

University Senate Newsletter

First Meeting, 11 September 2023, Virtual

Senate Chair's Remarks:

Chair Brian Leung welcomed the Senate and extended special greetings to its new members. He promised to work hard for all Senators—while prioritizing joy, humor, and kindness. He said his practice was to assume the best of others (and hope there would be no heartbreak as a result).

He praised Senate leadership, including Vice Chair Susan South and Secretary Powell, for their hard work and efficiency. He also called out the work being done by [Briggitta August](#), the CLA's Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives, for the impact her efforts have had on his views of the present, past, and possible future of Purdue.

Chair Leung recalled the date twenty years past, when, while he was teaching in Cincinnati, he saw the planes hit the towers on the news. Having already weathered the AIDS crisis of the 80s and 90s, he recognized this disaster as ushering in a new episode of profound national grief. This reminds us that the period of COVID isolation experienced by the Purdue community was another crisis to be followed by a period of intense mourning. He urged members of the community to reach out to loved ones and to university services, and to hold on to the belief that our spirits can be rebuilt, and rebuilt one brick higher.

He disclosed that over the past few months, he has been meeting regularly with President Chiang, Provost Wolfe, and other major stakeholders in the university, and that he was particularly interested in seeing Senate resources such as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC) help to work through what the *Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard* and *vs. University of North Carolina* would mean for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at Purdue moving forward. He also noted that President Chiang was eager to hear from faculty on AI in teaching and learning, and that [Chair Leung] had formed an ad hoc committee to work with the EPC on this issue.

Finally, Chair Leung made a personal statement: he said that as a man with a husband, and a father born in mainland China, DEI was the DNA of his personal life. It is not always easy to live in Indiana while prioritizing DEI. Chair Leung said his hope was that the State of Indiana, Purdue's Senate, and its administration together would find a way to expand Purdue's DEI efforts. He referenced Governor Holcomb's inspiring summer graduation speech, which implored new graduates to stay in Indiana. According to Chair Leung, we must provide our graduates with a reason to stay; a paycheck will not replace our young people's values. But Chair Leung said he believes we can do this.

Purdue President's Remarks:

President Mung Chiang acknowledged the lives lost on September 11, 2001. He thanked Chair Leung for the sacrifices he was making in his creative and artistic life in order to devote himself to leadership this year. President Chiang then welcomed the new and returning Senators.

He spent some time outlining five joint projects that he said faculty and administration must all work on together for the greater good of our colleagues and students, and which he had discussed with Chair Leung over the summer.

Purdue President's Remarks (continued):

- 1) Developing a policy for the use of AI in teaching and learning, which many of our peer institutions have already done;
- 2) Tending to faculty productivity: the administration is still hoping to save faculty "one hour per week" and have begun implementing some suggestions for doing this;
- 3) Purdue University Indianapolis comes into existence on 1 July 2024, and we must make a home for faculty members whose tenure was originally approved by IU, even if they are not tenured directly in West Lafayette;
- 4) How do we best support graduate student success? The work of the Council on Student Housing and Wellbeing is ongoing;
- 5) How can we help colleagues receive more national and international awards in their fields? President Chiang suggested we are too humble as an institution, and should be advocating for our colleagues.

Finally, President Chiang urged everyone to pay attention to the recent email on campus-wide public safety, and said we all need to devote some thought to emergency preparedness.

Provost Patrick Wolfe reiterated the instructions that in emergencies, we should look to the established emergency channels (i.e., social media and Purdue's homepage, not email). He referred to the recent major cyber attack at the University of Michigan as profoundly concerning. In reference to the Action Council on Student Housing and Well-Being, he reiterated that the Board of Trustees has now approved construction of enough housing to finally catch us up to student demand. He also indicated that stipend increases for graduate students are being considered, and that that the Council will be looking into graduate student and family housing as well. He added that in a period of many changes, we must remember we are here to be and support a community of scholars. Provost Wolfe said he is always ready to sit down over coffee and hear from anyone in the community.

***** Status of Legislation *******Documents for Action – Passed**

- SD 22-40 Proposed Modification to FCBC Bylaws
- SD 23-02 Nominee for the Faculty Affairs Committee
- SD 23-03 Nominee for the Steering Committee
- SD 23-04 Nominee for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- SD 23-06 Nominee for the Educational Policy Committee
- SD 23-07 Nominee for the Nominating Committee

Documents for Discussion

- SD 23-01 Proposed Amendment: Committee for Sustainability Planning and Assessment

For Information

- Graduate School Update
- Purdue University Indianapolis Faculty Affairs Update
- [Annual Report](#) of the Athletic Affairs Committee

University Senate Website

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc. www.purdue.edu/senate/

Standing Committees

Educational Policy Committee, Eric Kvam,
kvam@purdue.edu

- Working with Chair's ad hoc committee on AI and instruction
- Evaluating whether updates are needed to Medically Excused Absences Policy (MEAPS)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Brian Dilkes,
bdilkes@purdue.edu and Geraldine Friedman,
friedman@purdue.edu

- DEI efforts in the wake of the SFFA v. Harvard and SFFA v. UNC decision

Faculty Affairs Committee, Eric N. Waltenburg,
ewaltenb@purdue.edu

- Faculty Benefits and Compensation Committee bylaws revision
- Evaluating Senate size; apportionment; quorum rules
- Request for MaPSAC and CSSAC to have voting members on Senate

Nominating Committee, Richard D. Mattes,
mattes@purdue.edu

- Managing new committee vacancies
- Studying number and disposition of Senate advisors

Steering Committee, Libby Richards,
erichards@purdue.edu

- Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests

Student Affairs Committee, David Sanders,
retrovir@purdue.edu

- Graduate Student Compensation

University Resource Policy Committee, Lori Hoagland,
lhoaglan@purdue.edu

- Sustainability Committee proposed reorganization

Faculty Committees

Members are any tenured/tenure-track, clinical, & prof. faculty who volunteer. Please respond to the call for volunteers issued in January or contact the relevant committee chairs directly if you are interested in serving.

- **Academic Organization** ([Sally Bane](#), Aeronautics and Astronautics / EPC)
- **Academic Progress and Records** ([Lei Wang](#), EAPS / EPC)
- **Athletic Affairs** ([Kip Williams](#), Psychological Sciences/Steering)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** ([Victor Chen](#), CGT/ URPC and [George Zhou](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** ([Mireille Boutin](#), Electrical and Computer Engineering / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Rebecca Johnson](#), Associate Professor Visual and Performing Art)
- **Library Committee** ([Alexander Francis](#), ULC Chair, Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences)
- **Parking and Traffic** ([Joel Ebarb](#), Design, Art, and Performance / URPC)
- **Scholastic Delinquencies and Readmissions** ([Megan Dorton](#), Sr. Assoc Director of Admissions / EPC)
- **Staff Appeal Board for Traffic Regulations** ([Stephanie Winder](#), MaPSAC / URPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Chad Brown](#), Veterinary Medicine / EPC)
- **Sustainability** ([Michael Johnston](#), English / URPC)
- **Visual Arts and Design** ([Laura Bittner](#), Design, Art, and Performance/ URPC)

Contact the committee chairs (listed above) for more information.

Most of the work of the University Senate happens in committees. Standing Committees are composed of Senate members and university advisors. Faculty committees are composed of faculty members and often have non-faculty liaisons. Recommendations from committees come to the full Senate for consideration and vote.

Charge of the Purdue University Senate: The University Senate is the governing body of the faculty, subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees and in consultation with the President, it has the power and responsibility to propose or to adopt policies, regulations and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of Purdue University and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes. The University Senate follows the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* and our [Bylaws](#).