

University Senate

University Senate Questions and Administrative Responses 19 February 2024

Questions
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Given the recent trend of vertical mergers in the tech industry (for example, Hewlett Packard with Juniper, and Synopsys with Ansys), what impact will this have on the work Purdue is doing now and planning to do in the future in the semiconductor industry? What is the outlook for the semiconductor industry in 2024?3
Indiana SB 2023
Indiana Senate Bill 202 specifically targets the DEI infrastructure of Purdue University (as well as several other named universities). Please indicate whether or not you support this bill. Please also address the impacts that this bill will have on our ability to recruit and train a diverse student body, the composition of the board of trustees, and on faculty tenure
DEI / ODIB
To improve the inclusive environment and culture in the College of Agriculture, there was a requirement to include a diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goal in annual work plans. How to meet this goal was up to the individual and their supervisor, but making it a requirement ensured that everyone gave the topic the attention and respect that it deserves. This year, the guidance explicitly states that it is not mandatory or expected to include a DEIB goal or objective. Can you please comment on what actions the university is taking with specific accountability tied to them instead of requiring employees to include a DEIB goal/objective in their work plans, to ensure we continue to push toward inclusive excellence?
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Semiconductor Industry

Given the recent trend of vertical mergers in the tech industry (for example, Hewlett Packard with Juniper, and Synopsys with Ansys), what impact will this have on the work Purdue is doing now and planning to do in the future in the semiconductor industry? What is the outlook for the semiconductor industry in 2024?

Historically, the semiconductor industry has been cyclical with a consistent upwards trend. Global sales in 2024 are expected to be \$588 billion, an increase of 13% over 2023 and 2.5% higher than the record sales in 2022. Some are predicting \$1 trillion in sales by 2030.

The acquisition of Ansys by Synopsys seems designed to position Synopsys for where the expected long-term growth in the semiconductor industry will occur. Purdue has long had strong relationships with both companies, and we expect that our partnerships with Synopsys and its new Ansys division will continue to be strong.

Indiana SB 202

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As this bill goes through the legislative process, we are working to fully understand its details.

DEI / ODIB

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Details about a specific college can be obtained by direct conversation with the Dean of the College. As a Land Grant institution, Purdue University is committed to expanding access to and broadening participation in higher education. At its meeting more than a half century ago, the Purdue Board of Trustees resolved that:

The University is committed to maintaining an inclusive community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that variety among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Deanships

There are two colleges without deans (HHS and Education). When can we expect specific details about the leadership for both?

We hope Deans Bowman and VanFossen do not take exception to this characterization, knowing the tireless work and commitment they undertake every day to continue to advance their respective Colleges' excellence as interim deans, with the full support and respect of their faculties.

In the former case, following a call for nominations for search advisory committee members, listening sessions open to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders have been held, and the Provost's Office is duly awaiting the review and collation of feedback by a committee led by Distinguished Professor of Practice and former US Surgeon General Jerome Adams.

In the latter case, following a prior search which resulted in no new dean appointment in 2022, the work of a study group cochaired by Deans Flesch, Reingold, and VanFossen continues to explore the best future opportunities for the College of Education and related programs at Purdue. As Dean VanFossen communicated to his faculty, the group has been charged with conducting "a fulsome, objective assessment of strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. A clear focus of this effort will be on making our programs at Purdue the best in our state" and documenting "areas of particular depth and strength that can make us distinct and leading among programs, as well as areas where we can play to Purdue's broader strengths." The Provost's Office continues to work with this study group to complete the charge given.

In the last year, the Honors College and the Graduate School lost their deans and are now under the purview of the Provost's Office. What is the rationale for these moves, and how will the consolidation of power and resources they reflect serve our students?

Both types of areas – vice provost areas and dean areas – have always been and remain under the purview of the Provost's Office. The goal is to focus on student success, for example as described in detail by Dr. Eric Barker at last month's Senate meeting (see also response to next question).

Graduate School / Regional Campuses

There is growing concern from the regional campuses about the changes to the Graduate School. When Provost Wolfe dismantled the School and moved it under his office, the regional campuses lost much of the administrative support for current students such as help with formatting theses, etc. This decision was made in the summer but not communicated to regional schools until late Fall. The regional campuses are still discovering how this change will affect them. Under the previous structure, regional campuses had a lot of autonomy and independence. What is being done to ensure this reorganization will not be harmful to regional campuses?

Leadership from the regional campuses report experiencing no changes in central support for graduate students. Regional campuses have continued to be engaged with Eric Barker and other West Lafayette representatives on a regular basis to discuss these matters, including most recently at an Intercampus Faculty Council meeting held on the fourteenth of this month.

Purdue University Indianapolis

While Purdue in Indianapolis offers some interesting opportunities for our students, what was discussed at the recent Board of Trustees meeting was not aligned with foundational perspectives on urban education. Urban education is more than just locating an institution in an urban area. What experts in urban education were consulted in the design of the co-curricular and curricular planning of Purdue in Indianapolis?

Purdue's curricular and co-curricular activities in Indianapolis have support that includes the talent and experience of over 110 faculty and staff transitioning from IUPUI. These individuals have designed and delivered engineering, technology, and computer science programs for over 20 years in Indianapolis. Recent appointments in Student Life; Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging; Administrative Operations; Teaching and Learning; and elsewhere in the Provost's Office provide additional depth, experience, and advisory input for designing and operating academic programs in Indianapolis.

Follow-up from January Senate meeting

Has any effort been made to attract a female soccer coach to Purdue in recent searches?

Yes. Recent searches have followed Purdue's policy and practices of broad advertisement and recruitment to develop a diverse pool of applicants, including women. The successful candidate was deemed the most qualified by the Athletic Director and was selected in accordance with Purdue's policy of equal access and equal opportunity.

Juneteenth

What is the University's position on designating Juneteenth as a university holiday?

The University typically follows the State of Indiana's holiday designation.