

UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT

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University Senate Chair
for
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 2, 2020**

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CIVICS LITERACY: STATUS UPDATE

- Education Policy Committee of the Senate met in February and requested further details regarding ‘feasibility’ of the recommendation.
- Working group developed an ‘addendum’ to the report to address feasibility concerns raised in the EPC meeting (see attachment).
- EPC met in March; with overwhelming support passed the resolution to establish civics literacy as a baccalaureate degree requirement.
- Senate Document 19-17 appeared for discussion on the March Senate meeting agenda.
- Overall Senate discussion was productive, positive.
- Senate Document 19-17 will be up for vote at the April Senate meeting.

Senate Document 19-17

Proposal: Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy.

- The EPC's proposed resolution reflects the recommendation of the Civics Literacy Working Group:

Establish a baccalaureate degree requirement for civics literacy. Students would meet the requirement by fulfilling the following: successful completion of a civics literacy exam and completion one of the following three options: 1) 3.0 hours of relevant course work (e.g., relevant introductory course in US politics, public policy, history or other course with civic knowledge content); or 2) successful completion of Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement modules; or 3) attendance at civics-related Purdue-hosted and -sponsored events involving a substantially equivalent number of contact hours.

MARCH SENATE MEETING: ELECTION RESULTS

- Vice Chair Election
 - Candidates: Professors Steve Beaudoin, Ralph Kaufmann, Josef Kokini, and David Sanders.
 - Election winner: Professor Steve Beaudoin

VICE –CHAIR ELECT: STEVE BEAUDOIN



- Background
 - Joined Purdue in 2003
 - Professor, Arizona State University (1995 – 2003)
 - PhD Chemical Engineering, NC State (1995)
 - MS Chemical Engineering, UT Austin (1990)
 - BS Chemical Engineering, MIT (1988)
- Teaching Academy Fellow (2018)
- Director, Purdue Energetics Research Center (PERC) (2017 –)
- Interim Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (2014 – 2015)
- Trace Explosives Lead (DHS Center of Excellence) (2013 –)
- Inaugural Provost Fellow for Student Success (2009 – 2010)
- Associate Head of Chemical Engineering (2007 – 2008)
- University Faculty Scholar (2006 – 2011)

MARCH SENATE MEETING: RESOLUTIONS

- 19-13: Proposed Changes to the Foundational Outcomes Language of University Core Curriculum
- 19-14: Grief Absences Policy Revisions
- 19-21: Anti-Asian and anti-Asian American bigotry statement
 - *Purdue University Senate shall release the following statement immediately: “As fear and anxiety about COVID-19 has spread across this country, there has been increased incidences of prejudice, xenophobia, discrimination, violence, and racism directed against people from Asian nations as well as Asian Americans. As a university that is home to thousands of international students and a large Asian American community, we write this to condemn any form of anti-Asian or anti-Asian American bigotry. Attacks inflicted upon these communities will not be tolerated at Purdue University.”*

COVID-19 TRANSITION TO REMOTE LEARNING

- Faculty are appreciative of the communication of resources, policy changes, etc.
- Biggest challenge: rapid restructuring over courses that required working over spring break; faculty desired an additional week
- Technological issues:
 - e.g. poor resolution- suggestion to upgrade Purdue Webex to higher resolution; higher resolution increases memory, bandwidth issues
- Difficulty engaging students (non-responses to emails, discussion posts)
- Some concerns have already been addressed (P/NP, tenure clock stop, graduate student progress towards degree).
- Faculty are concerned with student access to necessary technology, other faculty are concerned with student mental health and well-being.

SPRING SEMESTER STATUS UPDATE

- Academic Rigor
 - Agenda item for discussion in fall EPC meeting (new Chair)
- Intellectual Property Policy
 - "Dean's Forums" postponed to fall
- Changes to Grade Appeals Policy
 - (pending...)

THANK YOU