

**University Senate Newsletter  
Fifth Meeting, 16 February 2026, Virtual****Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Zimpfer was traveling and did not have a good internet connection, so Vice Chair Ramirez took over as presiding officer. Vice Chair Ramirez noted the very important advisory role the Senate plays to provide input to the administration from faculty, staff, and graduate students concerning academics and the well-being of the groups he mentioned. It is important to create a strong relationship with the administration.

Higher education is facing many challenges such as funding and the impacts of AI. Locally, we face childcare and health care challenges. He called on the Senators to pay close attention to the activities of the Senate and to provide input to the administration from their constituents.

**Purdue President's Remarks**

President Chiang posed a question to the Senate: "What are your views on the use of AI or not to use AI in the teaching and learning setting?" We have initial guidelines/policy from two years ago that were created by a collaboration among various communities on campus including the Senate and the Provost's Office. It is hoped that by the end of the semester, a draft update of the policy can be approved. This updated policy will guide the 2,300+ faculty and instruction staff as well as the undergraduates, and graduate students in the use of AI in teaching and learning. The updating of the guidelines/policy will continue.

President Chiang praised those who work for Sr. Vice President Mike Cline of Administrative Operations for their continued efforts on the grounds crew, the energy staff, facilities and infrastructure staff, safety staff, and the procurement and vendor relations staff. They kept the campus functioning during the recent harsh winter weather.

President Chiang thanked President and CEO of Purdue for Life Julie Dusliere for securing additional scholarships, funds for named professorships, and many other gifts.

President Chiang acclaimed Vice President for Ethics and Compliance Alysa Rollock as an unsung heroine. She handles many issues including Title IX, federal and state laws and rules, regulations, and court orders. These are all important tasks.

President Chiang mentioned and thanked Vice President for Online and Partnerships Dimitrios Peroulis for the growth of Purdue Online as well as the recent partnership with Google in terms of AI research and education.

President Chiang noted the constant actions involving the Office of Legal Counsel and General Counsel Steve Schultz. It is an incredibly important office.

President Chiang stated that Trent Klingerman had returned from private legal practice to serve as his Chief-of-Staff.

President Chiang congratulated Athletic Director Mike Bobinski for the successes of our athletic teams, especially those of women's and men's basketball. Our men's basketball team moved up to #7 in the most recent poll

Finally, President Chiang mentioned three important Executive Vice Presidents:

- Provost Patrick Wolfe
- Treasurer and CFO Chris Ruhl
- EVP for Research Dan DeLaurentis, who replaced Karen Plaut upon her retirement

President Chiang then called on these three Executive Vice Presidents to say a few words.

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

Provost Wolfe said that in addition to the items on today's Senate Agenda he is working on getting broader guidance on immigration-related matters. Some information has gone to our graduate students and international scholars, and he wants to distribute the guidance more broadly.

Provost Wolfe noted that many faculty members had signed up to have a cup of coffee with him and he encouraged others to do so. There might be a waiting list, but he intends to meet with everyone who wishes to meet with him.

CFO Ruhl noted that he is always ready to present on budget matters as the Senate sees fit. He is working with EVP DeLaurentis on the federal funding issues as the status quo is likely to change. They are working on future cost recovery and funding models.

CFO Ruhl mentioned that his office is working on how best to use AI for enhancing revenue, as well as saving money and time. AI might also be used to reduce risk through fraud detection, IT security, etc.

CFO Ruhl acclaimed the continued growth of the Indianapolis campus including increased funding and the construction of the new building as well as real estate purchases that have been made. We are moving in the right direction in Indianapolis

EVP DeLaurentis said that calendar year 2025 was a challenging year, especially for federal funding. Approximately 3% of our federal funding was terminated for various reasons. The books were closed in December and for the first six months of the fiscal year, we achieved about \$300 million in funding which was about that same as the amount for the first six months of fiscal year 2025. Recent federal funding bills are hopeful in that they have stable or slight increases in funding for most federal agencies. This was not anticipated in the President's budget proposal.

EVP DeLaurentis is grateful to all the faculty and students who are working to keep our momentum going.

**\*\*\* Status of Legislation \*\*\*****Documents for Action**

- **Senate Document 25-13 Approved**
- **Senate Document 25-14 Approved**
- **Senate Document 25-16 Returned to the URPC for modifications based on input from the Senators**

**For Discussion**

- **Senate Document 25-18 Nominees for Vice Chairperson**
- **Senate Document 25-19 Sent to the Steering Committee for distribution to the Senate Standing Committees for comments about the validity of the claims in the AAUP letter**

**Information**

- **Purdue Book Initiatives**
- **Childcare Challenges at Purdue- A Faculty Perspective**

**Memorial Resolutions**

- **None received for February**

**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, [dlich@purdue.edu](mailto:dlich@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 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
8. A re-entry policy document will be brought to the Senate in March that will update academic regulations

**Community Connection Committee**, Patricia (Trish) Morita-Mullaney, [tmoritam@purdue.edu](mailto:tmoritam@purdue.edu) and Rua Williams [rmwilliams@purdue.edu](mailto:rmwilliams@purdue.edu)

1. Addition of the Cultural Centers to the Master Plan
2. Joint resolution on childcare will be brought to the March Senate meeting

**Faculty Affairs Committee**, Françoise Brosseau-Lapr , [fbrossea@purdue.edu](mailto:fbrossea@purdue.edu) and Stephen Cameron, [cameros@purdue.edu](mailto: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 in Medical Insurance
4. Realignment of Honors College
5. Lecturers Advisory Committee
6. Childcare option on campus

**Student Affairs Committee**, Abigail S. Engelberth, [aengelbe@purdue.edu](mailto: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](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** ([Melanie Fox](#), Economics)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Ryan Reeves](#), Polytechnic Statewide)
- **Library Committee** ([Sylvie Brouder](#), Agronomy)
- **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](#).