

Question Time

This summer (as in many past summers), the campus community learned about more centralization of administrative functions—work that was once done at PFW that will now be done at Purdue-WL (most recent examples: printing services, travel reimbursements). Could the administration provide information about how the terms of these work shifts are negotiated? Given that Purdue-WL has greater institutional power than PFW in the Purdue system, given that we pay West Lafayette for these services, and given that the budgets of PFW and Purdue-WL remain separate state allocations (a fact we are all painfully aware of as we experience tuition hikes and pay cuts (accounting for inflation) while Purdue-WL gets tuition freezes and raises), can our administration reassure us that it is negotiating fair terms as these processes get centralized, and that Purdue-WL is not taking advantage of its greater institutional power to profit monetarily from our increased administrative reliance on them? A related question regards the job losses and disruptions caused by these centralizations. Can the administration provide information about job losses that have resulted from the centralization of processes and reassure us that the savings netted by these centralizations make up for the loss of valued employees, the work disruptions shouldered by the rest of us, and the monetary cost we pay Purdue-WL to do these things for us?

N. Borbieva