

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Fort Wayne Senate

From: Assem Nasr, Chair
Executive Committee of the Fort Wayne Senate

Date: March 15, 2023

Subj: Reminder to Our Administrative Leadership

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee Report submitted its report on Administrative Compliance for the Senate to consider (see SR 22-27), which shows a mixed record of both compliance and (non-)compliance; and

WHEREAS, Purdue University Fort Wayne adopted with SD 19-24 a clear policy concerning “program reorganization, merger, reduction, and/or elimination;” and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the administration decided to implement an important change of academic structure: the reorganization resulting in the elimination of the College of Professional Studies; and

WHEREAS, two Senate committees, the Curriculum Review Subcommittee and the Graduate Subcommittee, both determined that the administration did not go through structures and processes of shared governance as detailed in SD19-24; and

WHEREAS, in any organization of substantial size and complexity, adherence to agreed upon and written policies is the among the most important means available to grow and maintain mutual trust which is the lifeblood of a healthy and productive cooperation among the organization’s stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, said dissolution of College of Professional Studies was just one among other recent incidences where the administration unilaterally implemented changes that violate established policies (e.g., sabbatical procedures and funding), override previously agreed upon plans (e.g., academic advising), ignore faculty concerns (e.g., redesign of webpages), or sideline affected faculty or faculty bodies (e.g., initiating studies on Greek life);

BE IT RESOLVED that Senate reminds our administrative leadership of the fact that (what many perceive as) the continued erosion of trust faculty can put in the actions of our administrative leadership team will lead to more faculty feeling jaded, which makes us weaker as an institution and as a community as we cannot move forward and advance our mission with disengaged faculty.