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.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Wereley and David A. Sanders

* Student Success at Purdue