



**PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

APRIL 4, 2025 | MINUTES

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 8:29 a.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025, in Room 326 of Stewart Center on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Committee members present included: Malcolm DeKryger, chair; JoAnn Brouillette; Kevin Boes; Vanessa Castagna; and Professor Susan South (ex-officio). Committee member David Ricks was unable to attend due to previously scheduled travel. Other trustees present: Sonny Beck; Theresa Carter; Michael Klipsch; Gary Lehman; and Shawn Taylor.

Officers and administrators in attendance: Mung Chiang, president; Patrick Wolfe, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity; Chris Ruhl, chief financial officer and treasurer; Eva Nodine, vice president, deputy cfo, assistant treasurer, and assistant secretary; Steve Schultz, general counsel; Cindy Ream, corporate secretary and senior executive assistant to the Board.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES;

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes for Executive Sessions convened on August 8, 2024; September 4, 2024, and March 27, 2025; and Public Sessions convened on March 1, 2024, December 13, 2024; and February 7, 2025.

II. (PFW) APPROVAL OF POSTHUMOUS DEGREE FOR ANDREW TUDOR

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval of a Posthumous Degree for Andrew Tudor. He shared that Andrew had completed 85% of the required credit hours for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Provost Wolfe noted that Andrew had a cumulative GPA of 3.98 and emphasized that his consistent academic progress left no doubt he would have successfully earned his degree. Committee Chair DeKryger asked to have the condolences of the Board shared with Andrew's family and friends.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of a Posthumous Degree for Andrew Tudor. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

III. (WL) APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE, M.S. ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval for the Approval of New Degree, M.S. Organizational Leadership and Supervision. Provost shared observations about the new Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership and Supervision, which is designed to meet student needs and enhance leadership capabilities. The program, offered through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, will provide specialized coursework in project management, HR development, and

technical communication. He shared it will be available online through the West Lafayette and Indianapolis campuses, with faculty contributions from across the Purdue system, including Fort Wayne and Indianapolis. The program exemplifies collaboration across Purdue, not only adding new degrees but also ensuring they align with students' needs and the university's overall goals.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the new degree, M.S. Organizational Leadership and Supervision. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

IV. (SW) APPROVAL OF 2025 FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Provost Wolfe discussed the annual process of promoting faculty within the Purdue system, which is done in April according to the academic tenure and promotion policy. Faculty members are considered for promotion to associate professor and the granting of tenure after five to seven years of professional development. Tenure, which is protected by Indiana State law, ensures academic freedom and full participation in the academic environment.

He reported the promotion process involves a rigorous vetting procedure, where faculty prepare a dossier of their achievements, which is reviewed by peers, top researchers, and academic departments. Successful cases move through the academic college and a university-wide panel before being recommended for approval by the Provost and President. This year, Provost Wolfe recommended 163 faculty promotions, including 137 from the main campus and additional promotions from Purdue Fort Wayne and Purdue Northwest. He emphasized the university's commitment to hiring, supporting, mentoring, and rigorously evaluating faculty to maintain high academic standards. The Provost requested the board's approval for the 2025 faculty promotions.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the 2025 Faculty Promotions. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

V. UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT

Professor Susan South, university senate chair, began her presentation with an update noting the Senate has been working on several important initiatives. They passed a document to create an opt-in email list for all faculty to receive updates about Senate activities, reducing reliance on newsletters from individual senators. Additionally, a proposal was discussed to add two new senators representing CSAC and MAPS Act, which would help recognize the Senate as a university-wide body representing faculty, staff, and students. Recent meetings featured key presentations, including contributions from vice president Cline and vice president Ruhl.

Next Dr. South shared that an ad hoc committee compared graduate programs across Purdue, Purdue Online, and Purdue Global. She noted one key takeaway from the committee's work is the lack of understanding and trust among Purdue West Lafayette faculty regarding Purdue Global. This concern illustrates broader challenges in how the different Purdue platforms are perceived and marketed. It was mentioned that there is an opportunity to better convey the overarching narrative of the Purdue ecosystem and its wide-reaching impact on diverse audiences everywhere.

Dr. South emphasized the importance of supporting women in science and shared an example from Harvey Mudd College's "WISE" (Women in Science and Engineering) program. This six-month initiative connects high school girls with faculty and students in STEM fields, helping them build

peer relationships and gain a deeper understanding of STEM disciplines. She highlighted the program as a valuable model for encouraging women in science.

Dr. South highlighted Purdue's strengths, including keeping tuition flat and offering programs like Cornerstone that integrate humanities, unlike other universities scaling back in this area. However, she acknowledged a growing sense of fear and uncertainty among faculty, staff, and graduate students regarding the future of higher education, citing challenges like reduced NIH funding and potential cuts to defense or NSF dollars. She emphasized the importance of voicing these concerns and sought reassurance about the value and direction of higher education, particularly at Purdue.

President Chiang expressed gratitude to Dr. South for her service and collaboration as a colleague and researcher. He acknowledged the challenges facing American higher education and the anxiety felt by many peer institutions. However, he emphasized that not all universities are the same, and assured that their university remains serene, sturdy and strategic in navigating these challenges.

A copy of Professor South's presentation was filed with the minutes.

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.