

Board of Trustees  
Stewart Center  
Friday, April 7, 2006  
Dr. Martin C. Jischke

Governance Report  
On Diversity

Good morning. Today we have one of the most important and comprehensive Board of Trustees governance reports of the year. Our topic this morning is diversity on all of our Purdue University campuses.

As we have noted before, diversity is important for everyone on our campuses. It is not for the benefit of minority students alone. Diversity is a tide that raises all ships. It is vital to the learning environment at Purdue. All of our students, faculty and staff benefit tremendously through interaction with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. In the years ahead, our students will live and work in an increasingly globalized world where they will need to interact with a wide variety of people, cultures and customs.

Diversity on our campuses prepares students for their future. Diversity on our campuses also helps to break down stereotypes and misinformation that are the breeding grounds of intolerance.

It is a major role of universities today to promote understanding, to bring diverse groups of people together so they can explore their differences, their commonalities and learn from one another.

Today we have prepared for the Board a comprehensive governance report on diversity at Purdue University. It is our third governance report on diversity. It continues the commitment we made to update you annually on our progress in this important area.

In April of 2004 we made a two-hour presentation to the board explaining diversity on our campuses and what we are doing to promote it. We updated that last year detailing some specific initiatives that were under way. Today we will tell you where we are succeeding and where we have more work to do. The elevation of diversity as a university priority is one of our goals at Purdue today. It is a goal that has been set by this board. We are using our Strategic Plans as vehicles to address holistically the full range of diversity issues.

Diversity is an overarching initiative in our Strategic Plans. That means it is a factor in everything we are doing. The entire enterprise of this university is involved in promoting diversity. We are engaging university leadership in setting objectives, devising plans to achieve those objectives, and in being accountable.

Today you will hear reports from four individuals covering six different areas. You will first hear from our Provost, Sally Mason, who will talk about a court decision, plus faculty, undergraduate and graduate student diversity. Next you will hear from Vice President for Human Relations Alys Rollock whose topics will be staff demography and the diversity climate at Purdue. The next report will be from Executive Vice President and Treasurer Morgan Olsen who will discuss diversity in procurement and construction. Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Morgan Burke will give the final report discussing diversity in our athletic program. I will return at the end for concluding remarks. This presentation will last for about one hour. I encourage you to ask questions as we go and we will be happy to take further questions at the conclusion. Thank you.