

## Bloomington Faculty Council Research Affairs Committee

October 4, 2024 – 9-10 am – Zoom

### Minutes

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

Unable to attend: Ethan Friedmanski, Timothy Mickelborough, Ashley Clark, Alexis Harbour, Brea Perry

The meeting began with a welcome from co-chairs Pete and Jillian and then committee member introductions. Pete and Jillian then provided an overview of the Research Affairs Committee (RAC) charge from the BFC following on from last years RAC work. The six charge items were discussed with committee with some action noted.

**1. Maintain lines of communication/collaboration with IUI and UFC RACs.** Ben Kravitz (RAC Co-chair 2023-24) will continue on the UFC and Pete will also serve on this committee. Pete will maintain communication and share updates at each of RAC meetings.

**2. Develop and propose a policy on research transparency.** Initial work was done a few years ago and is available as a starting point. David Taylor will ask Lana Spendl about existing work. Wen suggested that the context of the transparency concerns was about “dark money”, and aiming to identify if a policy or resolution should be proposed and if this is a BFC or UFC level agenda item.

**3. Collaborate with the space-planning committee to identify strategies to help faculty with communication about the implementation of those changes.** Capital planning has been sending out updates which has been helpful. At each RAC meeting we expect to hear about updates on this topic from Scott or Brea and to determine how RAC should be involved.

**4. Review BL-ACA-A1 and propose changes to improve the clarity of the policy.** Updates to the policy were approved at the April 2, 2024 BFC meeting (<https://bfc.indiana.edu/meetings/2023-2024/April022024/index.htm>). However, the update revealed some inconsistencies and unclear dimensions of the posted policy that seem to be from earlier modifications. Jillian will follow up with Ben Kravitz to request his notes about the status of this work and make a recommendation to the committee. Additionally, the RAC might want to follow up on how the policy is enacted. Kaylie will provide additional information about this policy in relation to other recent IU Research ranks work.

**5. Engage in conversations around the Nelson Memorandum that describes new federal requirements for preservation and access to data produced through federally funded research.** The Research Data Commons is making some strides along with the Associate Dean for Research Committee on this matter. The role of our committee is unclear, yet this is a task assigned to us by UFC and we hope to take action. Pete will reach out to the Brea and the Advisory Committee about the status and to discuss how we can be involved.

**6. Collaborate with FAC to investigate postdoctoral packages at IUB, with an effort to identify strategies to improve recruiting.** Budgetary affairs made recommendations on post-doc salaries and this was moved to Faculty Affairs. However, we want to address this issue more proactively. Pete will follow

up with Carrie Docherty about next steps. Wen suggested outreach to Amy Heeter to discuss the salary considerations as they followed from the Graduate Student wage increases and then the need to scale post-doc salaries appropriately. Salary minimum discussions were undertaken in the Budgetary Affairs Committee. The BAC considered NIH salary benchmarks, and aimed to propose a turn-key system to level-set salaries for post-docs, research scientists etc. However, this may be a heavy ask across all departments that are not influenced by NIH standards.

Pete and Jillian then raised the Partial list of three other considerations for potential discussion to add to our charge list/priorities:

**1. Research data storage (1 initial user-friendly platform, no large system change without RAC vetting/approval).** There are some pinch points about data storage, including some cloud storage problems that resulted in lost data and lost time. We are interested in what RAC might do to coordinate, create more robust systems, and to work with UITS to evaluate changes for fiscal sense, and also researchers' time. Our interest is in ensuring that the researchers' needs and concerns are considered in decisions about data storage. Can RAC help push the adoption of a “research-first” data storage? Scott is on a task force, Research Data Storage Advisory Council.

**2. Data ownership (who owns data and what to do without upon departure).** IU is storing huge amounts of data for faculty who leave, retire, and questions have arisen about who owns these data and who can make decisions about deletion. Many groups have a stake in this item, UITS, Research Data Storage Advisory Council, etc.. RAC might need to work with groups on policy. Scott will check with the Research Data Storage Advisory Council at November 12, meeting and report back.

**3. Cohesive research support hires across HR and OVFAA.** IU research has created a new staff position of Research Innovator through HR as it is a staff position. OVFAA is home to Research Scientists. Committee members wondered if it is possible for a PI to put out a hire for a research support person then based on credentials, they get appointed as a research innovator or research scientist. Currently, this must be identified at the front end of the process. An equivalent could be how positions can be listed as “open rank”. Great that innovator position is started, and casting a broader net makes sense.

The committee also raised a question about the status of Research Professor ranks. It was shared that Brea is believed to be working on the criteria but it is not finished yet. This could relate to Research Scientists and BL-ACA-A1 agenda item too.

A reminder, OVPR does not exist anymore. It has switched to the IU Vice President for Research. Brea is still the Vice Provost for Research, but there is no office. Kaylie shared the IU Research Org Chart: [https://app.pingboard.com/s/YETCNKQgZn8DSIS3oMMuAkatB\\_XLSifR5nHDwS5aqrF\\_wq-DdWbec2FSUQ7OTfdvVm3ngG89QI0DArchIYMcDw/org\\_char](https://app.pingboard.com/s/YETCNKQgZn8DSIS3oMMuAkatB_XLSifR5nHDwS5aqrF_wq-DdWbec2FSUQ7OTfdvVm3ngG89QI0DArchIYMcDw/org_char)

Committee members are encouraged to bring forward concerns and topics to the committee, email Pete and Jillian in advance to get on the agenda or raise for discussion during the Open Forum section of our regular monthly meetings.

**Next meeting scheduled:** upcoming meetings set for 2nd Thursday of each month at 3-4pm through April based on IU Research and BFC availability

Respectfully submitted, Jillian Kinzie