

MEMORANDUM OF RESOLUTION

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: A. Marshall  
Executive Committee

DATE: September 24, 2021

SUBJ: Civics Literacy Requirement Resolution

WHEREAS, Purdue University Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to establish a Civics Literacy Requirement for Purdue University undergraduates in June 2021; and

WHEREAS, the BOT gave regional campuses the 2021-2022 academic year to develop an implementation plan for the Civics Literacy Requirement and get it approved by the BOT in time to apply to the incoming class for Fall 2022; and

WHEREAS, the leadership at Purdue West Lafayette (PWL) issued instructions to regional campuses for how to organize the implementation process (see appendix); and

WHEREAS, the instructions include having two representatives from PFW on the Civics Literacy System Coordinating Group—an administrator and faculty representative; and

WHEREAS, the VCAA appointed Dr. Janet Badia, Dean of College of Liberal Arts, as the administrator representative to the Civics Literacy System Coordinating Group; and

WHEREAS, the VCAA delegated responsibility for choosing the faculty representative to Senate's Executive Committee (EC); and

WHEREAS, the PWL instructions also call for creation of a Civics Literacy Advisory Group for each campus that will develop the implementation plan; and

WHEREAS, the two PFW representatives to the Civics Literacy System Coordinating Group must be part of PFW Civics Literacy Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, the VCAA delegated responsibility for constituting the PFW Civics Literacy Advisory Group to the EC; and

WHEREAS, the existing faculty governance bodies, such as the Educational Policy Committee, cannot take on the anticipated volume of time-sensitive work involved in developing this requirement during the 2021-2022 academic year; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.4.1. of the Bylaws empowers the Senate to create an ad-hoc committee when it believes that a specially constituted group is necessary to accomplish a particular task;

BE IT RESOLVED, that an ad-hoc Civics Literacy Requirement Implementation Committee (henceforth, Committee) will be established to function as PFW's Civics Literacy Advisory Group for the 2021-2022 academic year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will consist of a total of four Voting Faculty members and Lecturers, with no more than one Lecturer eligible to serve, representing at least three Major Units that bestow undergraduate degrees and Dr. Janet Badia as an *ex officio* voting member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate Nominations and Elections Committee run an election for the Faculty membership of this Committee with all due haste; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee, once constituted, will elect the faculty representative from among its Faculty membership for the Civics Literacy System Coordinating Group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will provide brief written monthly updates to the Executive Committee on its progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will have a draft plan ready by January 7, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee will hold at least one public forum on its draft plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will provide a revised draft plan, incorporating feedback from the public forum(s), for the February Senate agenda, in order to ensure that the Senate has time to review and approve the implementation plan and send it to the BOT by March 31, 2022;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that by September 30, 2022, the Senate will make permanent arrangements for the continued implementation and assessment of the Civics Literacy Requirement, including any necessary amendments to the Senate's Bylaws.

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Civics Literacy Proficiency Implementation Plan | August 23, 2021

**Overview:** On June 10, 2021, the Purdue University Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to establish a Civics Literacy Proficiency graduation requirement for all undergraduate students system-wide. The new graduation requirement goes into effect for Purdue-West Lafayette (PWL) students entering as new beginners in Fall 2021. The new Civics Literacy Proficiency requirement will go into effect for new beginner students entering Purdue Northwest (PNW), Purdue Fort Wayne (PFW), and the Purdue degree programs in the Purdue Schools of Engineering and Technology and Science at IUPUI – in Fall 2022.

The following statements from the Proposal to Establish Civics Literacy Proficiency as a Purdue Degree Requirement (June 11, 2021) provide the broad objectives of the requirement and its structure:

- *...there is a need for Purdue undergraduate students to demonstrate a foundational understanding of civics.*
- *The requirement as proposed does not mandate additional credit hours beyond those currently required for degree programs.*

The Proposal provides additional directives as to the specific structure of the requirement (ADD LINK TO PROPOSAL.) One principle is a common civics knowledge test across system campuses, with latitude to shape the selectives at the campus level to fit local context, subject to Board of Trustees approval.

**Implementation – system-wide:** A Civics Literacy System Coordinating Group across all campuses will guide the implementation of the Purdue University Civics Literacy requirement.

*Members:* The System Coordinating Group will be comprised of four (4) faculty representatives, one (1) from each campus; four (4) administrators, one (1) from each campus; one (1) (ex officio) undergraduate student representative, selected by Purdue Student Government; and the chair of the System Coordinating Group, selected by the Provost of PWL.

*Meetings:* The System Coordinating Group will meet regularly through the first year of implementation. The Coordinating Group will monitor implementation progress, share ideas between system institutions, surface challenges to implementation, and in general help ensure the requirement is implemented effectively across the system. In addition, the Coordinating Group will engage/communicate with the Purdue system as needed to move implementation of the Civics Literacy requirement forward. The Coordinating Group will issue periodic update reports on the Civics Literacy Proficiency requirement.

*Deliverables:* The Coordinating Group will produce and submit an interim six-month report on implementation of the requirement to the Provost at PWL by January 2022 and will produce an annual report to be presented/shared at the June Board of Trustees meeting.

**Implementation PWL:** A Civics Literacy Advisory Group – West Lafayette will be created to address implementation questions specific to the PWL campus.

*Members:* The group will be comprised of the Purdue Student Government representative (ex officio) and the campus faculty representative to the system-wide Coordinating Group; three additional PWL faculty members, for a total of four faculty representatives; a representative from academic advising; one campus administrator with teaching and learning responsibilities, a representative from the Office of the Registrar; and the chair of the System Coordinating group who will chair the Advisory Group, selected by the Provost. One of the faculty members must represent the University Senate. All will be ratified by the PWL Provost.

*Meetings:* The PWL Advisory Group will meet regularly through the first year of implementation; with a meeting schedule to be determined for subsequent years. The Advisory Group will monitor implementation progress, surface challenges to implementation, provide feedback on selectives, and in general help ensure the requirement is implemented effectively at Purdue West Lafayette. The PWL Advisory Group will engage and communicate with the campus as needed. The PWL Advisory Group will provide data to the system-wide Coordinating Group, as requested, for annual reports to the BOT and to the campus.

**Implementation – PNW, PFW, IUPUI:** A Civics Literacy Advisory Group will be created for each campus to develop the implementation plan for that campus and to address implementation questions specific to each campus.

*Members:* The campus Advisory Groups will be selected by the Chancellor/Provost (Chancellor/Vice Chancellor/Deans at IUPUI) and ratified by the Purdue WL Provost. One faculty member and one administrator member of the campus advisory group will represent the campus on the System Coordinating Group.

*Meetings:* The campus Advisory Groups will meet regularly at the direction of the campus Chancellor/Provost (Chancellor/Vice Chancellor/Deans at IUPUI). These Advisory Groups will prepare and submit the campus proposal for implementation of the Civics Literacy Proficiency requirement to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. Longer term, the Advisory Group will monitor implementation progress, surface challenges to implementation, and in general help ensure the requirement is implemented effectively on the respective campus. The Advisory Groups will engage and communicate with their campus as needed. The campus Advisory Groups will provide updates and data to the system-wide Coordinating Group on a regular basis and contribute to annual reports for the BOT.