

Questions

New Elements System

How does the rollout and implementation of the new Elements system (which at the moment is to be done in addition to existing Form 36 and CV updates) align with the Returning One Hour Per Day to Faculty initiative that President Chiang's team launched when he became the university president?

- Elements serves as a long-term time-saving investment that streamlines reporting, minimizes duplication, automates data collection, and provides greater publicity and visibility for faculty expertise. The short-term effort required to set up and maintain records will ultimately result in less faculty time spent on administrative tasks year after year, allowing faculty to focus more on research, teaching, and scholarly activities.

Movable Dream Hires.....

Movable Dream hires are not necessarily filling vacant positions. Certainly not at the rate those positions are becoming vacant. We are down 9 faculty over the last four years. Movable dream hires are not going to fill those positions. What are you going to do about it?

- While other universities are announcing hiring freezes, Purdue continues to hire. We are working to ensure that our efforts toward faculty hiring and retention are strategic and fiscally responsible in order to meet our needs. The Movable Dream Hires program is one part of our faculty hiring strategy, but not the only one. Alongside a focus on strategic hiring to support Purdue's long-term success in Indianapolis and West Lafayette, we are prioritizing efforts to retain and support exceptional faculty already driving academic and research excellence. We will continue working closely with deans and department heads to advance these efforts, ensuring that Purdue remains a destination for world-class faculty.

Federal Grant Funding

During this period of uncertainty in federal grant funding, what is Purdue doing to support pre-tenure faculty?

- Led by deans and department heads, we will continue to work with faculty to explore viable pathways for continued scholarly excellence in an evolving environment. We are also actively working to strengthen partnerships with industry, private foundations, and philanthropic organizations to diversify funding sources and create new opportunities for faculty research.

Metrics

We can all agree that metrics can be essential for evaluation of universities, colleges, and departments. However, metrics can also result in perverse incentives. Can you share with us your assessment of the most potentially harmful of these perverse incentives and how you are working to ameliorate them?

- A variety of metrics and published data common to all universities factor in, for example, everything from government funding formulas across different US states to Pell grant students. With the Senate's help and advice, decision-making is focused on the best interests of Purdue to improve inputs (e.g., student support and academic policies) that impact meaningful outputs (e.g., student retention rates).

Pocket Constitutions

Given the rapidly unfolding events that are headed in the direction of a constitutional crisis, would you be open to posting "nonpublic space" signs in appropriate locations (e.g., dorm entries, faculty offices, labs, etc.) on campus, and making pocket constitutions widely and amply available on campus?

- The university's longstanding use of facilities policies establish content-neutral time, place and manner regulations for the use of campus facilities and spaces to ensure campus safety and the orderly functioning of university operations.

Purdue University Mission

How would you articulate Purdue University's current mission? What do you think Purdue should be aiming for in the next 25 years? I know that you have articulated "pillars" but these do not seem like a mission, more objectives.

- Purdue continues our public land-grant university mission of learning, discovery and engagement.

College of Education Dean

Considering the 3-year stand still with hiring of a Dean in the College of Education, can the President talk about where he envisions Education at Purdue to be in 5-years? What role does Purdue have in preparing teachers to meet the teacher shortage in Indiana? What would a highly successful College of Education look like to the President and his administration? When will Purdue University announce a national search for the College of Education Dean? Phil Van Fossen is an excellent interim Dean but for the COE to consider its excellent work, having a permanent Dean is necessary.

- Purdue is helping to address Indiana's teacher shortage through teacher education programs at our main campus, Purdue Northwest, and Purdue Fort Wayne. Highly skilled STEM educators will be equipped to meet the demands of tomorrow's classrooms as well as today's. By leveraging our strengths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, we expect to expand innovative teacher preparation programs, integrate cutting-edge instructional technologies, and strengthen partnerships with K-12 schools, including Purdue Polytechnic High School.

Advising at Purdue University

President Chiang, can you please address what steps are being taken to help strengthen the advising community at Purdue? Advisors at Purdue face significant challenges that impact both advisors and students. The starting salary is not competitive with the cost of living in the area, even though the position requires experience and a Master's Degree. This discrepancy makes it very difficult to attract and retain qualified advisors, leading to larger caseloads, longer response times, and distress on our offices. Consequently, students receive less individualized support, which can delay their academic progress and negatively affect their overall experience at Purdue. The shortage of advisors means that students often feel unsupported, and the quality of the advising experience is undermined.

- We recognize the essential role our advisors play in student success. We have already taken steps to assess advisor workloads and established a caseload (1:225) below the national average. College-level advising caseloads are assessed each fall at census, and new advising lines are allocated accordingly. Additionally, we are investing in technology and process improvements to enhance efficiency and reduce administrative burdens on advisors.

The Purdue Way

This might be something President Chiang would want to include in his prepared remarks:

"The Purdue way," is an oft repeated, if unofficial campus slogan. In my time here I've heard it associated with grit, frugality, resilience, and loyalty-- along with the better and worse angel-cousins of those words. But it's been a while since I've heard a fresh characterization of "the Purdue way." We've passed the quarter century mark of the 2000's and simultaneously enjoy 150 years as Indiana's land grant university. Avoiding marketing phraseology, please, what does "the Purdue way" mean today and going forward into our next five to ten years? How does the slogan meet our contemporary moment?

- Thank you for suggesting remarks for the President to make. We welcome suggestions about the "Purdue Way" from all Boilermakers.

Graduate Housing

What initiatives does Purdue plan to implement to make graduate student housing affordable and available?

- The University is opening two new residence halls, one in Fall 2025 and another in Fall 2026, which will add housing for approximately 1,900 undergraduate students – thus also opening more beds in the community for our graduate students. The community has already seen a nearly 4% increase in available beds over the past year, with more major projects underway.