief absence through the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) by meeting individually with an ODOS staff member for case evaluation.

In addition, students may be granted additional absences to account for travel considerations, to be determined by the distance of the verified funeral services from West Lafayette, IN, as follows:  
 Within 150 mile radius of West Lafayette - no additional excused absence days; between 150-300 mile radius of West Lafayette - one additional excused absence days; beyond 300 mile radius of West Lafayette - two additional excused absence days; outside the 48 contiguous United States - four additional excused absence days.

The following parameters are established related to the relationship to the student of the deceased **loved one family member**:

Immediate Family: Students are eligible for up to ~~three (3)~~ five (5) days of excused absence, **over a two-week period, of the semester in which the death occurs, over five (5) consecutive calendar days** for the death of a spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild or sibling, or a corresponding in-law or step-relative.

**Other Relationships: Students are eligible for up to three (3) days of excused absence, over a two-week period, of the semester in which the death occurs, for the death of relatives or friends falling outside of the category of immediate family.**

~~Relative living in the student's home: Students are eligible for up to three (3) days of excused absence over five (5) consecutive calendar days for the death of an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin living in the student's home.~~

~~Relative: Students are eligible for one (1) day of excused absence for the death of an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin.~~

~~In the event of the death of another family member or friend not explicitly included within this policy, **All excused absence days must be used within a 2 week time period after the use of the first excused day.**~~  
**In unique circumstances**, a bereaved student should petition for **extended** grief absence through the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) by meeting individually with an ODOS staff member for case evaluation.

In addition, students may be granted additional absences to account for travel considerations, to be determined by the distance of the verified bereavement services from West Lafayette, IN, as follows:

- Within 150-mile radius of West Lafayette - no additional excused absence days
- Between 150-300 mile radius of West Lafayette - one additional excused absence days;

<p>A student should contact the ODOS to request that a notice of his or her leave be sent to instructors. The student will provide documentation of the death or funeral service attended to the ODOS. Given proper documentation, the instructor will excuse the student from class and provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments. If the student is not satisfied with the implementation of this policy by a faculty member, he or she is encouraged to contact the Department Head and if necessary, the ODOS, for further review of his or her case. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beyond 300-mile radius of West Lafayette - two additional excused absence days</li> <li>• Outside the 48 contiguous United States - four additional excused absence days.</li> </ul> <p><i>A student enrolled at a other Purdue University Polytechnic State Wide locations shall be granted additional leave based upon the traveled distance from the State Wide location in which the student is enrolled at.</i></p> <p>A student should contact the ODOS to request that a notice of his or her leave be sent to instructors. The student will provide documentation of the death or funeral service attended to the ODOS. Given proper documentation, the instructor will excuse the student from class and provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments.</p> <p><b>In cases of impending death, students should contact the instructor as soon as possible by e-mail, phone, or by contacting the main office of the department that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students. A member of the Dean of Students staff will notify the student's instructor(s) of the circumstances. Instructors should work to reasonably accommodate students in these unique circumstances.</b></p> <p><del>If the student is not satisfied with the implementation of this policy by a faculty member, he or she is encouraged to contact the Department Head and if necessary, the ODOS, for further review of his or herthe case. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.</del> <b>Moved to section 8: Procedures</b></p>
<p><b>4. Military Absence Policy for Students (University Senate Document 13-4, March 24, 2014)</b>  Purdue University recognizes that those who are actively serving in the Reserves or National Guard of the United States are required by their military contract to attend mandatory training through the</p>	<p><b>5. Military Absence Policy for Students (MAPS)</b>  Purdue University recognizes that those who are actively serving in the Reserves or National Guard of the United States are required by their military contract to attend mandatory training through the</p>

### Military Absence Policy for Students (MAPS).

Students will not be penalized for mandatory military training and will be given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of a schedule or class conflict due to mandatory military training. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of the potential for mandatory military training conflicts. Students should expect that absences from heavier course loads will be more difficult to recover from than absences from lighter course loads.

Students are eligible for up to fifteen (15) days for military-required absences per academic year with no more than ten (10) academic calendar days taken consecutively, for their mandatory military training. Total absences, including travel, may not exceed 1/3 of the course meetings for any course.

Students may be granted additional absences to account for travel considerations, to be determined by the distance of the verified military training from the Purdue campus, as follows:

Within 150 mile radius of the Purdue campus, no additional excused absence days.

Between 150 - 300 mile radius of the Purdue campus, one additional excused absence days.

Beyond 300 mile radius of the Purdue campus, two additional excused absence days.

Outside the 48 contiguous United States, four additional excused absence days.

A student should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) to request that a notice of the leave be sent to instructors as soon as he or she is informed

### ~~Military Absence Policy for Students (MAPS).~~

Students will be excused, and no penalty will be applied to a student's absence for mandatory military training and be given the opportunity to **make up coursework as defined in the course syllabus.**

~~earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of a schedule or class conflict due to mandatory military training.~~ It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of the potential for mandatory military training conflicts. Students should expect that absences from heavier course loads will be more difficult to recover from than absences from lighter course loads.

Students are eligible for up to fifteen (15) days for military-required absences per academic year with no more than ten (10) academic calendar (**during the fall and spring semesters**) days taken consecutively, for their mandatory military training. Total absences, including travel, may not exceed 1/3 of the course meetings for any course.

Students may be granted additional absences to account for travel considerations, to be determined by the distance of the verified military training from the Purdue campus, as follows:

- Within 150-mile radius of the Purdue campus, no additional excused absence days.
- Between 150 - 300 mile radius of the Purdue campus, one additional excused absence day. Beyond 300-mile radius of the Purdue campus, two additional excused absence days.
- Outside the 48 contiguous United States, four additional excused absence days.

*A student enrolled at a other Purdue University Polytechnic State Wide locations shall be granted additional leave based upon the traveled distance from the State Wide location in which the student is enrolled at.*

of the dates of mandatory military training. The student will provide documentation of the mandatory military training in the form of orders or equivalent documents as proof of legitimate absence to the ODOS as soon as these documents are available. If necessary, the ODOS may consult with the Veterans Success Center about the nature of the documentation. When documentation is presented to the Office of the Dean of Students, a verified absence notification will be sent to the student's instructors.

The student may provide verbal information about the leave to the ODOS and an unverified preliminary (non-MAPS) notice will be sent to instructors for planning purposes only. MAPS will be applicable only when the student has returned to the ODOS with substantiating documentation and ODOS has sent a verified absence notification to the instructors.

With a verified absence notification from the ODOS, the instructor will not penalize the student for missing class and will provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments. If the student begins to make up the work and is not satisfied with the implementation of this policy, he or she shall provide, within 10 days, a written statement to the professor clearly explaining their objection and suggesting an alternative accommodation. If the professor and student cannot expediently resolve this written objection, then the student may appeal for further review or consultation of his or her case to the Department Head, whereupon ODOS or the Veterans Success Center may become involved. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.

Unique or variant exceptions should be dealt with in a negotiated manner between the student and professor, which may include involving the Department Head, ODOS, or the Veterans Success Center to review and consult on his or her situation.

A student should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) to request that a notice of the leave be sent to instructors as soon as he or she is when informed of the dates of mandatory military training. The student will provide documentation of the mandatory military training in the form of orders or equivalent documents as proof of legitimate absence to the ODOS as soon as these documents are available. If necessary, the ODOS may consult with the Veterans Success Center about the nature of the documentation. When documentation is presented to the Office of the Dean of Students, a verified absence notification will be sent to the student's instructors.

The student may provide verbal information about the leave to the ODOS and an unverified preliminary (non-MAPS) notice will be sent to instructors for planning purposes only. MAPS will be applicable only when the student has returned to the ODOS with substantiating documentation and ODOS has sent a verified absence notification to the instructors.

With a verified absence notification from the ODOS, no penalty will be applied to a student's absence for mandatory military training and the student will be given the opportunity to make up course work as defined in the course syllabus ~~the instructor will not penalize the student for missing class and will provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments. If the student begins to make up the work and is not satisfied with the implementation of this policy, he or she shall provide, within 10 days, a written statement to the professor clearly explaining their objection and suggesting an alternative accommodation. If the professor and student cannot expediently resolve this written objection, then the student may appeal for further review or consultation of his or her the case to the Department Head, whereupon ODOS or the Veterans Success Center may become involved. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.~~

*Moved to Section 8: Procedures*

Unique or variant exceptions should be dealt with in a negotiated manner between the student and professor, which may include involving the Department Head, **Dean of the school or college,**

<p>In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student can jeopardize his/her academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. In courses with extensive laboratory exercises, group projects, group performances, or participation requirements, equivalent exercises or assessments may not be possible as determined by the instructor and subject to review by the Dean of the school offering the course, or their designee. In such a case the student may be eligible for retroactive withdrawal. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.</p>	<p>ODOS, or the Veterans Success Center to review and consult on his or her situation.</p> <p>In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student can jeopardize their academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. In courses with extensive laboratory exercises, group projects, group performances, or participation requirements, equivalent exercises or assessments may not be possible as determined by the instructor and subject to review by the Dean of the <b>school or college</b> offering the course, or their designee. In such a case the student may be eligible for retroactive withdrawal. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.</p>
<p>[No text]</p>	<p><b>6. Jury Duty Absence Policy For Students</b></p> <p>Students will be excused, and <u>no penalty will be applied to a student's absence</u> for Jury Duty and given the opportunity <b>to make up coursework as defined in the syllabus.</b> <del>earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments</del> in the event that a student is summoned to serve as <b>as</b> a potential juror and/or who have been empaneled as a juror in a criminal and/or civil trial. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor at the earliest possible opportunity of the potential for jury duty conflicts. Students should expect that absences from heavier course loads will be more difficult to recover from than absences from lighter course loads.</p> <p>Students are eligible for up to ten (10) days for jury duty required absences per academic semester. Total absences, including travel, may not exceed 1/3 of the total course meetings for any course.</p> <p>Students may be granted additional absences to account for travel considerations, to be determined by the distance of the jury duty from the Purdue University campus as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 150-mile radius of the Purdue campus, no additional excused absence days.</li> <li>• Between 150 - 300 mile radius of the Purdue campus, one additional excused absence day.</li> </ul>

- Beyond 300-mile radius of the Purdue campus, two additional excused absence days.

*A student enrolled at a other Purdue University Polytechnic State Wide locations shall be granted additional leave based upon the traveled distance from the State Wide location in which the student is enrolled at.*

A student should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) to request that a notice of the leave be sent to instructors as soon as the student is aware of the dates of the summoned jury duty. The student will provide documentation of the jury duty in the form of a **court summons** ~~from a court.~~

With a verified absence notification from the ODOS, the instructor will not penalize the student for missing class and will provide the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments. ~~If the student begins to make up the work and is not satisfied with the implementation of this policy, he or she shall provide, within 10 days, a written statement to the professor clearly explaining their objection and suggesting an alternative accommodation. If the professor and student cannot expediently resolve this written objection, then the student may appeal for further review or consultation of his or her case to the Department Head, whereupon ODOS may become involved. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.~~ **Moved to Section 8: Procedures**

Unique jury duty situations (sequestered, empaneled as a Grand Jury member, etc.) should be dealt with in a negotiated manner between the student and professor, which may include involving the Department Head, **Dean of the school or college**, or ODOS, to review and consult on the student's situation.

In certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses, a student may jeopardize their academic status with an unreasonable number of absences, particularly in lab courses that cannot be made up later. In courses with extensive laboratory exercises, group projects, group performances, or participation

	<p>requirements, equivalent exercises or assessments may not be possible as determined by the instructor and subject to review by the Dean of the school <b>or college</b> offering the course, or their designee. In such a case the student may be eligible for retroactive withdrawal. The student should always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.</p>
<p>[No text]</p>	<p><b>7. Parenting Leave Policy for Students</b></p> <p>Students who are pregnant, have recently given birth, or need a leave of absence to care for a newborn, adopted, legal guardian, or foster care, may petition for a leave of absence through the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) by meeting individually with an OIE staff member. The student will be expected to provide documentation related to the petition for leave. If approved, <b>the student will be excused, and no penalty will be applied to a student's absence and given the opportunity to make up course work as defined in the syllabus.</b> the student will be excused from classes. The University will approve all absences due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as a student's medical provider states that it is medically necessary; and may approve other absences as appropriate.</p> <p><del>Students who have received an approved leave of absence will be permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before the absences began. Additionally, students who have had an approved leave of absence will maintain their fellowship and scholarship status for all Purdue University-administered fellowships and scholarships.</del></p> <p>The University will provide students who are pregnant or have recently given birth with the same special services it provides to students with temporary medical conditions.</p> <p>The instructor will not penalize the student for missing class during an approved absence and will provide opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments and assessments.</p>
<p>[No text]</p>	<p><b>8. Procedures Grievances</b></p> <p><b>The instructor will not penalize the student for missing class during an approved absence and will</b></p>

provide opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments and assessments.

Students requesting excused absences or leaves under the above policies should expect that absences from heavier course loads or those in certain laboratory-based or intensive short-term courses will have a greater impact on a student than those with a lighter course load. In courses with extensive laboratory exercises, group projects, group performances, or participation requirements, **make up coursework equivalent exercises or assessments** may not be possible as determined by the instructor and subject to review by the Dean of the school **or college** offering the course, or their designee. In such a case the student may be eligible for retroactive withdrawal. The student is advised to always consult with the instructor to determine the potential impact of any absence.

**Students who have received an approved leave of absence will be permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before the absences began. Additionally, students who have had an approved leave of absence will maintain their fellowship and scholarship status for all Purdue University-administered fellowships and scholarships.**

Students who believe that they have not been provided an excused absence(s) or the opportunity to **complete make up work** ~~earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments and assessments~~ are encouraged to attempt to resolve the matter informally with the instructor, and/or department head and **Dean of the College or School that the course is offered**. Additionally, the ODOS, or the OIE in cases involving the Parenting Leave policy, may be consulted by the student for further review of their case. In a case where grades are negatively affected, the student may follow the established grade appeals process.

#### 9. Conclusion:

The University expects that students will attend classes for which they are registered. At times, however, either anticipated or unanticipated absences can occur. The student bears the responsibility of

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The University expects that students will attend classes for which they are registered. At times, however, either anticipated or unanticipated absences can occur. The student bears the responsibility of



informing the instructor in a timely fashion, when possible. The instructor bears the responsibility of trying to accommodate the student either by excusing the student or allowing the student to make up work, when possible. The University expects both students and their instructors to approach problems with class attendance in a manner that is reasonable.

informing the instructor in a timely fashion, when possible. The instructor bears the responsibility of trying to accommodate the student either by excusing the student or allowing the student to make up work, when possible. The University expects both students and their instructors to approach problems with class attendance in a manner that is reasonable.

**Committee Votes**For:

Frederick Berry  
Frank Dooley  
Hossein Ebrahimejad  
Jennifer Fecher  
Andy Freed  
Keith Gehres  
Nan Kong  
Eric Kvam  
Stephen Martin  
Tyson McFall  
Sandy Monroe  
Li Qiao  
Jenna Rickus  
Jeff Stefancic  
Hannah Walter

Against: noneNot present:

Steven Broyles  
Christine Erickson  
Donna Ferullo  
Ayhan Irfanoglu  
Julius Keller  
Greg Michalski  
Libby Richards

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** Educational Policy Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Degree Requirement for Civics Literacy  
**DISPOSITION:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
**REFERENCE:** *Requirements for Degrees: B. Baccalaureate Degree at*  
<http://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=12724>

**PROPOSAL:** Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy.

**RATIONALE:** Education leaders stress the need to include learning that is related to the development of individuals' civic capacity throughout all years of schooling in the United States. A report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, an initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, made an urgent call to higher education institutions in the United States to make civic literacy, inquiry, and action part of the educational objectives to be achieved by every college graduate. This plan would involve adopting long-term, measurable standards to indicate the extent to which college students are gaining a civic perspective during their postsecondary education.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy. Students would meet the requirement by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam and completion one of the following three options: 1) 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g., relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); or 2) successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or 3) attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events involving a substantially equivalent number of contact hours.

**Education Policy Committee Votes:**

	<u>For:</u>	<u>Against:</u>	<u>Abstain:</u>
Andy Freed	Frank Dooley	Eric Kvam	Jeffery Stefancic
Fredrick Berry	Stephen Martin		Sandy Monroe
Julius Keller	Grace Rich		
Jennifer Fecher	Libby Richards		
Donna Ferullo	Keith Gehres		
Nan Kong	Hossein EbrahimiNejad		

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** Educational Policy Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Revised Academic and Progress Records (APR) Committee charge  
**DISPOSITION:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
**REFERENCE:** Academic Progress and Records website:  
*<https://www.purdue.edu/senate/standing-committees/educational/academicProgressRecords.php>*  
**PROPOSAL:** Modification of the APR mission statement  
**RATIONALE:** The APR had not been meeting for several years and its charge has become outdated. The proposed change to the charge is a better representation of what the reconstituted APR is now working on.

Current	Proposed
The committee shall be charged with: 1. Matters concerning academic records and the calendar; 2. Reviewing grading standards and the process of tabulating and distributing information about grades within the University; 3. Overseeing the operation of probation and graduation requirements in the University.	The committee shall be charged with: <b>Matters concerning the review and drafting of academic regulations, as well as student conduct regulations that affect academic regulations, for consideration by the Educational Policy Committee (EPC).</b>

**Education Policy Committee Votes:**

For:

Fred Berry, Hossein EbrahimiNejad, Christine Erickson, Greg Michalski, Li Qiao, Frank Dooley, Keith Gehres, Jeff Stefancic, Donna Ferullo, Julius Keller, Nan Kong, Eric Kvam, Stephen Martin, Grace Rich, Libby Richards, Hannah Walter, Andy Freed

Against:

Ayhan Irfanoglu

Abstain:

**To: The University Senate**

**From: Grace Brooks, Joshua J. David, Sammy Bonnet, and Hannah Walter**

**Subject: Mental Health Statements on Purdue Course Syllabi**

**Disposition: University Senate Student Affairs Committee and the University Senate for discussion and approval**

**Proposal:**

**Rationale:**

**WHEREAS:** According to College Degree Search, there are more than 1,000 suicides on college campuses annually in the United States alone<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Students aged 15-24 are in the highest risk group for a majority of mental illnesses, and 1 in 4 of those students in the highest risk group will not seek any form of help<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Research conducted by Stanford University's School of Medicine said that cognitive behavioral therapy can effectively decrease peoples' depression, anxiety, and other related symptoms<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Purdue's Counseling and Psychological Services (hereafter referred to as CAPS) is a "team of multiculturally sensitive professionals delivering comprehensive psychological services to the students of Purdue University"<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** CAPS's mission is "to help Purdue University students maximize their value of their life experiences"<sup>5</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.collegedegreesearch.net/student-suicides/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.collegedegreesearch.net/student-suicides/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/caps/about/faq\\_caps/index.html](https://www.purdue.edu/caps/about/faq_caps/index.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/caps/about/mission.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/caps/about/mission.html>

**WHEREAS:** CAPS accomplishes their mission through the use of “a variety of professional services, including individual, group, and couples psychotherapy; psychological testing; psychopharmacology; crisis intervention; drug and alcohol programs; outreach and consultation; and the training of helping professionals”<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Purdue also offers an online resource called “WellTrack” that can assist students with managing their stress and mental health<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** Course instructors at Purdue University are a direct link to students on a consistent basis, and are an important resource in relaying information to students; and

**WHEREAS:** Purdue currently does not require course instructors to include Mental Health Statements or other resources available for students on campus in their course syllabi; and

**WHEREAS:** Every student who attends Purdue University should receive course syllabi, and those syllabi should also be available online for students to review the information contained within.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The University Senate urges the Administration to require all course syllabi by the Fall 2020 academic semester to include the Mental Health Statement provided by the Purdue University administration containing a list of mental-health resources available to students on and around campus; and

The University Senate urges the Administration to encourage course instructors to take time during the first week of classes to speak about the various resources available to students regarding mental health.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/caps/about/mission.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>

**Respectfully submitted by Grace Brooks, Joshua J. David, Sammy Bonnet, and Hannah Walter**

Student Affairs Committee

In Favor

Opposed

**Tom Atkinson**  
**Matthew Dittman**  
**Joshua David**  
**Rayvon Fouche**  
**Signe Kastberg**  
**Felicia Roberts**  
**Paul Robinson**  
**David Sanders.**  
**Steven Scott**  
**Jane Yacilla**



**To: The University Senate**

**From: Linda S. Prokopy, Joshua J. David and the Student Affairs  
Committee**

**Subject: Food Insecurity and Grocery Store Matters**

**Disposition: University Senate for Approval**

**Proposal:**

**Rationale:**

**WHEREAS:** the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States Department of Agriculture has classified areas around Purdue, including parts of residential campus as well as off-campus housing, as a food desert since 2010; and

**WHEREAS:** The “Hunger on Campus – The Challenge of Food Insecurity for College Students” 2016 report studied food insecurity on college campuses across the United States concluded the following:<sup>2</sup>

- I. 48 percent of respondents reported food insecurity in the previous 30 days, including 22 percent with very low levels of food security that qualify them as hungry, and
- II. More than half of all first-generation students (56 percent) were food insecure, compared to 45 percent of students who had at least one parent who attended college, and
- III. 55 percent reported that these problems caused them to not buy a required textbook; 25 percent reported dropping a class; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://studentsagainsthunger.org/hunger-on-campus/>

**WHEREAS:** In the fall of 2017, the Purdue Student Government conducted a survey among its constituency, and out of roughly 3,000 respondents, 16.5 percent reported skipping a meal for financial reasons; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The University Senate urges the Administration to work with the Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Graduate Student Government to combat food insecurity present in all of its forms among students, faculty, and staff; and

The University Senate urges the Administration to include a grocery with affordable fresh produce in any of its new residential development on land owned by Purdue or the Purdue Research Foundation.

**Respectfully submitted by Linda S. Prokopy & Joshua J. David**

Student Affairs Committee

In Favor

Opposed

Tom Atkinson.  
Matthew Dittman  
Joshua David  
Signe Kastberg.  
Beth McCuskey  
Felicia Roberts.  
Paul Robinson.  
David Sanders.  
Steven Scott.  
Jane Yacilla.  
Haiyan H Zhang.

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** Student Affairs and Educational Policy Committees  
**SUBJECT:** SAT/ACT and Undergraduate Admissions  
**DISPOSITION:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption  
**REFERENCE:** Freshman Admission Criteria:  
<https://www.admissions.purdue.edu/apply/criteriafreshmen.php>  
**PROPOSAL:** Elimination of standardized testing for undergraduate admissions  
**RATIONALE:** Many colleges and universities no longer require submission of SAT or ACT scores by undergraduate applicants, because performance on ACT and SAT tests has substantial limitations as an independent predictor of academic success in college, and applicants who are economically advantaged have disproportionate access to standardized-test preparation resources. In addition, current students will benefit from experiences with a diverse population of incoming students.

***PROPOSED ACTION:***

The University Senate strongly urges the Purdue University Office of Admissions to discontinue requiring standardized test results as criteria for admission to the undergraduate program at Purdue University—West Lafayette.

**Student Affairs Committee Votes**

For:

Joshua David  
Mathew Dittman  
Paul Robinson  
David Sanders  
Jane Yacilla

Against:

Abstain:

Thomas Atkinson  
Heather Beasley  
Beth McCuskey

**Education Policy Committee Votes**

For:

Fred Berry  
Hossein Ebrahiminejad  
Christine Erickson  
Ayhan Irfanoglu  
Greg Michalski

Against:

Li Qiao  
Frank Dooley  
Keith Gehres

Abstain:

Jeff Stefancic

Undecided and would like the proposed action to be discussed at a Senate meeting:

Donna Ferullo, Julius Keller, Nan Kong, Eric Kvam, Stephen Martin, Grace Rich Libby Richards, Hannah Walter, Andy Freed

**TO:** The University Senate  
**FROM:** *Equity and Diversity Committee*  
**SUBJECT:** *The Senate's anti-Asian and anti-Asian American bigotry statement*  
**DISPOSITION:** **University Senate for Discussion and Adoption**  
**REFERENCE:** *Nondiscrimination Policy Statement and University Policy III.C.2*  
**RATIONALE:** Purdue University is committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, Purdue University seeks to develop and nurture its diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas and enriches campus life.

Purdue University does not condone and will not tolerate Discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, disability, status as a veteran, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

**PROPOSAL:** *Purdue University Senate shall release the following statement immediately:*  
*“As fear and anxiety about COVID-19 has spread across this country, there has been increased incidences of prejudice, xenophobia, discrimination, violence, and racism directed against people from Asian nations as well as Asian Americans. As a university that is home to thousands of international students and a large Asian American community, we write this to condemn any form of anti-Asian or anti-Asian American bigotry. Attacks inflicted upon these communities will not be tolerated at Purdue University.”*

**Committee Votes**

For:  
Bharat Bhargava  
De Bush  
Lowell Kane  
Klod Kokini

Against:

Ellen Kossek  
Matthew Lynall  
Song No  
Erik Otárola-Castillo  
Rodolfo Pinal  
Linda Prokopy  
Audrey Ruple  
Ala Samarapungavan  
Nicole Widmar  
Kip Williams

Abstained/Not responded:

Alex Griffin-Little  
Neil Knobloch  
Rodolfo Pinal  
Alysa Rollock  
Val Schull  
Henry Semler

Dear Senate colleagues and guests,

I would like to begin my remarks today with expression of my deepest gratitude for the efforts each of you have put forward in helping the University transition to remote, online learning. I know this was not how most of us envisioned our spring break. I had hopes of immersing myself in data analysis for my latest research project, and also planned to spend two days in a writing retreat with my colleague working on our book manuscript. I imagine many of you were also planning to use the time to catch up on writing and research, or perhaps taking family vacations; and some may have simply wished to use the break to rest, relax, and recharge. Certainly, none of us expected to have the spring break we did. And as a colleague said to me the other day, complaining about COVID-19 is like complaining about the weather, we are all affected by it.

Hopefully you had a chance to read my letter to the faculty from March 13. In that letter, I shared what the Senate has been doing in the transition. Moreover, while many of you were working overtime during your spring break to convert your spring semester to online learning, the Senate leadership was working over the spring break to convert our Senate meeting to a virtual one. As time went on it became increasingly obvious that a full virtual meeting was our only safe option. Thank you everyone for being here today and for some of you, your willingness to learn a new technology.

To state what is now an overused, yet apt phrase, these are unprecedented times. COVID-19 presents an ever-evolving, fluid crisis. As such, we, faculty, staff, students and administrators, are being called upon to adapt to this ever-changing landscape. Historically, such calls are accompanied by appeals for perseverance, grit, and resilience. These calls for strength and determination, and persistence in the face of adversity are intended to be empowering and inspirational. This discursive context often enables and supports behaviors and perspectives that lead one to disconnect or disassociate from the experiential dimensions of the reality of the moment. I must admit I found myself captivated by such a mode of being as a doctoral student when I was diagnosed with advanced stage cancer. I had taken in the cultural messaging: Vulnerability was weakness, emotion was a liability. Determination and perseverance, a 'never give up' and a "LiveStrong"-attitude were what made me feel like I had a sense of control or agency over something of which I did not. Other than selecting the best medical care I could access, there was little I could do to control the outcome. Yet, reflecting back on my experiences, I now realize how this approach closed me off to fully sharing my experience with my family and friends, and especially my fears. Now I have come to appreciate vulnerability as a strength, emotions as an asset that makes us human and is what connects us to others and binds us together.

Vice Provost Dooley's letter today (March 23) echoes much of what I wished to communicate with you today. I encourage you to read it, if you have not done so. Today, I wish to acknowledge and give voice to the ways in which faculty, staff, students, and administration, are all experiencing not simply the logistical challenges of transitioning our courses online, but also the emotional and mental dimensions of a profound change in the very foundations of how

we live, work, and move through the world. The human element of the moment cannot be understated. While experts agree, social distancing is necessary to save lives; humans are social beings and along with the physical separation comes for many, disconnection, anxiety, isolation, and despair.

I am reminded of a lesson I learned while seeking therapy during my cancer diagnosis. In one session, the therapist was communicating the importance of self-care. She asked if I had ever flown on an airplane. She reminded me of how the safety information card notes that in the event of a change in cabin pressure, passengers are instructed to put on their oxygen mask first and then help those around them. I replied, "Yeah, that never made sense to me. Why wouldn't you help the small child sitting next to you first? They might pass out and die!" To which she explained that we cannot help others if we do not help ourselves. It was as if she was speaking to me in a foreign language.

Now that I am older and have a bit more life experience under my belt, I realize the importance of that advice. The 'push through it' mentality while seemingly empowering in the moment, may very well lead to burnout down the road. As Vice Provost Dooley addressed, self-care is important for faculty, students, staff and administrators. We must put on our proverbial oxygen masks first before we can take care of others. I encourage you all to read NASA astronaut Captain Scott Kelly's article in the *New York Times*<sup>1</sup>. Captain Kelly offers readers salient advice from his experiences on the International Space Station on how to cope with the isolation we are all experiencing as we work from home and socially distance.

As I told my students last week, you did not register for an online course, and I certainly did not sign up to teach one! We are all learning this together. There will be challenges for all of us as we move through the semester, some anticipated and others not. We need to be gentle with ourselves, and with each other, in setting expectations and recalibrating goals. We especially need to be understanding of our graduate and undergraduate students in terms of the myriad personal challenges they are facing- remember, for many, they spent last week moving out of their dorms or apartments and back home to their families. For those who stayed, they too are transitioning to a semester where many of the events and activities they prepared for and looked forward to are now cancelled. Friends have left, and they are social distancing. To expect that we will be able to provide an equivalent learning experience online, or to expect students will be able to provide an equivalent level of learning and engagement is unrealistic given the current moment. We must recognize this reality: that whatever we can do, and whatever our students can do, will be the best we can do.

We are all in this together, and together we will get through it.

Thank you again for all you do for Purdue.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/opinion/scott-kelly-coronavirus-isolation.html>

# *UNIVERSITY SENATE*

March 23, 2020



# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE


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- Students on campus: Estimated 1,200 or 9% of those in university housing plan to stay
- Research Labs:
  - All core and shared labs operating with social distancing and telework.
  - >95% of all labs, including individual investigator labs operating at least remotely
- % of employees teleworking
  - Estimated at least 70% working remotely.
  - Precise numbers will be available daily starting Tuesday
- Parking:
  - Grad students can acquire a free permit to park in B or C lots to reduce need for public transportation.
- Commencement
- Summer Session - no decisions yet

# COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

## Campus Communication

- **Official University FAQ**
  - URL: [Purdue.university/covid-19](https://Purdue.university/covid-19)
  - Updated daily.
  - If your question isn't there, we likely don't have an answer yet.
- **New Call Center: (765) 496-INFO**
  - Staffed with knowledgeable Purdue employees



The screenshot shows the Purdue University News website. The main heading is "Things you need to know about COVID-19". Below the heading, there is a note: "\*\*\*If you keep this website open in your browser, please periodically refresh to see the most current information." The page is dated "Last updated March 20, 2020". It provides guidance for Purdue West Lafayette and Purdue Fort Wayne. A "Latest updates" section lists four key points: 1) Purdue classes will be delivered by remote instruction for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. 2) Traditional in-person commencement is canceled, with details on an alternative virtual celebration. 3) Residence halls will remain open for those who must stay on campus, but any student who can move home to a different location should do so. 4) The campus remains open with telecommuting/remote work permitted wherever possible. A "Recent Messages" sidebar on the right lists several updates, including one for faculty and staff from President Daniels and Provost Akridge (March 19, 2020), additional guidance for Purdue researchers from EVPRP Theresa Mayer (March 19, 2020), information for students in University Residences (March 17, 2020), a commencement announcement from President Daniels (March 17, 2020), and a COVID-10 update about remote learning continuing through the end of the semester (March 16, 2020). Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a "More" button are also visible.

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Deborah Nichols, Chairperson of the Steering Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Résumé of Items under Consideration by the Various Standing Committees

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Deborah Nichols [deborahnichols@purdue.edu](mailto:deborahnichols@purdue.edu)

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cheryl Cooky [senate-chair@purdue.edu](mailto:senate-chair@purdue.edu)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Fredrick Berry [berryf@purdue.edu](mailto:berryf@purdue.edu)

1. The Nominating Committee is asking Senators to volunteer for Standing Committees

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

Andrew Freed [freed@purdue.edu](mailto:freed@purdue.edu)

1. The EPC is working with the Academic Progress and Records (APR) committee to update antiquated student regulations dealing with degree requirements, transfer credits, night classes, priority registration, and gender neutral wording.
2. Working with the APR, the EPC has brought a resolution to the senate for discussion on modifying the student absence policy and is preparing for a senate vote on the resolution.
3. Working with the APR, the EPC will bring a resolution to the senate for discussion on modifying the APR's mission statement.
4. The EPC has brought the Undergraduate Curriculum Council's (UCC) resolution on modifying standardizing foundational outcomes language to the senate for discussion and is now preparing for a senate vote on the resolution.
5. Based on recommendations by the Civics Engagement Working Group, the EPC will bring a resolution on a new civics engagement requirement for discussion by the senate.
6. Jointly with the Student Affairs Committee, the EPC will bring a resolution to the senate for discussion on recommending that standardize testing (SAT/ACT) be removed as a requirement for undergraduate admissions.

**EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

Audrey Ruple [aruple@purdue.edu](mailto:aruple@purdue.edu)

1. Housing for graduate students
2. Sanitary products in campus buildings
3. Food security on campus
4. Faculty and staff diversity and inclusion continuing education recommendations
5. Diversity statement requirement for new faculty hires – education/training
6. Lactation spaces for students and staff
7. Stem Equity Achievement (SEA) Change program

## **FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Linda Prokopy [lprokopy@purdue.edu](mailto:lprokopy@purdue.edu)

1. Censure and Dismissal Procedures Standing Committee
2. Faculty Compensation and Benefits Standing Committee
3. University Grade Appeals Standing Committee
4. Election Procedures Inquiry Commission
5. COACHE survey
6. Pay equity
7. Health care concerns
8. Travel policies

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

David Sanders [retrovir@purdue.edu](mailto:retrovir@purdue.edu)

1. Food Insecurity
2. Class Absence Policies
3. Housing
4. Mental Health

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE**

Randy Rapp [rrapp@purdue.edu](mailto:rrapp@purdue.edu)

1. Sarah Huber will present a preliminary draft of the Art Acquisition and Collection Policy to the URPC on April 13th, pending Purdue's revised meeting rules. Also, Mary Johnson will update the URPC about campus sustainability initiatives.
2. URPC wishes to better ensure investment of committee time is devoted to discussion and processes that are essential to value creation for the Purdue community. A main charge for the committee is physical facilities, but faculty have minimal analytical or decision-making action for physical facilities. Maybe the URPC's role should be adjusted.

Chair of the Senate, Cheryl Cooky, [senate-chair@purdue.edu](mailto:senate-chair@purdue.edu)

Vice Chair of the Senate, Deborah Nichols [deborahnichols@purdue.edu](mailto:deborahnichols@purdue.edu)

Secretary of the Senate, Joseph W. Camp, Jr., [jcamp@purdue.edu](mailto:jcamp@purdue.edu)

University Senate Minutes; <https://www.purdue.edu/senate>

## Senate Document 19-17

Proposal: Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy.

- The EPC's proposed resolution reflects the recommendation of the Civics Literacy Working Group:

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy. Students would meet the requirement by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam and completion one of the following three options: 1) 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g., relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); or 2) successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or 3) attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events involving a substantially equivalent number of contact hours.

## Justification of Civics Literacy Requirement at Purdue (from Civics Literacy Working Group report)

- Results of the most recent Grade 12 National Assessment of Educational Progress in civics indicated that only 24% of 12th graders scored at the 'proficient' level and that 36% scored below even a 'basic' level of civic literacy.
- A report commissioned by the U.S Department of Education, the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, an initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities made an urgent call to higher education institutions in the United States to make civic literacy, inquiry, and action part of the educational objectives to be achieved, by every college graduate.

## Evolution of Civics Literacy Requirement at Purdue

- January 2019, President Daniels proposed a requirement of passage of a civics test (based on the naturalization test) to earn a degree from Purdue University.
- Spring 2019, through a campus-wide survey and town hall, the University Senate determined a baseline of civics knowledge for new Purdue undergraduate students was needed.
- Summer 2019, the Chair of the University Senate convened a working group of disciplinary experts to explore how a civics literacy requirement might be employed at Purdue.
- February 2020, Civics Working Group delivered a recommendation for a civics literacy requirement to the EPC, which had many questions about the feasibility of implementing the recommendation.

## Evolution of Civics Literacy Requirement at Purdue

- March 2020, Civics Working Group provided an Addendum to their report outlining a plan to implement the recommended civics literacy requirement:
  - The Provost will convene a group of key stakeholders and experts from across campus to work together on the logistics and details with a planned implementation as soon as Fall 2021.
  - The Provost has assured the working group that the necessary resources to implement the graduation requirement will be allocated. Support has also been noted by the President and Board of Trustees.
  - 40% of students are already meeting the requirement by taking a civics-related course, and that number could increase to 60% with AP credits.
  - More work is necessary to develop online instrumentation that is psychometrically valid and academically rigorous and technology needs to be developed to attest to the authenticity of non-credit learning via civics-related events.



## EPC's Rationale for proposing a Civics Literacy Requirement

- Good justification and most EPC members felt that an education component in civics would increase the value of a Purdue degree.
- Since the requirement does not require an additional class (it is only an option), it need not disrupt current core class requirements adopted by departments and colleges across campus (a concern of several EPC members).
- Though many of the details of implementation are yet to be worked out, similar programs are already in place at other universities.
- With the Provost's assurance, technical/operational feasibility issues should not be problem.
- In its comprehensive and complex nature, the proposal is similar to that of the now successful core curriculum administered by the Undergraduate Curriculum Council, which has returned to the senate many times (including today) with updates.
- The proposed resolution is too important to die in committee. It is worthy of debate and vote by the entire University Senate.

**Working Group on Civics Literacy  
Report to University Senate, Education Policy Committee  
January 28, 2020 (Revised<sup>1</sup> March 2, 2020)**

The working group on civics literacy is recommending to the Education Policy Committee the following:

Establish a graduation requirement for civics literacy for the baccalaureate degree for the Purdue West Lafayette campus. Students should be allowed to meet the requirement any time between freshman and senior year by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam *and* completion one of the following options: 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g. relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events.

### **Introduction**

*I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.* Thomas Jefferson (1820)

As Jefferson’s quote implies, a constitutional republic, such as the United States of America, requires informed, effective, and responsible citizens. Indeed, it has been said that ‘democracy is not a machine that will go of itself’ and therefore requires each generation of citizens to develop, and employ, a certain level of civic literacy in order to sustain it. Defining and developing such civic literacy—that is, the effective preparation of citizens to fulfill their responsibilities to sustain and enhance self-government—is an essential condition for our representative government to survive:

*“Citizenship—commitment to and participation in a community’s civic life—is the engine of constitutional democracy and a free society. Knowledge of the rights, responsibilities, and privileges of citizenship fuel that engine. Without the participation of informed, effective, and responsible citizens, a democratic republic cannot and does not function, nor can it make progress toward its ideals (NAEP Governing Board, p. 1, 2014).”*

Unfortunately, the civic literacy of Americans has been a concern for over 75 years. For example, National surveys of college freshman in the 1940s revealed a “striking ignorance” of even the most basic civic knowledge (Fine, 1943, p. 1).” In 2019, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation surveyed 41,000 Americans using 20 questions drawn from the USCIS Naturalization Panel. The results “validated what studies have shown for a century: Americans don’t possess the history knowledge they need to be informed and engaged citizens.... (Wilson Foundation, n.p. 2019)”

The Congressionally mandated National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures

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<sup>1</sup> See Addendum at the end of the document (page 12), which addresses questions and feedback from the Education Policy Committee.

American K-12 students' progress in a number of subjects, including civics, every four years. Results of the most recent Grade 12 NAEP-Civics assessment indicated that only 24 percent of 12<sup>th</sup> graders scored at the 'proficient' level or above and that 36 percent scored *below* even a 'basic' level of civic literacy.

In order to assess K-12 student progress in each subject, sophisticated assessment frameworks are developed by the National Center for Education Statistics. The most recent NAEP-Civics assessment framework (2014) was developed by a panel of more than two dozen experts in civics and civic education. The Civics Framework consists of three interrelated components: (1) civic knowledge, (2) intellectual and participatory skills, and (3) civic dispositions. These components have been identified by NAEP as essential elements of civic education in the United States, and therefore serve as a constitutive definition for 'civic literacy.' Thus, the 'civically literate' citizen must possess all three components.

*Civic Knowledge.* The authors of the NAEP-Civics Framework determined that essential civic knowledge consisted of answers to questions such as:

- What are civic life, politics, and government?
- What are the foundations of the American political system?
- How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?
- What is the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs?
- What are the roles of citizens in American democracy?

*Civic Skills.* The authors of NAEP-Civic Framework identified both intellectual and participatory civic skills as essential components of civic literacy. "Intellectual skills enable students to learn and apply civic knowledge in the many and varied roles of citizens... These skills help citizens identify, describe, explain, and analyze information and arguments, as well as evaluate, take, and defend positions on public issues. Participatory skills enable citizens to monitor and influence public and civic life by working with others, clearly articulating ideas and interests, building coalitions, seeking consensus, negotiating compromise, and managing conflict" (NAEP Governing Board, p. x-xi, 2014).

*Civic Dispositions.* These "habits of the heart" of democracy, as Alexis de Tocqueville called them, include the inclination to support the rights and responsibilities of all individuals in society, and to the advancement of the ideals of the polity. They also include the dispositions "to become an independent member of society; respect individual worth and human dignity; assume the personal, political, and economic responsibilities of a citizen; participate in civic affairs in an informed, thoughtful, and effective manner; and promote the healthy functioning of American constitutional democracy ((NAEP Governing Board, p. xi, 2014)."

### **Rationale: The Importance of Civic Competency and Engagement in Higher Education**

Education leaders stress the need to include learning that is related to the development of individuals' civic capacity throughout all years of schooling in the United States (Conant, 1945;

Dewey, 1916; Ehrlich, 1997; Pollack, 2013). Scholars have examined a variety of sources of content and pedagogy in the U.S. as well as programs developed abroad. A report commissioned by the U.S Department of Education, the National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement, an initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities made an urgent call to higher education institutions in the United States to make civic literacy, inquiry and action part of the educational objectives to be achieved by every college graduate. This plan would involve adopting long-term, measurable standards to indicate the extent to which college students are gaining a civic perspective during their postsecondary education (National Task Force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement [National Task Force], 2012). By referring to a ‘crucial moment’ in the title and throughout the text, the report emphasized a convergence of issues and concerns over the last decade. Higher education institutions themselves have acknowledged the importance of postsecondary education in developing civic learning, with 68% of Chief Academic Officers surveyed from the 433 member institutions of the Association of American Colleges and Universities recognizing civic engagement as an essential learning outcome (AAC&U, 2011; p. 20). A further exhortation appears in the National Task Force report that higher education institutions should be supported to “develop a national framework of civic indicators across knowledge, skills, values, and collective action (National Task Force, 2012; p. 38).

Taking concrete steps in this direction, the Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE) at Iowa State University published a paper reviewing the literature on civic learning and engagement for the AAC&U and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (Reason & Hemer, 2015). The groups in the higher education community mentioned above have extended calls to action in reports that focused on K-12 education, such as *Guardian of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools* (Gould, 2011). The widely cited report included calls for postsecondary institutions to “require all students, regardless of major, to take at least one civic learning course” and encouraged postsecondary students to “volunteer as civic mentors in K-12 schools.” (Gould, 2011, p. 43; Torney-Purta, et. al. 2015, p.2).

### **Background and working group members**

In January 2019, President Daniels presented to the Purdue University Senate data on the state of civics literacy in the U.S. Some indicators suggest that many are unaware of basic knowledge regarding the United States government, its people, processes, and laws and policies. President Daniels would like to see Purdue University address this gap in civics literacy and offered a proposal to the University Senate on how we may do so. President Daniels proposed a requirement of passage of a civics test (based on the naturalization test) to earn a degree from Purdue University.

As a first step, in spring 2019 through a campus-wide survey and town hall (initiated and led by then-Chair Natalie Carroll), the University Senate determined a baseline of civics knowledge for new Purdue undergraduate students was needed. During the summer, Cheryl Cooky, Chair of the University Senate convened a working group of disciplinary experts and tasked the group with exploring and creating a pilot assessment of civics knowledge to distribute to Purdue’s incoming freshman class during Boiler Gold Rush (BGR). The purpose was to assess civic knowledge among incoming freshman as well as to assess the potential of such an instrument. The summer

working group included: Cheryl Cooky, (Interdisciplinary Studies and Chair of University Senate; Jay McCann (Political Science), Phillip VanFossen (Ackerman Center for Democratic Citizenship), Robert Browning (Political Science/ Center for CSPAN Scholarship and Engagement- CCSE), Peter Watkins (CCSE), Frank Dooley (Senior Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning), and Andy Zehner (Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Effectiveness).

During the September 10, 2019 University Senate meeting, Cooky presented preliminary results of the “BGR survey” to the Senate and the University Senate endorsed—via consent of assembly—the working group’s continued efforts. During the fall of 2019, Nan Kong (University Senate, Education Policy Committee), Assata Gilmore (Vice President of Purdue Student Government), Jeff Stefancic (Office of Dean of Students. Education Policy Committee), and Michael Brzezinski (Dean of International Programs) joined the working group.

### **Process**

During the summer of 2019, the working group began its discussions considering President Daniels’ proposal for a graduation requirement in civics literacy, and guided by preliminary information from the spring 2019 Town Hall and Campus-Wide survey. The working group developed and implemented a survey as a baseline to determine incoming freshmen’s knowledge of civics as well as to gain insight into the process of implementing an instrument of this type. The survey was delivered during BGR week. During the September 2019 University Senate meeting, Cooky presented preliminary results to the Senate and the University Senate endorsed—via consent of assembly—the working group’s efforts. During the fall of 2019, the working group further analyzed the BGR results and refined the survey instrument. The refined survey was distributed in introductory political science courses as another pilot study.

The working group further investigated questions that emerged from the spring 2019 campus-wide survey, including the question of whether non-domestic/ international students should also be required to complete a civics literacy requirement as well as soliciting further input from a sample of undergraduate students regarding the requirement.

In addition, the working group surveyed other peer institutions who have civics literacy requirements to determine what peer institutions were requiring and what we might learn from them or how we might model a graduation requirement.

The working group also discussed and considered other means by which we might assess student civic knowledge and literacy. These options included the CSPAN civic literacy modules (under development), extracurricular events and activities.

### **Civics Literacy Survey/ Development of Instrument**

In order to determine the best course of action, it was necessary to establish a baseline. During BGR week, all incoming undergraduates were asked to participate in a short survey to assess their knowledge of civics, government, and US political history. The survey received IRB approval. Students were informed the survey was not a test or exam and the purpose of the

survey, to learn more about what students already know, was communicated to the students. Students were also informed their participation in the survey was voluntary and that responses would help the University Senate, President Daniels, and the faculty better understand this issue. The compiled results of the survey were shared with the University Senate (during the September meeting), and representatives from the Purdue Student Government.

### About the survey

In February 2019, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation released the results of a survey of 41,000 Americans basic knowledge of the American political system and of U.S. history. The 20 multiple-choice items used were developed by the Wilson Foundation using previous years' online practice exams for the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) Naturalization Interview (aka, 'citizenship test'). These practice tests (<https://my.uscis.gov/prep/test/civics>) use the same 100 items as in the USCIS pool, from which 10 items are drawn at random prior to each Naturalization Interview. While issues have been raised concerning the reliability and validity of the USCIS citizenship test (which were presented and discussed at the spring 2019 Town Hall), the Wilson Foundation survey represented a very current--and national--sample frame against which incoming Purdue undergraduates could be compared; in order to do so, the same items had to be used.

The final 8 items are adapted from the American National Election Study, an NSF-funded survey of the electorate that that has been conducted during major election cycles over the last sixty years (<https://electionstudies.org/>). The American National Election Study is one of the leading sources of data on civic attitudes and capabilities. This is a large study that will permit various subgroup comparisons (e.g., how Purdue freshmen compare to the general public, to Americans with a college degree, and to younger American).

The working group created a survey utilizing portions of these two instruments in order to make comparisons. Twenty questions were drawn from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation's national survey of civic knowledge (<https://woodrow.org/news/one-state-pass-us-citizenship-exam/>) and 8 questions were taken from the National Election Study (<https://electionstudies.org/>). This survey was distributed by email to all incoming undergraduate students (n=7,926) during BGR week. Approximately 36% of incoming students responded, but—due to incomplete responses or other factors--only 2,114 responses were accepted (26.7%) for analysis.

The working group conducted a preliminary analysis of these data and first results indicated that incoming Purdue undergraduate student respondents appear to have greater civic knowledge than the general population across the United States, as well as the state of Indiana. In addition, incoming Purdue students appear to exhibit greater civic knowledge than other college graduates in Indiana.

Results of the survey indicated that 77.8% of respondents 'passed' (scored 60% correct or higher) on the 20 items drawn from the WWF survey (as compared to 36% in the WWF sample). However, there were clearly different passage rates across resident/non-resident; domestic/international; and by race or ethnicity. Respondents to the National Election Survey instrument (8 items) scored in the 53% correct ("On which of the following does the US

government currently spend the least?") to 96% correct (Number of times an individual can be elected President?") range.

The pilot survey distributed in introductory political science courses raised further questions regarding a test as a graduation requirement that will be need to addressed should a civics literacy graduation requirement be approved. For example: What constitutes a passing grade on the test? Any test given will need to address and eliminate possible bias. Questions remain regarding who will administer the test, when and what appropriate entity will assess the exam.

The working group recommends that if such a test becomes part of the civics literacy graduation requirement, more work will need to be done to develop the test, expand the test bank, and ensure academic integrity (in collaboration with ODOS).

### **Survey of International Student Body**

The following question was asked of 600 randomly sampled international undergraduate students currently enrolled as freshmen, sophomores or juniors:

*If Purdue University requires all undergraduates to demonstrate "civic literacy" prior to graduation, how should this requirement be implemented? Please select all options below that would be acceptable to you:*

- *Pass a course that covers the main foundations of government and civic life in the United States. Governments of other nations may also be covered in this course.*
- *Successfully complete on-line educational modules that cover the foundations of government and civic life in the United States.*
- *Pass either an in-person or on-line examination that covers the foundations of government and civic life in the United States.*
  - *Attend at least three campus events per academic year where speakers discuss governmental policies or issues in civic life. Such events would be designated in advance as counting towards the "civics literacy" requirement.*

We received 181 responses, a 30% rate of return. Of the 181 responses, only 16 students chose to write comments. Student were allowed to choose more than one option. Approximately 60% of respondents (109/ 181) indicated that they would find successful completion of online educational models an acceptable requirement. While just under 20% of respondents indicated course work would be acceptable. Approximately 30% of respondents indicated an online exam or campus events as acceptable.

### **Survey of Overall Student Body**

In order to gauge the student body's opinions on the option of a graduation requirement on civics literacy, the Purdue Student Government was tasked with creating and administering two surveys

to all its members on civics literacy and on a possible civic literacy curriculum requirement. The four questions are the same that were used for a similar survey administered to international students.

*If Purdue University requires all undergraduates to demonstrate “civic literacy” prior to graduation, how should this requirement be implemented? Please select all options below that would be acceptable to you:*

- *Pass a course that covers the main foundations of government and civic life in the United States. Governments of other nations may also be covered in this course.*
- *Successfully complete on-line educational modules that cover the foundations of government and civic life in the United States.*
- *Pass either an in-person or on-line examination that covers the foundations of government and civic life in the United States.*
- *Attend at least three campus events per academic year where speakers discuss governmental policies or issues in civic life. Such events would be designated in advance as counting towards the “civics literacy” requirement.*

### Survey 1

The first survey had a total of 69 responses and included closed and open-ended questions to gauge the Purdue Student Governments knowledge on civic literacy and engagement while also having respondents state their opinions on civic literacy testing and curriculum requirements. This survey found that 46% of respondents agreed that Purdue University should have a civics literacy requirement while 35% thought Purdue University should not have a civic literacy requirement and 19% had no opinion on the subject. Furthermore, when given five options (Online Module, Exam, Course, In-Person Verbal Response, Other) 50% of respondents thought this requirement should be an online module taken any time between freshman and senior year.

### Survey 2

The second survey had a total of 187 responses which included four close ended questions to determine the student body’s opinions on how a civic literacy requirement should be implemented. 87% percent of respondents Purdue University should require completion of on-line educational models, 38% percent of respondents felt this requirement should take the form of an on-line examination, 29% felt that students should have to attend three mandatory civic life related events per academic year to fulfill the requirement and lastly, 21% of respondents felt that students should have to pass a civic literacy course.

In addition to the surveys, one message that was communicated to the working group by PSG was any requirement should be meaningful educationally. *As indicated in the surveys and in the PSG discussion of the issue, few students supported a test-only option.*



## **Civics Literacy Initiative Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement**

The mission of the Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement (CCSE) in the Brian Lamb School of Communication is to help faculty and students use the C-SPAN Archives for learning and research. Upon hearing of President Daniels' concern about the level of civic knowledge among students on campus, the Center immediately thought about how the many C-SPAN videos could be used to help students understand the background and workings of the United States government. The CCSE staff routinely makes clips from C-SPAN videos available for Purdue professors and instructors to use in their courses. Creating lessons that utilize C-SPAN videos to illustrate concepts and ideas in American Government seemed a natural extension of this work and a worthwhile initiative for the Center.

To lead this initiative, the Lamb School hired Dr. Peter Watkins, a political scientist with thirty years of experience teaching American government, to research and write the learning modules. Collaborating with him are CCSE Managing Director Connie Doebele, who has more than 25 years of experience as a C-SPAN producer, and CCSE Intern and Wilke Scholar Manuel J. Arauz Ramirez. The Center is directed by Dr. Robert Browning who is a jointly-appointed Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Lamb School and is Executive Director of the C-SPAN Archives. Also advising the Center is Dr. Marifran Mattson, Professor and Head of the Brian Lamb School of Communication. A faculty advisory board meets regularly and provides input and guidance on CCSE initiatives. Other Center initiatives include Maymester in Washington, DC, an annual research conference at Purdue, an undergraduate research competition, and an annual interview conducted by Brian Lamb.

In total, the CCSE Civics Literacy Initiative there include twelve modules that illustrate concepts in American Government and the Constitution. For example, modules cover topics such as the Declaration of Independence, constitutional functions, voting rights, freedom of speech, civil rights, the Supreme Court, among others. The modules are first being created as podcasts to allow students to listen to a 15-minute narration of the topic supplemented with audio from C-SPAN. Subsequently, the modules will be produced as videos. The modules will be completed by end of Spring semester, 2020.

### **Non-curricular Events**

The working group set out to determine existing resources, specifically the types of non-curricular events that are currently offered at Purdue or have been offered that would be appropriate for fulfillment of a graduation requirement in civics literacy. Based on that assessment (which was limited by the ability to search and track events on campus that would meet the requirement) it was determined more resources would be necessary to ensure the number of events offered over the course of an academic year would allow for students to reasonably fulfill that requirement, that those who are sponsoring or hosting the event would be willing and able to accommodate attendance at their event, that a mechanism exists to assess and evaluate the appropriateness of an event, and that there is a way to track and record attendance at an event.

Currently, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion is hosting a semester-long series of programming around the theme of ‘democracy, civility, and freedom of expression.’ <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/purduetoday/releases/2020/Q1/loretta-lynch.-jeff-flake-headline-mlk-events-at-purdue.html> There have been other events on campus such as the Condoleezza Rice lecture among others that one may envision among a list of activities of which students could select and participate. Participation in the semester events of this sort may be something we consider as fulfillment of the graduation requirement. Should we do so, this requires a sustained commitment by the University to provide adequate resources and support so that such programming can be successfully offered.

### **Summary of Civics Requirements at Other Institutions**

Information has been obtained from 20 peer institutions (see below). Nine of the institutions have no requirement with respect to civics. In many cases, civic literacy/ engagement is included as part of the core curriculum.

Titles of the requirements include:

Title of ‘Civics Requirement’	University
<a href="#">Diversity, Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy</a>	Boston University
<a href="#">Effective Citizenship</a>	Michigan State
<a href="#">Citizenship For A Diverse and Just World</a>	Ohio State University
<a href="#">Civic Engagement</a>	Temple
<a href="#">Social Responsibility and Ethics</a>	U of Kansas
<a href="#">Civic Life and Ethics</a>	U of Minnesota
<a href="#">Ethics and Stewardship</a>	U of Nebraska-Lincoln
<a href="#">Global Citizenship U.S. Courses</a>	U of Tennessee Knoxville
<a href="#">American and Texas Government</a>	U of Texas-Austin
<a href="#">American Cultures, Governance, and History</a>	UC –Davis
<a href="#">State of Florida’s Civic Literacy Requirement</a>	U Central Florida

For Florida, Texas, and perhaps California, the requirements stem from state law. Among the more recent requirements are Kansas (2013), Florida (2018), and Tennessee and Ohio State this year. The rationale for these recent cases include:

- **Kansas:** The rationale for including this was based on the feedback collected from the campus community about what worked and didn’t work about the general education program. Additionally, the university had identified as part of the strategic plan a desire to expand the awareness of and engagement with existing high impact practices.
- **Florida** is a result of state legislation.
- In Tennessee and Ohio State, it arose from a revision to their general education requirements.

In general, the requirements are part of the general education (core curriculum), and are met by courses. That said, several institutions include non-credit activities such as service learning.

Florida’s requirement can be met by passing:

- a. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Test – Civics (U.S. history and government) with supplemental questions, minimum score of 60; or

- b. Advanced Placement Government and Politics: United States, minimum score of 3; or
- c. Advanced Placement United State History, minimum score of 4; or
- d. CLEP American Government, minimum score of 50.

**Peer institutions**

State	University
California	UC -Davis
Florida	UCF
Indiana	IU
Iowa	U of Iowa
Kansas	U of Kansas
Maryland	Maryland - College Park
Massachusetts	Boston University
Michigan	Michigan State
Michigan	University of Michigan
Minnesota	U of Minnesota
Nebraska	U of Nebraska-Lincoln
New Jersey	Rutgers
Ohio	Ohio State University
Pennsylvania	Temple
Pennsylvania	Penn State
South Carolina	U of South Carolina
Tennessee	U of Tennessee Knoxville
Texas	U of Texas-Austin
Virginia	VCU
Wisconsin	U of Wisconsin

**References**

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National Assessment Governing Board (2104). *Civics Framework for the 2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress: NAEP Civics Project*. Washington, DC: US Department of Education.

Woodrow Wilson Foundation (2019). Woodrow Wilson Foundation Finds Only One State Can Pass U.S. Citizenship Exam. Accessed on December 9, 2019 at <https://woodrow.org/news/one-state-pass-us-citizenship-exam/>.

## **Working Group Report Addendum**

Authored by: Professors Cheryl Cooky, Phil VanFossen, Jay McCann and Vice Provost Frank Dooley.

Members of the Civics Literacy Working Group (CLWG) presented a proposal to the EPC at the February 11, 2020 meeting to establish a graduation requirement for civics literacy, which reads:

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy. Students would meet the requirement by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam and completion one of the following three options: 1) 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g., relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); or 2) successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or 3) attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events involving a substantially equivalent number of contact hours.

The EPC minutes for that meeting read:

- The EPC members had questions as to what the logistics of moving forward with the implementation would look like if the civics literacy recommendations were approved.
- The EPC members recommended an environmental feasibility study. Cheryl Cooky said that the Working Group would like an opportunity to perform an assessment, come up with resolve for feasibility, and then come back to EPC.

Since then, several members from the CLWG--Professors Jay McCann, Phil VanFossen, and Cheryl Cooky, along with Vice Provost Frank Dooley--worked to obtain additional information. This addendum addresses two main questions: 1) academic issues related to the civics literacy requirement, and 2) operational and technical details related to the implementation.

Should the Senate pass the resolution to establish a graduation requirement for the baccalaureate degree, we advise the Provost to convene a group of key stakeholders and experts from across campus to work together on the logistics and details. Ideally, this work would commence in the summer 2020 and through the 20-21 AY year with an anticipated 'start date' of fall of 2021 (undergraduate students enrolling at Purdue West Lafayette in fall 2021 will be the first class to have the requirement).

### **Administration Commitment**

In response to concerns about support from the Administration and resources, Provost Jay Akridge has assured the working group that the necessary resources to implement the graduation requirement will be allocated. Provost Akridge provided the following statement to be included in this report:

We appreciate the efforts of the Working Group on Civics Literacy and the graduation requirement that they have proposed. We also respect the desires of the Educational Policy Committee to ensure that resources will be available to support implementation of

the graduation requirement. Purdue administration is prepared to ensure that resources will be made available to support implementation of the civics graduation requirement. We recognize that many details are yet to be worked out on the specifics of the requirements, especially the ‘events option’. That said, we are confident that we can work together with the University Senate and our faculty to implement this set of graduation requirements in a way that supports the intellectual growth of our students in this important area.

The support for this initiative by Purdue administration has been made clear by the President and Board of Trustees on multiple occasions, so there is no question about administrative support for the initiative.

### Need/Demand

A cohort of Purdue first year students is roughly 8,000. Currently, 40 percent of the students would meet the “plus” requirement by taking a civics-related course or by bringing AP credit. Of note, Purdue is bound to count AP credit, e.g., the AP credit for political science is equivalent to taking POL 101. We suspect that more students would choose these courses to meet the requirement. If that number were to rise to 60%, roughly 4,800 students would fulfill the requirement via a course, while the other 3,200 students would satisfy the requirement with the non-credit options of the C-SPAN modules or attendance at events.

### Civics Literacy Test

More work is necessary to develop online instrumentation that is psychometrically valid and academically rigorous, in light of the variability in performance across ethnic and US/international groups that was observed in the preliminary BGR survey. The CLWG advises that additional campus experts in Statistics, Psychological Sciences, and/or the College of Education be consulted on the further development of instrumentation. Working group members Phil VanFossen and Jay McCann have expressed willingness to reach out to prospective consultants across campus, who would then constitute an “Instrumentation Development” task force under the direction of the Provost. The working group has made progress in this regard earlier this summer/fall (see BRG survey) which can be utilized to inform subsequent survey (test) development.

The Provost’s Office has ensured that the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, Office of the Dean of Students, ITaP and other relevant offices will have support to implement the test and ensure academic integrity. Faculty currently administer exams online. The University will need to establish a mechanism by which the test results can be recorded. This may be in ‘webcert’ or another platform to be determined by the working group convened by the Provost, pending a Senate vote. Purdue already offers hundreds of on-line courses, manages required training for faculty and staff that is delivered on-line, and regularly implements surveys of undergraduate students. While there will need to be work done on this specific exam, there are no technical barriers to implementing the civics test. In 2018, Florida legislated that all institutions of higher education require a civics test for baccalaureate graduation. The University of Florida, in response, developed an online version of the USCIS ‘citizenship test’ housed in Canvas (a

learning management platform). Preliminary results indicate few issues with this format at the University of Florida.

Course Option

The following is a list of suggested current courses that could fulfill the curriculum component of the requirement. There are possibly other courses that could also be added to the list. A civics literacy requirement could increase enrollments in these courses, with a possible corresponding decrease in enrollments of other UCC courses. We recognize some majors may have fewer degrees of freedom the plan of study, but we are confident students can still meet the ‘plus’ requirement with transfer/CSPAN/civic events. Moreover, we recommend tracking students to determine if adjustments are needed (for example, if there are disparities in access among students, such as low-income students being at a disadvantage as a result of work requirements preventing the attendance at non-curricular events, or possible differences in the types of students receiving AP credit).

Course	Title	Fulfills UCC for:
COM 21000	Debating Public Issues	
COM 31200	Rhetoric in the Western World	
COM 41600	United States Politics and the Media	
COM 46400	American Political Communication	
HIST 15100	American History To 1877	Humanities
HIST 15200	United States Since 1877	Humanities
HIST 38300	Recent American Constitutional History	Humanities and Science, Technology, and Society
POL 10100	American Government and Politics	Behavioral Social Sciences
POL 12000	Introduction to Public Policy and Public Administration	Behavioral Social Sciences
POL 37300	Campaigns and Elections	
POL 46100	US Constitutional Law I	
POL 46200	US Constitutional Law II	
SCLA 20000	Cornerstones in Constitutional Law	Behavioral Social Sciences

Senate Document 19-13, which was discussed at the February 17, 2020 University Senate meeting, clarifies the learning outcomes for the five of the foundational outcomes. If approved, the proposal is for Human Cultures - Humanities to meet 4 of 7 possible learning outcomes. Number 7 states “Identify the history and the basic principles and operation of government in the United States or other countries.” Similarly, for Human Cultures – Behavioral and Social Sciences, number 6 states, “Identify examples of how social, behavioral, or historical knowledge informs and can shape personal, civic, ethical, or global decisions and responsibilities.” Thus, the structure of the core curriculum anticipates courses that would meet a civics literacy requirement.

Members of the working group have begun reaching out to the relevant Department Heads. Initial conversations have indicated support for this initiative, and we anticipate cooperation as the civics literacy requirement is implemented.

The Deans have received updates of the working group's efforts. At this time, no specific concerns or questions have been raised. The working group report will be shared by the Provost at the Dean's meeting next Wednesday (March 4, 2020).

### C-SPAN Modules

Professor Robert X. Browning confirmed the C-SPAN modules will be available in May 2020. Should the graduation requirement be approved by the Senate, the appropriate office would need to work with the Center for C-SPAN to ensure the distribution of the modules. Again, Purdue already delivers hundreds of on-line courses, so there are no technical barriers to making these course available.

### Events Options

While we have work flows (the IT phrasing for processes) and technology in place to add courses as degree requirements, we only have limited examples of non-credit learning that are included as a degree requirement. That said, we currently can have a certificate that includes non-credit activity that ends up on the academic transcript (e.g., Learning Beyond the Classroom).

Purdue will need to determine out how to maintain and attest to the authenticity of the non-credit learning for 3,000 students via C-SPAN and civics-related events. It is important to note that while tracking non-credit activity is somewhat unusual for undergraduates at this time, we do offer a number of non-credit credentials through Purdue Online, so again, there are processes to build on for this specific requirement.

Other universities (Michigan State, Pitt) track non-credit graduation requirements. Initial conversations with MSU suggest a non-credit graduation requirement would require:

1. Identification of events. Both MSU and Pitt would say if it is high-stakes, a clearly identified entity responsible for its oversight is needed. This would be managed by Teaching and Learning at Purdue.
2. Attendance at events. Purdue has technologies to swipe or click in. Moving forward, working with ODOS will be necessary to address any integrity concerns. Purdue currently uses IDs to register students, faculty, and staff attending events, so there again, we have starting points for such processes.
3. A record of events attended by student will need to be maintained.
4. We will need to consider whether and how student attendance would be assessed.

Technologies:

1. The transcript. This can be done but it will need a workflow to pull in the verified data.

2. Tracking. Such software products are available. We currently have a product called Portfolium (and all students already have an account). It would need to be determined whether or not this would be the product used, but it is a starting point.
3. Calendar. The university calendaring is shared between Conferences and Marketing and Media. The tracking of events can be handled.
4. Student facing app. Purdue students expect mobile solutions. App should allow students to determine upcoming events, confirm requirement, etc. Pitt has a very nice app that seems to meet their needs. Something like this could be explored but is not contingent upon moving the graduation requirement ahead.

As Provost Akridge noted, “We recognize that many details are yet to be worked out on the specifics of the requirements, especially the ‘events option’.” Conversations and exploration of similar models at the University of Pittsburgh and Michigan State are underway.

### Next Steps

The student regulations for Degree Requirements, as under consideration by EPC, are:

1. The completion of the requirements of a plan of study,
2. Resident study of at least 32 hours at the 30000 or higher level,
3. A minimum GPA of 2.00, and
4. Completion of the University Core Curriculum.

The proposal from the CLWG could either be added as a fifth requirement, or made part of the core curriculum. Advantages of the latter include the existence of a faculty governance structure to oversee the requirement as well as mechanisms in place to assess the effectiveness.

At a minimum, a unit in Teaching and Learning will need to be charged with managing the requirement. The resources and personnel needed will be determined by the group convened by the Provost, pending a Senate vote. It is important to note that if the graduation requirement were implemented as soon as Fall 2021, students will have until academic year 2024 (at the earliest) to meet the requirement, providing more than ample opportunity to ensure the requirement is implemented in full, consistent with the wishes of the University Senate.

### Recommendation

Should the Senate pass the resolution to establish a graduation requirement for the baccalaureate degree, we advise that the Provost convene a group of key stakeholders and experts from across campus to work together on the logistics and details. Ideally, this work would commence in the summer 2020 and through the 20-21 AY year with an anticipated ‘start date’ of fall of 2021 (undergraduate students enrolling in fall 2021 will be the first class to have the requirement).

Again, we have assurances from the Provost that there will be support and infrastructure devoted to implementation (see: *Administration Commitment*).



**PURDUE UNIVERSITY | WEST LAFAYETTE**

**OFFICE ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

**March 23, 2020**

**SAT and ACT Test Use in Admissions**

# Test Optional Policies

## Different types of testing policies

- **Test Required** – Purdue’s current policy
- **Test Flexible** – must submit something academic in place of a test
- **Test Optional** – multiple types of formats but generally allow students to chose whether to submit a score or not
- **Test Blind**– most common to open admission institutions and those who are not meeting enrollment goals

# Test Optional Arguments

## PROS & CONS

### Proponents behind test optional argue

- Tests have inherent socio-economic bias
- Eliminating the test requirement will encourage more students to apply
- Eliminating the test will create equity
- Test optional will increase the institution's diversity

### Additional benefits

- The Law of Artificial Score Inflation: Students not submitting lower test scores will raise the school's U.S. News ranking

# Test Optional Arguments

## PROS & CONS

### Proponents for the use of tests

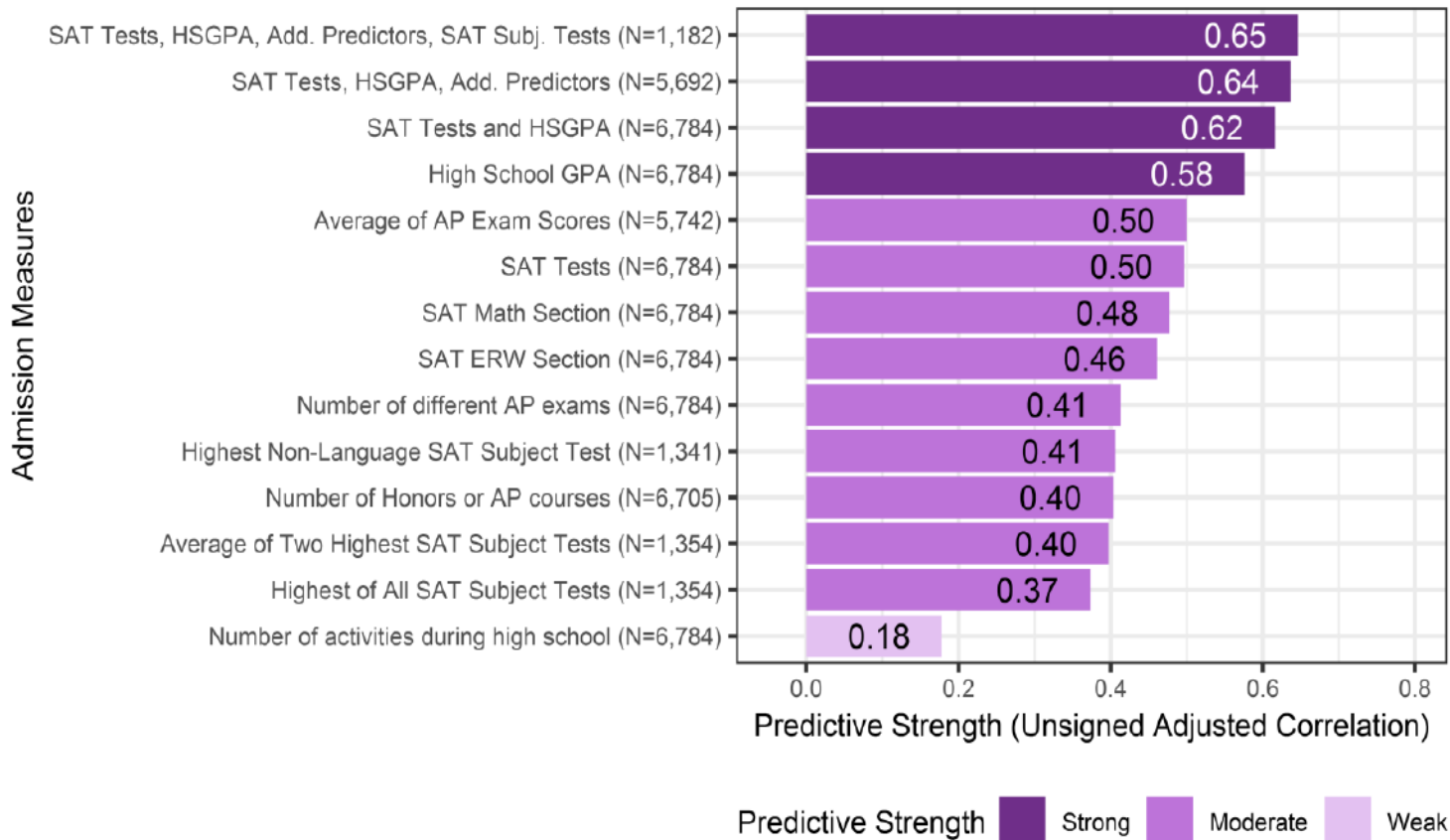
- Testing agencies continue to conduct validity studies with Universities demonstrating the correlation between the predictive nature of academic performance with HS GPA and test scores
- When combined with other criteria, the test provide important predictive value
- Both standardized tests have recently undergone a full test overhaul and College Board has made test preparation resources free through Khan Academy

### Other items for which the tests are utilized

- Placement specifically in math courses has been consistently recognized as accurate

# Predictive Validity

*Predictive strength of admissions measures across all applicants and all majors*



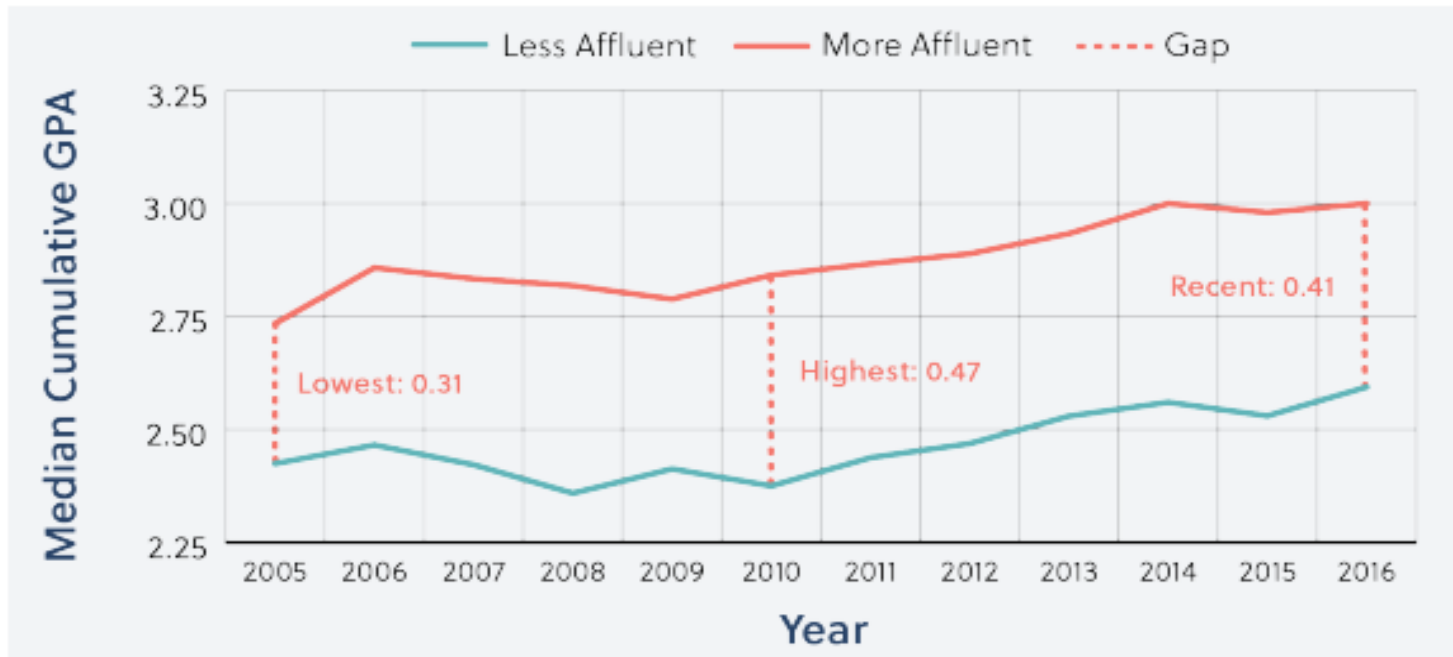
- High school grades continue to rise, extending a trend documented throughout the 1990s by the US Department of Education (<https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004455>).
- With research showing more students are receiving higher HSGPAs, colleges need more information to make fair decisions. Test scores in combination with other factors, especially high school course performance, act as an essential check and balance on another.

# Grade Inflation

- High schools with the largest increases in high school GPA over time also had the lowest percentage of students who were Black or Hispanic and students who were eligible for free or reduced price lunch.
- Students whose parents had the lowest levels of education experienced the least grade inflation.
- Students in private high schools (both independent and religiously-affiliated) were three times more likely to experience grade inflation than students in public or charter schools.

# HS GPA Inflation

*HSGPA increases at higher rates in more affluent schools*



*Note: Less affluent schools are defined as those with more than 50 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch; more affluent schools have less than 50 percent.*



# Admissions Evaluation

- Purdue currently employs a holistic application review process.
- No single factor alone is what determines a student's admissibility.
- The strength of admissions decisions lies in the use of context to understand a student's individual performance relative to their home and learning context.

# Admission Evaluation

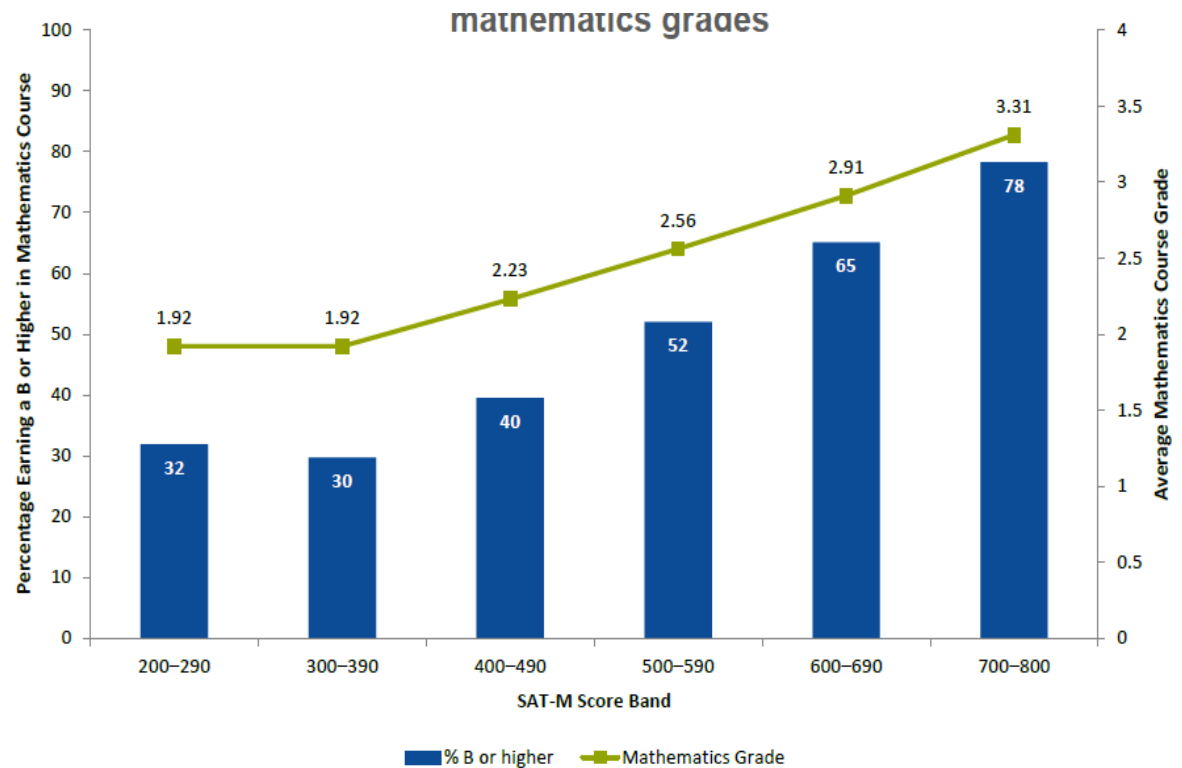
*Measure of effort and achievement as a combination of HSGPA and Test Score*

GPA (Measure of effort) ---->

Overachiever	High Achiever
Low Achiever	Underachiever

SAT/ACT (Measure of achievement)--->

# Relationship between SAT Math scores & first year mathematics grades



Relationship between SAT Math scores & first year mathematics grades

Landscape™ helps admissions officers fully consider every student, no matter who they are.

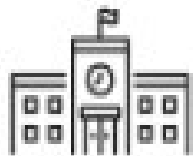


Landscape is only one element of an application.



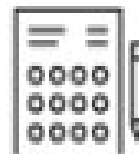
Landscape does not include any personal information beyond an applicant's test score.

## Three Categories of Information

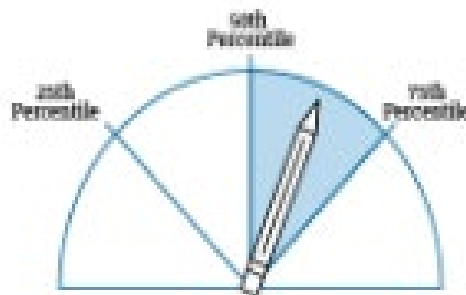


### Basic High School Data

- Locale (e.g., Rural)
- Senior class size
- Percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch
- Average SAT® scores at colleges attended
- AP® participation and performance



### Test Score Comparison



Applicant's test score compared to others from the same high school



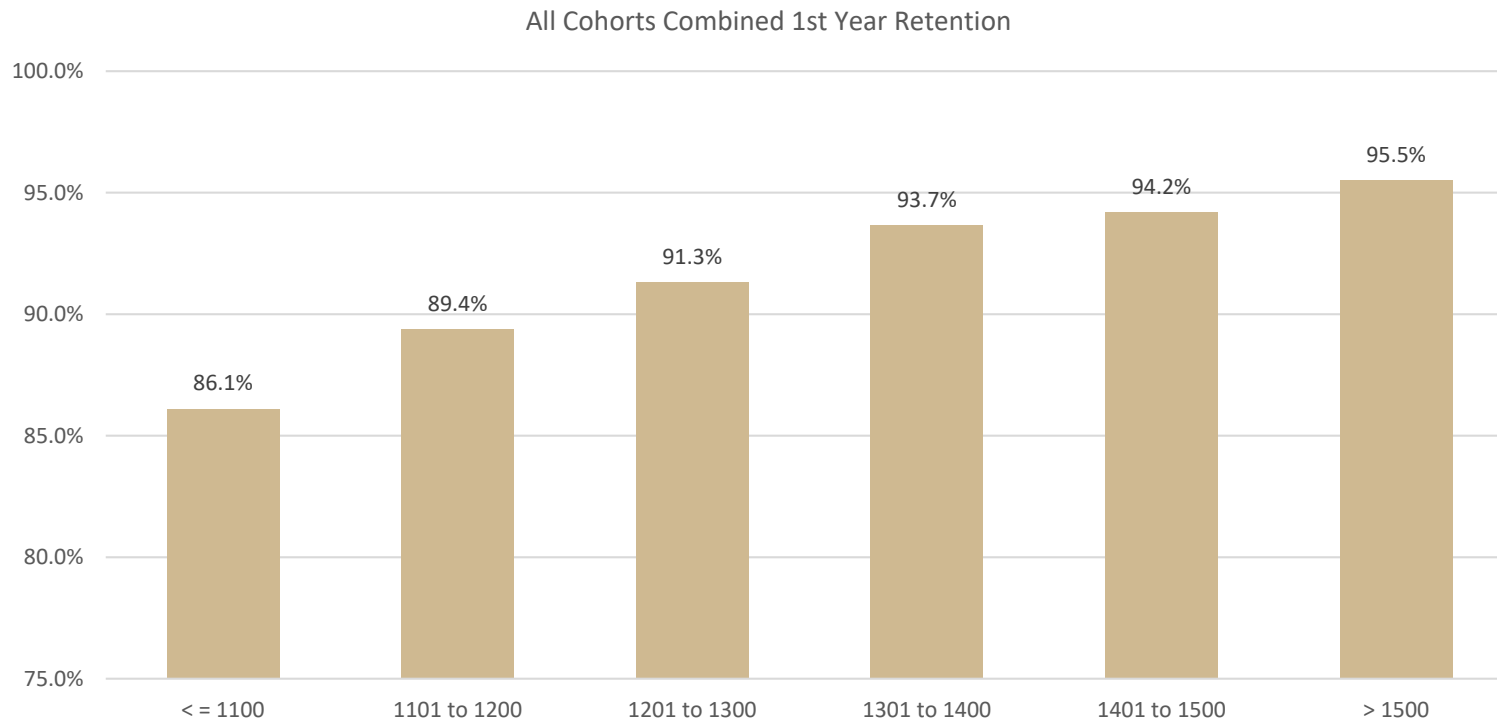
### High School and Neighborhood Indicators

- College attendance
- Household structure
- Median family income
- Housing stability
- Education levels
- Crime

Research shows these indicators are related to students' education outcomes. Test averages are created based on these six indicators. Values are shown on a scale from 1 to 100 relative to the U.S. average.

# Other Uses of Tests

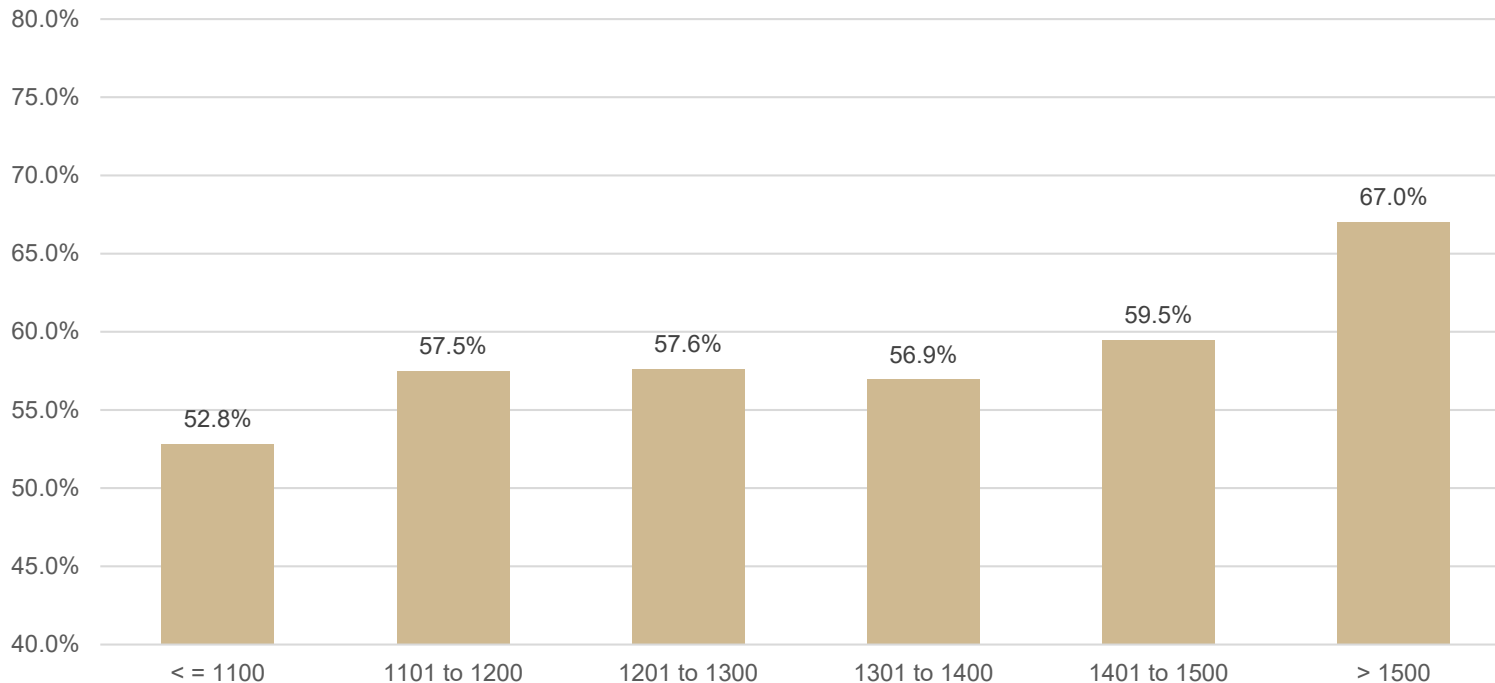
*First year Purdue West Lafayette retention rates for students from 2014 through 2018 by SAT and concorded ACT score bands*



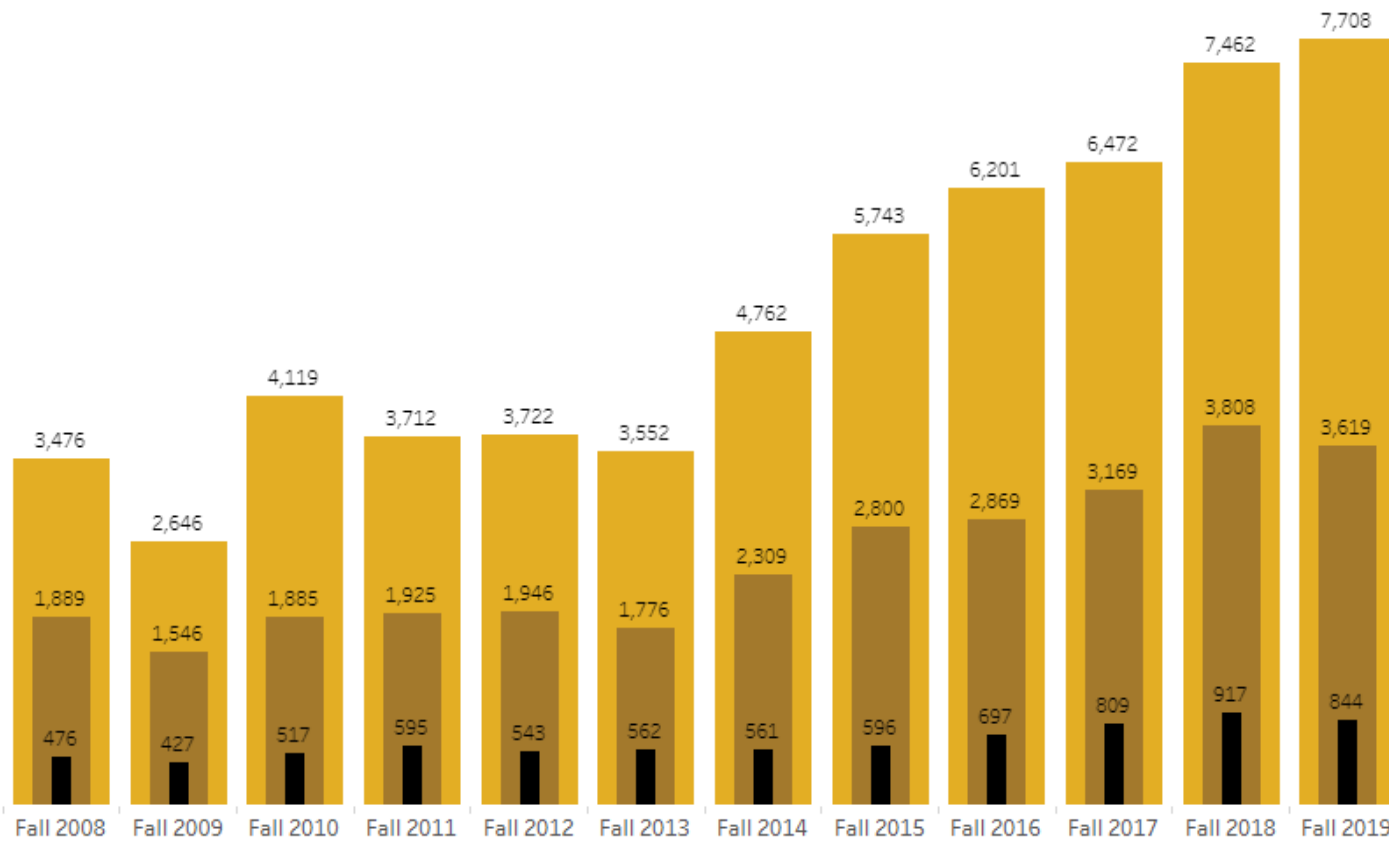
# Other Uses of Tests

*Four year Purdue West Lafayette graduation rates for students from 2011 through 2015 by SAT and concorded ACT score bands.*

All Cohorts Combined 4 Year Graduation



# Growth in Diversity



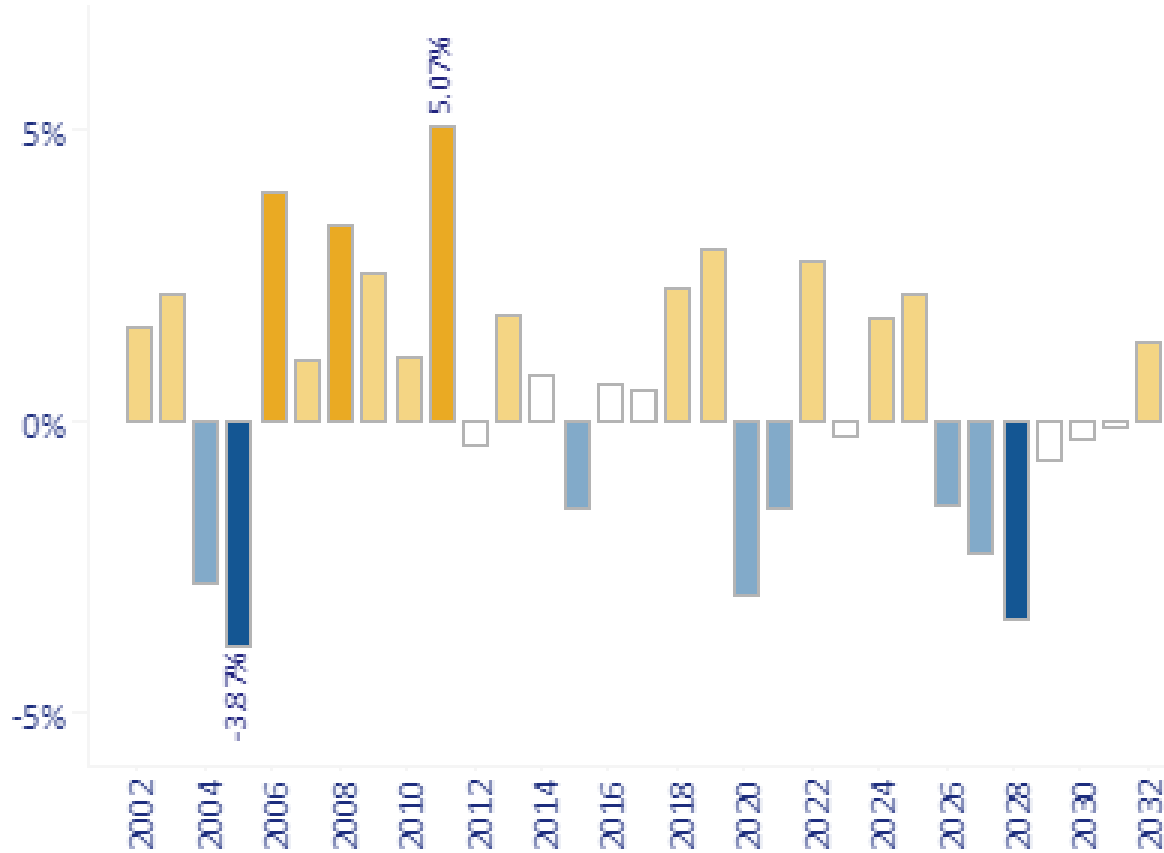
Stage

■ Matrices   ■ Admitted   ■ Applied

Source: Enrollment Management Analysis and Reporting

# Growth in Diversity

Percent Annual Change



Source: Percent Change in Graduates: <https://knocking.wiche.edu/percent-change-in-graduates>



# Conclusion

- Purdue is currently not struggling to meet its enrollment goals.
- It would not benefit Purdue to implement a different test policy for undergraduate admissions.
- Other options for increasing diversity:
  - PPI High Schools
  - Fast Start
- Test scores provide a reliable and valid data point from which to predict a student's likelihood of college success.

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY | WEST LAFAYETTE**

**OFFICE ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

**Questions**

The Use of Test Scores in Undergraduate Admission

White Paper

Kristina Wong Davis

Purdue University

Enrollment Management

## Overview of the admissions environment

The test optional movement is not new. Test optional has been around since 1990's (Belasco, et. al. 2015). Regardless of the move to test optional, studies of the institutions that have implemented test optional policies have not demonstrated any significant differences in the demographics of enrolled students as a result (Belasco et al., 2015).

Most recently, there has been a resurgence in the conversation around test optional policies in admissions. As a result a number of institutions have moved to test optional policies for a variety of reasons. Reasons most commonly cited by these institutions are for access, diversity and student success.

Institutions like the University of Chicago, who launched a test optional policy in 2018, communicated their intent to broaden the representation of their student body by allowing students to choose to apply with or without a test score. Their already highly selective applicant pool found that a small portion of their pool chose not to submit test scores. These students, however, had test scores and in almost all cases those scores would have made the student eligible for admission (J. Nondorf, personal communication, January 29, 2020). Additional selective institutions have reported similar behavior in the applicant pools. Test optional applicants, in many cases, have test scores, they simply opt not to submit them. The result then is not a broadening of the applicant pool to include those who have not taken a test, but rather to include applicants who would prefer not to report their scores.

There are multiple purposes/incentives for an institution to choose to become test optional. First, some institutions report moving to become test optional in order to diversify their student body. This, as previously stated and shown in multiple research studies does not appear to be realized by many of these institutions. Second, an institution may choose to become test optional in order to eliminate the reporting of scores for students who have lower test scores. As evidenced by research (site here) the greatest effect of test optional policies is that students with lower test scores chose not to submit their scores. If these are not submitted, the school no longer reports those scores thus artificially improving the institution's academic profile and potentially the rankings. U.S. News allows institutions to report no test scores for up to 25% of the enrolling class before the institution takes a point penalty in the rankings.

A recent example of a test optional policy gone awry was documented in the New York Times article *The Impossible Math of College Admissions* written about Trinity College. Trinity implemented a test optional policy only to discover that the only real way for them to achieve the diversity goals they sought was through engaging with consultants who utilized financial aid optimization in order to refine who was admitted to Trinity. The end result had more to do with consultants and financial aid packaging than the test optional policy.

Finally, the most recent reason for an institution implementing new test policies is a result of political pressure on the institution when like peers become test optional. The follow the leader reaction appears to be an ever more emerging trend across all types of institutions. The “followers” in many of these cases are doing so less for enrollment goals than for political positioning in a volatile admissions market that has become hostile toward standardized testing in general.

It is important to understand that there are a wide variety of test policies being enacted by institutions. The most common is the traditional test optional approach which allows the student to choose whether or not to submit a score when applying. In most cases students are not penalized for not submitting a test score. However, there are institutions now implementing limited test optional policies which prohibits students who apply without a test score from being considered for selective, high-profile majors.

Additionally, some institutions like NYU, have moved to the test flexible, which requires a student who chooses not to submit a test score to submit alternate academic or testing evidence. Finally there is the test blind, which means that regardless of whether or not a student submits a test score, it cannot be utilized in the admissions review process. Institutions adopting test blind policies are typically those who are moving toward open enrollment as a means to shore up declining enrollment trends. Northern Illinois University was one of the most recent to announce a test blind policy after multiple years of declining enrollment.

As the number of high school students graduating across the U.S. continues to decline, extreme tactics to achieve enrollment will be increasingly common. Some believe that the test optional movement is one to appear more “friendly” to families. However, the question remains as to how this might limit an institution’s ability to support academic success of the students who do not supply test scores.

Furthermore, increasing concerns about equity are developing as a result of the limited test optional policies, which eliminate the opportunity for students to be considered for all majors/programs if they do not submit a test score. The challenge with institutions implementing these policies is that they are not transparent. Institutions are not publicly sharing with students what majors/programs are not available to them if they chose to apply test optional. Rather, these are implemented behind the scenes and further disadvantage the same students that the test optional policy is said to support. Such policies undermine access for students who are not aware of the implications of their choice while in the application process.

The subsequent institutional issues that arise from these various test policies are seen in the units working to ensure student success. Standardized test scores, most specifically the math sub-score, is highly predictive of a student’s ability to perform in college level calculus. In the absence of a test score, and lacking full understanding of every high school’s strength of curricula placing a student and

supporting their success becomes increasingly challenging. In the case of lower ranking institutions whose aim is to increase applicants and increase enrollment through their test policies, Northern Illinois University as a recent example, may now face retention, persistence and overall student success challenges in the absence of strong academic predictive data.

The SAT was long referred to as an aptitude test. However, in recent years the SAT has been completely re-tooled to be an achievement test and has moved away from the terminology and work as an aptitude test. In rebuilding the SAT, the College Board mapped the test to assess those skills most necessary for first year of college success in math, reading and writing skills. Furthermore, the College Board established a relationship with Khan Academy that allows students to take practice SAT exams, follow test preparation content and upload official SAT and PSAT results into Khan Academy for test help. Khan Academy is free to all students and was part of an effort by the College Board to eliminate high cost, high stakes test preparation as an advantage to high income students.

The ACT has also rebuilt the exam and in 2019 announced that they would allow students to retake specific sections of the exam rather than having to retake the entire test. ACT has also acquired a number of entities, aiming the organization to be better at data analytics and supportive use of the test scores beyond admission purposes.

### **Review of test validity**

Research behind test validity is not new. Both the College Board and ACT conduct extensive validity studies across all types of participating institutions in an effort to better understand and articulate the nature of the test's predictive ability. Purdue annually participates in validity studies tracking the predictive validity of all admissions measures in combination with test scores and without. As a selective institution with a competitive academic profile, it is critical to Purdue to understand a student's academic ability when enrolling them as a student. The role the test scores play in admissions review is central to making an informed admission decision.

There are several ways in which a test score can be utilized in a review of an application for admission. First, if the test score and high school GPA (HSGPA) are not discrepant, then the test score, and the sub-scores can be reviewed to support what is understood from high school coursework and performance. Second is if the test score and HSGPA are discrepant. For instance, if the HSGPA is higher and the test score lower by at least one standard deviation, students are more likely to have discrepant performance. A reviewer must then assess which measure is more indicative of college performance and how will that impact align or not with that student's choice of academic major aspirations.

While the SAT and HSGPA independently predict first-year performance, combining these measures provides a 15% boost in predictive power over using HSGPA alone (National SAT validity study). This

predictive combination strengthens the use of both HSGPA and test score in the admissions review process.

Example:

Students from low income school districts with little or no college preparatory coursework, may exhibit high HSGPA. However, the corresponding test score, and sub section scores, may not support the HSGPA evidence. In cases such as this, if this student's academic interests fell into the STEM realm, the math sub-section data from the test would be essential to understanding the student's relative predicted performance in college level calculus.

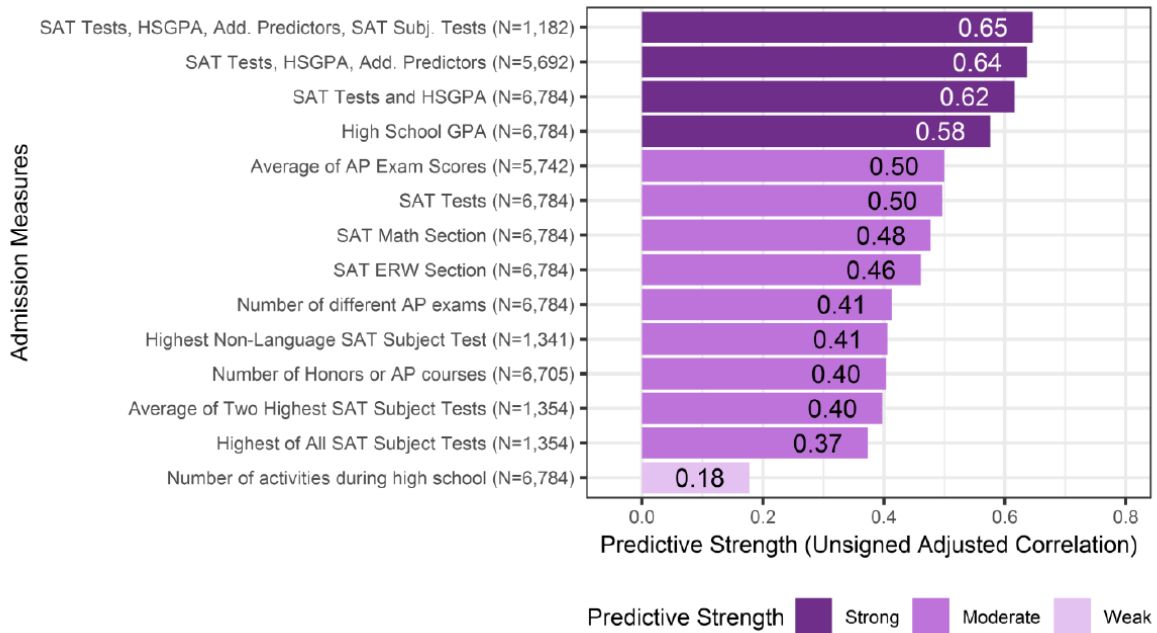
Evidence:

HSGPA predictive strength is .58, when SAT (provided through the validity study) is added that rises to .62. While this increase may not appear large at first, as other factors are added as part of the holistic review the overall predictive validity rises to .65. HS GPA alone is a good predictor of success (in this case first year GPA being the definition of success), but when HS GPA is combined with SAT (and possibly other predictors such as number of AP exams), we see additional gains in the predictive strength of the combined measures, indicating that there is value in considering both measures when evaluating students for admission.

The reason that there is only a small ( $0.62 - 0.58 = 0.04$ ) gain in predictive strength when you add in SAT scores is partly because of multicollinearity between the two variables. There is some overlapping qualities that the two variables are measuring. ACES Admissions Validity Study for Purdue University (p.9) "When you look at the graph, you may find that some of the individual measures with strong correlations do not appear to contribute as much as you might expect to the strength of the prediction when combined with other measures. This is because the measures may overlap with regard to what they are measuring – for example, the HS GPA and the SAT scores measure some, but not all of the same academic abilities."

Figure 1.

*Predictive strength of admissions measures across all applicants and all majors*

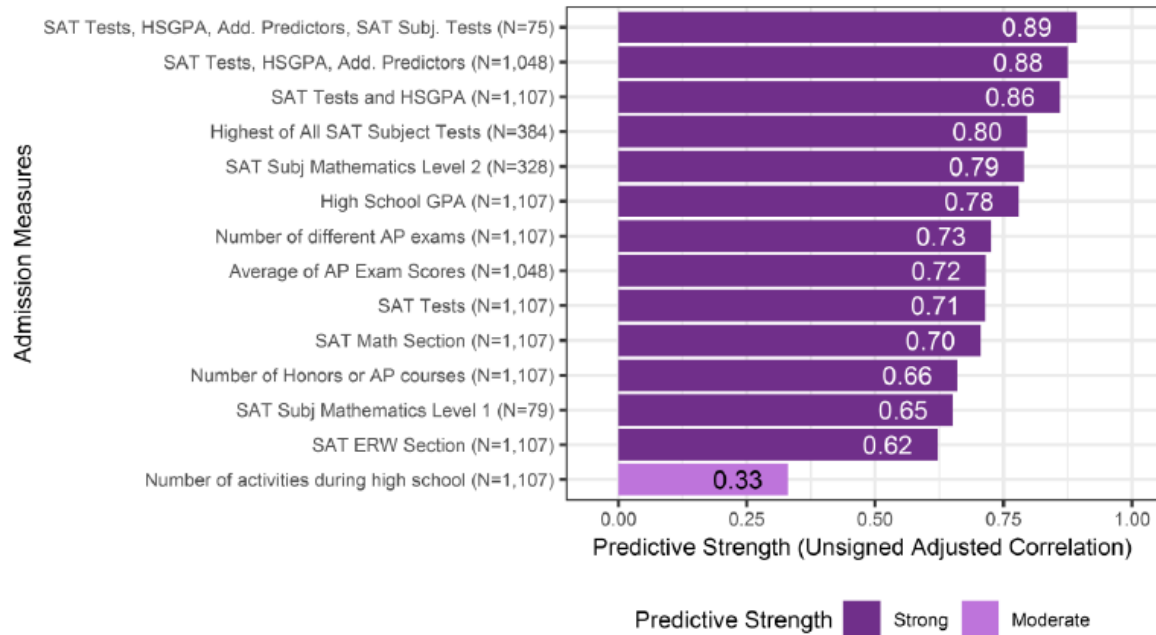


When validity is assessed for STEM majors, for example here Engineering, the predictive strength of SAT tests is even stronger. Thus supporting the critical need for test score data in predicting a student's potential performance in their first year.



Figure 2.

*Predictive strength of admissions measures across Engineering applicants*



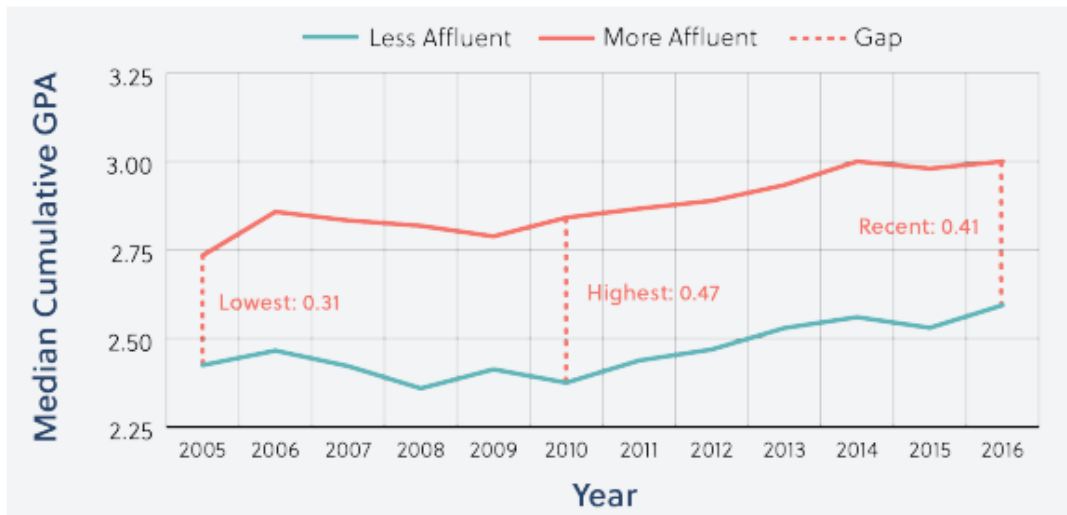
In addition to the validity studies conducted by both testing entities, the University of California system recently conducted an in-depth review of the use of test scores in admissions. The review was entirely conducted and authored by faculty across the UC System. The results of their findings resoundingly support the critical need for test scores as an informational element in the review of applications for admission.

### High School Grade Point Average

Furthermore, many studies on the grade inflation across high schools in the US, shed more light on the significant variability that high school GPA might represent in a review of academic credentials (NCES, 2004). As shown below, between 1998 and 2016, when SAT scores remained relatively flat, high school GPA, conversely showed a steep increase over time. These steep increases in high school grades are not equitably distributed across all schools. “From 2005 to 2016, more grade inflation occurred in schools attended by more affluent youngsters than in those attended by the less affluent” (Gershenson, 2018, p. 6).

Figure 3.

*HSGPA increases at higher rates in more affluent schools*



*Note: Less affluent schools are defined as those with more than 50 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch; more affluent schools have less than 50 percent.*

Rampant grade inflation in K-12 is leading to grade compression where by the distribution of grades is narrowing over time. This results in many more students with a 4.0 GPA but also makes an “A” grade less meaningful. The narrowing distribution diminishes the predictive nature of high school GPA (HSGPA) making it less reliable as an evaluation instrument. (Fordham Institute). Therefore, the use of HSGPA and test scores combined is necessary in more accurately predicting a student’s first year college GPA. In the absence of test score evidence inflated HSGPA will over-predict first year performance, leading to incorrect student placements and potential declines in retention and persistence. Thus, elimination of test scores in the admissions process, and over-reliance on HSGPA could cause even greater inequities for some students. Given that grade inflation is not parallel between more and less resourced schools/families, this will disproportionately advantage already well-resourced students who attend high school where they are savvy, and have increased the GPA of students over time.

### **Admissions Review and Context**

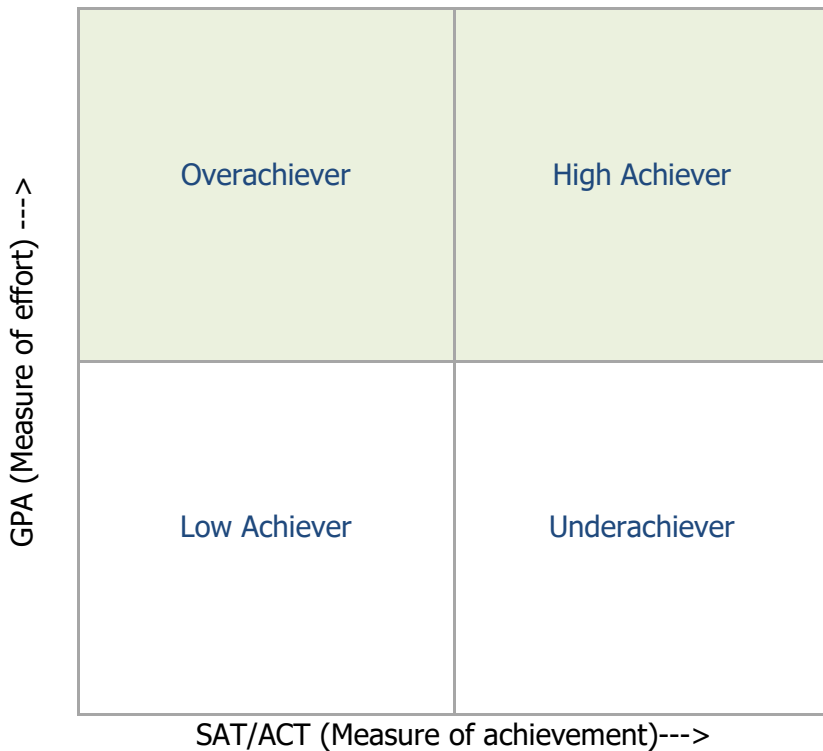
The use of test scores in admission review is never utilized to penalize or disadvantage students in any way. Rather, the test scores are an additional quantifiable data element in a comprehensive admission review. Test scores serve to compliment the high school GPA when understanding a student’s academic achievement in order to place them for the greatest opportunity for success at Purdue.

The holistic review process utilized at Purdue means a comprehensive evaluation is conducted such that that no applications are filtered out of review based on test scores or HSGPA floors. All applications are reviewed fully and assessed for first the eligibility and second for their competitiveness for the selected major. Therefore there is no single factor that determines whether or not a student is offered admission, but rather the evaluation of the entire context of their submitted application documentation which informs that decision.

Since SAT and ACT are more measures of achievement (present and future) or aptitude to be assessed and GPA is more of a measure of applicant's cumulative effort during high school or the applicant's resilience/persistence (Ralston et al., 2017), it stands to reason that both are vital at predicting postsecondary success. The two metrics are different measures that in combination predict success. Relying solely on one measure would be painting an incomplete picture of the applicant. Not having a complete picture, may be a disadvantage to the applicant if they are unable to succeed at our institution. The 2x2 below shows how these two measures work together to create a more complete picture of the applicant.

Figure 4.

*Measure of effort and achievement as a combination of HSGPA and Test Score*



Purdue admissions has also begun to incorporate the use of a new tool called Landscape into the evaluation process. The recent creation of Landscape allows reviewers to understand even more deeply the economic divides that happen in our students' lives. It is not a tool, again, that can ever disadvantage a student. But rather, Landscape provides a view not of the student themselves, but a snap shot of the neighborhood and school data based on national databases that are publicly available. While not an assessment of a student themselves, it offers a contextual view into the environment in which a student may have undertaken both their personal and academic lives.

Due to the fact that context matters, and environments, both school and home, play a role in a student's academic life, Landscape is critical to utilizing any test score provided with a better contextual understanding.

**EXAMPLE:**

If a student has provided an SAT total test score of 1190, but the Landscape data shows that the school average total SAT is a 1050, there is a much better understanding of this student's performance relative to their school environment. That is not an end all, be all, measure but this understanding mitigates the incidence of comparing this test score to that of a student in a well-resourced environment with a much higher average total score.

Unlike the use of GRE/GMAT in graduate school, there are fewer resources for students to supply to support academic achievement documentation at the undergraduate level. Graduate school applicants are able to supply academic papers, documentation of involvement and productivity in research, as well as references from respected professors which support their application. Undergraduate applicants do not have these same resources nor would they represent the caliber necessary to evaluate a student should like items be incorporated. Furthermore, with nearly 56,000 undergraduate applications for admission, reviewing scholarly papers and research studies submitted from students would significantly burden the process and opens the process up for a great deal of subjectivity.

**Other uses of test scores**

Some, but not all, scholarships both at Purdue and external to Purdue utilize test scores as an academic criteria when awarding scholarship funds. A change in admission criteria which could result in applicants choosing not to submit a test score may also render that applicant in-eligible for some scholarships.

Additionally, due to the highly predictive nature of the sub-scores of the standardized tests, the math section is frequently utilized for math placement purposes. The absence of standardized test scores would invariably increase the workload and cost of assessing the math level of incoming students and

could also increase the error rate of placements. The potential negative impact on student experience in their first Purdue math course could have multiple ramifications including student satisfaction, persistence and retention.

### Purdue Retention and Graduation by Test Score

The predictive nature of test scores do not end with a student’s predicted first year GPA. When assessed across multiple years, it is evident that test scores are predictive of retention and graduation at Purdue.

Table 1.

*First year Purdue West Lafayette retention rates for students from 2014 through 2018 by SAT and concorded ACT score bands.*

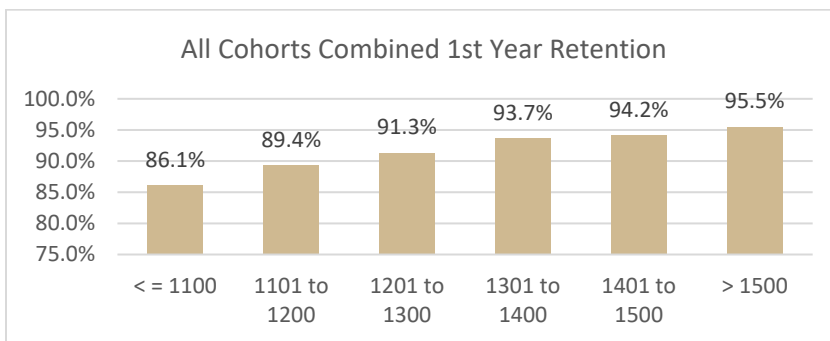
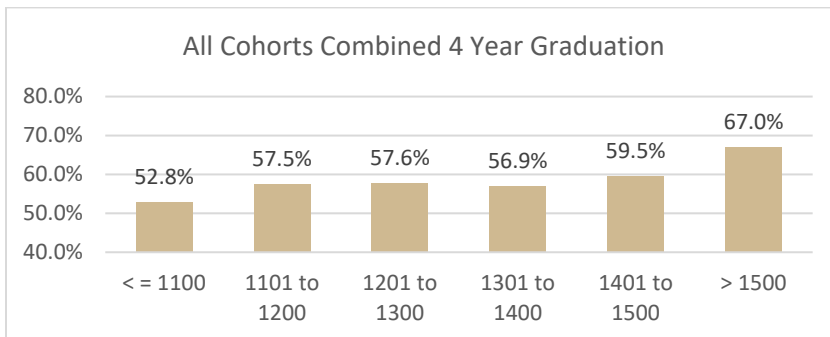


Table 2.

*Four year Purdue West Lafayette graduation rates for students from 2011 through 2015 by SAT and concorded ACT score bands.*

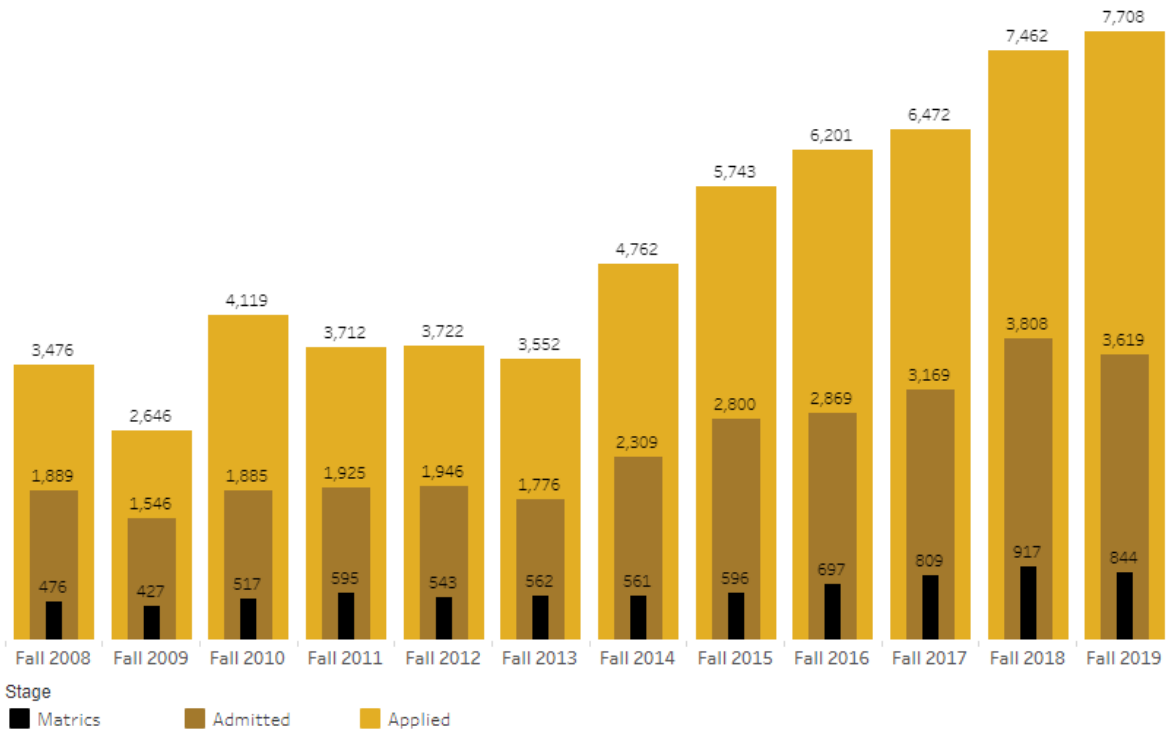


The charts above provide statistical evidence of the strength of test scores in predicting student success. This is meaningful not only for the admission process, but also for further understanding which students might benefit from additional academic support early in their academic studies.

### Diversity in Purdue Undergraduate Enrollment

Table 3.

*Undergraduate Underrepresented Minorities – Applications, Admits and Matrics*



Applications from underrepresented minorities have increased over time, especially in the years following the adoption of the Common Application (2014 and beyond). From Fall 2014 to Fall 2019, we saw an increase of 2,946 URM applications. That is an increase of 61.9%. During that same time period, there was an increase in admits and matrics, though not always a year over year increase. Admits increased by 1,310 or 56.7% and matrics increased by 283 or 50.4%.

It is important to note that the gains in underrepresented (URM) enrollment represent larger increases than the projected demographic increases published by WICHE’s Knocking at the College Door (2016). By comparison, WICHE projected an increase of URM high school graduates of 9% for the Midwest and 25% for Indiana (Dashboards, Percent Change in Graduates: <https://knocking.wiche.edu/percent-change-in-graduates>). Granted, this is not an apples to apples comparison considering that these were projections based on 2001 to 2013 actuals and this does

not consider the quality of those high school graduates—whether they would be admissible to Purdue or not. Nevertheless, an enrollment increase of 50.4% vastly outpaces any projected demographic growth of these same populations.

## **Conclusion**

When reviewing all of the aspects that surround both the use of standardized tests in admissions and the institutional motivations to develop test optional policies it is evident that it would not benefit Purdue to adopt any related policies that change the use of standardized tests in the admissions process.

While proponents of the movement argue that tests are bad, and that the test preparation industry creates disparities in access, their arguments find weak ground to stand on. With the advent of Khan Academy, free for all students, to prepare for the tests, the emergence of Landscape to assess test scores in context, and the increasing inflation of high school GPA's, it seems there are increasingly more arguments in support of the value of test scores than against.

Many struggling institutions have moved to test optional policies, Purdue is fortunate to have not struggled as so many have to fill the new enrolling class. Although these successes are not a given, all information and resources available must be utilized to continue to help Purdue recruit the best, the brightest, and the appropriate numbers of students. The horizon of the college admissions recruitment arena will become ever more competitive as struggling institutions become more desperate to fill their seats and maintain financial viability.

If the question for Purdue is around increasing diversity, perhaps test optional is not the only avenue to achieve the means. While early in the process, efforts to establish a network of Purdue Polytechnic High Schools throughout the state in underserved areas, could support the construction of a pipeline of students to Purdue that have not previously been in pursuit of four year post-secondary degrees. Furthermore, partnerships such as that which was recently announced between Modern States/Klinsky Foundation and Purdue also aims to reach students with little to no access to college preparatory academic course work and provide them with a pathway to post-secondary studies. These efforts and many more which might yet be on the horizon provide methods to build pipelines of diverse students for Purdue without requiring the institution to implement admissions policies which could have negative impacts once the students arrive.

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