




Office of Legal Counsel

BT 12/3/21

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees (via Academic and Student Affairs Committee)

FROM: Steven R. Schultz, General Counsel 

CC: Janice Indrutz, Secretary

DATE: November 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Positions Subject to Board Ratification—Update

Background: Article VI, Section 3 of the Bylaws of the Trustees of Purdue University provides as follows:

“[a]ll appointments, promotions, leaves of absence and other personnel actions with respect to the Faculty and Staff of the University shall be made by the President, except to the extent that the Board may reserve the authority to ratify individually certain appointments and promotions. *Those appointments and promotions which must be ratified by the Board shall be set forth on an official list maintained by the Secretary.* The Board may revise the official list from time to time without change in the Bylaws.”
(emphasis added)

The current list of appointments and promotions subject to Board ratification, which was last revised at your December 2020 meeting, is as follows:

- President (or Interim President)
- Executive Vice Presidents (or Interim Executive Vice Presidents)
- Chancellors (or Interim Chancellors)
- Vice Presidents and Other Officers Reporting Directly to the President
- Director of Audits (or Interim Director of Audits)
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (or Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics)
- Head Football Coach
- Head Basketball Coaches (Men’s and Women’s)
- Faculty Promotions as a group
- Distinguished Professors
- Named/Chaired Professorships, named Headships and Deanships, and named Discovery Park Directorships
(Academic and Student Affairs Committee/Consent Agenda)*
- Endowed Professorships
(Academic and Student Affairs Committee/Consent Agenda)*

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It is recommended that the list be revised to add **posthumous faculty promotions**, consistent with what has been the Board's occasional, though not yet formalized, practice. Although it is otherwise in the President's authority under the Bylaws to take this action, the Board has seen fit, on these very sad occasions, to pay tribute to the deceased faculty member through solemn public recognition of his or her achievement and contributions. Formalizing this would be consistent with that custom, as well as with the current practice for posthumous student degrees.

For the sake of clarity, the specific **change** to the current list would be as follows:

- President (or Interim President)
- Executive Vice Presidents (or Interim Executive Vice Presidents)
- Chancellors (or Interim Chancellors)
- Vice Presidents and Other Officers Reporting Directly to the President
- Director of Audits (or Interim Director of Audits)
- Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (or Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics)
- Head Football Coach
- Head Basketball Coaches (Men's and Women's)
- Faculty Promotions as a group
- **Posthumous individual faculty promotions**
- Distinguished Professors
- Named/Chaired Professorships, named Headships and Deanships, and named Discovery Park Directorships
(Academic and Student Affairs Committee/Consent Agenda)*
- Endowed Professorships
(Academic and Student Affairs Committee/Consent Agenda)*

Recommendation: I recommend approval of the revised list at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee's meeting on November 16, 2021 and subsequently on the full Board's consent agenda at its stated meeting on December 3, 2021. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

* As you know, in the interest of making the most efficient use of the Trustees' meeting time, the Board has adopted a practice of not asking these recipients to make remarks during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, while still affording them a brief photo opportunity with the Provost immediately following the Committee's ratification (consistent with past practice).