PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JUNE 5, 2026 | MINUTES

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 9:01 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 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; and David Ricks. 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; Steve Schultz, general counsel; Cindy Ream, corporate secretary and senior executive assistant to the Board.

I. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE BOB AND SHARON SCHAFER CHAIR IN FINANCE

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Huseyin Gulen as the Bob and Sharon Shafer Chair in Finance. Dr. Gulen has been with the Mitch Daniels School of Business since 2007. He spent time as a department head and his work in asset pricing, corporate finance, and behavioral finance is highly and widely recognized in over 10,000 citations. Dr. Gulen has received a number of awards from major professional societies and from Purdue.

> Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Gulen’s appointment as the Bob and Sharon Schafer Chair in Finance. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Gulen expressed his gratitude for being named the Bob and Sharon Schaefer Chair in Finance, thanking Bob and Sharon Schaefer for their generous support of research, teaching, students, and Purdue's future. He also thanked the Board of Trustees, university leadership, colleagues, students, mentors, and co-authors for their encouragement and collaboration. He concluded by expressing heartfelt appreciation to his wife and children for their patience and support.

II. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE ROBERT AND KAREN THOMPSON CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Channing Arndt as the Robert and Karen Thompson Chair in International Agricultural Economics. Provost Wolfe shared the former Purdue College of Agriculture Dean, Bob Thompson and his wife established this endowed chair to support a leading scholar in international trade, development, or comparative agricultural policy. Dr. Arndt, who rejoined Purdue in 2025 as a research professor, was recognized as an ideal recipient. As director of Purdue's Global Trade Analysis Project, he leads a globally used research platform that supports more than 30,000 scholars. His extensive publications and books focus on topics including international trade, agriculture, economic development, clean energy transitions, and poverty measurement.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Arndt's appointment as the Robert and Karen Thompson Chair in International Agricultural Economics. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Arndt expressed his gratitude to Bob and Karen Thompson for establishing the endowed chair and said he was honored to be entrusted with the position. He added that he hopes that, in five years, they will be able to look back and say the appointment has benefited the department, the college, and the university.

III. APPROVAL FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF LILLY PURDUE RESEARCH CENTER TO LILLY PURDUE INNOVATION INSTITUTE (LPII)

Preeti Sivasanker, Vice President for Research Innovation in the Office of Research, requested consideration of the reclassification. She stated that elevating the center to an institute reflects the strength and value of the partnership with Lilly and all that has been accomplished together. She noted that the written materials highlighted many of the partnership's milestones and achievements, while emphasizing that the partnership extends beyond research. She explained that the reclassification also recognizes the collaboration's role in developing student talent and advancing workforce enablement. She added that institute status reflects the breadth and impact of the Purdue–Lilly partnership across multiple areas.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve the reclassification of Lilly Purdue Research Center to Lilly Purdue Innovation Institute. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

IV. DEAN'S PRESENTATION – COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dr. Bret Marsh provided an overview of Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine, highlighting its enrollment of 324 DVM students and nearly 1,500 veterinary technology (formerly veterinary nursing) students, the majority of whom are enrolled online. He emphasized the college's strengths, including nationally recognized academic programs, highly qualified faculty, advanced veterinary hospitals, a robust diagnostic laboratory, and a strong One Health research portfolio spanning infectious disease, oncology, neuroscience, and human-animal health connections. Dr. Marsh also noted Purdue's exceptional value relative to other veterinary colleges, continued strong student demand, and successful placement of graduates into veterinary careers across Indiana and the nation.

The Board discussed the college's goal of expanding DVM enrollment from 84 to 120 students per class to address growing workforce needs and support the state's underserved veterinary regions. Dr. Marsh shared that the applicant pool is currently strong enough to support expansion but cautioned that increased competition from newly proposed veterinary schools nationwide is creating challenges in student and faculty recruitment. Discussion also focused on future opportunities in Indianapolis, including partnerships for clinical training and animal health research, facility improvements needed in Lynn Hall to accommodate growth, and potential workforce initiatives such as state-supported loan repayment programs to encourage veterinarians to practice in underserved areas. Board members expressed support for the college's growth strategy and its vision of becoming a top-five veterinary program nationally. A copy of Dr. Marsh's presentation was filed with the minutes.

V. STUDENT PRESENTATION – ABIGAIL MIZZI

Abigail Mizzi, a graduate researcher at Purdue, pursuing a Master of Science in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering shared her Purdue journey and the opportunities that have shaped her academic and professional development. Originally from the Chicago area, Ms. Mizzi described how a high school visit to Purdue inspired her to pursue engineering and led to extensive involvement in campus organizations, including the Society of Women Engineers and the Purdue Space Program. Through internships with Collins Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin, as well as undergraduate research and Honors College experiences, she gained hands-on experience in aerospace engineering, defense technologies, and advanced aircraft design.

Ms. Mizzi highlighted her current role in Purdue One, the university's planned Virgin Galactic suborbital research mission scheduled for 2027, where she will become the first Purdue graduate student to conduct thesis research in suborbital space. She explained that the mission involves a collaborative team of faculty, alumni, graduate students, and undergraduates working to design and conduct experiments that will advance research and showcase Purdue's leadership in aerospace innovation. In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Mizzi expressed gratitude for the support of the Purdue community and stated that, while she is considering future options such as pursuing a Ph.D. or a career in industry, her current focus is on ensuring the success of the Purdue One mission and maximizing the opportunities it presents for Purdue students and researchers. A copy of her presentation was filed with the minutes.

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.