



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

**JUNE 6, 2025 | MINUTES**

A meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees convened at 8:57 a.m. on Friday, June 6, 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; David Ricks; and Professor Mark Zimpfer (ex-officio). 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; 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 Session convened on May 21, 2025; and Public Session convened on April 4, 2025.

**II. (WL) APPROVAL OF POSTHUMOUS DEGREES**

Provost Wolfe reminded the Board of the criteria for consideration for a posthumous degree which include 85% completion of credit hour requirements and most of the requirements for the major. He respectfully requested approval of a Posthumous Degree for Austin Fisher. He shared that Austin had completed 92% of the required credit hours for the Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security in the Department of Computer and Information Technology. Austin was on track to graduate in August 2025. Provost Wolfe noted that Austin was known as a kind, selfless, loving person and a brother, son and friend to many.

Next, Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval of a Posthumous Degree for John W. Weaver III. He shared that John had completed 94% of the required credit hours for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Lyle School of Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering within the College of Engineering. Provost Wolfe noted John tragically died in a plane crash, with other family members, before it was possible to finish his degree. Family members recount that he deeply valued his time at Purdue. John kept with his family tradition, attending Purdue and studying civil engineering like his father, grandfather and great grandfather. Provost Wolfe stated were it not for John's untimely death, he would have been able to finish out the last three courses needed to complete his graduation requirements.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Posthumous Degrees for Austin Fisher and John W. Weaver III. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Committee Chair DeKryger extended the Board's sincere condolences to the families and friends of both Austin and John.

### **III. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE MORRIS GOLDMAN CHAIR IN ENGINEERING**

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Hector Gomez as the Morris Goldman Chair in Engineering. Dr. Gomez is deeply engaged in computational modeling, with a strong focus on large-scale simulations of complex physical and biological systems. His work bridges advanced mathematics with real-world engineering applications, making significant contributions to both fundamental research and practical innovation. He has authored over 100 publications in leading peer-reviewed journals and has served on numerous editorial boards. In recognition of his research excellence, Professor Gomez has received multiple international honors, including a prestigious scientific research award presented by the King of Spain.

Provost Wolf noted that the Morris Goldman Chair in Engineering was established at the end of 2023, through the generosity of the trustees of the Thomas Goldman estate. This chair honors the legacy of Morris Goldman, who graduated in 1934 with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Gomez's appointment as the Morris Goldman Chair in Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Gomez stated that he was very honored to be named the Morris. Goldman Chair in Engineering. He expressed his deepest appreciation to Thomas F. Goldman for his generous gift of the endowment noting it's powerful tribute to the lasting impact of a Purdue education. He stated he was humbled to be entrusted with this legacy. He thanked his family, his college and school.

### **IV. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE REILLY PROFESSOR IN THE LYLES SCHOOL OF CIVIL AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING**

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Makarand Hastak as the Reilly Professor in the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering. Dr. Hastak has been a professor in Civil and Construction Engineering since 2001 and has served for many years as the head of his department. He is a past president of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction. His research focuses on developing support systems and computer-based tools to aid decision-making in areas such as construction process improvement, risk assessment, project control, and infrastructure resiliency in the face of natural disasters. Dr. Hastak has made significant contributions to the construction industry, particularly in infrastructure management, enhancing profitability, and advancing risk management practices. He has served on numerous boards and was an editor of the *Journal of Management in Engineering*. Throughout his career, he has received numerous awards and honors and recognition befitting his impactful work.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Hastak's appointment as the Reilly Professor in the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Hastak thanked the Board noting his gratitude for the honor, in particularly to his nominators and also the Dean of Engineering. He shared he was grateful to the Reilly family for making all this happen. He thanked his family noting that without their support, this perhaps would not have been feasible. He noted he is deeply honored and shared he hopes to live up to the expectations of this.

**V. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE AVRUM AND JOYCE GRAY PROFESSOR IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION**

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Nicole Key as the Avrum and Joyce Gray Professor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Dr. Key has served as a professor of Mechanical Engineering since 2007 and is current Associate Head for Graduate Studies. Dr. Key holds courtesy appointment in Aeronautics and Astronautics. Provost Wolfe noted that Dr. Key's work centers on understanding the physics associated with flows and gas turbine propulsion engines. Dr. Key has been supported by a variety of sources, ranging from NASA and the Office of Naval Research all the way through to the Who's who of engine makers, Rolls Royce, Honeywell, Siemens, Pat and Whitney, GE and others. She will be the director of a large consortium that will be moving from Duke to Purdue in 2026. It was noted that Dr. Key has helped to raise, Purdue's profile and has brought a number of exciting centers and institutes to Purdue.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Key's appointment as the Avrum and Joyce Gray Professor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Key stated she is deeply grateful and humbled to hold the professorship. She thanked her husband and her parents for their unwavering support. She shared that the honor means a great deal to her and she is thankful Purdue values applied and industry research, which is vital to continued success.

**VI. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE REILLY PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Gregory Shaver as the Reilly Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Shaver has been a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering since 2006. His research focuses on clean, safe, and efficient commercial vehicles, encompassing diesel, natural gas, hydrogen, ethanol, biodiesel fuels, powertrain electrification, and heavy vehicle automation - essentially shaping the future of transportation. His work is supported by major industry leaders such as Cummins, Deere, and Caterpillar, as well as by the Department of Energy. Provost Wolfe noted that Dr. Shaver exemplifies the kind of innovation and impact we value highly. Over his career, he has received numerous honors, including being named a Purdue University Faculty Scholar, the Early Career Excellence in Research Award, and the John Johnson Best Paper Award for Outstanding Research in Diesel Engines.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Shaver's appointment as the Reilly Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Shaver thanked the Board for ratifying his appointment and noted it was an honor to be there. He shared that he had reached that point in his career with hard work but did not do it alone. He acknowledged his late father, Paul, for encouraging him to consider a career in academia and for supporting both him and his brother Jeff, especially through the difficult loss of their mother at a young age. He thanked his wife for sticking with him and being his partner in life and mentioned his daughters, his brother and nephew who were also present.

## **VII. APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE MAXINE SPENCER NICHOLS PROFESSOR IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING**

Provost Wolfe submitted the request for approval to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Topp as the Maxine Spencer Nichols Professor in Chemical Engineering. Dr. Topp has been a professor in the School of Chemical Engineering since 2009. Dr. Topp is currently leading the William D. and Sherry L. Young Institute for Advanced Manufacturing of Pharmaceuticals—an innovative and highly impactful development at Purdue. Provost Wolfe shared that this initiative positions Purdue at the forefront of a critical national priority, and Dr. Topp plays a central role in driving its success.

Dr. Topp has a strong track record of fostering collaboration between academia and industry, including co-founding university-industry consortia and working closely with companies like Merck, Eli Lilly, and others at the LEAP District. She exemplifies Purdue's commitment to excellence in domestic manufacturing. It was noted that Dr. Topp has an extensive list of influential publications, serves on key editorial boards, holds fellowships in major professional societies, and has been inducted into Purdue's Innovators Hall of Fame.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of Dr. Topp's appointment as the Maxine Spencer Nichols Professor in Chemical Engineering. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

Dr. Topp began by thanking Dr. Sun and her administrative assistant, Cindy Fate, for their efforts in managing the nomination process and related paperwork. She also expressed appreciation to Arvind Raman, Dean of the College of Engineering, as well as Dave Ricks and Eli Lilly for their support. She emphasized the significance of pharmaceutical manufacturing in Indiana, noting that the state ranks first in the U.S. for pharmaceutical production. She shared that the goal of their work is to make pharmaceutical manufacturing more efficient, cost-effective, safe, and high in quality—ultimately benefiting both the industry and the state. Dr. Topp closed by honoring Maxine Spencer Nichols, a 1949 Purdue chemical engineering graduate, as a trailblazing role model, and thanked her and her family for their generous contribution.

## **VIII. (WL) APPROVAL OF NEW DEGREE, B.A. IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE**

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval for the Approval of New Degree, B.A. in Cognitive Science. Provost Wolfe shared that the new Cognitive Science degree will be a residential degree led by the Department of Philosophy. The program supports Purdue's strategic initiatives, including Purdue Computes and One Health, and showcases the university's strength in cross-departmental collaboration. It is designed to prepare students for high-growth careers in areas such as data analysis, medical and linguistic research, and human-computer interaction.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the new degree, B.A. in Cognitive Science. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

## **IX. (PFW) APPROVAL OF PURDUE FORT WAYNE DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES**

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval for the Approval of Purdue Fort Wayne Departmental Changes. Provost Wolfe noted that two departments had requested name changes to better reflect their academic focus. He noted that the department is currently named the Department

of English and Linguistics, but since the linguistics program is no longer housed within the department, a proposal has been made to remove “Linguistics” from the name. Similarly, the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration no longer includes the public administration program, which has moved to another unit at Purdue Fort Wayne. As a result, that department has requested to remove “Public Administration” from its name.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the Purdue Fort Wayne Departmental Changes. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

**X. (WL) APPROVAL OF MERGER: DEPARTMENTS OF COMPUTER GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO THE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND CREATIVE COMPUTING**

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested the Merger: Departments of Computer Graphics Technology and Computer Information Technology to the School of Applied and Creative Computing. The strategic initiative is designed to address several critical challenges and capitalize on opportunities that will enhance the academic and research impact. The merger creates a more integrated, efficient, and influential academic unit within Purdue Polytechnic and Purdue University. Provost Wolfe noted there are efficiencies and other savings to be gained from merging the two departments.

Upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval of the Merger: Departments of Computer Graphics Technology and Computer Information Technology to the School of Applied and Creative Computing. Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

**XI. (WL) APPROVAL TO RENAME THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING (EEE) TO SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING (SEE)**

Provost Wolfe respectfully requested approval to rename the Division of Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE) to School of Sustainability Engineering and Environmental Engineering (SEE). A proposal was made to expand into a new area around sustainability engineering—shifting the focus from treating environmental damage to proactively designing products, factories, and systems that reduce impact from the start. This approach not only improves sustainability but also boosts profitability. Purdue’s Environmental Engineering program is now ranked in the top ten nationally, it is believed to be the right time to elevate the school’s name to reflect the expanded focus: Sustainability and Environmental Engineering. This change will help attract top faculty and meet growing student demand.

Following full and frank discussion and upon proper motion duly made and seconded, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted unanimously to recommend full Board approval to rename the Division of Environmental and Ecological Engineering (EEE) to School of Sustainability Engineering and Environmental Engineering (SEE). Supporting materials were filed with the minutes.

**XII. UNIVERSITY SENATE REPORT**

Professor Mark Zimpfer, new university senate chair, began by introducing himself. He stated he is an associate professor of practice in the School of Construction Management Technology. He noted that on July 1<sup>st</sup>, he became the head of the School of Construction Management Technology.

He shared that both the school and its industry partners are enthusiastic and eager to launch the innovative apprenticeship program in Indianapolis, with strong support from the university. He also provided brief highlights from the April Senate meeting, noting significant progress. The Senate has now become a true university-wide body, following the successful motion by Senator Libby Richards to include CSAC and MAPSAC representatives and grant them voting rights—an important and long-overdue step toward inclusive governance.

Additionally, a resolution introduced by Senator Susan S. affirming the core mission and values of higher education was passed. However, a separate resolution, commonly referred to as the Rutgers resolution, which requested the President to establish a mutual academic defense compact as part of the Brighton Academic Alignment Alliance, did not pass.

Looking ahead, the Senate faces a full agenda in the coming year, but we are ready and committed to meeting the challenges presented by the evolving higher education landscape. He expressed his enthusiasm for continued collaboration with Board President Chang, Provost Wolfe, university leadership, and the Senate on behalf of Purdue University.

By consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.