

SENATE SURVEY ON SB 202/PL 113 IMPLEMENTATION

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Details of Survey

- Open and available for completion **3/04-3/21**
 - Note that SB 202 became Public Law 113 (PL 113) on 3/13/2024

- Responses received from all units on campus
 - AG, CLA, DSB, ED, ENG, HHS, HONR, LIB, PHARM, PPI, SCI, VET

- Mode of collecting responses varied based on Senator
 - E.g., townhall, emails

Implementation Question

Should SB 202 be signed into law, what concrete recommendations do you and your constituents have for implementation at Purdue University? Please consider both process and product. Assuming you will share more than one, for clarity, please keep each contribution compact.

GENERAL THEMES

- Protection of **academic freedom**
 - Protect faculty to run their classrooms in a manner they deem fit
- A **transparent** complaints, appeals, and resolution process
- Simplicity and **clarity** of policies
 - how to assess intellectual diversity
- **Governance** and decision making
 - Delegate responsibility to the faculty
 - Collaboration between administration and the faculty
- **Opposition & concerns:**
 - Don't implement due to vague wording, "unfunded mandate"
 - How are graduate students and non-tenured track faculty affected?

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS

- Have a **clear definition of intellectual diversity**, to be provided to the primary committee of each department
 - Should not include political opinion or compelled speech
- **Coordinate** across Purdue system and regional campuses
- **Formal document** regarding the procedure and supporting evidence needed to deem campus members (faculty, staff or students) have not met the diversity policies of the university
 - Keep decision making at the department/college level
 - What are the specific behaviors that would violate the law?
 - Remediation plan to give the faculty member an opportunity to improve
- **Student/employee complaints** should be vetted and available to the faculty member, similar to grade appeals process
- **Collect feedback from students** whose learning and research outcomes will be directly impacted by additional pressures on faculty and curriculum content

Safeguard Question

Should SB 202 be signed into law, and besides “no implementation at all,” what policy outcomes would most safeguard professional and educational productivity and sense of security? Assuming you will share more than one, for clarity, please keep each contribution compact.

GENERAL THEMES

- **No changes to current tenure process**; refuse 5-year tenure review as violation of existing faculty contracts
- **Protect** certain courses and certain individuals who might be most vulnerable to targeting
- Increased **collaboration** between BOT and Senate
- Administration should represent the **voice of the faculty**
- Need for **due process and internal checkpoints** before issues reach the BOT

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- Provost should fund a vice-provost of academic freedom to handle reviews and complaints
- “Faculty should not be curtailed in their presentation of scientific facts and theories for fear of repercussions from students or groups”
- “I would like the Board to acknowledge that that no one will be called into question for teaching accepted science and mathematics. Period.”
- Use the current tenure/annual review process to assess intellectual diversity
- Intellectual diversity should be assessed by experts within a field

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS: HANDLING COMPLAINTS

- Embed the student complaint component into the semester evaluation as a non-narrative response question; use “historic processes” to handle student complaints
- Set up an independent committee comprising faculty members, students, and administrators to review complaints
- There should be an opportunity to “pre-clear” specific complaints that are not relevant
- A mechanism should be created for some regular independent review by an outside panel from other universities of our decision-making process for responding to grievances

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

- BOT increase its interactions with the University Senate, other system Senates, and Intercampus Faculty Council, including in the private Thursday meetings, and in the public Friday meetings
- Faculty input into BOT membership

Senate Involvement for PL 113 Implementation

- Senate Leadership stands ready to serve as the voice of Senators and their constituents to ensure implementation of PL 113 that protects academic freedom, as emphasized by the BOT's recent vote to reaffirm commitment to academic freedom
 - “Faculty, across all ranks and tracks, are the backbone of the university, and Purdue will continue to grow our support for faculty success.”—Michael Berghoff

- Brian Leung as a summer liaison to the PL 113 implementation process through mid-August

- Senate Leadership to meet with administration in August about status of implementation, prior to required September 1, 2024, reporting deadline
 - Susan South, incoming Chair
 - Mark Zimpfer, incoming Vice Chair



THANK YOU

Questions?