

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Trustees

From: Steve Schultz, General Counsel



Cc: Mitch Daniels, President
Jay Akridge, Provost, EVP for Academic Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer
Tom Keon, Chancellor, Purdue Northwest
Ron Elsenbaumer, Chancellor, Purdue Fort Wayne
Trent Klingerman, Deputy General Counsel

Re: Proposed Diploma Changes for Purdue Northwest and Purdue Fort Wayne

Date: October 8, 2018

As you know, Purdue Northwest and Purdue Fort Wayne recently developed prototypes for proposed new diploma designs, which they believe will affirm their distinct identities as separately accredited institutions following their name changes and reorganizations of the past couple of years. In each case, the proposed design features the institution's name ("Purdue University Northwest" or "Purdue University Fort Wayne") as the centerpiece. This would replace the prominent display of "Purdue University" in the center, which was historically accompanied by a geographic location (indicated in smaller font below) to identify the campus at which the degree was actually awarded.¹

Although several versions were reviewed with you at a prior executive session, the Board must take formal action at a stated meeting to ratify any diploma changes. Proofs of updated diploma designs (which differ slightly from those previously shared with you in executive session) accompany this memo. As you review them, please note:

- ➔ The use of the preposition "AT" in the top line of each new diploma is key. It indicates that the ensuing reference to "Purdue University Northwest" or "Purdue University Fort Wayne" is simply the location at which the degree was earned; it is not the degree-granting authority itself.
- ➔ The degree-granting authority continues to be The Trustees of Purdue University (as Indiana law requires). This is made clear in the language of the proposed new design.

¹ The interest in this approach arose concurrently with the launch of Purdue University Global, which, as a distinct legal entity, necessarily has a diploma that differs from the traditional one granted by The Trustees of Purdue University and used at Purdue's residential campuses.

As the Board considers these changes and possible dates by which they may be authorized to go into effect, please recall that you first approved the campus name changes on the following dates:

- Purdue University Northwest: approved by the Board on July 18, 2014
- Purdue University Fort Wayne: approved by the Board on April 21, 2017

Should the Board elect not to move forward with such a drastic change, one compromise might be to maintain the current template (i.e., with “Purdue University” still prominently displayed in the center), but to replace the geographic location historically referenced at the bottom (e.g., Hammond, Westville, Fort Wayne) with the name of the campus at which the degree was earned—that is, Purdue University Northwest or Purdue University Fort Wayne, as the case may be.

If this approach were taken, the language of the diploma for a Purdue Northwest graduate would read something like this:

BE IT KNOWN THAT THE TRUSTEES OF
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
UPON NOMINATION OF THE FACULTY, HAVE GRANTED TO
LEO THE LION
THE DEGREE OF
[BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN _____]
IN RECOGNITION OF THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THAT DEGREE
AWARDED AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST IN THE STATE OF INDIANA
MAY __, 2018