

Bloomington Faculty Council Research Affairs Committee

January 17, 2025 10-11 am – via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Jillian Kinzie (Co-Chair), Pete Kollbaum (Co-Chair), Ashley Clark, Stephen Hiller, Seda Durguner, Wen Qi (Ex-officio), David Taylor (and Kaylie Hash (Ex-officios), Student representative, Luke Saxton-Stivers (IUSG)

Unable to attend: Scott Michaels, Ethan Friedmanski, Timothy Mickelborough, Alexis Harbour, Brea Perry, David Rutkowski (on leave this semester)

The meeting opened with a welcome from co-chairs Pete and Jillian, and apologies for our bungled communication about the RAC spring meeting date.

Please refer to this site for RAC meeting schedule and 2024-25 Assignments:

<https://bfc.indiana.edu/committees/standing/rac/index.html>

December 12, 2024 Minutes approved.

Kalie Hash reported on behalf of Scott Michaels and Brea Perry. She indicated that the University Policy on the Establishment of Centers and Institutes (RP11-002) is nearly in effect. We now have one accurate list of IU's Centrally Administered Centers, Institutes Museums and Service Centers (CIMS). Having an accurate list permits more reliable accountability for the policy specification regarding criteria for periodic reviews and assessments. Particularly for those that fall under University accreditation and must be reviewed annually and on a 5-year basis. IU will now be able to demonstrate a schedule for compliance with reviews and gain clarity in administrative oversight, and ultimately be compliant with existing policies. Again, it is the Research Center or Institute and its Unit that determines the scope and substance of review, but compliance needs to be demonstrated. A full searchable list that can be filtered by campus, administrative unit and research center groups has been updated and is available, <https://research.iu.edu/about/centers-institutes/search.html>. Next is to communicate with campus about assuring the expected practices and policy.

Kaylie also announced the establishment of the IU Launch Accelerator for Biosciences, known as IU LAB, at the 16 Tech Innovation District in Indianapolis, the academic-industry initiative is supported by a \$138 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and will harness the state's resources to make Indiana a national leader in bioscience discovery, commercialization and talent development. David Rosenberg will be the inaugural president and CEO of the IU LAB.

The lab renovations to support the Faculty 100 (F100) and their research initiatives is progressing.

Pete commented that the Provost sanctioned a committee about research space use. Pete will be participating in a meeting next week.

RAC made significant progress on studying the Post-Doc salary minima issue last semester but there is more work to do on this complicated matter. Pete reached out to Rick Van Kooten's office to secure a meeting to discuss. Meeting is scheduled next week to advance the post-doc minima.

Ultimately there will need to be a request to the administration to step in on this issue. Everyone believes it is the right thing to do, but until salaries can be absorbed in grants and budgets, it poses an undue burden on schools. A request should come from faculty leadership for guidelines about how to deal with salary implications and to develop campus guidance on how to address. Wen expects to involve Amy Heeter's office on this issue and for a work group to be formed. This issue is more intertwined with finance than the Budgetary Affairs office originally scoped. The expectation is to talk with finance staff to offer guidance.

Jillian described concerns about implementing Research Incentives, specifically the additional burden for research projects to offer small financial awards (gift cards, \$5 cash) to participants and comply with the University's purchasing rules and finance policies. Policies have tightened, or changed, and have become more onerous to researchers and burdensome to research participants. For example, purchasing gift cards requires approval and can delay survey start dates or interviews if not sufficiently planned for in the research timeline; and requirements for participants to acknowledge acceptance of gift cards can be burdensome to researchers and IU finance staff. These additional steps can ultimately discourage the use of incentives, which is considered good survey research practice. At the very least, it would be helpful to accurately describe timelines, document effective practice and clarify what is permissible, to help support IU researchers. This could be something that IU OVPR or Research Compliance could lead or develop.

We then opened the floor for other topics of interest to RAC.

Pete mentioned that the search is ongoing for the Associate Vice President for Research Compliance.

Members are encouraged to revisit RAC goals and assignments for 2024-25 and to bring research issues to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Next meeting February 21, 2025 10-11 via zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Jillian Kinzie