

To: The University Senate
From: Faculty Affairs Committee
Subject: Improvement of Services and Relevant Policies and Procedures at Purdue-Affiliated Early Care and Education Centers
Reference: [Purdue University COACHE Survey 2022](#)
[Senate Document 20-37 Principles for on-campus/Purdue-affiliated childcare](#)
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Rationale: The Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee raised the issue of problems that have arisen in childcare arrangements during the past few years and related questions of planning and ongoing governance of childcare facilities. The committee unanimously adopted a resolution concerning these questions, which was then placed before the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of 27 February 2023.

Some recent decisions of the Purdue administration have reduced, rather than improved, the quality of Purdue-affiliated early care and education centers.

Examples of such decisions include:

- Closure of the on-campus Jischke Center, and its replacement with a new center three miles north of campus.
- The decision to enter a long-term (10-year) contract with a new company (Day Early Learning) to run two of the Purdue-affiliated day care centers while omitting a number of crucial services such as a bus service for school-age children from West Lafayette schools to the early care and education centers, and the failure to align the centers' holiday calendars with Purdue's academic calendar.

Several members of the Purdue community with children enrolled in early care and education centers have expressed, to the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee, their frustration at the perceived top-down decision-making process and their lack of input. This frustration has also manifested in the significant decline in

satisfaction with childcare arrangements as indicated in the COACHE 2022 survey.[1]

The decisions mentioned above have negatively affected the work-life balance of Purdue faculty with children in these facilities, leading to increased stress, less available work hours, and overall decreased productivity.

Purdue's perception as a family-friendly institution is a key element of many departments' recruitment strategies.

The Senate has, in SD 20-37, expressed firm support for widening access to quality childcare while maintaining the high standards and principles applied in the Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School.[2] SD 20-37 also affirms that childcare arrangements are of abiding importance to the quality of life of faculty, staff and students at the Purdue West Lafayette campus.

Proposal:

We recommend that the Purdue administration take steps to:

Promptly organize for the restoration of the bus service between West Lafayette schools and the Purdue University Early Care and Education Center (ECEC).

Create a transparent and inclusive process for making decisions regarding Purdue's daycare policies and procedures, including a possible expansion of before- and after-school options.

Plan a new on-campus early care and education center to replace the eliminated Jischke Center.

Ensure faculty, staff, and student input into the proposed site for, facilities in, and management of, the new on-campus center.

Ensure that all future daycare contracts meet the standards and principles of early care applied in the Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory school, as affirmed in SD 20-37.

Ensure that all future daycare contracts meet both the letter and the spirit of equitable access to early care outlined in SD 20-37.

References: [1] Purdue University COACHE Survey 2022
<https://www.purdue.edu/provost/faculty/initiatives/coache-results-institutional.html>

[2] Senate Document 20-37 passed at meeting of 22 March 2021.
<https://www.purdue.edu/senate/documents/meetings/Senate-Document-20-37.pdf>

Committee Votes:

<u>For:</u>	<u>Against:</u>	<u>Abstained:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Charles Bouman	N/A	Advisors	N/A
Françoise Brousseau-Lapré		Peter J. Hollenbeck	
Patricia Davies		Lisa J. Mauer	
Stephen Hooser			
Brian Richert		Faculty	
Susan South		Nastasha Johnson	
John A. Springer		David Koltick	
Anish Vanaik		Angeline M. Lyon	
Eric Waltenburg (chair)		Jennifer Scheuer	