

University Senate Newsletter
Fifth Meeting, 17 February 2025, Virtual

Senate Chair's Remarks:

Chair Susan South welcomed the Senate to the Fifth Meeting of the Academic year.

Chair South focused her remarks on the number of bachelor's degrees in six broad categories conferred by degree-granting institutions from 2011 – 2022.

Business degrees were the most common and held steady. Degrees in health and related fields increased during the span. Degrees in social sciences and history dropped a bit. Degrees in biological and biomedical sciences, psychology, and engineering rose somewhat in parallel.

The largest increases were seen for degrees in health professions, engineering, and computer & information science. The largest decrease was for degrees in English language and literature.

The "Death of the Humanities" has been proposed in recent years, but that is probably exaggerated. Examples of universities that have seen increases in enrollments in the humanities include:

- Cal Berkeley- 1st-year students majoring in the arts and humanities increased 121% in 2023 compared with the previous year.
- University of Arizona- 76% increase in humanities majors since 2018.
- A new department labelled "Applied Humanities" that includes programs in business administration, fashion studies, and public health has grown rapidly during this time.
- Virginia Tech- A successful executive education program that imparts leadership skills to mid-career managers using humanities disciplines.

These examples provide value by enhancing critical thinking, communication skills, and the ability to analyze complex data and ideas.

Another example of the value of a degree in the humanities is illustrated by Daniela Amodei, the Co-Founder and President of the AI company Anthropic. Her undergraduate degree is a BA in English Literature from UC-Santa Cruz.

Finally, Chair South noted that we should avoid the false dichotomy of STEM fields versus the Humanities.

Purdue President's Remarks

President Chiang read from detailed prepared remarks that will be included in the Senate minutes.

He covered the topics of Enrollment concerns about Purdue's childcare partner and provider.

He noted that Enrollment is calculated as follows:

- Applicants x Admissions Rate x Yield Rate – Enrollment

President Chiang responded to family concerns about childcare provided by Early Learning Indiana (childcare partner and provider) as follows:

- Sent a letter to families on 16 January addressing concerns
- Held open office hours with the CEO on 21 January
- Will establish PUECEC Advisory Committee by the end of February
- Committed to improved communication from the Center to families
- Seeking a new food vendor
- Will begin assessing playground equipment alongside Purdue with a plan and timeline to be communicated by the end of March

*** Status of Legislation ***

Documents for Action – Consent Agenda

- SD 24-10 Nominees for Advisors to the Senate
- SD 24-11 Nominees for Advisors to the Senate Standing Committees

Documents for Discussion

- SD 24-09 Nominees for Vice Chairperson of the Senate

For Information

- Purdue Global and Purdue University's Online and Residential Graduate Programs Report
- Update from the Senior Vice President for Administrative Operations
- Sustainability Presentation

University Senate Website

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

Standing Committees

Educational Policy Committee, Vincent Duffy, duffy@purdue.edu

1. Proposal for Readmission Policy Committee changes and Re-naming of that committee Winter Programs review
2. Assessing the need for AI regulations, the nature of AI use, available training
3. Updating of academic withdrawal language in academic regulations
4. PSG PGSG Joint Resolution: Purdue University Voter Accessibility Policy
5. Well-being and stress management; including PSG Mental Health Days Initiative
6. Practice of departments requiring certain grades in specific courses
7. Student Success, including communications re: brief DRC status update
8. Expected communication with Faculty Committees reporting to EPC

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

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

1. Lecturers Advisory Committee
2. Assessment of recent changes in P and T process.
3. Ability of Senate leadership to directly email faculty [SD passed and sent to Senate for discussion and adoption]
4. Implementation of SEA 202
5. Impact of Indiana SB1 on Purdue Healthcare practices and follow up on measures laid out in SD 22-08
6. Working of Elements software
7. Input to OVPFA on recent changes to various standards, policies and procedures:
 - a. changes to eAPR
 - b. Guidelines for Establishing Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreements (IPAs)
 - c. Process and procedures for Purdue Faculty and Staff Participation in Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreements.
 - d. Presentation about Purdue transition to Elements for Annual Activity Reports.
 - e. Courtesy Faculty Appointment Standard
 - f. Revised R/I/E Leave request procedures
 - g. Reportable Outside Activities leave request procedures

Nominating Committee, Damon Lisch, dlisch@purdue.edu and Seema Mattoo, smattoo@purdue.edu

1. Identify candidates for Senate Vice Chair
2. Managing committee vacancies
3. Evaluating and balancing numbers, disposition and experience of Senators for equitable representation and task assignments

Steering Committee, Libby Richards, erichards@purdue.edu

1. Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
2. Collaborating with PSG and PGSG to facilitate resolution review

Student Affairs Committee, Abigail S. Engelberth, aengelbe@purdue.edu

1. Class Size
2. Equitable Parking
3. Move-in Package

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

1. Parking regulations and appeals process
2. Issues around parking at bicycle racks
3. PSG/PGSG resolutions around voting, move-in packages and equitable parking

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** (TBD)
- **Athletic Affairs** ([Chip Blatchley](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** ([George Zhou](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** ([Laura B. Hawkins](#), School of Nursing / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Ryan Reeves](#), Polytechnic Statewide)
- **Library Committee** ([Alexander Francis](#), ULC Chair, Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences)
- **Parking and Traffic** ([Josh Widhalm](#), Horticulture & Landscape Architecture)
- **Scholastic Delinquencies and Readmissions** ([Megan Dorton](#), Sr. Assoc. Director of Admissions)
- **Staff Appeal Board for Traffic Regulations** ([Stephanie Winder](#), MaPSAC / URPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Andres Vargas](#), Daniels School of Business)
- **Sustainability** ([Michael Johnston](#), English / URPC and [Amanda Darbyshire](#), Veterinary Clinical Sciences)
- **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](#).