

University Senate Newsletter
Sixth Meeting, 20 March 2023, Virtual**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Colleen Brady promised to keep her remarks brief, because the Senate wishes to show respect for faculty and staff commitments by respecting their time.

Chair Brady noted that there has been a great deal of discussion in the past several weeks about the President's and Provost's stated goal for Purdue to become a top-5 public university. Brady argued that this represented an important opportunity for faculty and administration to collaborate for the good of all.

She asked for the Senate's leadership on this issue, and posed a series of questions: in keeping with President Chiang's requests for ideas about how to make faculty life more productive and efficient, were there initiatives we could begin in the Senate to help Purdue move towards that top-5 goal? Were there types of support we could request from Purdue's administration? Important questions the Senate could ask (even discipline-specific ones), about how we raise up and grow the *entire* university, and not only pieces of it? Chair Brady suggested Senators should discuss this matter in their committees, and share ideas with Standing Committee Chairs, who could then bring them to the Advisory Committee's monthly discussions.

Later in the meeting, she praised Document 22-31 for reminding us that Purdue expects faculty to take their mentoring responsibilities seriously.

Purdue President's Remarks:

President Mung Chiang raised two topics for consideration. He reminded Senators that in the last meeting, he and the Provost had asked about streamlining processes to return time to faculty schedules. He clarified that this request was *not* intended to imply that faculty needed to work an extra hour per day—quite the opposite.

President Chiang said that one idea that had emerged from the initiative to return time to faculty centers around improving processes for curricular innovation, so as to allow for maximum creativity among faculty in their instructional offerings. He noted that thoughts are welcome on this topic from Senators as well.

He next raised the question of what place AI (artificial intelligence) should hold in institutions such as universities, not only with respect to curriculum but also in the operations of the university itself. Input from Senators was welcomed around the possible role, or non-role, of AI in teaching and learning, extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and enhancing efficiency in performing repetitive administrative tasks. He inquired whether the Senate had any proposal to make or guidelines to recommend regarding the potential use, non-use, misuse, or better use of open software like ChatGPT, or ideas about what AI could do for the business operations / paperwork components of university routines.

It was also expressed that Vice Provost Jenna Rickus had been working on a number of initiatives to ensure that Purdue would be at the forefront of AI thought, and that she was an important point for contact and information on the topic.

Purdue President's Remarks (continued):

Provost Patrick Wolfe Purdue made a plug for the Systemwide Summit on AI in Teaching and Learning planned for next fall. He said he believed this was an area where Purdue was positioned to be able to become a national leader.

Regarding the project to return time to faculty, Provost Wolfe stated that his office had ended Cognos emails and was in general trying to move towards a model of less email spam. He also pointed to the new design of Purdue Today as an example of innovations meant to improve faculty experience.

Also on this topic, he stated that Vice Provost Rickus was working on knocking down barriers to innovation re: proposals for curriculum modifications, which will now need far fewer steps for approval. The administrative weight of standing up Purdue Indianapolis was being reduced to the extent possible.

***** Status of Legislation *******Election for Vice Chair 2023-24**

- SD 22-21 Nominees for Vice Chair
Congratulations to Professor Susan South, Vice-Chair Elect!
And many thanks to the Nominating Committee, and to Professors Neil Knobloch, Steven Scott, and Mark Zimpfer for their unflagging service to the Senate.

Documents for Action — Passed

- SD 22-18 Call for Purdue University to Join the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan
- SD 22-19 Senators' Rights and Responsibilities (revised)
- SD 22-22 Calling for Purdue to Commit to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 (revised)
- SD 22-24 Request to Transition to Pass/Not Pass Grading for the Fourth Year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Curriculum
- SD 22-28 Closure of Defunct Faculty Committee: Committee for Student Excellence
- SD 22-29 Enhancements to Retirement Programs

Documents for Discussion

- SD 22-23 Schedule Revisions Policy Update
- SD 22-25 Resolution Calling for Changes to the False Allegations, Statements, and Evidence Section of the Title IX and Anti-Harassment Policy
- SD 22-26 Resolution Calling for Clarification of the Incapacitation Definition in the Title IX and Anti-Harassment Policy
- SD 22-27 Full-time Students Not Enrolled in Any College or Department Due to Academic Underperformance

For Information

- IUPUI Reorganization Update

New Business — Passed

- SD 22-31 Support of LGBTQ+ Students

University Senate Website:

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc.

www.purdue.edu/senate/

Standing Committees

Educational Policy Committee, Eric Kvam,
kvam@purdue.edu

- Request to Transition to Pass/Not Pass Grading
- Schedule Revisions Policy Update
- Closure of Inactive Faculty Committee: Committee for Student Excellence (CSE)
- Full time students not enrolled in any College or Department due to academic underperformance (academically unhoused)

Equity and Diversity Committee, Denise Whitford,
dwhitford@purdue.edu

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Accessibility

Faculty Affairs Committee, Eric N. Waltenburg,
ewaltenb@purdue.edu

- Document addressing Senator Rights and Responsibilities
- Issues concerning Senate apportionment
- Enhancements to Retirement Programs
- Issues regarding Purdue daycare policies & procedures

Nominating Committee, Richard D. Mattes,
mattes@purdue.edu

- Populating Senate Standing Committees: slates to be voted on by Senate in April

Steering Committee, Libby Richards,
erichards@purdue.edu

- Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
- Coordinating with FAC to request review of number of Senators, definition of quorums, and MaPSAC and CCSAC representation

Student Affairs Committee, David Sanders,
retovir@purdue.edu

- Resolution Calling for Changes to the False Allegations, Statements, and Evidence Section of the Title IX and Anti-Harassment Policy
- Resolution Calling for Clarification of the Incapacitation Definition in the Title IX and Anti-Harassment Policy Improved Responses to Reports of Sexual Misconduct
- Protecting Student Privacy/Recording Accommodations
- Purdue Student Senate Resolution 21-69 "Resolution in Support of Editable Gender-Inclusive Options Amongst Purdue Affiliated Websites"
- PGSG resolution concerning student well-being

University Resource Policy Committee, Yuan Yao,
yao1@purdue.edu

- Revising SD 21-31 on the investments of the endowment relating to fossil fuels and carbon negative renewable technologies
- Developing a Senate Document about Purdue being carbon neutral by 2030
- Developing a Senate Document about joining the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan

Faculty Committees

Members are any tenured/tenure-track, clinical & prof. faculty who volunteer. Please respond to the call for volunteers issued in January.

- **Academic Organization** ([Sally Bane](#), Aeronautics and Astronautics / EPC)
- **Academic Progress and Records** ([Lei Wang](#), EAPS / EPC)
- **Athletic Affairs** ([Kathleen Abrahamson](#), Nursing / SAC)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** ([Victor Chen](#), CGT/ URPC)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** ([Mireille Boutin](#), Electrical and Computer Engineering / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Jonathan Sweet](#), Bands and Orchestras / FAC)
- **Library Committee** ([Sylvie Brouder](#), Agronomy / URPC)
- **Parking and Traffic** ([Joel Ebarb](#), Design, Art, and Performance / URPC)
- **Scholastic Delinquencies and Readmissions** ([Megan Dorton](#), Sr. Assoc Director of Admissions / EPC)
- **Staff Appeal Board for Traffic Regulations** ([Melissa Hay](#), CSSAC / URPC)
- **Student Excellent** ([Li Qiao](#), Aeronautics & Astronautics / EPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Karen Marais](#), Engineering / EPC)
- **Sustainability** ([Amanda Darbyshire](#), Vet Med / URPC)
- **Visual Arts and Design** ([Laura Bittner](#), Design, Art, and Performance/ URPC)

Contact the committee chairs (listed above) for more information.

Most of the work of the University Senate happens in committees. Standing Committees are composed of Senate members and university advisors. Faculty committees are composed of faculty members and often have non-faculty liaisons. Recommendations from committees come to the full Senate for consideration and vote.

Charge of the Purdue University Senate: The University Senate is the governing body of the faculty, subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees and in consultation with the President, it has the power and responsibility to propose or to adopt policies, regulations and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of Purdue University and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes. The University Senate follows the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* and our [Bylaws](#).