To: The University Senate  
From: Steve Wereley and David A. Sanders  
Subject: Statement of Support for the Restoration of the  
Common Reading Program  
Disposition: University Senate for Approval

WHEREAS: “The mission of the Purdue University Common Reading program [was] to provide a common, academic-based first-year experience for all new students (freshmen and transfers) – an experience that sets high academic expectations for students from the onset of their undergraduate careers.”* and

WHEREAS: “The goals associated with this mission [included]:  
Connect students to their faculty/instructors  
Connect students to their peers  
Enhance student success by:  
    emphasizing reading as an intellectual skill central to student achievement,  
    promoting learning with and from others,  
    setting higher expectations for student success, [and]  
    modeling academic behaviors”* and

WHEREAS: The Purdue University Common Reading program was canceled without input from either the Common Reading Committee, whose membership included faculty, students, and staff or from any other faculty or students, and

WHEREAS: The reasons advanced for the elimination of the Purdue University Common Reading program appear to be post hoc rationalizations and

WHEREAS: The announcement of the cancellation of the Purdue University Common Reading program was made without warning during Winter Break and

WHEREAS: There has been support among the faculty for the Purdue University Common Reading Program and
WHEREAS: “Subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees and in consultation with the president of the University, the faculties shall have the general power and responsibility to adopt policies, regulations, and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of Purdue University.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Purdue University Senate strongly urges Student Success at Purdue and other responsible administrative units to restore the Purdue University Common Reading program for the 2015-2016 academic year and to provide the resources necessary to do so. The program should include better assessment of its effectiveness and the creation of instructional modules to facilitate incorporation of the Common Reading into the curriculum. Consideration should be given to the placement of the Common Reading Program under the control of one or more of the University academic units.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Wereley and David A. Sanders

* Student Success at Purdue
# The University Code Part II, Section A 4.00