

## Perdue town Hall – 3/5/2026

### Senate question about New Provost Selection.

(some responses were received by email and have been listed verbatim)

*How should the search committee be structured? How large should it be? What fraction of it should be faculty?*

- 10-12 max (representation from each school) – committee needs to be gender balanced
- Each school should nominate 1 representative
- No search firm as they tend to push you to particular candidates. Their motivation might not be in line with what is best for SU
- Limit the no. of search members to 10 or less. Last time was around 18 including graduate and undergraduate (who was not qualified and mostly focused on DEI) distracting the core essence of Provost's responsibilities.
- Call for those who want to serve in this search. Make objective criteria and not ad hoc and members are picked randomly
- I am not sure what proportion of the committee should be faculty, but I think there should be more faculty than non-faculty, since this position impacts academics directly. Given that, there should be at least be one tenured faculty member from each school represented.
- *At least two faculty from each school.*
- Atleast 50% of the committee should be faculty as this is the chief academic officer

*What qualifications should be necessary? For example, must the new Provost have been a department chair or a dean?*

- Only tenured full time candidates who have been full professors for at least 5 years must be eligible. Should hv served as both department chair, dean and preferably at least as associate provost for 3 years - minimum requirements.
- Having served as Provost for at least 3 years would be great - maybe a criteria for shortlisting candidates
- Ideal candidate should have served as both department chair and dean previously. Furthermore, it would be great if they had some VP admin experience as well (student affairs, provost office, etc)... but at least department chair and dean.
- The new provost should have worked in a university of similar size. No small university (1000-2000 students) for sure.

*Must the new Provost be a Full Professor, or would Associate Professor suffice?*

- Overwhelming sense of the Perdue school during the meeting was that provost needs to be full professor for a sufficient amount of time.
- Only tenured full time candidates who have been full professors for at least 5 years.
- *Full professor only*
- Only two folks had different opinions (listed):
  - One person thought associate professor would be fine and
  - One thought non- tenured assistant professors should also be allowed.

*What personal characteristics do faculty want the new Provost to have, and how can we tailor the search or the interviews to find out if the candidates embody those characteristics?*

- Must be engaging, willing to listen and ACT. These are intangibles that can be teased out when committee makes reference calls.
- Someone who is from a different discipline from the president (eg sciences, business, nursing, education)
- Must be willing to treat each school equally.
- Experience on the senate or with the senate would be good, too; Accreditation experience (business, science, nursing, arts, etc); handling involved curriculum changes (new majors, GE structure, disputes between schools with curriculum, etc).
- Personal characteristics would be evidence of diplomacy (handling difficult situations between schools/departments or proven methods of dealing with challenging policies and unhappy faculty); presence at events across campus and in-person support of academic programs; cross-disciplinary experience (with research, committees, FLCs, etc) to show evidence of their ability to relate to different departments and schools.
- Someone should be selected who actually has knowledge and skills with budgeting. Preferably from a business discipline.
- Honesty (no hidden agendas) and good communication skills.
- Someone with long track records at their current schools (meaning they should not have changed jobs frequently)
- Should be from a public university (ideally regional comprehensives)