



PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 25, 2026 | MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Purdue University Board of Trustees convened at 8:02 a.m. on Monday, May 25, 2026, virtually and in Stewart Center, Room 326, on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Trustees present in person or by means of electronic communication pursuant to the Electronic Meeting Policy were: Gary Lehman, chair (in person); Sonny Beck (conference call); JoAnn Brouillette (conference call); Theresa Carter (conference call); Vanessa Castagna (conference call); Malcolm DeKryger (conference call); Michael Klipsch, vice chair (conference call); Reagan Koester (conference call); David Ricks (conference call); Trustee Shawn Taylor was not available due to illness.

Officers and administrators in attendance were: Steve Schultz, general counsel (in person); Trent Klingerman, chief of staff, office of the President (in person); and Cindy Ream, corporate secretary (in person).

I. ROLL CALL

Cindy Ream, corporate secretary, conducted roll call and noted for the record that all trustees were present, either in person or via conference call, except for Shawn Taylor. General Counsel, Steve Schultz, added that the meeting was being held in accordance with Indiana Open Door Law and the electronic meeting policy of the Board of Trustees after notice duly posted.

II. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL MATTER

Chairman Lehman stated the purpose of the meeting is to approve a personnel matter, which is the appointment of an interim president of our university in anticipation of the recently announced departure of President Mung Chiang effective June 30, 2026. He proposed the approval to appoint Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. as the Interim President of Purdue University. Trustee Michael Klipsch made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Trustee Sonny Beck.

Board Chair Gary Lehman provided context for the appointment of an interim president, noting that the role has been an important part of Purdue's history when leadership transitions have occurred. He observed that Purdue has had six interim presidents since its founding, with service periods ranging from 11 days to approximately one year. While emphasizing the importance of ensuring stability and a smooth transition during a period of interim leadership, he noted that the Board's primary responsibility remains identifying and appointing the university's next permanent president.

He explained that the Board moved quickly to consider the interim appointment in order to ensure continuity of leadership while beginning the search for a permanent successor. He indicated that the Board intends to conduct a thorough presidential search while balancing the need to move the process forward in a timely manner. With the motion duly seconded, Chairman Lehman invited Board members to offer remarks regarding the proposed appointment before proceeding with a vote on the matter.

Trustee JoAnn Brouillette expressed support for the interim appointment, noting that higher education is operating in a rapidly changing environment shaped by factors such as artificial intelligence, demographic shifts, and other emerging challenges. She emphasized the importance of maintaining Purdue's momentum during this period of transition and ensuring that the university continues to advance its strategic priorities while the search for a permanent president is underway. Trustee Brouillette stated that having experienced leadership in place provides stability and continuity for the institution. She expressed appreciation for Mitch Daniels' willingness to serve in the interim role, noting his deep knowledge of the university and higher education landscape. While recognizing that conditions have evolved since his previous tenure, she conveyed confidence that his leadership would help guide Purdue effectively during the transition period and position the university for continued success as the Board conducts its search for the next permanent president.

Trustee and Vice Chair Michael Klipsch expressed strong support for the appointment, noting that while interim leadership is intended to be temporary, Mitch Daniels is uniquely qualified to serve in the role. He highlighted Daniels' successful tenure as Purdue's president and stated that his prior experience allows him to step into the position immediately and provide leadership from day one. Mr. Klipsch also expressed appreciation for Daniels' willingness to return to serve the university during this important period. He stated that the appointment provides stability and continuity for Purdue while enabling the Board to focus its attention on the critical task of identifying and recruiting the university's next permanent president. He concluded by voicing his full support for the interim appointment and describing it as the best choice for the university at this time.

Trustee David Ricks also expressed appreciation for Mitch Daniels' willingness to return and serve as interim president, noting that the role is a full-time commitment and that Daniels had already earned his retirement while maintaining other professional obligations. He emphasized the Board's gratitude for Daniels' stepping forward during this period of transition and providing experienced leadership for the university. Mr. Ricks also stressed the importance of the Board remaining focused on its next major responsibility—conducting a diligent search for Purdue's next permanent president. He noted the need to move the process forward thoughtfully and efficiently and expressed his hope that discussions regarding the search would continue promptly in upcoming Board meetings.

Chairman Lehman reported that he and Compensation Committee Chair Theresa Carter had had some discussions with Daniels regarding his appointment, which included negotiations concerning compensation. Initially, Daniels expressed a willingness to serve without compensation, a proposal that Trustees Lehman and Carter had determined was not appropriate. Chairman Lehman continued to explain that an agreement was eventually reached on compensation at substantially below market rates for comparable interim presidential appointments. The Trustees then engaged in general discussion of their appreciation for Daniels' willingness to return to serve the university while demonstrating his consistent commitment to fiscal restraint and stewardship of university resources.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Lehman asked Corporate Secretary Cindy Ream to conduct a roll-call vote on the proposed appointment. The vote was recorded as follows

Sonny Beck - yes

JoAnn Brouillette - yes

Theresa Carter - yes

Vanessa Castagna - yes

Malcolm DeKryger - yes

Michael Klipsch - yes

Reagan Koester - yes
Gary Lehman - yes
Dave Ricks – yes

Chairman Lehman then noted for the record that the Board of Trustees had voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. as the Interim President of Purdue University.

In response to a question regarding public communications, Chairman Lehman informed the Board that a news release would be distributed within the next 10 to 15 minutes. By way of additional context, he then asked General Counsel Schultz to read the proposed news release to the Board for informational purposes.

The release read as follows:

ISSUE DATE: May 25, 2026

Mitch Daniels to serve as Purdue interim president

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — The Purdue Board of Trustees on Monday (May 25) approved the appointment of Mitch Daniels to serve as interim president of Purdue University, effective July 1.

Daniels, Purdue President Emeritus and chair of the board of Purdue Research Foundation, served for 10 years as Purdue’s president (2013-2022). He succeeds Mung Chiang, who will become president of Northwestern University on July 1.

“We are extremely grateful to President Emeritus Daniels for his willingness to continue his long and successful service to Purdue University in a role with which he is very familiar,” Chair Gary Lehman said. “We look forward to working with Mitch and the executive team in leading Purdue to even greater heights as it continues to impact lives through its land-grant mission and the persistent pursuit of excellence in higher education.”

“President Chiang has led Purdue forward in a host of important ways, and it’s essential that the momentum he has generated be maintained,” Daniels said. “If the board believes that recalling me to active duty temporarily can help in this respect, no one as devoted to this institution as I am could say anything but yes.”

Lehman said Daniels has agreed to serve as interim until the next president is identified and takes office. A national search will be launched in the coming weeks.

III. ADJOURNMENT

By consent, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:17 a.m.