

# ***UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT***

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**University Senate Chair**

**For**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

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University Senate

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# *Senate Meeting Highlights April 2024*

- SD 23-29 Streamline and clarify the grade appeals process
- SD 23-35 Senate representation for Purdue in IN
- SD 23-39 Resolution to support a Southwest Asian and North African Cultural Center
- Update on the Ad Hoc Committee on Purdue WL, Purdue Online, and Purdue Global Graduate programs
  - The committee will look at the ways Purdue Global's online graduate programs and Purdue West Lafayette's residential and online graduate programs complement one another and overlap—and at ways to enhance their independent and unified missions.
- Presentation of findings on Senate Leadership Survey on SB 202/PL 113 Implementation
  - Brian Leung as a summer liaison to the PL 113 implementation process through mid-August.

# *Continuing Topics of Discussion*

- Senate Special Session on May 14 not called to order (no quorum)
- Ad Hoc Committee to examine Purdue WL, Purdue Online, and Purdue Global
  - Continuing meetings over the summer
- Changes to the Graduate/Postdoctoral Office
- Faculty and staff hiring at all levels

SB 202 Survey of Senators: Should SB 202 be signed into law, what concrete recommendations do you and your constituents have for **implementation** at Purdue University?

## GENERAL THEMES

- Protection of **academic freedom**
  - Protect faculty to run their classrooms in a manner they deem fit
- A **transparent** complaints, appeals and resolution process
- Simplicity and **clarity** of policies
  - how to assess intellectual diversity
- **Governance** and decision making
  - Delegate responsibility to the faculty
  - Collaboration between administration and the faculty
- **Opposition & concerns:**
  - Don't implement due to vague wording, "unfunded mandate"
  - How are graduate students and non-tenured track faculty affected?

## CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS

- Have a **clear definition of intellectual diversity**, to be provided to the primary committee of each department
  - Should not include political opinion or compelled speech
- **Coordinate** across Purdue system and regional campuses
- **Formal document** regarding the procedure and supporting evidence needed to deem campus members (faculty, staff or students) have not met the diversity policies of the university
  - Keep decision making at the department/college level
  - What are the specific behaviors that would violate the law?
    - Remediation plan to give the faculty member an opportunity to improve
- **Student/employee complaints** should be vetted and available to the faculty member, similar to grade appeals process
- **Collect feedback from students** whose learning and research outcomes will be directly impacted by additional pressures on faculty and curriculum content

SB 202 Survey of Senators: Should SB 202 be signed into law, and besides “no implementation at all,” what policy outcomes would most **safeguard professional and educational productivity** and sense of security?

## GENERAL THEMES

- **No changes to current tenure process**; refuse 5-year tenure review as violation of existing faculty contracts
- **Protect** certain courses and certain individuals who might be most vulnerable to targeting
- Increased **collaboration** between BOT and Senate
- Administration should represent the **voice of the faculty**
- Need for **due process and internal checkpoints** before issues reach the BOT

# *THANK YOU*

Questions?