

Questions

Staff and Tuition	3
<p>I am a long-time staff member (10+ years), a Purdue Alumna, and will soon be starting a Master’s of Science program here at Purdue University. A part of the condition is that because it is a professional graduate program it is “not eligible” for tuition remission. The 50% remission really makes a difference, and I cannot find why there is a discrimination of sorts against furthering our education through university programs. Could you please share why this type of Master’s program is different from a full-time program where tuition remission is concerned?</p>	
Housing	3
<p>According to a Purdue press release of April 3, the SK hynix semiconductor plant “is expected to provide more than a thousand new employment opportunities in the Greater Lafayette community.” This will exacerbate the already serious housing crisis in Lafayette-West Lafayette. What policy will Purdue implement to confront this issue?</p>	
Budget and Hiring	3
<p>At an engineering departmental faculty meeting last week, Dean Raman indicated that we should anticipate a budget crunch and should start tightening our belts, not expecting new staff hires or other support to be forthcoming. But in the context of the grad school reorganization, Vice Provost Barker indicated he has not heard of any anticipated budget shortfall. At the same time, we are hearing reports of deans pushing faculty over 60 to retire early, which would only be happening if there were a budget crunch. So, given our imperfect information at the moment around enrollment, which is it? Do we have a budget surplus anticipated for next year, or a shortfall?</p>	
<p>It does not appear that the dream hire process has produced many successful hires; should it instead be understood as a means of addressing a budget shortfall? Given that some processes will still be ongoing, how many faculty have been hired so far across campus as part of this dream hire process?</p>	
SB 202 / PL 113	4
<p>What processes will the Provost’s Office be undertaking with the Senate to implement the “low overhead” response to PL 113 in time for the September 1 report deadline to the General Assembly? In what ways will the administration compensate faculty for their time over the summer to support these efforts?</p>	
<p>I would like the President to provide some clarification on what the new state law (formerly SB 202) about intellectual diversity will mean for us. I’m unsure how I am supposed to implement it in my classes, and I am particularly worried about how it will impact my class this fall. More broadly, I expect that the looming prospect of students being able to inform on any instructors that present challenging material is going to have a massive chilling effect on what gets taught, probably as the framers of the bill intended. The silence on this has been really troubling.</p>	
Graduate School	4

EPC has asked some questions of Dean Barker regarding the report investigating revising the graduate school. He has directed this one towards the provost: “What is the functional difference of having a vice provost rather than a dean for the new grad school? Does the Provost not want the Graduate School to function independently from its own office?”4

Academic Calendar 4

Do we have any plans to change our academic calendar? The last day to withdraw from classes with W has not been changed since the pandemic.4

Physical Facilities 5

I have heard a number of complaints from faculty regarding the slow turn-around from Physical Facilities regarding electrical work. Many times faculty are told that it is just a very slow process to get any electrical changes and that it is just to be expected. Much of the issue is also that there is very little communication and updating once a request is submitted. How are faculty to move forward with research when they are made to wait 5+ months for updates to electrical or facilities? Surely the process can be streamlined and communication can be enhanced. Many new faculty come in and need to modify lab space to fit their needs, but modifications take more time than necessary. How can expect junior faculty to hit the ground running when they can't even plug in an instrument?.....5

Staff and Tuition

I am a long-time staff member (10+ years), a Purdue Alumna, and will soon be starting a Master's of Science program here at Purdue University. A part of the condition is that because it is a professional graduate program it is "not eligible" for tuition remission. The 50% remission really makes a difference, and I cannot find why there is a discrimination of sorts against furthering our education through university programs. Could you please share why this type of Master's program is different from a full-time program where tuition remission is concerned?

Purdue is proud to provide tuition benefits to assist with professional development opportunities for eligible faculty, staff, and dependents. Professional masters programs follow a different business model compared to other programs. Also following a different model, tuition for most Purdue Global programs is fully covered through the [Gift of Knowledge](#).

Housing

According to a Purdue press release of April 3, the SK hynix semiconductor plant "is expected to provide more than a thousand new employment opportunities in the Greater Lafayette community." This will exacerbate the already serious housing crisis in Lafayette-West Lafayette. What policy will Purdue implement to confront this issue?

We held the groundbreaking ceremony Friday for a new residence hall to solidify that the addition of roughly 1,900 campus beds is well underway. A private company is also preparing to add 1,300 beds on the corner of South River Road and State Street. We will continue to work with Mayor Easter and other Greater Lafayette leaders to explore housing options as our community continues to thrive.

Budget and Hiring

At an engineering departmental faculty meeting last week, Dean Raman indicated that we should anticipate a budget crunch and should start tightening our belts, not expecting new staff hires or other support to be forthcoming. But in the context of the grad school reorganization, Vice Provost Barker indicated he has not heard of any anticipated budget shortfall. At the same time, we are hearing reports of deans pushing faculty over 60 to retire early, which would only be happening if there were a budget crunch. So, given our imperfect information at the moment around enrollment, which is it? Do we have a budget surplus anticipated for next year, or a shortfall?

We plan each year for a modest operating surplus to enable additional reinvestment under the principle of "no margin, no mission" and we will achieve that goal for FY24. We are also planning a modest budget surplus for FY25. Our duty is to ensure dollars are spent wisely and used to further our academic, research and engagement missions, which, by its nature means funding routinely gets reprioritized to highest and best use. Once every decade or so, this university has been providing retirement choices to eligible faculty. The choices are for each person to consider, and the choice is theirs.

It does not appear that the dream hire process has produced many successful hires; should it instead be understood as a means of addressing a budget shortfall? Given that some processes will still be ongoing, how many faculty have been hired so far across campus as part of this dream hire process?

Faculty, department heads, academic deans, and many others are successfully implementing the bottom-up Moveable Dream Hires process. We have already landed eight dream hires from a variety of backgrounds, with others in the pipeline. The talent-based Moveable Dream Hires program supplements, and complements, topic-based searches.

SB 202 / PL 113

What processes will the Provost's Office be undertaking with the Senate to implement the "low overhead" response to PL 113 in time for the September 1 report deadline to the General Assembly? In what ways will the administration compensate faculty for their time over the summer to support these efforts?

Information that must be submitted by September 1 is limited in scope. We do not anticipate the need for academic-year faculty to work on this effort over the summer.

I would like the President to provide some clarification on what the new state law (formerly SB 202) about intellectual diversity will mean for us. I'm unsure how I am supposed to implement it in my classes, and I am particularly worried about how it will impact my class this fall. More broadly, I expect that the looming prospect of students being able to inform on any instructors that present challenging material is going to have a massive chilling effect on what gets taught, probably as the framers of the bill intended. The silence on this has been really troubling.

Purdue trustees recently voted to reaffirm the university's commitment to academic freedom and faculty tenure, as initially outlined alongside Chairman Berghoff in the Purdue Reaffirmation Statement made Feb. 27, 2024. From this statement: "Unlike many other institutions that headed down convenient yet slippery slopes in recent years and months, this university has not been in, and will not get into, the business of censoring controversial speech, chilling unfashionable viewpoints, canceling campus events, suspending faculty or fellows, or issuing endless institutional public statements on social-political issues. We will continue our use of long-established channels to receive and assess student feedback, and will continue to operate our campus as neither a 'surveillance state' nor an 'echo chamber' but as a bastion of individual freedom to doubt, debate and dissent."

Graduate School

EPC has asked some questions of Dean Barker regarding the report investigating revising the graduate school. He has directed this one towards the provost: "What is the functional difference of having a vice provost rather than a dean for the new grad school? Does the Provost not want the Graduate School to function independently from its own office?"

Both types of areas – vice provost areas and dean areas – have always been and remain under the purview of the Provost's Office. Vice provost areas cut across the campus and system. The goal of the redesignation is to enhance student success.

Academic Calendar

Do we have any plans to change our academic calendar? The last day to withdraw from classes with W has not been changed since the pandemic.

Pandemic-related adjustments to the course withdrawal dates were temporary and short lived. The University reverted to pre-pandemic withdrawal dates several semesters ago. Post-pandemic, in Spring 2023 the EPC and University Senate revised the add/drop deadlines (see [Senate Document 22-23](#) for details including rationale) to what they are today (see [academic regulations](#)). Given the recent consideration and deliberation by the Senate on the topic, the university does not plan to suggest further revision.

Physical Facilities

I have heard a number of complaints from faculty regarding the slow turn-around from Physical Facilities regarding electrical work. Many times faculty are told that it is just a very slow process to get any electrical changes and that it is just to be expected. Much of the issue is also that there is very little communication and updating once a request is submitted. How are faculty to move forward with research when they are made to wait 5+ months for updates to electrical or facilities? Surely the process can be streamlined and communication can be enhanced. Many new faculty come in and need to modify lab space to fit their needs, but modifications take more time than necessary. How can expect junior faculty to hit the ground running when they can't even plug in an instrument?

Administrative Operations, Academic Facilities, Faculty Affairs, and Finance are working to streamline R&R requests for incoming faculty. Depending on the size and scope of a project, it may be handled as part of a college's capital project plan, which tends to have longer timelines to allow for project estimating, prioritization, approvals, bids, and construction. However, smaller projects (generally less than \$2,500) are handled through Operations and Maintenance work orders, which can vary in the amount of time they take to complete based on the scope of work and the availability of parts. Work order communications are sent out via SAP when work orders are received, when the project is waiting on a part and when work orders are complete. These notifications are sent to building deputies, the listed staff contact and the person who reported the work order.