University Senate Newsletter
Fourth Meeting, 26 January 2026, Virtual

Senate Chair's Remarks:

Chair Zimpfer made brief remarks.

Chair Zimpfer thanked the 106 Senators and the associated committees upon which they served for their efforts that resulted in a very productive 1st semester. Many participated in the formation of the AI Literacy Initiative. Progress was also made in the prescription plan issues that occurred.

Through the generosity of the Provost's Office, the search continues to add a staff person to our Senate Leadership Team to help run more efficient Senate and committee meetings.

The Provost's Office will also support the Big Ten Academic Alliance Faculty Governance meeting that will be hosted by Purdue later this year.

Finally, Chair Zimpfer expressed his gratitude that the Senate is considering many documents at this meeting rather than waiting until the April meeting. The Agenda shows that we are moving quickly and addressing issues in real time. We have taken to heart the missive to "move at the speed of business."

Purdue President's Remarks

President Chiang expressed his thanks to the employees of the grounds department and other employees, as part of Administrative Operations, for their efforts in keeping the University functioning during this extremely cold and snowy winter weather. Purdue also coordinated with the cities of West Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Tippecanoe County following standard protocols for storm preparation, snow removal, and storm cleanup.

President Chiang next highlighted philanthropic support provided to Purdue students and faculty during the first six months of Fiscal Year 2026. Purdue has also received support for academic programs and building construction. These gifts are detailed on the Senate website and in the Senate minutes. President Chiang thanked the generous donors and the Purdue for Life Foundation colleagues for making these gifts reality. He also congratulated all the faculty and students who will benefit from these gifts.

President Chiang finished his remarks by focusing on learning about AI and learning with AI. In December, the Board of Trustees (BoT) approved AI Competency as a graduation requirement on the main campus, West Lafayette and Indianapolis. The regional campuses might consider this requirement in the future. This requirement will take effect for the class of 2030. Current undergraduates are not required to demonstrate AI Competency to graduate, but resources are available to undergraduate and graduate students who want to become AI competent. This will be a continuous effort as changes in AI occur rapidly and we cannot set one standard and expect it to last any length of time. However, we must ensure university-wide consistency and have quality verification while also respecting discipline specific features of AI Competency. AI Competency among majors in Music, Kinesiology, Political Science, Engineering, etc. will differ and will evolve over time. These efforts will involve the Colleges, departments, and Senate. Two years ago, we issued the first guidelines on allowing or not allowing AI tools for use with homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and so on. It is time to devise and issue new guidelines. This is not easily done as faculty and students have different views and experiences with AI and the tools have evolved rapidly.

President Chiang concluded by stating that we have a process that allows a transparent conversation concerning AI Competency. President Chiang invited Provost Wolfe to elaborate on the topic.

Purdue President's Remarks (cont.)

Provost Wolfe began his remarks by also thanking the grounds department employees for their recent efforts dealing with the snowy and cold weather.

Provost Wolfe concurred with President Chiang that it is time to take a new look at the AI tools that have developed rapidly over the last two years and to devise updated guidelines for the use of these tools.

It does not serve our students to have different AI tool use guidelines for each class. This could cause great confusion among our students. Working with the Senate, we have an opportunity to gain wisdom, insight, and knowledge to help us understand how we develop our best practice policy for AI usage in class. There will be more forthcoming on this front over the semester.

Provost Wolfe noted that through the efforts of the Undergraduate Curriculum Council (UCC) and many on the Senate, we no have six skills that will count as Foundational Learning Outcome (FLO) skills. These skills will qualify a course for inclusion on the list of courses that satisfy the working competency requirement. They hew closely to the BoT resolution. The six FLOs are:

1. Apply critical thinking skills to develop and support decisions informed by AI-driven insights.
2. Employ and compare on a relative basis, contemporary AI technologies.
3. Identify strengths and limitations of current AI technologies as they apply to a given field.
4. Plan to keep pace with the future use of AI within your field of study.
5. Communicate clearly and effectively about AI usages and the choices that surround it.
6. Recognize the overarching ethical principles, tradeoffs, and consequences that will inevitably arise in AI-aided decision making

The biggest challenge will be to keep pace with the changing technology cycle. This is all underpinned by the partnership we signed with Google in late December. This will give us access to proprietary Google hardware, state-of-the-art tools, and certified Google training for our graduating seniors.

*** Status of Legislation ***

Documents for Action –
- **Senate Document 25-10** Bylaws Revision Re: the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- **Senate Document 25-11** Omission of Three Student Cultural Centers from the Giant Leaps Master Plan
- **Senate Document 25-15** Nominee for Advisor to the Senate
- **Senate Document 25-17** Nominee for the Nominating Committee

For Discussion
- **Senate Document 25-13** Resolution in Support of a University-wide Sustainability Task Force
- **Senate Document 25-14** Resolution in Support of Renewable Energy Resources for Campus
- **Senate Document 25-16** PSG and PGSG Resolution Calling for Expanded Voter Accessibility

Information
- Informational Presentation about the John Martinson Honors College (Dept of Technology Leadership and Innovation, Professor Nathalie Duval-Couëtil)

Memorial Resolutions

Nancy Hewison, Professor Emerita of Library Science and former Associate Dean for Administration, University Libraries

University Senate Website

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

Standing Committees

Steering Committee, Lisa Bosman, 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 and Seema Mattoo, 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
1. Updating academic regulations re: midsemester grade reporting, diplomas replacement, and student reentry update.
2. AI curriculum integration & new AI policies for Senate consideration, the nature of AI use, available training
3. Well-being and stress management; including PSG Mental Health Days Initiative
4. Communication with Faculty Committees reporting to EPC.
5. Student success
6. Practices of departments requiring certain grades in specific courses, academic notice
7. PSG PGSG Joint Resolution: Purdue University Voter Accessibility Policy

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Patricia (Trish) Morita-Mullaney, tmoritam@purdue.edu and Rua Williams rmwilliams@purdue.edu
1. For the name and focus change of the EDIC committee to CCC committee
2. Addition of the Cultural Centers to Master Plan.

Faculty Affairs Committee, Françoise Brosseau-Lapré, fbrossea@purdue.edu and Stephen Cameron, cameros@purdue.edu
1. Promotion and tenure process
2. Post-tenure reviews (IC 21-39.5-2-2 and IC 21-38-3.5)
3. Changes to medical insurance
4. Realignment of the faculty in the Honors College
5. Lecturers Advisory Committee
6. Childcare option on WL campus

Student Affairs Committee, Abigail S. Engelberth, aengelbe@purdue.edu
1. Move-in Package
2. Professional Excused Absences
3. Student Success resources
4. Distribution of Purdue Exponent

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** (Matthew Conaway, Bands and Orchestras)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** (TBD)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** (TBD)
- **Grade Appeals** (Ryan Reeves, Polytechnic Statewide)
- **Library Committee** (Sylvie Brouder)
- **Parking and Traffic** (Josh Widhalm, Horticulture & Landscape Architecture)
- **Readmission and Academic Renewal** (Megan Dorton, 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.