

Friends, acquaintances, and other members of the Fort Wayne community,

As you may be aware, IPFW has announced the closure of the Philosophy Department (along with other departments and programs) as of January 1, 2017 ([find the relevant document here](#)).

As you may also be aware, I am heavily involved in the Fort Wayne community, including as Chair of the Allen County Ethics Commission, appointments to the Board of Aging and In-Home Services, the Lutheran Health Network IRB, the Visiting Nurse Ethics Committee, the Lutheran Hospital Ethics Committees, and my current campaign for Southwest Allen County School Board.

Understandably, there are questions about what this closure means for me, my family, and my future in the Fort Wayne community.

Importantly, the Board of Trustees of Purdue University, the IPFW Chancellor, and the IPFW Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs have stated that no tenure-line faculty will lose their jobs. This means that I will not lose my position as an Associate Professor and will not be forced to seek employment elsewhere.

I believe that the closing of the Philosophy department, along with many of the other departments and programs that are slated to be closed, will undermine IPFW's ability to be a comprehensive university. But the demands of Purdue's President, Mitch Daniels, and the Board of Trustees and its Chair, Michael Berghoff, have led directly to these cuts. If anything, this demeaning of higher education makes the need for smart, flexible, and engaging education in SACS all the more important.

While I would rather not have these changes at IPFW occur, the disposition of Purdue's President and Board of Trustees seems immune to outside input. They have made their decision, and, more like CEOs than educators, they expect their orders to be followed. Accordingly, I have already been in contact with IPFW's administration about the means by which my skills and experience can be useful as IPFW moves into a volatile future. As an applied ethicist, my teaching and research are important for the accreditation requirements in the Schools of Business, Engineering, Public Policy, and in many of the health sciences.

If you, as I do, believe these recommendations are fundamentally flawed, I encourage you to contact every public servant who represents you: your city and county council representatives, the mayor, your state and federal representatives, your senator, and, perhaps most importantly, the President of Purdue University and Purdue's Board of Trustees.

Even if these changes go into effect unaltered, I remain committed to ethics, in education and application, at IPFW and in the Fort Wayne community.

Be well — Abe

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