

Questions

Continued Support.....

In light of the recent reduction or suspension of financial support for university research, and a subsequent announcement from multiple universities of their plans of budget freezes, hiring freezes, PhD admissions, etc., are there any similar plans at Purdue?

- Purdue has no plans to implement hiring or admissions freezes, nor salary freeze. Please see the **recent communication** shared with faculty and staff on April 10 for additional information.

ICE/International Students at Purdue.....

In light of what happened this past week at Columbia University, could the university please offer clear institutional guidance about what faculty, staff, and RA students should do if ICE comes to campus to detain a student and/or demands information about international students?

- All warrants and government subpoenas should first be reviewed by the Office of Legal Counsel. If you have questions about what to do in the scenario of being presented with a warrant or government subpoena, standard protocol has always been posted on the **Office of Legal Counsel website**.

Free Speech.....

Is the University committed to protecting the free speech and right to assembly for all University students, staff, and faculty, despite illegal threats to federal funding levied by the President of the United States? Or will the University capitulate to these threats, suppressing student and faculty rights in the hopes that the University will be spared from the whims of a capricious tyrant?

- Purdue University has long been consistently committed to free and open inquiry. More information can be found on the **Freedom of Expression and Use of University Facilities website**.

Easter at Westwood.....

Given that the Purdue President is hosting an Easter event, what are his plans to host events for other major religious holidays such as Ramadan?

- The egg hunt is not a religious event. It's part of the annual Spring Fest family weekend activities throughout campus.

Gender Inclusive Housing.....

Attendees of "Purdue's for me" are being informed that someone in upper administration has decided to end gender inclusive housing for fall 2025. Has Purdue decided to discriminate against transgender students and deny them equal access to safe on campus housing? Will students who have already committed be issued full refunds? This is outrageous.

- Fall 2025 housing assignments for continuing students, made in December, remain unchanged.

Purdue University Regulations.....

Professor Xiaofeng Wang from IU was fired by IU administrators on Friday March 28 on the same day as an FBI and DHS raid on his home. Both he and his wife's names were removed from IU's Websites on March 30. No charges have been filed against Wang or his wife. Wang was fired without identifying any cause and without following the IU policy ACA-52, Section D.

My question is: Will Purdue administration follow Purdue University regulations if such an event were to happen at Purdue or cave in to what gives the appearance of political pressure as in the case of IU administration?

References material:

Media link: <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/fired-prof-accused-of-research-misconduct-fbi-involvement-unclear.php>

<https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/faculty-group-says-iu-violated-policy-when-firing-professor.php>

Letter from Provost firing: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25874530-wangx-terminationmarch282029-1/?mode=document>

Letter from IU Computer Science faculty to Provost Rahul Shrivastav)

Wikipedia page: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiaofeng_Wang_\(computer_scientist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiaofeng_Wang_(computer_scientist))

- Purdue is not IU. Situations at IU can be explained by IU.

Campus Transportation.....

We are voicing concerns about the changes to campus transportation as Purdue shifts from CityBus to Sp+. Will Purdue commit to providing a means for public transportation between Lafayette, where many students, staff, and faculty in the Purdue community live, and campus? At present there are two buses, the 4B and the connector, that provide this service.

- Final details are still in progress, but the [online FAQs](#) offer the most current guidance. We will continue to provide updates as summer and fall transportation plans are confirmed.

Public Engagement.....

In light of Trustee Gary Lehman's suggestion that Purdue stay "under the radar" such that "We don't want to stick our heads up too high, because when you do that, you're a target" - how will Purdue continue to put forward public engagement as a key priority for our scholarship and research agendas while navigating a federal landscape that actively destabilizes scientific consensus and public scientific institutions? Another way to ask this question is: How will Purdue researchers contribute to the land grant mission of scientific inquiry in the public interest without taking stands on public issues, drawing attention to Purdue, or relegating our focus to narrow technical questions?

- Please address questions regarding comments by Trustees to the Board of Trustees.

Issues Related to Low Merit Increase.....

While the university touts 14 years of flat tuition, faculty and staff have faced substantial financial challenges including, but not limited to, raises that do not come close to keeping up with the cost of living, medical plans with rising deductibles and now worsening prescription coverage (see email received from HR 3.31.25). AffirmedRx is not providing coverage for preventive medications which were previously covered by Caremark. None of this was clearly communicated with employees previously. Employees are now, not only facing less money in their pockets due to inflation and subpar raises but are also paying more for medical and prescription drug costs. Employees feel like they are being hit with rising prescription costs while they are already down financially. Importantly, faculty and staff have performed their jobs admirably to get past COVID and to deal with ever-increasing size of students in our classes, and they are responsible for the excellent metrics the administration touts (e.g., most innovative lists, public ivy, etc.). What is the

rationale for not imposing even a small increase in tuition to help provide more financial support for employees?

- At a time when many universities have chosen 0% salary raise and 0 staff hiring, Purdue is in a strong position financially to make salary investments even this year. The university's composite merit increase from FY22-26 is the highest over a five-year period in at least the last quarter century and the three-year compounded increase for FY23-25 was 11.4%.

SuccessFactors.....

On January 31, I received a notice from SuccessFactors that I needed to complete 2025 Cybersecurity Awareness Employee Training.

I completed the training on February 1.

I observed that the training did not show as completed, and sent an e-mail the same day to the contact address listed in the original e-mail, oecomm@purdue.edu.

I never received a response.

On March 2, I received an e-mail from SuccessFactors telling me that I was overdue on the training.

I sent them an e-mail explaining the situation. I received no response.

On March 31, I received another Overdue Learning notice. On April 1, I sent them an e-mail explaining the situation. I received no response.

Despite considerable effort, I have been unable to find a telephone number for this office. I have discovered that at least one colleague in the Daniels School is in the same situation as I am.

My question is, is there some way to get these people to respond to e-mails to the contact address they list in their communications?

- High volume has caused some delay in response to emails coming into the oecomm@purdue.edu inbox. To better serve our employees, Organizational Effectiveness has created the following emails and has assigned multiple subject matter experts to each email address.
 - o OElearning@purdue.edu will handle questions related to learning/LMS assignments.
 - o OESTAR@purdue.edu will handle any questions related to the STAR program.
 - o OEcomm@purdue.edu will handle general questions and those related to the web and communications.