

University Senate Newsletter
Seventh Meeting, 15 April 2024, Virtual**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Brian Leung reported that the state of the University Senate was strong, and—in a callback to his [September 2023 remarks](#)—that his heart remained unbroken. He celebrated the service of our outgoing Senators, in particular thanking three who had served as past Chairs: Colleen Brady, Deb Nichols, and David Sanders. He also thanked our local journalists for their faithful coverage of the Senate and campus events, particularly calling out the *Exponent* for their daily work, and shared that they were one of his first clicks each morning.

Chair Leung said that every Senate year has unique challenges and opportunities. This Senate had its first full year with President Chiang and Provost Wolfe, worked on AI, grad school transformation, and by year's end formed an ad hoc group on Purdue Global, Online and on-campus offerings—as well as many less newsworthy projects that had and will have material effects on the quality of Purdue University. The University Senate keeps Purdue contemporary and forward-thinking.

On that note, the body had immediately engaged—its leadership, Advisory group, and Senators—with SB 202, voting overwhelmingly to reject it. Yet it became law, forcing us into implementation mode. Chair Leung said he has a solid working relationship with the administration, and on this topic promised to be vigilant in his new role as Past Chair.

Reminiscing, he said that in his first year at Purdue, the [RFRA](#) was signed into law, and it felt as if the legislature were telling him that he and his husband were not welcome in Indiana. Now, as a bi-racial man married to another man, who teaches contemporary literature and writing focused on diversity and difference, it felt for a second time that his family and teaching were not welcome. He shared that he counted on Purdue's implementation of PL 113 to prove this feeling to be unfounded.

Chair Leung next said some things about the Secretary of Faculties, who loves the Senate and Senators and will miss them profoundly and deeply when she leaves for Arizona in July.

Finally, said Chair Leung, in the past decade, we at Purdue have backslid on the lifeblood of all quality universities: poetry. This does not mean we lack poems, exactly—but that our discourse increasingly lacks the poetry that helps humans thrive. Speeches do not stir humanity with dollar amount announcements. At a university address, JFK once said, "[We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.](#)" This is policy wrapped in poetry. Profit- and data-driven decision-making language are fine, but they fail to inspire.

The Chair thanked our Senate community for indulging his leadership, amplifying how the past two years had been the highlight of his Purdue career. He looked forward to the continued strengthening and ever-building of the University Senate, always and at least one poem higher.

Purdue President's Remarks

Regarding poetry, President Mung Chiang shared that his single most impactful course as an undergraduate was by [Richard Rorty](#), "From Religion through Philosophy to Literature." He also acknowledged the contributions of the thirty-four departing Senators, saying it was bittersweet to see them off. He particularly voiced his trust in Chair Leung's incredible ability to think about strategic issues and to bring us to work together as one village, with good faith and good will. He thanked the Chair for his outstanding service.

President Chiang highlighted some of the exciting activities in the remainder of the semester: the [Wed. Westwood lecture](#) featuring cellist Prof. Kristen Yun discussing music in the age of AI; and two [presidential lecture series events](#): the Director of the NSF with Sen. Young, and the homecoming of WL native and Noble Prize Winner Mounji G. Bawendi.

He announced that admin has identified a dozen forms on which fewer signatures will be required, and they continue to simplify processes.

Purdue President's Remarks, cont'd.:

President Chiang recapped a busy past week. There was the remarkable solar eclipse viewing event. There was the announcement of the SK hynix AI chip fab facility, whose value, he said, will not only be numerical, but will have a transformational impact on a broad range of fields: educational opportunities for students, collaborations for faculty, economic prosperity for our area.

This has been the winningest season ever for Purdue Men's basketball, given the current size of the league. President Chiang said with pride that we are not only competitive at the highest level, but that we win in the Boilermaker Way: we are proud of the culture our coach, staff, and student athletes show, on and off the court. It is not common to have a financially self-contained athletic department like ours, or coaches who highlight sportsmanship and academics in all their recruiting, or student athletes with a higher graduation rate than the campus average, or, like last year, 100% job placement. We hold true to the university's principle that student athletes can be great athletes, great students, and great people. (And because our students want to study and prepare for their finals, our big celebration will need to come later.) Chiang praised the campus community for their celebratory, joyful, and positive conduct in the past weekend.

Provost Patrick Wolfe noted that undergraduate admissions are well underway; he was on his way to a recruiting event in Indianapolis. He echoed the remarks on the importance of our athletes being strong students. He also relayed that the FAFSA has been subject to continuing errors and delays, affecting the admissions deadlines for every university in the country: there is a good chance Purdue will have to push our deadline to 1 June, which will also have some knock-on effects for summer numbers. He also lauded the formal launch of Purdue's activities in Indianapolis to come on 1 July: the period after graduation and into June is going to be full of preparations.

***** Status of Legislation *******Election Items – ratified**

- Senate Document 23-40 Nominees for the Nominating Committee
- Senate Document 23-41 Nominations for the Educational Policy Committee

Documents for Action – passed

- Senate Document 23-29 Modifications to Streamline and Clarify the Grade Appeals Process
- Senate Document 23-35 Senate Representation for Purdue in Indianapolis (PIN) Faculty (revised and amended)
- Senate Document 23-39 PSG-PGSG Joint Resolution 21/22-JR004 Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Cultural Center

Documents for Action – defeated

- Senate Document 23-42 Purdue Graduate School Transformation Final Report and Recommendations

For Information

- [Questions and Administrative Responses](#)
- [Update on Chair's Ad Hoc Committee on Purdue Online, Purdue Global, and Purdue West Lafayette Graduate Programs](#)
- [Presentation on SB 202 Survey](#)

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

- Assessing what AI regulations are needed
- Considering ways to improve the Grade Appeal process
- Updating MEAPS language as per SB22-08
- Reviewing Graduate School renaming and reorganization

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

- Student proposal for a center for students from Western Asia and North Africa

Faculty Affairs Committee, Anish Vanaik, avanaik@purdue.edu and Françoise Brosseau-Lapré, fbrossea@purdue.edu

- Assessment of Recent Changes in P&T Process
- Lecturers Advisory Board presence on University Senate
- Working with SUFIE on guidelines

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

- Managing new committee vacancies

Steering Committee, Libby Richards, erichards@purdue.edu

- Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
- Reviewing Senate representation of MAPSAC and CSSAC

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

- Graduate Student Compensation
- Addressing substance abuse

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

- 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** ([Laura B. Hawkins](#), School of Nursing / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Rebecca Johnson](#), Visual and Performing Arts)
- **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](#).