

University Senate Newsletter
Second Meeting, 21 October 2024, Virtual**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair Susan South welcomed the Senate to the Second Meeting of the Academic year.

Chair South focused her remarks on the upcoming national election. She was heartened by the email from Purdue encouraging all eligible voters to vote. The message also emphasized that the University is committed to offering voting site choices for all future election cycles.

Chair South noted that the U.S. is unique among modern, industrialized, higher-income democracies for having among the lowest percent of turn-out among the eligible voter population. About 62% vote in national elections. Experts point to reliance on individual voting registration, voter ID requirements, and polling place accessibility. The 2020 election had among the highest voter turn-out in over a century, perhaps because states made voting easier during the COVID pandemic. When it is easier to vote, citizens take advantage of it. Chair South presented a slide showing the breakdown of voter percentages by age group over the last 30 years. The oldest age group had the highest percentage while the youngest age group had the lowest percentage. With arguably the greatest stake in our national elections, why are our youngest voters the least likely to vote? Political researchers point to voter apathy and distrust in our election system for the low voter turn-out.

Can we, as a college community dedicated to education, decrease that apathy by demonstrating the importance of voting and giving our students the tools to participate fully in our democracy? Chair South noted that colleges have come under attack by the conservative right and the liberal left. She mentioned the recent passing of SB202 and suggested it was a solution in search of a problem. The bill's sponsor might have taken time to talk with neighbors and constituents to learn about going into a college classroom and sharing subject matter knowledge free of any political biases. The fact that the bill passed should not discourage us from encouraging political participation by our students. The most recent former President of Purdue was invested in every undergraduate knowing about the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

The faculty, staff, and administration also benefit from on-campus polling places at their place of employment. She suggested that Purdue could host candidate debates and assist our community with voter registration. It is the definition of a Land Grant mission for Purdue to be a center for civic duty and opportunity.

Chair South has heard from parents, alumni/ae, local constituents, local representatives of national political parties, the ACLU, and the League of Women Voters in support of an on-campus day of voting. She appreciates the effort to provide buses and golf carts to take students to the voting center at City Hall. However, we can do more.

Any hurdle between a person and a polling place reduces their likelihood of voting. Along with the Senate leadership, she stands prepared to help reduce hurdles, work with local election boards, ensure on-campus day of voting, and encourage students, staff, and faculty to take advantage of all manners of voting to participate in our civic right. She encouraged all members of the Purdue community to vote.

Purdue President's Remarks

President Mung Chiang presented his remarks while in attendance at a national meeting.

President Chiang echoed the comments of Chair South. He said we all appreciate the Senate's support of the University's application with the Board of Elections for voting sites for an on-campus voting day.

President Chiang highlighted some of the ongoing support for the research efforts. He noted that EVP for Research Karen Plaut would expand on his comments.

1. Expanded SPS staffing by 25% based on suggestions from faculty.
2. Purchased ~\$10 million of software to aid faculty in writing and administering proposals. The PERA system is now operational and should enhance productivity.
3. With BoT approval, we will put forth a plan for the Life Sciences Interdisciplinary Research Building. This \$160 million proposal will be the top priority in our bi-annual request to the State legislature. If approved, there will be major renovation for the Departments related to Chemistry that are in four Colleges. Upgrades to Chemistry facilities are overdue.
4. We have rolled out initiatives and incentives to encourage publishing books as varied examples of scholarship. We want to support faculty in writing these publications.
5. He mentioned hosting dinners to present internal awards for teaching, research, engagement, and inventors. He would like to see Purdue faculty compete more for national awards to get a larger share than is currently awarded. We will increase efforts at all levels to achieve increases. More details will be provided in the Senate minutes.

President Chiang wrapped up his remarks by giving a shout out to EVP Plaut's office for their efforts in the research arena.

***** Status of Legislation *******Documents for Action – Passed**

- SD 24-01 Nominee for the Faculty Affairs Committee
- SD 23-02 Nominee for the University Resources Policy Committee

Documents for Discussion

- SD 24-03 Resolution for Voting Facilities and Times on Campus (The rules were suspended to vote on it at the October meeting. One minor wording amendment was approved, and the amended SD 24-03 was approved by > two-thirds vote, 81%.)

For Information

- PERA Presentation from Research and Partnerships
- Hiring and Recruitment Follow-up

University Senate Website

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc.
www.purdue.edu/senate/

Standing Committees

Educational Policy Committee, Howard E. Sypher, hsypher@purdue.edu

1. Ways to work with appropriate University offices to improve the percentage of students returning teaching evaluations
2. Participating in Provost-initiated "Originality Checking and AI Detection Task Force"
3. Exploring options for revisions of the graduate student grievance process
4. Considering policy revisions to the current Readmission Policy. Proposal from Committee on Scholastic Delinquencies and Readmissions (CSDR)
5. Still looking for two faculty replacements on EPC and liaison from EPC to UCC

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Brian Dilkes, bdilkes@purdue.edu and Geraldine Friedman, friedman@purdue.edu

1. Assessment of Recent Changes in Promotion and Tenure Cases (together with FAC)

Faculty Affairs Committee, Anish Vanaik, avanaik@purdue.edu and Françoise Brosseau-Lapr e, fbrossea@purdue.edu

1. SEA 202
2. Follow-up on SD 22-08 and Impact of SB1 on Purdue Healthcare
3. Liaising with sub-committee on Purdue Global and Purdue Online
4. Senate Communications
5. Guidelines for SUFIE
6. Assessment of Recent Changes in Promotion and Tenure Cases (together with EDIC)
7. Lecturers Advisory Committee
8. Revisions to University policy on:
 - A. Sabbatical Leave policy and operating procedures
 - B. Standard for Courtesy Appointment
 - C. Operating Procedures for reportable outside activity leaves
9. Transition to Elements for Annual Review

Nominating Committee, Damon Lisch, dlich@purdue.edu and Seema Mattoo, smattoo@purdue.edu

1. Managing new committee vacancies
2. Evaluating and balancing numbers, disposition and experience of Senators for equitable representation and task assignments

Steering Committee, Libby Richards, erichards@purdue.edu

1. Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests

Student Affairs Committee, Abigail S. Engelberth, aengelbe@purdue.edu

1. Class Size

University Resource Policy Committee, Lori Hoagland, lhoaglan@purdue.edu

1. Parking regulations and appeals process
2. Issues around Bicycle Parking

Faculty Committees

Members are any tenured/tenure-track, clinical, & prof. faculty who volunteer. Please respond to the call for volunteers issued in January or contact the relevant committee chairs directly if you are interested in serving.

- **Academic Organization** ([Mark Wilson](#), Aeronautics and Astronautics / EPC)
- **Academic Progress and Records** (TBD)
- **Athletic Affairs** ([Chip Blatchley](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Budget Interpretation, Evaluation, & Review** ([George Zhou](#), Civil Engineering)
- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits** ([Laura B. Hawkins](#), School of Nursing / FAC)
- **Grade Appeals** ([Ryan Reeves](#), Polytechnic Statewide)
- **Library Committee** ([Alexander Francis](#), ULC Chair, Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences)
- **Parking and Traffic** ([Josh Widhalm](#), Horticulture & Landscape Architecture)
- **Scholastic Delinquencies and Readmissions** ([Megan Dorton](#), Sr. Assoc. Director of Admissions)
- **Staff Appeal Board for Traffic Regulations** ([Stephanie Winder](#), MaPSAC / URPC)
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Council** ([Andres Vargas](#), Daniels School of Business)
- **Sustainability** ([Michael Johnston](#), English / URPC and [Amanda Darbyshire](#), Veterinary Clinical Sciences)
- **Visual Arts and Design** ([Laura Bittner](#), Design, Art, and Performance / URPC)

Contact the committee chairs (listed above) for more information.

Most of the work of the University Senate happens in committees. Standing Committees are composed of Senate members and university advisors. Faculty committees are composed of faculty members and often have non-faculty liaisons. Recommendations from committees come to the full Senate for consideration and vote.

Charge of the Purdue University Senate: The University Senate is the governing body of the faculty, subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees and in consultation with the President, it has the power and responsibility to propose or to adopt policies, regulations and procedures intended to achieve the educational objectives of Purdue University and the general welfare of those involved in these educational processes. The University Senate follows the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* and our [Bylaws](#).