



**PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

MINUTES

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 8:04 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2019, in Room 326 of Stewart Center on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

All members of the Committee were present in person or by means of electronic communication (telephone conference call) pursuant to the Electronic Meeting Policy: JoAnn Brouillette, chair; Vanessa Castagna; Malcolm DeKryger; Noah Scott; and Professor Cheryl Cooky (ex-officio).

Officers and administrators in attendance were: Jay Akridge, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity; Janice Indrutz, corporate secretary and senior executive assistant to the Board; Frank Dooley, senior vice provost for teaching and learning; Jenna Rickus, associate vice provost for teaching and learning; and Cherise Hall, associate provost for finance and administration.

I. ROLL CALL

Trustee Brouillette asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves and noted that all committee members were present, with Trustee Castagna participating by phone. She reminded everyone that the Committee would meet in executive session following the public meeting.

II. CIVICS EDUCATION / EVALUATION UPDATE

Trustee Brouillette called on Professor Cooky to provide an update on the civics literacy initiative. Professor Cooky informed the Committee that a civics literacy survey was distributed to all incoming students during Boiler Gold Rush in August. She discussed the survey questions, which, she said, were drawn from the Woodrow Wilson and National Election Study instruments, and she explained why only 26% of the responses were able to be utilized for analysis. She said preliminary analysis showed that respondents appeared to have greater civic knowledge than the general population across the United States and the state of Indiana and Purdue students appeared to exhibit greater civic knowledge than other college graduates in Indiana. Professor Cooky further informed the Committee that the survey would be refined to incorporate more questions relating to civic knowledge versus historical facts, and she said a political science professor had plans to pilot the survey in his courses.

Professor Cooky shared that Senior Vice Provost Dooley had contacted colleagues across the country to learn what other institutions were doing relative to civics literacy. Dr. Dooley discussed what he had learned about Texas and California's requirements specifically, and he said Ohio State was in the process of building a course on citizenship and diversity. Professor Cooky added that support for the civics literacy initiative had been solicited from the University Senate, specifically the Educational Policy Committee and Student Affairs Committee, and she was pleased to report that Purdue Student Government and the Office of Dean of Students were also represented in the working group.

In response to a question from Trustee Castagna about how the survey instrument would be made valid and credible, Provost Akridge reiterated that the survey questions were drawn from two existing surveys, the Woodrow Wilson and National Election Study instruments, and said questions were chosen based on how they aligned with civics education. Professor Cooky remarked that she foresaw Purdue's survey instrument becoming a benchmark for other institutions.

Dr. Dooley further informed the Committee that the survey questions were being refined using the process of discriminate analysis. Trustee Brouillette expressed her appreciation for the process of discriminate analysis, saying the Board members themselves had taken the survey and discussed the questions. She also shared the Board's belief that civics literacy would be a "wonderful differentiator" for Purdue graduates. Trustee DeKryger expressed concern about the timeline of the process and the readiness to administer the refined survey at next fall's Boiler Gold Rush, and he said it was important to have a plan for how the survey would be fully implemented.

To conclude the discussion, Provost Akridge posed the larger question as to whether or not a civics literacy graduation requirement should be established, to which Professor Cooky responded that the University Senate would be prepared to make a recommendation to the Educational Policy Committee in late fall or early spring. Trustee Scott offered his support of the graduation requirement and expressed his hope that it would be implemented in such a way that it would not create a barrier to graduation.

III. BOILERCONNECT BRIEFING

Provost Akridge introduced the Committee to BoilerConnect, the software system which, he said, the university had implemented in 2017 to connect units across campus in an effort to support students at the highest possible level. Senior Vice Provost Dooley explained that the system was largely marketed by the vendor as a tool to help advisors keep student records, but the university had expanded upon its use. He said the vendor was impressed by how Purdue was using the system more intensely than any other institution, and he shared reasons why the vendor's platform of data analytics was very advantageous.

Associate Vice Provost Rickus provided examples of how BoilerConnect had been integrated with the learning management system, and she responded to a question from Trustee Castagna about how the success of BoilerConnect would be measured. Dr. Dooley stated that the ultimate metric was graduation rates and said the system was capable of identifying students who need some additional support. Dr. Rickus illustrated screenshots of the different tabs of information within a student's BoilerConnect profile and provided examples of how the information could be used. Provost Akridge also provided the example of students who change majors and how the system allows all the information to be transferred to a new advisor quickly, which led Trustee Scott to share that his experience with switching majors had been made easier because of BoilerConnect. Dr. Rickus further explained that, before BoilerConnect was implemented, students were required to shuffle paper forms from office to office. She added that BoilerConnect also supported the Steps to Leaps initiative by giving students tools to build a real and tangible network of people with whom they could connect to meet their goals. To conclude the discussion, Dr. Dooley acknowledged the advisors who helped shape the BoilerConnect tool, which, he said, helped "make a big place smaller."

IV. ENROLLMENT GROWTH UPDATE

Associate Provost Hall informed the Committee that an exercise had been undertaken to study undergraduate enrollment growth on the West Lafayette campus and to consider ensuing instructional costs, faculty/advisor needs, and space needs. She shared that the official enrollment for Fall 2019 was 33,646, which, she said, was higher than the forecasted enrollment for Fall 2020, and she outlined in what areas investments had been made to support the enrollment growth. Ms. Hall indicated that space and classroom needs continued to be assessed.

Provost Akridge responded to a question from Trustee Castagna about the impact of online learning and Degree in Three programs on enrollment projections, and Professor Cooky asked how enrollment projections would impact class sizes. Provost Akridge underscored that his office was studying how online courses could complement the residential learning experience, for which Dr. Dooley provided the example of how a physical lab was converted to a virtual lab through an innovation grant. Trustee Scott expressed his hope that the enrollment growth would not change the student experience.

V. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m., at which time the Committee convened in executive session.