MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

FACULTY: Pamela Aaltonen, Chris Clifton, Mary Comer, Donna Fekete, Ed Fox, Russell Jones [chair], Chuck Krousgrill, Kenji Matsuki, Carlos Morales, Robert Nowak, Jon Story, Kipling Williams

STUDENTS: Sam Eschker, Sam Freedlund, Jacob Goedde, Kenny Nguyen, Brett Turek, Dina Verdin

ADVISORS: Caren Archer, Heather Beasley, Linda Mason

RESOLUTIONS FORWARDED TO THE SENATE

1. Honor Pledge; Issues Concerning Academic Integrity; guests: Dr. Jeff Stefancic, Cameron Mann

   Jeff Stefancic, Associate Dean of Students, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, presented information on academic integrity. This included statistics about the number of cases in recent semesters reviewed by his office; the most common offenses [unauthorized collaboration/group work/collusion, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of data]; the process employed in reviewing cases; and, a number of projects his office is pursuing [updated and revised university regulations, an Academic Integrity Hotline phone number and email, an upcoming forum with University Senate on Jan. 12th, and a review of the grade appeal process].

   Cameron Mann is the student member of the Board of Trustees. She has put together a diverse group of students who have proposed a new Honor Pledge for our campus. The pledge reads as follows: I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together – we are Purdue. It is intended to implement the pledge throughout university life at Boiler Gold Rush, at tours and the Residence Life programs, on screens around campus and at sports events, and in other ways, including marketing and media. SAC
stated strong support for the pledge and offered to put forth a resolution in support of the pledge at the January meeting of the University Senate.

Rusty Jones presented a new resolution in support of Purdue Student Senate Resolution 16-08, “Student Support for the Honor Pledge Proposal.” The resolution passed and was forwarded to the Senate Steering Committee. It was on the agenda for discussion in February, and passed a vote in March. The final wording of the pledge is as follows: “As a Boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue.”

2. A newly proposed resolution on Absence Approval for Students on University Sanctioned Activities was given clarity by Jon Story, with “University Regulations, Guidelines and Responsibilities Concerning Student Absence from Class and Accommodations for These Absences” being added for information. The resolution was passed unanimously and was forwarded to the full senate for a March discussion. The resolution passed the vote in April.

3. Jacob Goedde, PSG Student Body Vice President and member of SAC, presented two resolutions from PSG. The first resolution asks that faculty put a statement in their syllabi informing students of the availability of mental health services via CAPS. The suggested brief statement on student health and wellbeing was included in the resolution. A vote was held and passed unanimously in favor of the PSG resolution. Jones offered to pen a resolution from SAC promoting the policy in the full senate. He did so, and the resolution was presented for discussion and vote in the full senate. It passed, and Vice Provost Frank Dooley distributed the information to the full faculty in his “syllabus letter” in early May.

The second resolution was entitled “Providing Suicide Prevention Training for Faculty.” It recommends that all faculty be required to attend and pass suicide prevention training every five years. A discussion ensued, and included thoughts from those who have received such training. It is a lengthy certification process. It was decided that the logistics of such a plan needed further investigation before we would create a resolution supporting the idea.
Other Business Conducted by the Committee

4. Liaisons to PSG and PGSG

We had a need to replace former faculty representatives to Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government. Prof. Chris Clifton agreed to serve as rep to PSG, and Prof. Robert Nowack agreed to serve as rep to PGSG. Many thanks to both.

5. The Forecast App Subcommittee; guest: Dr. Steve Beaudoin

We invited Steve Beaudoin to the meeting to answer any questions about the new Forecast App. We learned that the data used in the app is FERPA protected. Other questions brought forth concerned Fair Information Practice Principles [FIPPS], and whether the app had been approved by an Institutional Review Board.

6. Athletic Affairs Committee Update, Jon Story

AAC liaison Jon Story reported that Graduation Success Rates are nearly on target overall for Purdue Athletics programs, with 84% achieved, and the target being 85%. The full report on the matter was sent to the committee via email by Jones.

Jon Story reported that newly hired Director of Athletics, Mike Bobinski is reported to be meeting with various constituencies and coaches. President Daniels was in attendance at this meeting of the AAC. There was a presentation on progress toward degrees, and NCAA rules.

Jon Story reported that the new football coach, Jeff Brohm, was invited to speak at a recent AAC meeting. In addition, they discussed Big Ten Football Friday night games next season, and the fact that 57 Purdue athletes were named to the Academic All-Big Ten Squad.

Jon Story reported that the featured guest coach at the recent meeting was soccer coach Drew Roff. Roff reported that the team has had a good recruitment year, and that the players achieved the highest GPA among varsity sports. The meeting also included reports from the student services staff, as well as a report on the John Wooden Institute from Kelly Wright-Eger.
7. **Course Evaluations resolution**

Rusty Jones presented a course evaluation resolution that was forwarded from the Faculty Affairs Committee that would remove the course and instructor rating questions that required a numerical score on a 1 to 5 scale. It was discussed at length. Questions arose concerning accreditation standards, the fact that no new system standard was ready to be in place of the old one, that student feedback was needed, and that participation in the evaluation process has fallen since evaluations went electronic/online. The resolution failed in our committee by unanimous vote.

**Course Evaluations Resolution; guest: Dr. Steven Landry**

Steve Landry, who chairs the Faculty Affairs Committee, was invited to once again bring up the resolution on course evaluations. He explained that the only change was the removal of the requirement of two questions related to rating the course and the instructor, with a numerical evaluator on a scale of 1 to 5. Discussion ensued. The strongest argument against the resolution was the lack of a campus-wide, consistent tool to replace these questions. A motion in support of the resolution was made and seconded. The vote did not carry, with three in favor, four against, and six abstaining.

8. **Purdue Graduate Student Government Bill of Rights; guests: Andrew Zellers, Chris Kulesza**

Vice President of PGSG, Chris Kulesza, presented a draft version of their newly proposed Graduate Student Bill of Rights, which was reviewed by the committee. A number of items were brought up for clarification and suggested changes were offered. The committee will continue to be involved in the document until its passage.

9. **A document from PGSG on Graduate Student Success** was presented by Andrew Zeller, PGSG President. A discussion ensued, with questions for Zeller. Jones sent the item to our graduate advisor, Linda Mason, and our SAC liaison to PGSG, Robert Nowack, who were not in attendance at the meeting. Jones asked them to review the document for a possible resolution in support.

10. **Election of Chair for 2017-18**

Prof. Rusty Jones was elected to a third term as committee chair for next year.
Issues on the agenda for 2017-18

11. Jones asked for suggestions for topics to deal with in the next academic year. He brought up the issue of a needed leave policy for students taking extended medical leave. We decided this was a worthwhile topic for investigation in 2017-18.