

TO: Chancellor Elsenbaumer and the Cabinet

FROM: Dr. Cigdem Z. Gurgur
Chair, Executive Committee
Presiding Officer, Purdue Fort Wayne Faculty Senate

DATE: 09/26/2024

SUBJ: Statement on Senate Questions

The Executive Committee agrees that a written response to questions gives you the opportunity to provide a more complete and thoughtful response, including more data and information than time allows in Senate meetings. Senators can read your response before the meeting. Then, during Question Time, a few follow-on questions may help faculty gain a better understanding. We anticipate that the written format will generate a more thoughtful response and fruitful conversation during the usual Q&A time in Senate meetings. Answers to questions submitted for the April meeting will need to be received in time for the April meeting since we will be at the end of an academic year.

The Executive Committee supports that a written response to questions can be beneficial for several reasons: it gives the administration the opportunity to provide more comprehensive answers; it saves valuable meeting time; it allows for better-informed follow-up questions. It is, however, against the current Bylaws for written responses not to be received in time for distribution with all other meeting documents. The Executive Committee sees two options going forward and is soliciting your feedback on them.

Option 1. The Executive Committee will forward questions to the administration promptly as they are received, thus giving the administration more time to draft their responses, which will then be received in time for distribution along with all other meetings documents. We believe this to be the only option we have for questions that are submitted for the April meeting.

Option 2. The Executive Committee will amend the Bylaws to allow the administration to submit their responses for inclusion to the next Senate meeting. (Except for the April meeting; see above.)

The Executive Committee has no intention to remove Question Time from the agenda. Two-way communication between the administration and Faculty Senate is a critically important element of shared governance and should not be given up lightly. We therefore consider it indispensable and very crucial that a representative of the administration is always be available for follow-up questions during the Question Time.

Please, let us know what you think. Given Faculty's concerns about the change and a more drastic resolution on this matter already before the Executive Committee, we would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience, preferably by the EOB, Monday, September 30.

We will finalize the October 14th Senate agenda soon. Therefore, it is essential we receive your response and cooperation timely.