



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Trustees

From: Steve Schultz, SVP and General Counsel

Cc: Mung Chiang, President  
Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs and Diversity  
Christopher A. Ruhl, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer  
Alysa Christmas Rollock, Vice President for Ethics and Compliance

Re:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE TRUSTEES OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

- (1) DELEGATING FURTHER AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO REQUIREMENTS OF SENATE ENROLLED ACT 202 (2024); AND**
  - (2) ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY**
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**WHEREAS,** \_\_\_\_\_ of The Trustees of Purdue University (the \_\_\_\_\_ is vested under the laws of the State of Indiana with the power to, among other things, \_\_\_\_\_ necessary and expedient to put and keep Purdue University in operation \_\_\_\_\_ -27-7-4) make all bylaws, rules and regulations required or proper to conduct and manage Purdue University \_\_\_\_\_ -27-7-5); and

**WHEREAS,** Indiana law further empowers the Board to delegate the authority that it possesses, recognizing that no manner of delegation is irrevocable (IC 21-38-3-2); and

**WHEREAS,** over the 155-year history of Purdue University, the Board has from time to time exercised the legal discretion afforded to it to delegate certain authority and responsibilities to administrators and faculty of the University, notably pursuant to:

the Bylaws of the Corporation, which establish the officers of the Corporation and confer upon the President of the University, subject to the control of the Board, the authority to direct and be responsible for the conduct of all the affairs of the University except those which by law or [the] Bylaws are made the specific responsibility of the Treasurer or other persons; and

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the Faculty of the University

**WHEREAS**, SEA 202 requires the Board to adopt a policy on institutional neutrality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board now desires to further delegate additional authority and responsibilities for complying with SEA 202, to clarify the Delegation of Faculty Responsibility for the first time in 60 years, and to adopt a policy statement on institutional neutrality as required by SEA 202;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board as follows:

1. The Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity (the is hereby delegated authority, in consultation with the President and the regional campus Chancellors, to empanel a diversity committee for each Purdue campus as described in IC 21-27-7-6, as amended by SEA 202 (each, a following general parameters:
  - a. The Diversity Committee for Purdue West Lafayette shall assume responsibility for overseeing the work of the Equity Task Force established in 2020 as one of the Purdue Next Moves initiatives;
  - b. Each Diversity Committee shall, in addition to meeting other statutory requirements, develop recommendations for (i) programming that substantially promotes both cultural and intellectual diversity, and (ii) ensuring that the mission of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at Purdue West Lafayette (and each comparable office at Purdue Fort Wayne and Purdue Northwest) includes such programming in each case as provided in IC 21-38-10-1; and
  - c. Each Diversity Committee shall, in connection with its review and recommendation of policies (as required by IC 21-27-7-6), coordinate closely with the Executive Policy Review Group established under the auspices of the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance acting pursuant to delegated University policymaking authority from the President under University policy V.B.5.
2. In furtherance of the responsibilities delegated to the Provost herein and in the Prior Resolution, the authority of the Provost as the chief academic officer for the University system, having the responsibilities set forth in policy V.B.5 including responsibility for

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threaten the very mission of the university and its values of free inquiry. In such a crisis, it becomes the obligation of the university as an institution to oppose such measures and actively to defend its interests and its values.”

Purdue University endorses the Kalven Report’s ultimate conclusion that, aside from these special exceptions, there is “a heavy presumption against the university taking collective action or expressing opinions on the political and social issues of the day, or modifying its corporate activities to foster social or political values, however compelling and appealing they may be.”

Of course, recognizing Purdue University’s commitment to freedom of expression and its role as “the home and sponsor of critics,” individual members of the campus community will always be free to express their views on a particular policy proposal or in a debate over a particular political or social issue, provided that such views or concerns are expressed in a personal capacity and do not purport to be official statements of Purdue University.

