

**University Senate Newsletter**  
**Seventh Meeting, 21 April 2025, Virtual**

**Senate Chair's Remarks:**

Chair South opened her remarks by thanking her Senate leadership colleagues for their work this academic year.

Chair South focused her comments on the state of higher education in the U.S.

In 2015, 60% of U.S. citizens expressed trust in colleges and universities. By 2024, that figure had decreased to about 33%.

Between 1940 and 2015 the percent of U.S. citizens 25 and older who completed high school rose from about 5% to about 28%. In the same time span, the percentage for college completion rose from less than 5% to about 28%.

Chair South noted, as has long been known, that women in the age group 25 – 34 earn less in wages than do men regardless of educational attainment. These data are from a 2022 study.

Chair South next reminded faculty and staff members of the following points:

- The mission of higher education is and always has been important.
  - You should know that you are valued.
  - You should know that you are changing lives.
- Chair South concluded her remarks.

**Purdue President's Remarks**

President Chiang began his remarks by thanking Chair South for her outstanding leadership and collaboration with the administration over the last academic year. He also looks forward to Professor Mark Zimpfer's leadership beginning in June.

President Chiang read from detailed prepared remarks that will be included in the Senate Minutes. He covered the following topics:

**Topic 1: Successes and Positive Impact Items**

- **Faculty and Staff Hiring and Retention:** Unlike peer institutions in a long and increasing list, Purdue is not freezing hiring or salaries.
- **Research Funding and Opportunities:** In just the past two months, Purdue faculty have been awarded over 500 grants totaling over \$140 million from the U.S. Department of Energy, the NSF, NASA, the NIH, the U.S. DoD, and the USDA. Faculty have also been awarded \$26.4 million from industry partners.
- **Investment in the Latest Facilities:**
  - Nursing and Pharmacy Education Building
  - Mitch Daniels School of Business Building
  - Academic Success Building
  - Modernization of the Birck Nanotechnology Center and Zucrow High-Speed Propulsion Lab
  - Planned Life Science Research Building and a facility for four departments involving chemistry.
  - Enhanced commercial air service is coming to Purdue University Airport. Flights are expected to begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the same day the Amelia Earhart Terminal opens at the airport.
  - A nearly 1,000 bed student housing facility is on track to open this summer at Third Street and McCormick Road, with another new residence hall expected next year.

**Purdue President's Remarks (cont.)**
**Topic 2: Bridge Funding Program to Support Faculty, Staff, & Students**

We remain committed to supporting the vital research and scholarly efforts happening every day at Purdue. The recently launched 2025 Bridge Funding Program will support our researchers and scholars to maintain continuity following any unanticipated terminations or interruptions of external funding.

**Topic 3: International Student Visas**

Purdue has been in contact with anyone who has become aware of a change in their visa status according to government databases. Student inquiries should be directed to Christine Collins ([ccollins@purdue.edu](mailto:ccollins@purdue.edu)). Faculty, staff, and postdoc inquiries should be directed to Amanda Thompson ([thomp557@purdue.edu](mailto:thomp557@purdue.edu))

**Topic 4: Learning AI**

AI literacy will be a crucial foundational requirement for all our students. We are hopeful for the Senate's input on some kind of AI literacy expectation. We are eager to ensure

\*\*\* Status of Legislation \*\*\*

**Documents for Action – Consent Agenda (approved)**

- Senate Document 24-13 Bylaws Revision Re CSSAC and MaPSAC Senate Members
- Senate Document 24-15 Nominees for the Educational Policy Committee
- Senate Document 24-16 Nominees for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
- Senate Document 24-17 Nominees for the Faculty Affairs Committee
- Senate Document 24-18 Nominees for the Nominating Committee
- Senate Document 24-19 Nominees for the Steering Committee
- Senate Document 24-20 Nominees for the Student Affairs Committee
- Senate Document 24-21 Nominee for the University Resources Policy

**Documents for Discussion**

- Senate Document 24-14 Resolution Concerning Big Ten Faculty Leadership Statement- Rules suspended, discussion and voting occurred, document approved
- Senate Document 24-23 Mutual Academic Defense Compact (MADC)- Rules suspended, discussion and voting occurred, document not approved as it did not achieve the two-thirds majority in favor required when the rules are suspended

**For Information**

- Purdue Indianapolis Report

**Memorial Resolution**

Dr. Carolyn E. Johnson

**University Senate Website**

Please visit the Senate website for copies of Documents, Reports, Slides, etc.

## Standing Committees

### Educational Policy Committee, Vincent Duffy, [duffy@purdue.edu](mailto:duffy@purdue.edu)

1. Indy Operations exam administration efforts
2. Assessing the need for AI regulations, the nature of AI use, available training
3. PSG PGSG Joint Resolution: Purdue University Voter Accessibility Policy
4. Well-being and stress management; including PSG Mental Health Days Initiative
5. Updating academic withdrawal language in academic regulations
6. Practices of departments requiring certain grades in specific courses, academic notice
7. Student Success, including communications re: brief DRC status update
8. Communication with Faculty Committees reporting to EPC

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Brian Dilkes, [bdilkes@purdue.edu](mailto:bdilkes@purdue.edu)

1. Possible committee name change
2. Compliance

### Faculty Affairs Committee, Anish Vanaik, [avanaik@purdue.edu](mailto:avanaik@purdue.edu) and Françoise Brosseau-Lapr , [fbrossea@purdue.edu](mailto:fbrossea@purdue.edu)

1. SD 24-07 (sent to Senate for action)
2. Impact and responses to SEA 202
3. Follow up with concerned parents regarding ECEC
4. Lecturers Advisory Committee
5. Assessment of recent changes in P and T process
6. University Innovation and Entrepreneurship framework

### Nominating Committee, Damon Lisch, [dlisch@purdue.edu](mailto:dlisch@purdue.edu) and Seema Mattoo, [smattoo@purdue.edu](mailto:smattoo@purdue.edu)

1. Managing 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](mailto:erichards@purdue.edu)

1. Soliciting reports and informational sessions in response to faculty and committee requests
2. Collaborating with PSG and PGSG to facilitate resolution review

### Student Affairs Committee, Abigail S. Engelberth, [aengelbe@purdue.edu](mailto:aengelbe@purdue.edu)

1. Class Size
2. Equitable Parking
3. Move-in Package
4. Professional Excused Absences

### University Resource Policy Committee, Lori Hoagland, [lhoaglan@purdue.edu](mailto:lhoaglan@purdue.edu)

1. Parking regulations and appeals process
2. Issues around parking at bicycle racks
3. PSG/PGSG resolutions around voting, move-in packages and equitable 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.

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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](#).