

9/15/2021

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jose Luis Antinao, Israel Herrera (co-chairs), Issam Albdirat, Ron Sela, Chris Sapp, Kerem Cakirer, Maddie Butler, Xin Chen joined after the main round of introductions.

-Items for Discussion:

1. Scheduling
2. Presentation of Exec Committee charges.

- 1- Meeting started at 4:05 PM via Zoom. After brief introductions by all attending members and explaining the modus operandi; a brief discussion about scheduling followed.

Ron mentions no possibility for Wednesdays, Kerem teaches until 6 pm. Chris 3-4.15, after 4.30 is fine on Wednesdays, Maddie can attend Wednesday 3-6. Xin can meet Wednesdays 3-4.

- 2- Charges by the BFC Executive Committee were introduced to members.

J.L. Antinao introduced the first two points. What type of decisions are made by the new presidential administration? Ron started the discussion stating that apparently the president has a new vision and that the committee has a relevant role to assess what that vision is. He pointed out that even the web presence of OVPIA has been reduced to a minimum.

A question was raised: Does the IAC have a database of what faculty works with what at the international level? J.L. Antinao states that we do not know the specifics of a database and who might be handling it. Several ideas of surveying the faculty have been proposed during the last years by the IAC but none have been executed so far. Ron recalls that several surveys have been conducted.

J.L. Antinao commented that one of the ideas expressed in the discussion yesterday was to bring up a more defined structure for the committee and that it might improve our connection to administration. Israel commented on how structures work. Athletics, for example, they are voted by BFC members, it is not from the Nominations Committee, like IAC.

Will the committee work be more impactful with a different structure? Last year's example could set a blueprint for future activities. If we continue with a structure, with ex-officio members and regular presentations, then we can observe change, assess or ask what the metrics are for effects that administration ideas have on faculty.

Ron commented that there is attention to matters of protocol, and that therefore the BFC should be consulted. However, this might not be a matter of structure for now. He continued by saying that to be able to produce conclusions or ideas that this committee can accomplish, in the absence of a OVPIA, we need to maneuver around it. It all depends on what are trying to

achieve. Being a watchdog is valuable. It is unclear where international engagement is headed under the new administration. It was high priority under previous presidents.

J.L. Antinao continued discussion on the two last points regarding students. Issam requested if there is a certain way to reach out to student representation. Co-chairs agreed that this could be an option to pursue by individual members while we look for a contact. Maddie expressed that they have quite a few international students in the executive body, but they were not available to join. However, she is in contact and will reach out. Congressional branch has also international representation.

Israel commented on the structure of the committee noting similarities with previous years committees in which he has served (Faculty Affairs) We can ask to Exec, if we want to add more members or more representations, e.g. clinicals, assistant profs, res scientists, it is not known if we have these representatives here, as we have international issues regarding these ranks, besides obviously representation from administration and the graduate students. We should also inquire more about the number of people to the Exec.

Israel has a question regarding how we can get an idea of the new administration vision. Ron also mentioned this today, about knowing what the international affairs statement from the president is. It will be good to hear here this from the provost. Two ways, us as BFC IAC send questions to the provost, to our next session, or working in questions that we would like to ask the administration, and they need to answer these questions to the whole faculty or to the BFC faculty so they can spread this info. It is up in the air now. What the status of IA in our campus and in general at IU. We would like to prepare questions to ask, perhaps to the provost.

Ron responded to the suggestion arguing that the emphasis right now is on reorganization at the higher level, without much of change to mandates. We could only imagine there will be reorganization in international affairs. What does it mean? For example, Gateway offices, that they were imagined as center of activity, activities were uneven. Will the gateways be abolished? Many activities in them appeared to be international alumni raising funds. Where is international organization headed? It is possible that our questions will not matter at this point. We might have to wait and see when this vision will move forward. The provost said that this new strategic vision will be expressed in two weeks. When we get that, it will be good for us to ask questions. Now we are not sure who even to ask questions. OVPIA is not responding, and we are not sure where to direct questions.

Chris mentioned that there is a point regarding admissions, where our committee can work on. Admissions policy, where BFC can make recommendations. Many times, there is an issue with students coming from Europe, where getting a Bachelor's degree only takes three years, and these students will be not be considered eligible for admission here because of that instead of four years. We could work to investigate this and make a recommendation to the BFC to see if we can get different kinds of bachelor's degrees recognized for the purposes of graduate

admission. J.L. Antinao commented that this is a perfectly valid issue to address within charge #4 from Exec, and that we should work on that.

End of meeting at 5 PM