

## Meeting notes for the BFC Research Affairs Committee meeting on 12 April 2024

In attendance: Ben Kravitz, David Taylor, Kaylie Hash Porter, Ashley Clark, Karen Rogers, Brea Perry, Wen Qi, Jillian Kinzie

We began the meeting at 11:02 A.M. by approving the March minutes.

We then transitioned to updates from Brea Perry.

The space renovation plan has been approved. An implementation committee was charged earlier this week, and a lot of the people who created the plan are also on the committee. The next steps will be to figure out timing and sequencing, which will be a challenge, as the goal is to finish all renovations in 18-24 months. Half of the plan will involve shovel-ready spaces, i.e., that faculty are not currently occupying. The plan also includes finding swing space to move faculty quickly. One of OVPR's roles will be to facilitate communication with faculty and chairs. The renovation is being paid for with a bond that will be repaid by IU Research (from a portion of the indirect cost return).

The research incentives document (which this committee had opportunity to comment on) is close to being finalized. The biggest sticking point was the salary savings award, but it seems like the issues have been mostly resolved. The Provost wants this implemented by July 1, 2024.

The Prestigious Award Leave program has been revived and is much more generous than it has ever been, including being more inclusive as to which fellowships qualify.

There will be a new policy on how long tenure-probationary faculty can retain startup funds. The likely policy is that the retention period will be 6 years, in which the last three years are granted if there is a successful third year review. There are always opportunities to grant extensions under extenuating circumstances. This only affects new offer letters signed after July 1, 2024, and does not apply retroactively.

The new high priority research networks are spinning up incubation events. The Aging network will have their event in April, Environmental Health will be in the fall, and AI and Quantum will be sometime next academic year. Brea invited Research Affairs Committee members to attend any of these events.

We then shifted to discussing accomplishments from last year and priorities for next year.

Shift to talking about accomplishments and priorities for next year

As a reminder, here is what we said we wanted to do this past year:

- Indirect Cost Recovery policy
- Develop the policy on research transparency

- Policies that could improve research faculty and other NTT work-life balance, including follow-up regarding support for NTTs on parental leave
- Repercussions of the Nelson Memorandum on research and data management at IU
- Undergraduate research web portal
- Implementation of the IUB 2030 strategic plan, in particular ensuring that issues pertaining to research and creative activity are considered and that faculty governance mechanisms are well represented
- Continue pushing for visibility and equitable classification and benefits for NTT research faculty, including representation of research associates in faculty governance
- Review COACHE data to better understand faculty perceptions of support for their research and barriers to research, particularly differences between TT and NTT faculty
- Continue providing accountability checks on AAALAC re-certification and laboratory animal use at IU
- Recommend an exit interview process to VPFAA

Several of these items were accomplished, including consulting on the indirect cost return policy, support for research faculty, implementation of the IUB 2030 strategic plan, and providing accountability checks on AAALAC re-certification. In particular, since our last meeting we passed revisions to BL-ACA-A5, which allows for research faculty to use the titles of Assistant Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, and Research Professor. We are also back to full accreditation by AAALAC. Our next inspection is in the first quarter of 2025. What helped us get re-accredited is the promise of backup power installation in Optometry and Psychology. Work is starting, and the generators will be installed next year.

Kosali Simon's group is working on the Nelson Memo. She has been funded to develop the IU Data Commons. The RAC should invite her next year to talk to RAC about impacts of the Nelson Memo and any projected changes.

Faculty retention continues to be an issue. The most recent COACHE results are updated in the dashboard. Research support has some interesting trends, and VPFAA is still trying to understand them, especially in light of COVID-19. Wen is happy to provide a special analysis for our committee. A lot of retention issues fall under FAC, but they are also relevant to research. There could be a way to isolate the COACHE questions that are relevant for RAC. There could also be opportunity to coordinate with FAC, perhaps forming a retention task force.

The Space Planning Committee laid out some principles for how research space should be used (as a common good), how decisions should be made, etc. There will always be space issues, and this is going to be an enduring conversation. University administration is looking at the right way to allocate space to researchers in a more logical and maybe more dynamic way. There will be an official policy coming down, and it would be good to have this committee weigh in.

There is not much information about the impacts of SEA 202, but there will likely be implications for our committee. Kaylie may be able to provide us with some information from an upcoming meeting being held at the request of a center director.

Some low hanging fruit could be to evaluate and possibly repeal the mess that is BL-ACA-A1.

Follow-up items will be to send everyone a copy of the RAC's end-of-year report for comments and additions. Approval of the April minutes will be done over email.

The committee adjourned at 11:42 A.M.