Resolution Concerning the University Process for Selecting the Student Trustee

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 21-23-3-6 (the “Code”) provides for the creation of a search and screen committee to aid the governor in the selection of the student member of the Purdue University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Code specifies that the committee must consist of “one (1) representative of the governor and at least four (4) students chosen by the elected student government representatives of the student body, including one (1) student from each campus of Purdue University, main and regional”; and

WHEREAS, the Code further provides (i) that the search and screen committee shall establish the mode and criteria to be used in the selection of student nominees to serve on the Board of Trustees, (ii) that the committee shall submit at least 10 students to the governor for his or her consideration, and (iii) that the governor shall select one student for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, to provide clarity and continuity in the search and screen committee function, the president and vice president of Purdue Student Government during the 2015-2016 academic year, Mike Young and Becca Wilmoth, respectively, led an effort to codify its processes and, on behalf of Purdue Student Government, proposed a formal committee governance structure to the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, this structure contemplated that the committee should be chaired by the president or vice president of Purdue Student Government (or their designees) and also include: (i) a second representative from Purdue Student Government; (ii) two representatives from Purdue Graduate Student Government; (iii) one representative from each of the regional campuses’ student government associations (Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne and the unified campuses of Purdue University Calumet and Purdue University North Central, now known as Purdue University Northwest); and (iv) the current student trustee; and

WHEREAS, the Young-Wilmoth proposal further recommended to the Board of Trustees that the timeline of the search and screen committee process should begin with the appointment of a chairperson in December, finalization of the committee by mid-January, applications made available to students in early February, and interviews held in late March; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the Young-Wilmoth proposal, Purdue administrative offices such as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students have historically led the student trustee selection process; and
WHEREAS, in exercising its statutory duties under the Indiana Code, the Board of Trustees recognizes the critical role that the student trustee plays in helping to guide the initiatives and affairs of Purdue University for the benefit of students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees seeks to formalize the search and screen committee structure effective with the student trustee selection process for the 2017-2019 student trustee;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY THAT:

1. The Vice Provost for Student Life (or future equivalent position) shall designate an appropriate member of his or her staff to provide oversight of the student trustee search process conducted by the search and screen committee organized pursuant to Indiana Code 21-23-3-6 (the “Student Trustee Search Committee”);

2. Such staff member shall, together with the chair of the Student Trustee Search Committee, keep the Executive Assistant to the Board and Corporate Secretary apprised of the status of the search process and seek his or her assistance in the process of securing funding, personnel support, and other resources as needed;

3. Both undergraduate and graduate students may apply for the position of student trustee;

4. To ensure a truly student-led process, only members of the Student Trustee Search Committee may review the student trustee applications, interview the candidates, and forward the 10 finalists to the governor pursuant to Indiana Code;

5. The Board of Trustees will, consistent with longstanding custom and practice, welcome and embrace each student selected by the governor for service on the Board over the entirety of his or her two-year term, the first of which will begin on July 1, 2017, and with the terms of future student trustees to recur every two years thereafter in accordance with the Indiana Code.

AUGUST 26, 2016

Michael R. Berghoff, Chairman

Janice A. Indrutz, Secretary
Members of the Board of Trustees,

According to state code, the Purdue Student Government Vice President is tasked with chairing the Student Trustee Search and Screening Committee. This committee plays a critical role in determining who will ultimately represent Purdue students on the Board of Trustees – and thus, a critical role in shaping the future of our institution.

In light of this importance, Purdue Student Government has sought to codify the function of the Search and Screening Committee to provide clarity and continuity. The following guidelines were developed last year and will serve to guide the Search and Screening Committee chair on matters of mission, composition, and timeline.

Student Trustee Search and Screening Committee Process

Mission
The Purdue University Student Trustee Search and Screening Committee is tasked to advertise the opening for the student trustee position and evaluate applicant to the position.

Membership
The committee should be made up of a chairperson from the Purdue Student Government, chaired or appointed by the president or vice president. Other committee member shall be: one more representative from the Purdue Student Government, two representative from the Purdue Graduate Student Government, one representative from the each of the regional campuses student government associations (IPFW, Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central), and the current student trustee.

Timeline
The timeline of the student trustee search and screening committee should begin with the appointment of a chairperson in December and the finalization of the committee by mid-January. Application should be released in early February, and due thereafter. Interviews should take place in late March.

With these written guidelines in place, the Search and Screening Committee is well-positioned to carry out its mission of publicizing the student trustee opening and evaluating applicants.

Mike Young
President
Purdue Student Government

Becca Wilmoth
Vice President
Purdue Student Government