IFC Resolution 15.6

RESOLUTION

From: The Purdue University Intercampus Faculty Council
To: Purdue President, Provost, Board of Trustees, Chancellors, and other administration
Subject: Collaborative decision-making while the University Senate and regional campus Faculty Senates are in session

WHEREAS:

In order to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by true shared governance;
to achieve the most productive results;
to consider carefully the impact that any changes may cause the entire system;

The Intercampus Faculty Council hereby petitions the President, the Provost, the Board of Trustees, Chancellors, and the rest of the Purdue administration to develop and announce all major changes that affect scholarship, teaching, and organization of Purdue while the University Senate and the regional campus Faculty Senates are in session.

The Senates have well-established mechanisms for examining, recommending, and approving initiatives, both large and small. The Senators are elected by the faculty and represent them. The Senates have processes that are designed to ensure a broad and balanced voice is being expressed thus providing the administration the security that a legitimate voice of the faculty is being heard in terms of recommendations, endorsements or decisions as the case may be.

At the same time, The Intercampus Faculty Council petitions the administration to use the Senate structures in order to “vet” new initiatives and significant changes in policy or direction. The Senators are elected by the faculty, and represent them. Thus, the administration should avoid, as much as possible, the creation of ad-hoc committees with hand-picked faculty members who are designated to “vet” significant policy changes. Such a group can give insights, but cannot ever be said truly to represent the faculty. The representative structure within the Purdue system are the Senates. All major initiatives should progress openly through the appropriate committees and then be discussed on the respective Senate floors before they are adopted. This is the way to scrutinize changes rigorously and fairly and help avoid unintended negative consequences.