

MEMORANDUM OF RESOLUTION

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: A. Marshall
Executive Committee
Steve Buttes
Senator at Large for the College of Liberal Arts

DATE: November 19, 2021

SUBJ: Graduation Requirement Resolution

WHEREAS one of the enumerated powers given to the Faculty through its representative body, the Fort Wayne Senate, by the [Constitution](#) of the Faculty of Purdue University Fort Wayne is to “review and approve the general requirements for the curricula leading toward academic degrees or certificates”; and,

WHEREAS the Purdue Board of Trustees unilaterally voted to establish a new graduation requirement for PFW undergraduate students without consulting the PFW Faculty through its representative body, the Fort Wayne Senate; and,

WHEREAS Indiana state law ([IC 21-26-5-3](#)) stipulates that “The board of trustees, the president, the faculty, and the administration of Purdue University shall recognize the need for Purdue University Fort Wayne to develop unique policies and practices in support of its mission and shall encourage within the Purdue University system opportunities for flexibility and autonomy”; and,

WHEREAS the University Senate of Purdue University West Lafayette found that the Purdue Board of Trustees “failed to appropriately engage the governing bodies at Purdue-Fort Wayne and Purdue-Northwest before making its unilateral decision to . . . apply [the graduation requirement] to students at those campuses” and “failed to undertake appropriate self-limitation when it comes to areas for which the faculty are primarily responsible” and therefore failed to adhere to “authoritative norms of shared governance” ([SD 20-60](#)); and,

WHEREAS in an October 18, 2021 letter to Professor Stephen Beaudoin, Chair of the University Senate at Purdue University West Lafayette, Professor Kim Scipes, Chair of the Purdue University Northwest Senate, announced that the Purdue Northwest Senate voted unanimously to support the Purdue University West Lafayette Senate’s resolution; and,

WHEREAS the “Fort Wayne Senate Statement on Shared Governance” ([SD 16-26](#)) asserts that “[t]he Fort Wayne Senate views the American Association of University Professors’ (AAUP) ‘[Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#)’ as the starting point of reference for all conversations about shared governance” ([SD 16-26](#)); and,

WHEREAS the “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities,” written jointly by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (to which the Purdue Board of Trustees belongs), recommends that “The faculty sets the requirements for the degrees offered in course, determines when the requirements have been met, and authorizes the president and board to grant the degrees thus achieved”; and,

WHEREAS the Higher Learning Commission concluded in its 2021 “Reaffirmation Review” that the “faculty own academic requirements, policies, and procedures” ([SR 21-5](#)) because Purdue Fort Wayne, in coordination with the PFW Chancellor, Purdue President, and Purdue Board of Trustees, created an Assurance Argument for Accreditation that asserts that “Purdue has given PFW authority to control its undergraduate academic programs” through “[t]he University Senate [which] actively engages faculty through the development and implementation of academic policies consistent with a traditional operational paradigm of shared governance” ([Assurance filing 5.A.1](#)); and

WHEREAS in its unilateral decision to mandate a graduation requirement without first consulting faculty on the campuses impacted, the Purdue Board of Trustees failed to engage in the collaborative and democratic decision-making processes at the heart of civics education and embedded in shared governance policies and norms at PFW;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Purdue Fort Wayne Senate endorses Purdue University West Lafayette Senate Resolution 20-60; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Purdue Fort Wayne Senate endorses the Purdue University Northwest Senate’s unanimous vote to support Resolution 20-60; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Purdue Fort Wayne Senate calls on the PFW Chancellor, Purdue President and Purdue Board of Trustees to follow authoritative norms of shared governance, respecting its prior delegation of authority on matters of the curriculum and graduation to the purview of the Faculty through the Fort Wayne Senate.