

**University Senate Newsletter**  
Seventh Meeting, 20 April 2026, Virtual

**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

As I wrap up my term as Chair, please allow me a few minutes to share some thoughts. The Senate is and always has been advisory. We serve an important role in providing guidance and direction on all things that affect our university. However, in order to be a true advisor, we must be knowledgeable, aware of all facts, and have perspective. We have done this, in the prescription plan and working with the administration and HR to help our colleagues and community in the AI UCC adoption, in considerations and recommendations on the Mutual Defense Compact from a year ago and in navigating the time of student protest, the Senate has always served its role over the last several years. We have also failed to do this at times.

I was told this spring that I was not considered trustworthy by a few of our senators. When I asked for an explanation, I was told, 'You are too close to administration.' You have too many conversations with administration.' I was not even sure what that really meant. Taking time to have hard conversations, looking for possible paths forward, asking questions, taking part in debates, and trying to reach consensus as being too close. It seems like I was acting in an advisory role. I have loved the last six years plus of involvement with the Senate. Over that time, we transformed from a body that had few, if any, objectives that were accomplished for the good of our university community. Under careful stewardship shown by Brian Leung and Susan South, which changed dramatically. The Senate began to stack wins and became truly advisory and a shared governance partner. Please do not allow this body to slip back into the previous role and lose an important communication tool for our community.

I have greatly appreciated my last two years as a Vice Chair and Chair, and I look forward to serving incoming chair Ramirez and Vice Chair Little. I hope to help you in the future. I will now yield two minutes of my time to Immediate Past Chair Brian Leung as he ends his role with the Senate. Thank you."

**Purdue President's Remarks**

Chair Zimpfer for Immediate Past Chair Leung, thank you very much for what you just said. You do not have an easy job, and many, many faculty, colleagues appreciate what you have been trying to do. Thank you again. I look forward to also working with incoming Chair Ramirez, and incoming Vice Chair Little. I also want to extend my appreciation to all the Senators who might be rotating off as we conclude the semester next week. Thank you for all of your service as well.

It is indeed a busy month. I have been in many various activities on campus and visited, for example, BIDD, where the students and staff showed me all the wonderful creativity that they have demonstrated to the RecWell Center inside CoRec, where our staff and again, student volunteers have done amazing work for the physical and mental health of our community members, and also a dinner with the Fraternity Authority and Cooperative Life, the, quote unquote, Greek life with around 7,000 undergraduate students who find their physical or figurative homes in Greek life here. It is important to listen to their views as well.

It has also been busy on weekends, including the Annual Purdue Aviation Day. It was particularly good weather. The community writ large came out to the Purdue Airport for a lot of educational activities. We had the Cancer 5K run. We have had the largest, I was told, hardware hackathon in the world just last weekend. It was really of the student by the student for the students and inviting student competitors from around the country in addition to hundreds of our own.

We had the Family Weekend last weekend as well with many parents and other family members coming to campus to see our current students. We had the Springfest annual event concurrently, including the famous Bug Bowl educational exhibits organized by the Agriculture College and colleagues. We had a lot of spring games, and we sent our congratulations to our men's basketball team for reaching Elite Eight this post-season and at the very first game of the NCAA March Madness our very own Braden Smith broke a 33-year long record of all-time assist record that was set previously by Bobby Hurley at Duke, and he continued to set new records and ended with 1,103.

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

The way that college athletics are going, some said that this might become one of the few records in college sports that may never be broken. That belongs to a Boilermaker named Braden Smith. Kudos to the many coaches and student athletes for their academic and athletic excellence and to our athletic staff as well.

Coming up, we do have the annual Grand Prix event. I was told by student organizers this year will be the largest ever. And then we have Day of Giving coming up next week too. In fact, I do not know whether Julie Dusliere, the Boilermaker and the CEO of Purdue for Life Foundation is here. If so, maybe I am going to ask for recognition for her to say a few words. I know that she has a three o'clock, it is already past three, so she may not be there anymore to tell us a bit more about the campaign progress. The short answer is we are actually little ahead of our original schedule of the largest campaign ever in Purdue history and working a lot with all the benefactors. We always say if a gift means something to you, it means a lot to us. It is not about the dollar amount. Of course, once a year, we have Purdue Day of Giving at the end of the academic year where we have many on campus participation from students as well. It is important for this body to also hear what we are doing there in that regard, because those gifts would come in to support student scholarships, professorships, programs, facilities, and many other needs at the university.

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

**Documents for Action**

- **Consent Agenda- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-26 Nominees for the Educational Policy Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-27 Nominees for the Community Connection Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-28 Nominees for the Faculty Affairs Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-29 Nominees for the Nominating Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-30 Nominees for the Steering Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-31 Nominees for the Student Affairs Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-32 Nominees for the University Resources Policy Committee**
- **Senate Document 25-16 PSG and PGSG Resolution Calling for Expanded Voter Accessibility- Amended- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-20 Senate Proposal for Withdrawal Policy Updates- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-21 Office of Admissions Proposal for Addition of Reentry Policy to Academic Regulations- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-22 Community Connection Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee Joint Proposal on Childcare Challenges at Purdue- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-23 Edits to Academic Regulations Regarding Summer Calendar- Passed**
- **Senate Document 25-24 Scholastic Recognition Graduation with Distinction- Update to Academic Regulations- Passed**
- **\*Senate Document 25-25 Vote of No Confidence- Passed**

**For Discussion**

- **\*Senate Document 25-25 Vote of No Confidence, moved to "For Action" following vote to suspend the rules**
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**For Information**

- **Presentation on Transportation and Public Safety (Postponed until the Fall semester)**

**Memorial Resolutions**

- **None received for April**

**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)

**Nominating Committee**, Damon Lisch, [dlish@purdue.edu](mailto:dlish@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. Re-entry policy updates; to align with (admissions) practices.
2. Withdrawal policy updates; supporting student success and advising.
3. Graduation with distinction policy; update to (reducing) credit requirements.
4. Summer Calendar Policy updates; consideration for length of term (formalizing flexibility)
5. Consideration of EPC items re: Senate res: 25-19 (formal review)
6. Scheduling in the context of Voter accessibility re: Senate res: 25-16 & URPC (university resources)
7. AI competency; assessing and categorizing AI expectations.

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

- No new items reported.

**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. Annual reviews and post-tenure reviews (IC 21-39.5-2-2 and IC 21-38-3.5)
3. Childcare options on WL campus
4. Hiring and support for faculty and lecturers.

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

1. Student Water Quality
2. Campus food insecurity
3. Assessing fall break calendar

**University Resource Policy Committee**, Lori Hoagland, [lhoaglan@purdue.edu](mailto:lhoaglan@purdue.edu)

1. PSG/PGSG resolutions around voting, move-in packages, and equitable parking.
2. Insights to aid in a resolution around 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.