



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

FEBRUARY 6, 2026 | MINUTES

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 9:18 a.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026, in Room 326 of Stewart Center on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Committee members present included: Malcolm DeKryger, chair; JoAnn Brouillette; Vanessa Castagna; Reagan Koester; David Ricks (virtually); and Professor Mark Zimpfer (ex-officio). Other trustees present: Sonny Beck; Theresa Carter; Michael Klipsch; Gary Lehman; and Shawn Taylor.

Officers and administrators in attendance: Mung Chiang, president; Patrick Wolfe, provost; Chris Ruhl, chief financial officer and treasurer; Eva Nodine, vice president, deputy cfo, assistant treasurer, and assistant secretary; Steve Schultz, general counsel; Cindy Ream, corporate secretary and senior executive assistant to the Board.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES;

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes for Executive Sessions convened on September 17, 2025; November 14, 2025; and January 21, 2026.

II. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE JULIAN S. SCHWINGER PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Claudio Chamon as the Julian S. Schwinger Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Chamon joined the faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the fall of 2025. He is the top “dream hire” in quantum science and engineering, with extensive contributions to emerging quantum technologies. Trained at MIT, he is a fellow of the American Physical Society and has received multiple prestigious fellowships.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Chamon’s appointment as the Julian S. Schwinger Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Chamon shared he is grateful to receive the professorship named after Julian Schwinger who was once a professor at Purdue and whose work influenced him. He stated that it is a special time to be working in quantum science and engineering and looks forward to many productive years at Purdue.

III. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE EDWIN F. PETERS, CLASS OF 1942, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval to appoint Dr. Suzanne Bart as the Edwin F. Peters, Class of 1942, Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Bart came to Purdue in 2008 as a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and currently serves as Director of Graduate studies. She has received

numerous awards including NSF Early Scientist Career Award and went on to be named a Purdue University Faculty Scholar.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Bart's appointment as the Edwin F. Peters, Class of 1942, Professor of Chemistry. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Bart thanked the committee for the approval and thanked the Peters family for their donation to the university. She noted that Edwin F. Peters was a career chemist who had a 40-year career in industry. She stated that she is honored to be able to sort of carry on that legacy as the Edmond F. Peters professor. She also thanked the college and Dean Flesch, her department, colleagues and students who have really helped further the science over the years.

IV. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE SCIFRES FAMILY PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Shengwang Du as the Scifres Family Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Du joined Purdue in January 2025 as Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics and is serving as the Deputy Director of Purdue Quantum Science and Engineering Institute. He is an expert in quantum optics. He joined Purdue after a long stint at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Dr. Du has twelve patents and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Du's appointment as the Scifres Family Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Du thanked the Scifres family for their generosity for this commission. He thanked the school, the colleges, his colleagues, and university for its recognition of this position. He thanked his wife and family for their support. He shared they moved from Hong Kong to the U.S. for the American dream, and they really want to make the dream happen in the future.

V. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE JUSTIN S. MORRILL DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Christopher Yeomans as the Justin S. Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Yeomans has been a faculty member since 2009 and the head of the Department of Philosophy since 2017. Provost Wolfe noted this is a special named position associated with the deanship of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Yeomans is the author of four books with Oxford and Cambridge University Presses. Provost Wolfe shared that Dr. Yeomans was appointed to this role because he is such a highly regarded scholar and a consistently recognized collaborator across campus.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Yeomans appointment as the Justin S. Morrill Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Yeomans noted that it is an honor to have a deanship named after Justin Morrill, who started the land grant colleges through the Land Grant Act. He shared that he is honored by the trust shown in giving him the position. He stated that he is excited about the opportunities and tremendously thankful for the support the College of Liberal Arts has received from the university, the board, the treasurer, the provost, and the president.

VI. (WL) APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE, M.S./M.S.E. SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEERING

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval for the Approval of New Degree, M.S./M.S.E. Sustainability Engineering. Provost Wolfe shared that the new degree will be offered online through Purdue West Lafayette beginning in the fall of 2026. He noted the initiative is driven by strong market demand - specifically, the growing need for engineers who can integrate sustainability into industry practices and solutions. John Southerland, Head of the School of Sustainability, Engineering, and Environmental Engineering, noted that sustainability in engineering is about proactively designing solutions that enhance industrial competitiveness, improve economic efficiency, and minimize environmental impact—rather than reacting to waste after it is created.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the new degree, M.S./M.S.E. Sustainability Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

VII. DEAN'S PRESENTATION – COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Dean Yeomans shared about the size, scale, soap, and strengths of the College of Liberal Arts. The College of Liberal Arts serves nearly all Purdue students through its extensive Cornerstone program. He stated the college is built on three core areas - design and performance, humanities, and social sciences - the college emphasizes collaboration across disciplines to enhance undergraduate education. Its strengths include distinguished faculty, a leading AI research group, and strong programs in both West Lafayette and Indianapolis. Looking ahead, “Cornerstone 2.0” aims to deepen and expand critical thinking by connecting great ideas to citizenship and democratic engagement, while fostering focus, discipline, and effective communication skills.

The College of Liberal Arts is expanding its interdisciplinary Cornerstone approach by integrating diverse forms of evidence and applying them to fields like AI, with a focus on knowledge and cognition. It is strengthening both technical and humanistic contributions, enhancing student experiences in Indianapolis, and launching initiatives like the Cornerstone Institute for Civic Thought and the “Art of Attention” learning community. Collaboration with the Daniels School continues through Cornerstone for Business.

The college is also growing its AI curriculum—now involving about twenty faculty—with new programs such as a natural language processing concentration and research initiatives like the Cognition, Agency, and Intelligence Center. In Indianapolis, it is expanding co-op and internship opportunities and introducing new degrees, including a BA in AI and a master’s in applied policy and tech diplomacy, positioning itself for continued strategic growth.

A copy of Dr. Yeomans presentation was filed with the minutes.

VIII. UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT

Professor Mark Zimpfer, university senate chair, shared the Senate plans to focus this spring on implementing the new AI learning outcome, strengthening committee efforts, and maintaining progress on AI initiatives. It will hire new staff support, prepare to host the Big Ten Academic Alliance Senate Leadership Meeting, and elect a new vice chair. The Senate will also address campus wellness concerns, including prescription plan changes and childcare issues, with committees continuing their work and a town hall planned to gather input and identify solutions.

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.