

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate
FROM: Cigdem Gurgur, Executive Committee Chair
Steve Carr, Voting Faculty
DATE: 23 August 2024
SUBJ: Report to Fort Wayne Senate Regarding Summer Changes to the Organization

Report to Fort Wayne Senate Regarding Summer Changes to the Organization

WHEREAS significant changes to the organizational structure of Purdue University Fort Wayne occurred right before or during Summer 2024 and which will have significant impact upon areas of primary faculty responsibility and action; and,

WHEREAS these changes included sudden and significant changes to the Office of Graduate Studies, consolidation of all Purdue University Fort Wayne information technology support under the West Lafayette campus where support for many core functions at our campus now reside, and termination of dozens of long-time loyal employees who provided vital functions for the effective operation of the institution; and,

WHEREAS these administrative choices implemented radical restructuring of the organization during the dead of summer when they would be least accountable to faculty, students, or elected representative bodies who might have acted on behalf of these constituencies; and,

WHEREAS [Senate Document SD 19-3](#) noted in 2019 “campus administration’s abrupt and unilateral decision to close College TV occurred during the summer, when Senate was not in session, and without any opportunity for the Voting Faculty, through any Governing Body, to weigh in and exercise its powers and responsibilities before the decision took place”; and,

WHEREAS in 2020 [Senate Document SD 19-26](#) called upon university administration to take reasonable steps seeking faculty input for “determinations made outside of faculty primary responsibility, including but not limited to the restructuring of non-academic units or the elimination of staff and other positions” so that it would confer “first with faculty through established channels and procedures of shared government to assess the impact of those decisions upon areas of primary faculty responsibility and action,” scheduling a special summer session of Senate if necessary; and,

WHEREAS [Senate Reference SR 21-4](#) in 2021 noted that “this summer (as in many past summers), the campus community learned about more centralization of administrative functions” only once faculty and students had returned for Fall 2020; and,

WHEREAS [Senate Reference SR 21-9](#) noted that the decision to eliminate Printing Services in 2021 was made without input from Academic Units on this campus” and that “information about the planned closure was not released to the university until the summer when most faculty were not on contract”; and,

WHEREAS [Senate Reference SR 22-27](#) found that administration only “partly complied with” Senate

Document SD 19-26, still making “some decisions on its own” during Summer 2020 “that, under SD 19-26, would require Senate action”;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Purdue University Fort Wayne Senate invite administration to present at the October meeting a detailed report outlining all administrative changes to the organizational structure immediately before and during Summer 2024, including explanations of each decision and rationales for making structural changes to the organization, for the timing of those changes, and for why those changes could not wait until appropriate Senate action in the Fall; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fort Wayne Senate invite administration to submit a similar and recurring report for the agenda of every subsequent September Senate meeting, and at each first Senate meeting of the academic year present a detailed inventory of all administrative changes to organizational structure that occurred since the Senate’s preceding April meeting, including explanations of each decision and rationales for making those changes, for the timing of those changes, and for why those changes could not wait for appropriate Senate action in the Fall.