

# **UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT**

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University Senate Chair  
for  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 10, 2019**

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# UPDATES FROM SEPTEMBER SENATE MEETING

- Resolution 19-04: Voter ID
  - Senate voted to suspend the rules, (amended) resolution passed with 64 votes in favor, 3 votes in opposition.
  - *Purdue University shall provide a replacement identification card at no cost for each student who requires it for voter identification purposes.*
  - Worked with administration, key staff to achieve workable solution (one week grace period in October for students to replace cards).
  - League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette – campaign to reimburse Purdue students beyond the one week grace period.

## **CIVICS LITERACY : BGR FINDINGS**

- Incoming Purdue undergraduate student respondents appear to have greater civic knowledge than the general population across the United States, as well as the state of Indiana.
- In addition, incoming Purdue students appear to exhibit greater civic knowledge than other college graduates in Indiana.

## **CIVICS LITERACY: BGR FINDINGS**

- ***Results were not unexpected and showed relatively good, but not great, civic literacy:***
  - Based on the USCIS definition of 'passing' (6/10 for naturalization candidates), 77% of Purdue respondents passed the portion based on Woodrow Wilson questions compared to 36% of general population and 53% of college-educated Indiana residents.
  - 66% of Purdue respondents passed the portion based on the NES.

## **NEXT STEPS: SURVEY**

- Distribute a refined survey as another pilot study
  - Introductory political science courses
  - 15 survey items identified as “suggested items” based based on discrimination scores

# NEXT STEPS: COMPARISONS

- Investigate other institutions
  - Texas Core Core Curriculum
    - 6 semester hours of American Government
    - 6 semester hours of Governance/ Political Science
  - California System Core Literacies (of GE)
    - 9 units Civic and Cultural Literacy coursework: 3 of those units are in coursework covering American Cultures, Governance, and History; 3 units Domestic Diversity; and 3 units in World Cultures.
  - Ohio State
    - Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World, a theme that consists of the foundation course on racial, ethnic and gender diversity, plus two additional courses.
  - South Carolina
    - State law requiring civics component in the GE core
    - Law is being revisited (modifications expected)

## **ADDITIONAL WORKING GROUP MEMBERS**

- As of September, Nan Kong (University Senate, Education Policy Committee), Assata Gilmore (VP of Purdue Student Government) and Jeff Stefancic (Office of Dean of Students, Education Policy Committee) have joined the working group of disciplinary experts and will serve as liaisons to the Senate.
- Next meeting October 10, 2019

**THANK YOU**