

University Senate Newsletter
Second Meeting, 16 October 2023, Virtual**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Brian Leung hoped that everyone was enjoying the refreshing fall weather. He reminded the Senate that their Chair makes reports at each Board of Trustees meeting, and that BoT meetings are livestreamed and often contain questions that mirror the interests of the University Senate—for example, the previous week's meeting had included detailed information about university DEI efforts. He encouraged Senators to watch the BoT meetings; the next will take place on [7-8 December](#).

Chair Leung then turned to the topic of praise. He said that undersung but essential to Purdue's success are our cultural and resource centers: the [Asian and Asian American Center](#), the [Black Cultural Center](#), the [Latino Cultural Center](#), the [LGBTQ Center](#), the [Native American Educational and Cultural Center](#), the [Butler Center](#), and [ADVANCE Purdue / Center for Faculty Success](#). He requested that the Senate join him in thanking them and appreciating their work; in addition, he praised the [Center for Advocacy Response and Education \(CARE\)](#) and the recently renamed [Dorothy Stratton Veteran and Military Success Center](#).

Chair Leung concluded with some thoughts on the value of tenure, which has been on many minds due to recent media comments questioning the role of tenure in higher education. At Purdue, he argued, the tenure system is a vital part of the free speech values that we cherish. Students benefit from tenure because faculty turnover compromises time spent on teaching, and because tenured faculty act as mentors to tenure-track faculty, helping them develop the strongest teaching practices. Tenure reduces pressure on staff time because it protects a sustained understanding of university operations. Administrators come and then move on to exciting new opportunities; tenured faculty provide core stability for the university. Tenure protects important research: faculty cannot be bullied into abandoning, e.g., climate change work, or national security work, or from creating culturally pointed art because some party objects to these things. Nor is tenure an immunity cloak. Tenured professors can be and have been asked to leave Purdue—but for cause. Investment in tenure-track faculty delivers dividends in the form of wisdom, institutional memory, and stability for the entire university.

Purdue President's Remarks:

President Mung Chiang stressed the urgency of creating use or misuse guidelines for AI in teaching and learning. He acknowledged that we teach and do research in AI, and that it can be useful in many operations. But Purdue needs to decide which student practices can and should be allowed in different classes. We want students to be creative and to innovate, but we want to be part of the process along with the students. The University of Michigan has become the B1G leader in publishing [very well thought-out classroom guidelines](#)—and in launching a [customized generative AI service for its campus](#). President Chiang urged the Chair's ad hoc committee and the entire Senate to work towards enabling Purdue to produce clear guidelines in time to provide clarity when heading into the spring semester. He said that conversations about this matter were ongoing with the Teaching Academy, Purdue students, and with peer institutions as well.

The next matter that President Chiang categorized as urgent was the question of university tenure in Indianapolis, which needs to be substantially addressed by the end of the semester.

Purdue President's Remarks (continued):

Purdue will uphold our commitment that tenured IUPUI faculty will be tenured to Purdue on July 1. Still to come, though, is an exact definition of what that might mean for those faculty tenured to the university, but not to West Lafayette. We owe it to our future colleagues to be able to give them the details of what their new promotion and review process would look like.

Also under discussion are graduate stipends, which should be resolved by early spring. RA offers are encouraged to be competitive, but the question of pay for TAs is not centralized across department and college levels. The university has a responsibility to set minimums, and is considering pushing the minimum higher once again. President Chiang asked for Senate input on GTA minimums, particularly given the rising local cost of living. Most students are already above the minimum, but not all.

President Chiang then reiterated the administration's desire to see more nominations for external national and international faculty awards. Provost Patrick Wolfe added that the newly established Faculty Awards and Recognitions office had met with the deans to boost this initiative; he felt that Purdue faculty are punching under our weight in terms of overall recognition. Hiring for the awards team continues, but already individualized reports are going out to all academic units.

President Chiang ended on a "cliffhanger" related to the important topic of saving faculty time: there will soon be some updates from the EVPR re: nondisclosure agreements, grants, contracts, and matters such as IRB proposals that have been caught in seemingly infinite loops of delay and inaction. Not everyone will be happy, but everyone will at least have an answer.

Question Time included queries about the proposal to divert water from the Wabash River and aquifer to Boone County, and about changes to university policy around diversity statements and other arguably compelled speech. A full account will be available in the meeting minutes.

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

- SD 23-10 Nominee for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- SD 23-11 Nominee for the Steering Committee
- SD 23-12 Nominee for the Nominating Committee
- SD 23-13 Nominee for the Faculty Affairs Committee
- SD 23-14 Nominee for the University Resources Policy Committee

Documents for Discussion

- Senate Document 23-08 Update to Academic Regulations to Allow Larger Graduate Student Credit Limit
- Senate Document 23-09 Recommended Changes in the Communication, Ways of Thinking, and Interpersonal Skills and Cultural Knowledge Embedded Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

For Information

- [Pre-submitted Questions & Administrative Answers](#)
- [Benefits Report](#)
- [Hiring AY 2024-25](#)

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 the Senate 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

- Evaluating Senate size; apportionment; quorum rules
- Assessment of Recent Changes in P&T Process
- 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
- Working with PGSG to distribute their legislation on Juneteenth to appropriate Senate committees
- Requested FAC to review changes of promotion and tenure process
- Considering how Purdue Indianapolis faculty and staff will be represented on the Senate

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

- Graduate Student Compensation
- Student-initiated resolution on creating a Juneteenth holiday

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** ([Mark Wilson](#), 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](#).