

May 30th , 2025

***Via United States Regular Mail and
Electronic Mail to editor@purdueexponent.org***

Purdue Student Publishing Foundation (d/b/a Purdue Exponent)
Attn: Kyle Charters, CEO/Publisher/News Adviser
Seth Nelson, Editor-In-Chief
460 Northwestern Ave., 2nd Floor
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Re: *Use of University Facilities and Name*

Dear Mr. Charters and Mr. Nelson:

We note that Purdue Student Publishing Foundation (“Foundation”) is a private business, self-described as “the number one multimedia news agency independent of the university serving Purdue students, faculty, staff and the Greater Lafayette community via a printed newspaper, web and social media” with an “advertising and marketing” objective and an identity that is “jurisdictionally and financially independent of the university”.
<https://www.purdueexponent.org/site/about.html>.

Purdue University’s Policy on “Use of Facilities” (available online as Policy IV.B.1) states in Section I.A: “Regular, recurring use of a University Facility by a non-University entity and/or for private business use is permitted only by terms of a separate, specific contract approved by the CFO”. See also Section I.C of that Policy.

There was a contract in effect between the Foundation and the University from July 1, 1999 until June 30, 2014. There has been no contract since then. Because the Foundation’s operation of a news agency with advertising is a private business use, and consistent with the University’s Statement of Policy on Institutional Neutrality (as updated and published in June 2024), the University does not intend to enter into a new contract with the Foundation for private business use of University Facilities.

Accordingly, the University is ending two courtesy accommodations. First, effective June 1, 2025, the University will no longer facilitate the distribution of the Foundation’s newspaper product, “The Exponent”, through Purdue’s Materials Management Distribution Center (“MMDC”) to various points around the West Lafayette campus. Second, the University will no longer make parking permits available to the Foundation.

To the extent the University maintains racks at designated campus access points for free publications, the Foundation will continue to have access to those racks on a non-exclusive, first-

come, space-available basis for deposit of free copies of the “The Exponent” newspaper, subject to applicable University policies.

We also note that the Foundation does not use the Purdue name in “The Exponent” masthead. The absence of the Purdue name from that masthead is appropriate, for two reasons. First, the Foundation should not associate its own speech with the University. Second, the Foundation has no license to the Purdue name for commercial use. We therefore ask the Foundation to modify its URL to align with “The Exponent” masthead by removing the Purdue name.

Sincerely,

Benjamin I. Terhune
Counsel, Transactions and Administrative Operations

cc. Heston Hybarger, *via electronic mail*
Nathan J. Manges, *via electronic mail*
Jessica Robertson, *via electronic mail*