

Mr. Chairman, Madame President. Good morning to all. I trust you will bear with me for my final report, as the faculty representative.

But first I would like to introduce Joan Fulton the newly elected vice chair of the senate. Joan has a long list of accomplishments to her credit and we look forward to her leadership over the next two years.

Let me summarize some of highlights of the most recent university senate meeting.

1. The senate increased the representatives of CSSAC and APSAC from one non-voting representative to two, in order to have additional input from the staff on issues of common concern—health care for example.
2. The senate approved the creation of a URPC subcommittee on IT to work with Dr. McCartney and the administration on core IT issues that affect faculty, staff, students and the educational and research missions of the university. This committee represents the joint efforts of Dr. McCartney and the URPC to solicit critical input. Thank you Dr. McCartney.
3. The Senate approved a new policy on Academic Renewal for Returning Students: if after having been away from the university for five years, upon readmission and the satisfactory completion of 12 credit hours within one calendar year, the student can petition to have their index reset to zero and re-initialize a degree program from ground zero. The transcript will remain intact. Five peer institutions including Ohio State and Penn State have such policies as does the Oklahoma System.
4. In this my last opportunity for gratitude, I want to again thank Jim Almond, John Shipley, Mike Ludwig, Larry Pherson, and Lucia Anderson (along with my outstanding vice chair Howie Z) for their interactive efforts and faculty-staff dialogues to improve the functionality of OnePurdue:
  - (i) Reporting
  - (ii) Benchmarks of performance
  - (iii) Improved purchasing guidelines for research contracts
  - (iv) The non-need of a OnePurdue website—after discussions with Lucia Anderson and her staff, it appears that most of the desired info is available in various locations, but not all. So much of the problem can be handled by the generation of a portal that directs inquiries to the appropriate PU website. Details are under development.
5. Banner. Perhaps everyone has heard about the wonder of Banner. It is definitely a package moving in the right direction. Over the last year, I have facilitated several meetings sometimes a bit rocky and often humorous with administration and faculty/staff on access permissions for staff and administrative assistants, drop-adds, grade reporting/uploading, student classification, etc. A few minor things have been accomplished but no substantial progress on issues has been made. For example, faculty want email notifications of student drop-adds—at this point we have no clue unless we compare existing and updated rosters—and we desire grade uploads from excel spread sheets—which most of us use. I have been assured that the issues discussed have been sent to a “Competency Center for Review” and solutions will be forthcoming. My hope is that Howie and Joan will receive a speedier support level, see the needed progress implemented, and report good news.
6. The email report is still a work in-progress.

7. This brings me to some closing remarks: I asked myself what message could the outgoing senate chair leave with the board and the here present administrators. Everyone in this room is exceptionally gifted. CEOs, entrepreneurs, presidents, chancellors, even a provost with an ag background. My conclusion: Nothing that all of you do not already know. However, upon further reflection I thought I might be able to remind you of a few of things:

(i) Please remember to talk to the ordinary faculty and staff member as part of the decision making process—find out what they are thinking. There is usually a difference in the information you receive from on-high from what you would receive from us “ordinary” folk. FDR did this taxi cab drivers and random people off the streets, and it kept his staff honest. Mike Burke and John Hardin addressed the senate two years ago this past March during which it was said that there is a difference between their view of how the university was doing and what us ordinary folk thought. I believe trustee Hardin asked the question: is there a difference? The answer was yes.

(ii) Please remember that us ordinary faculty and staff are often ordinary by choice, not by skill level or intellect or drive. Many of us have chosen not to be corporate executives, and especially not provosts, deans, dept heads etc., and have sometimes turned down offers to be in corporate positions. So please seek out our views from the beginning. Such an approach takes longer, is inefficient, but is much healthier--I believe the strategic plan began that way. Thank you President Cordova.

(iii) Finally, please remember to ask the question: How does all the fund raising, research parks, research centers, etc. improve the academic achievement of our ordinary students and the professional life of our ordinary, yet extraordinary, faculty and staff—to paraphrase Ben Franklin, does all that activity improve the common good and scholarly activity of the broad Purdue University community. Talk to us ordinary folk and find out.

Thank you all for a most interesting year.

Ray DeCarlo  
Chair, Purdue University Senate  
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