

University Senate Newsletter
Fourth Meeting, 22 January 2024, Virtual**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

[Note: Because of volatile weather conditions, Chair Leung opted to forego delivering these remarks live.]

I begin by stating the obvious. Purdue University is a decidedly unique and broad talent pool. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators have converged on this campus since at least September 16, 1874, year by year creating an ever improving finely cut gemstone. One of the great leaps in the advancement of this university was to establish shared governance in February of 1964 through a University Senate model. What better use of an already vetted talent pool?

On this note, I'd like to particularly thank, for their hard work, members of the eight University Senate Standing committees as well as the members of the fourteen Faculty committees reporting to the Standing committees. Much of the work they do goes unseen, but it is significant and vital to the operations of Purdue University. Let us all take their example and remember that shared governance operates most efficiently when every member of the University Senate pitches in, and we demonstrate the continued value of our role in Purdue's ongoing success.

As a side note, according to Senate documents, the first meeting of the University Senate was November 16, 1964. I will not be chair, but the Senate meets this fall on November 18th when we will be 60 years and two days old. I'd like to suggest to Vice-Chair South, and Provost Wolfe, that we have a reception near that date to honor the milestone of our shared governance. I don't know what the budget might be, but 60 years is the diamond anniversary.

In terms of the business ahead of the University Senate this semester, I ask each of the committees to do their best to bring your currently in-progress Senate Document proposals to either our February or March meetings so that we might close our Senate business in April with a clean slate. It's doable, but not efficient to introduce Senate documents in April, which then languish until we meet again in September.

And finally, we are all here with an academic mission in service of creating intellectual, artistic, and economic opportunity. We have shared purposes that bring great value to our community, this state, and to the nation. With that said, it is not news to you that Higher Education is facing cultural and political headwinds. Administrators, faculty, and even students are under scrutiny. And there is real irony in that some defenders of free speech are proposing limiting free speech on campuses. I have no special insights for this body or the university community at large, but I have a small suggestion. Know your true story. Be able to tell the true story of why and how you are here to learn and teach and serve. I cannot think of a discipline taught on this campus that can't ultimately be linked to something with political and/or cultural impact. It doesn't matter if it's Engineering or Theater. Agriculture or Kinesiology. Because everything we do affects people. And promoting learning, by design, asks people not to be satisfied with what they think they already know.

But how do you communicate this to critics beyond the perimeters of a college campus? Know your true story. Make it part of your practice to effectively communicate why you are a learner and/or why you are a teacher. Be able to articulate the gaping difference between advancing critical thinking skills vs. indoctrination. In my field, it would break my heart if someone claimed that teaching the Bible as literature was an act of pushing a religious ideology. It would break my heart all the same if teaching Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, were accused in the same way. Or if both were taught in the same course. But it's not enough to have a broken heart. You must know your true story, and well before you are asked you must be fully prepared to tell it.

Purdue President's Remarks:

President Mung Chiang reminded everyone to stay warm and safe during our winter weather adventures. He thanked all the faculty, students, and staff who helped Purdue achieve 3 out of 3 wins among the National Hubs competition in 2023. He also thanked the Lilly Endowment for approving Purdue's request for \$100 million in philanthropic support for the Daniels School and for [Purdue Computes](#), a grant that will benefit many students of today and tomorrow. He thanked the FAA and Southern Airways Express for giving us the opportunity to resume commercial airline passenger service, which may begin as soon as May; and he announced his plan to ask the Trustees to name the new terminal to be constructed the Earhart terminal, in honor of Amelia Earhart.

He thanked the Senate and two of its committees for their collaborative work supporting the initial AI policy and learning document, which will be updated yearly. Finally, he thanked the housing and wellbeing committee for taking action on pedestrian safety. It was hoped that announcements from that committee would be ready for the February Senate meeting.

President Chiang highlighted two initiatives. The first was on the importance of sustained efforts in graduation rates as one of the metrics for student success. The 4-year rate seems to be plateauing at around 66% (83% for the 6-year rate). He called out the BOP ([Business Opportunity Program](#)), which supports historically underserved students and has a 73% 4-year graduation rate, as an aspirational model for everyone. He said that Purdue will not chase graduation rates at the expense of student education, but we must continue our efforts at improving it.

The second initiative highlighted was the Daycare and Early Childhood Care Task Force, assembled over the break and launched this month to serve our entire campus community. Healthcare, childcare, transportation, and housing are all needed for the entire Greater Lafayette area. This year, healthcare and childcare will receive particular focus. President Chiang said that childcare is an essential pillar for talent recruiting and retention, as well as research productivity. Purdue will be working to be sure available physical capacity of existing spaces is fully utilized – at the moment we have empty spaces due to low staffing levels.

University Senate Website

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc. www.purdue.edu/senate/

Purdue President's Remarks, cont'd.:

Provost Patrick Wolfe reemphasized that times to graduation have improved enormously in the past decade, and said we need to study what the drivers have been to continue to make progress. He said that we had talked last semester and the semester before about giving faculty their time back: how can we reduce and manage some of the bureaucracy that eats into our time? Suggestions continue to be welcome. Also, many have suggested that the exploration of a faculty club would be in order. The Provost signaled he was interested in exploring this.

*** Status of Legislation ***

Documents for Action – passed

- SD 23-16 Resolution Regarding David Malpass (revised)

Documents for Discussion

- SD 23-17 Statement about the Use of AI in Each Particular Course
- SD 23-18 Resolution Establishing the Record of Juneteenth on the Purdue University Academic Calendar
- 23-19 Update to Senate Parliamentary Authority

For Information (see Senate website)

- Pre-submitted [Questions & Administrative Answers Report](#) on Equity Task Force Implementation

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

- Assessing what AI regulations are needed
- Considering ways to improve the Grade Appeal process
- Updating MEAPS language as per SB22-08
- Juneteenth holiday recognition

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Brian Dilkes, bdilkes@purdue.edu and Geraldine Friedman, friedman@purdue.edu

- DEI efforts in the wake of the SFFA v. Harvard and SFFA v. UNC decision
- Student proposal for a center for students from western Asia and North Africa

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

- Evaluating Senate size; apportionment; quorum rules
- Assessment of Recent Changes in P&T Process
- Request for MaPSAC and CSSAC to have voting members on Senate
- Lecturers Advisory Board presence on University Senate
- [Indiana SB 202](#)

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

- Managing new committee vacancies
- Studying the number and disposition of Senate advisors
- Preparing nominations for Senate Vice Chair

Steering Committee, Libby Richards, erichards@purdue.edu

- Monitoring faculty affair processes at Purdue Indianapolis
- Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
- Requested FAC to review recent administrative changes to promotion and tenure process
- Requested FAC to review Senate apportionment in consideration of lecturers, MAPSAC, CASAC, Purdue Global, Purdue Indy

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

- Graduate Student Compensation
- Juneteenth Holiday Recognition
- Student Housing
- Campus Safety

University Resource Policy Committee, Lori Hoagland, lhoaglan@purdue.edu

- Sustainability Committee proposed reorganization
- Parking regulations and appeals process

Faculty Committees

Members are any tenured/tenure-track, clinical, & prof. faculty who volunteer. Please respond to the call for volunteers issued in January or contact the relevant committee chairs directly if you are interested in serving.

- **Academic Organization** ([Mark Wilson](#), Aeronautics and Astronautics / EPC)
- **Academic Progress and Records** ([Lei Wang](#), EAPS / EPC)
- **Athletic Affairs** ([Kip Williams](#), Psychological Sciences/Steering)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** ([Victor Chen](#), CGT/URPC and [George Zhou](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** ([Mireille Boutin](#), Electrical and Computer Engineering / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Rebecca Johnson](#), Associate Professor Visual and Performing Art)
- **Library Committee** ([Alexander Francis](#), ULC Chair, Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences)
- **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** ([Stephanie Winder](#), MaPSAC / URPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Chad Brown](#), Veterinary Medicine / EPC)
- **Sustainability** ([Michael Johnston](#), English / 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](#).