

**University Senate Newsletter**

Third Meeting, 20 November 2023, Virtual

**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Brian Leung described his brief remarks as “pre-Thanksgiving Break hors d’oeuvres,” a phrase the Secretary absolutely spelled correctly on the first try. He gave a shout-out to the performance of our student athletes, particularly praising the recent volleyball triumph in which #16 Purdue upset #3 Wisconsin and then swept Maryland.

Chair Leung and Secretary Powell recently participated in the [BTAA leadership conference](#) in at the University of Minnesota (it will come to Purdue in 2026). The conference addressed the expansion of the B1G, campus sustainability initiatives, various governance structures and actions, and the meaning and purpose of institutional neutrality. He described the gathering as a best practices forum that benefits our university. He also explained that Purdue West Lafayette is a member of the [Intercampus Faculty Council](#) and meets regularly with representatives from all Purdue campuses; this is another best practices forum.

He then returned to the previous meeting’s cliffhanger. In October, he had promoted the merits of university tenure, and asked whether Purdue is a place of practical and intellectual discovery, or a business interest best served by a CEO model. Like many in our community, Chair Leung was taken aback by the IND airport floor banner congratulating Purdue on being the [#16<sup>th</sup> Most Innovative Company](#) in the world. Purdue conducts, does, and creates businesses, he said, but it is not a business. We are a land-grant university with a mandate for a broad public teaching mission, and we should market that educational mandate as well.

Still, are all seeing headlines about universities in financial distress. There are good reasons for our university to give the attention it does to financial matters. While honoring this imperative, we should all work together to make sure our land grant mission is our enduring brand, too.

Finally Chair Leung made a recommendation: “no matter how much work you have, in this Thanksgiving break, take a day for yourself.”

**Purdue President's Remarks:**

President Mung Chiang called in from the men’s basketball game in Hawai’i and wished the Senate a happy Thanksgiving and successful conclusion to the semester. He also praised the recent successes of the women’s basketball and volleyball teams.

He noted proudly that Professor Gebisa Ejeta (College of Agriculture) had [recently received the National Medal of Science](#) from President Biden. Also, in the past few months, Purdue has won three out of three national hubs competitions, which he said reflected the high abilities of the students, faculty, and staff at Purdue West Lafayette, Northwest, and Indianapolis.

He provided an update on the Action Council on Student Housing and Well-being. Its work included the blueprint for two new additional university residences, one of them already under construction; the devotion of \$1 million to mental health support; and a [survey](#) just sent to the campus community regarding pedestrian and transportation safety, in which he encouraged everyone to participate.

President Chiang also addressed the most recent admissions cycle, which featured an acceptance rate of 50% among 72,800 applications, the highest number ever.

**Purdue President's Remarks (continued):**

He stressed that Purdue does not intend to lean into exclusivity, but said that we cannot continue to accept more students if the application rate continues to rise—meaning that the rejection rate for qualified students will have to rise if we are to hold the population steady.

He reiterated that the Chair’s ad hoc committee as well as the Provost and other stakeholders were in frequent contact on the issue of AI, and that they were considering when to provide a draft statement for the entire university to weigh in.

Finally, he announced that [ground had been broken](#) on the new fully funded nursing and pharmacology building, and added that there had been 23 fiscal facility projects completed or started in 2023, for a total of a \$1.3 billion cash outlay. He expressed a belief that we will continue investing in the places, people, and programs of this university.

Provost Patrick Wolfe also urged community members to fill out the pedestrian safety [survey](#). He added that while we do not yet have a complete look at the new admissions cycle, early data suggests a robust pool, including healthy interest in Purdue Indianapolis. More data will be available in January and in April. He highlighted the [recent announcements](#) about John Harbor’s return to Purdue West Lafayette and the formation of the new Provost’s Advisory Committee. He then congratulated the College of Agriculture in developing the first of Purdue’s Dream Hires, and said a press release on that matter would appear shortly.

**Question Time**

Presubmitted [questions and responses](#) are on the Senate website. Also, President Chiang said the administration was looking at CityBus schedules to be sure that students had access to transportation to and from campus, especially during the winter.

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

- SD 23-01 Proposed amendment: Committee for Sustainability Planning and Assessment (revised)
- SD 23-08 Update to Academic Regulations to Allow Larger Graduate Student Credit Limit
- SD 23-09 Recommended Changes in the Communication, Ways of Thinking, and Interpersonal Skills and Cultural Knowledge Embedded Learning Outcomes (ELOs) (EPC)
- SD 23-15 Reapportionment of the Senate for AY 2023-2024

**Documents for Discussion**

- SD 23-16 Resolution Concerning David Malpass

**For Information**

- Pre-submitted Questions & Administrative Answers
- Report from the Office of the Provost: Faculty at IUPUI/PIN
- Report from Purdue Indianapolis Faculty Senate

**University Senate Website**

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc. [www.purdue.edu/senate/](http://www.purdue.edu/senate/)

**Standing Committees**
**Educational Policy Committee**, Eric Kvam, [kvam@purdue.edu](mailto:kvam@purdue.edu)

- Assessing what AI regulations are needed
- Considering ways to improve the Grade Appeal process
- Updating MEAPS language as per SB22-08
- Juneteenth holiday recognition

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee**, Brian Dilkes, [bdilkes@purdue.edu](mailto:bdilkes@purdue.edu) and Geraldine Friedman, [friedman@purdue.edu](mailto:friedman@purdue.edu)

- DEI efforts in the wake of the SFFA v. Harvard and SFFA v. UNC decision
- Students proposing a center for students from western Asia and North Africa presenting to The EDIC at our next meeting (11/27)

**Faculty Affairs Committee**, Eric N. Waltenburg, [ewaltenb@purdue.edu](mailto: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
- Lecturers Advisory Board presence on University Senate

**Nominating Committee**, Richard D. Mattes, [mattes@purdue.edu](mailto:mattes@purdue.edu)

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

**Steering Committee**, Libby Richards, [erichards@purdue.edu](mailto:erichards@purdue.edu)

- Monitoring faculty affair processes at Purdue Indianapolis including department absorption, university tenure, and P&T evaluation at Purdue Indianapolis
- Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
- Requested FAC to review recent administrative changes to promotion and tenure process
- Requested FAC to review Senate apportionment in consideration of lecturers, MAPSAC, CASAC, Purdue Global, Purdue Indy

**Student Affairs Committee**, David Sanders, [retrovir@purdue.edu](mailto:retrovir@purdue.edu)

- Graduate Student Compensation
- Juneteenth Holiday Recognition
- Student Housing

**University Resource Policy Committee**, Lori Hoagland, [lhoaglan@purdue.edu](mailto:lhoaglan@purdue.edu)

- Sustainability Committee proposed reorganization
- Parking regulations and appeals process

**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](#).