

MEMORANDUM

TO: James McHann, Chair
University Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Cigdem Gurgur, Chair
Senate Executive Committee

DATE: 10/02/2024

SUBJ: Charge to University Resources Advisory Committee Concerning Daycare at PFW

Brief Background. Although this issue has evolved considerably since this date, on August 26, 2024, a PFW faculty member concerned about the contents of the email attached to this charge brought it to the Executive Committee's attention. Based upon the contents of Bylaws Section II.A.2.2.1., this faculty member specifically requested that a Senate committee investigate the following matters connected to this message:

- 1) the circumstances under which this decision was made, including any research or consultation with interested parties that took place;
- 2) the evidence that was used to justify this decision; and
- 3) any concrete and definite plans that the university has to replace the services for faculty, staff and students that are currently being withdrawn.

Given URAC's charge (which is based on a delegated power given to faculty by Section A.405.j. of [Purdue's document on this subject](#)) to make formal recommendations concerning "the planning, maintenance, and optimal utilization of existing or prospective physical facilities" (Bylaws IV.A.2.2.2.), the fact that [The Learning Community](#) (TLC) is currently housed in a building owned by the [Purdue Fort Wayne Foundation](#) (an entity whose sole purpose is to invest in PFW), and the former URPC's long history of engaging with daycare issues on (I)PFW's campus, the Executive Committee has decided that URAC would be the logical choice to look into the issues raised by this faculty member's request.

The actual charge(s) incl. due dates and deliverables. Therefore, the Executive Committee requests that URAC conduct as thorough of a fact-finding operation as possible concerning these matters and produce a report summarizing its findings. This report should be prefaced with a brief history of childcare policy at (I)PFW to contextualize the current controversy surrounding The Learning Community and, given that TLC may not be the university's childcare provider in the future, conclude with recommendations about what childcare policies PFW should pursue going forward. The Executive Committee strongly recommends that URAC consult with current and retired faculty members who have engaged with the issue of daycare on campus, current and former users of The Learning Community's services, and the leadership of TLC to simplify their fact-finding task.

Additionally, the Executive Committee fervently suggests that URAC coordinate its endeavors with parallel work being done on this issue by APSAC and CSSAC to reduce wasteful duplication of effort; URAC should also consult with interested members of the administration to ensure that their perspectives are fully taken into account. Since this issue is highly time-sensitive, the Executive Committee requests that this report be made available on or before the January 2025 Senate document deadline (December 9, 2024) to discuss it at that Senate meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Committee with any concerns about this charge.

Approved

K. Barker
B. Buldt
C. Gurgur
J. Johns
J. McHann
J. Nowak
L. Roberts

Opposed

Abstention

Absent

Non-Voting

C. Ortsey

From: Glen Nakata <gnekata@pfw.edu>

Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 11:49

To: Glen Nakata <gnekata@pfw.edu>

Subject: The Learning Community

Dear PFW Parents,

We have some important information to share with you regarding The Learning Community. The building and property where TLC is located is owned by the Purdue Fort Wayne Foundation and operated by the university. It is provided to TLC, along with several key services such as full facility maintenance, at no charge to TLC. We are pleased to have been able to offer this substantial benefit to TLC and its clients for well over a decade.

Unfortunately, the building, which opened in 1989, is in need of frequent repairs annually to meet code requirements and major renovations to ensure its long-term viability. With no revenue generated from that location, these necessary expenses have become cost-prohibitive and the PFW Foundation is exploring options for the property. The current agreement with TLC ends in December, but we will be extending that arrangement through the end of the current 2024-25 academic year in May.

The spring date was chosen in order to provide time for the foundation to find an acceptable option for the site, which ideally would include a child care provider. It also provides TLC a five-month extension to its current service agreement, which was set to expire Dec. 31. This information was communicated to TLC today.

We can assure you members of university and foundation leadership are working diligently to find viable options for the site.

We understand that any change of this nature, regardless of the advance notice provided, can present significant stress for you and your family. We will provide updates as they become available and, in the weeks ahead, will provide resources and support accordingly.

Glen Nakata

Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs

Purdue University Fort Wayne

Email: gnakata@pfw.edu