

**University Senate Newsletter**  
**First Meeting, 8 September 2025, Virtual**

**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Mark Zimpfer welcomed the Senate members to the first meeting of the academic year. He emphasized that his remarks will always be brief as everyone has work to complete and limited time in which to do so. When the need arises, Chair Zimpfer will address the Senate concerning the issue at hand. He will be efficient with the Senate's and Senators' time. He listed goals for the current Senate in this and upcoming sessions that he presented to the Board of Trustees. These are, in no order:

1. Respective committees and administration work on enhancing the four- and six-year rates
2. Create an *ad hoc* committee to support the Senate Standing Committees to work with the administration in developing a model for AI literacy across campus
3. He will task the Senate committees to examine and improve transfer pathways for students looking to join Purdue University
4. In the vein of shared governance, he would like to see the Senate operate to the speed of business. We need to move quickly to be part of the governance process. He has spoken with the President and Provost and both sides know they will have to compromise to make things work. To assist this process, the President and Provost have approved the addition of a full-time staff position for the Senate. This individual will help the committees with their day-to-day functions so that they can focus on their important duties. We are grateful for this support.

Chair Zimpfer closed his remarks by thanking Immediate Past Chair Susan South for her guidance of the Senate and for providing a template of kind and effective leadership. He thanked Past Chair Leung for reprising his role as Immediate Past Chair now that Past Chair South has moved into an administrative role in her College. This allows all three leadership roles to remain filled. Chair Zimpfer looks forward to working closely with Vice-Chair Julio Ramirez as they work to support Purdue University.

**Purdue President's Remarks**

President Mung Chiang opened with thanks to Chair Zimpfer, Past-Chair Leung, and all the committee Chairs and the Senate Vice-Chair for outstanding service to the Senate. President Chiang thanked returning Senators and welcomed new Senators. He acknowledged that everyone is busy and that the Senators volunteered for this duty demonstrating the kind of university operation that we all strive for.

The President next presented summary data from the past fiscal year.

1. There are two tracks for undergraduate admissions, in-state and out-of-state. As the state's Land Grant institution, we would like to admit as many qualified in-state students as possible. Our current admission rate for this year is 71%, about the same as previous years. The out-of-state admissions take a different track as we determine how much space we have left after admitting the in-state students. It is a very competitive process. There is much more demand than supply for out-of-state admissions. We must ensure there are adequate resources and infrastructure for housing, advising, academic resources, parking, etc. per-capita. Therefore, we cannot admit all those out-of-state students who are qualified for admission. The census data will come out soon and should show about 35% acceptance rate for out-of-state students. This was the first year in a long time that we were able to de-densify undergraduate housing. We did not have to do master leasing in the community to house our students, as we have done in recent years past.

**Purdue President's Remarks (cont.)**

2. Our research funding is stable. In the past fiscal year, 97% of Purdue's federally funded research programs stayed intact. This past summer was the most productive for federally funded new awards. We had a \$250 million award from Lilly to work on AI-based drug discovery and manufacturing in the OneHealth area. This is the largest industry-university research collaboration in the U.S.
3. Concerning faculty support, the Provost's Office and the EVPR Office including >20% increase year-over-year in support for books and other scholarly publications, and in winning external awards. Many highly prestigious national and international awards both jumped by >20% year-over-year.
4. Purdue's financial situation is stable for the operating and capital projects' budgets. Last year's operating budget allowed us to invest in our physical infrastructure to maintain and update facilities as well as start new construction. These require major capital investments; some comes from the state and some from philanthropic organizations. Much of the capital projects' funding comes from our own annual savings. Last year's savings of 4.7% were put back as investments for the future. Last year's capital projects that were started or concluded tallied \$1.5 billion for 27 different capital projects throughout the system's campuses.

President Chiang echoed Chair Zimpfer's remarks about improving our 4-year and 6-year graduation rates and his concerns about AI. AI has generated a lot of hype as well as real situations that are occurring due to AI. Our students, young alums, and parents are worried that AI-generated capabilities will displace or suppress job availability and compensation in the labor markets, especially for entry-level white-collar jobs. There is also concern that AI-enabled robots may displace entry-level blue-collar jobs. This cuts across all majors. We must consider how we do research in AI, how we use AI as an enterprise user, and how do we teach AI? How do we teach with AI and about AI? We need to do these things, so our graduates do not graduate into underemployment due to the elimination of jobs by AI, but into new jobs and careers with humans in the loop for interacting/interfacing with AI. Our graduates can help generate new opportunities for employment associated with AI. President Chiang emphasized we must work together to update AI working competency to refresh our teaching and learning for all students at Purdue. To the end of helping the Senate, he verified that a full-time assistant will be hired to help the Senate and its Committees with their tasks.

Finally, President Chiang mentioned that the PERA manual data input process will be streamlined based on input from Deans, heads, and faculty members.

**\*\*\* Status of Legislation \*\*\***

**Documents for Action – Consent Agenda (approved)**

- Senate Document 25-01 Nominations for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- Senate Document 25-02 Nomination for University Resources Policy Committee
- Senate Document 25-03 Nomination for the Educational Policy Committee

**For Information**

- Report of the Athletic Affairs Committee

**Memorial Resolution**

N/A

**University Senate Website**

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc.  
[www.purdue.edu/senate/](http://www.purdue.edu/senate/)

## Standing Committees

**Steering Committee**, Lisa Bosman, [lbosman@purdue.edu](mailto:lbosman@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

**Nominating Committee**, Damon Lisch, [dlisch@purdue.edu](mailto:dlisch@purdue.edu) and Seema Mattoo, [smattoo@purdue.edu](mailto:smattoo@purdue.edu)

1. Managing committee vacancies
2. Evaluating and balancing numbers, disposition and experience of Senators for equitable representation and task assignments

**Educational Policy Committee**, Vincent Duffy, [duffy@purdue.edu](mailto:duffy@purdue.edu)

1. Updating academic withdrawal language in academic regulations
2. Assessing the need for AI regulations, the nature of AI use, available training
3. PSG PGSG Joint Resolution: Purdue University Voter Accessibility Policy
4. Well-being and stress management; including PSG Mental Health Days Initiative
5. Practices of departments requiring certain grades in specific courses, academic notice
6. Student success
7. Team teaching & Purdue Online; how it is evaluated, counted in teaching load
8. Communication with Faculty Committees reporting to EPC

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee**, Patricia (Trish) Morita-Mullaney, [tmoritam@purdue.edu](mailto:tmoritam@purdue.edu)

1. Possible committee name change
2. Compliance

**Faculty Affairs Committee**, Anish Vanaik, [avanaik@purdue.edu](mailto:avanaik@purdue.edu) and Françoise Brosseau-Lapr , [fbrossea@purdue.edu](mailto:fbrossea@purdue.edu)

1. SD 24-07 (Follow up)
2. Impact and responses to SEA 202
3. Follow up with concerned parents regarding ECEC
4. Lecturers Advisory Committee
5. Assessment of recent changes in P and T process
6. University Innovation and Entrepreneurship framework

**Student Affairs Committee**, Abigail S. Engelberth, [aengelbe@purdue.edu](mailto:aengelbe@purdue.edu)

1. Class Size
2. Equitable Parking
3. Move-in Package
4. Professional Excused Absences

**University Resource Policy Committee**, Lori Hoagland, [lhoaglan@purdue.edu](mailto: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** ([Matthew Conaway](#), Bands and Orchestras)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** (TBD)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** (TBD)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Ryan Reeves](#), Polytechnic Statewide)
- **Library Committee** (TBD)
- **Parking and Traffic** ([Josh Widhalm](#), Horticulture & Landscape Architecture)
- **Readmission and Academic Renewal** ([Ja'Niah Downing](#), Sr. Associate Director of Admissions and [Kathi Ferrero](#), Sr. Asst Director of Admissions)
- **Staff Appeal Board for Traffic Regulations** ([Stephanie Winder](#), MaPSAC / URPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Jeneen Fields](#), Botany and Plant Pathology)
- **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.

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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](#).