

## **Candidate Statement**

**Chase McCoy**

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This past year, I have had the privilege to serve as the Secretary of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and to work alongside and, most importantly, learn from my colleagues on the council and across the campus. I applaud the effort and commitment I continue to witness to shared governance and to the betterment of this institution, as without you we would not be able to address the current challenges and pressures impacting Indiana University and higher education more broadly.

I am honored to have been nominated by my colleagues on the council for the position of President-Elect. While I am currently a non-tenure track faculty member, my background at IU has provided me with a unique perspective for understanding the needs and challenges facing our academic community, including our faculty and students. I began my time at IU fourteen years ago as a full-time hourly worker in a literal mailroom. Since then, I have worked as a support and professional staff employee in campus undergraduate admissions, and have received both a Master's and Ph.D. degree from the university. My recent time on the BFC has made particularly evident how even seemingly minute decisions made by the council can transcend faculty concerns alone and impact the academic and professional lives of all stakeholders on campus.

Shared governance is critical, and for it to be most effective it must be collaborative and transparent. I believe that the BFC leadership and council members must engage with all campus and university governance bodies when crafting policies to ensure that the actions they trigger are intentional and to mitigate unintended consequences. The interconnected nature of these bodies has been made apparent most recently concerning academic freedom and open inquiry on our campus. We need to work to ensure that the policies we pass at both the campus and university-levels align and coalesce to function as intended without impediments to our core values as faculty.

While the BFC has legislative authority over the academic mission of the campus, we must not forget our consultative authority granted by the Constitution of the Bloomington Faculty. Just as we as faculty must be collaborative and transparent, it is crucial that the BFC and its leadership call on and hold accountable campus administration to do the same.

We are experiencing a period of expeditious change on our campus, with new administrative leadership, external pressures, and the implementation of IUB 2030 Strategic Plan. As the latter moves forward, the BFC must continue to ensure, as we have done, that the voice of the faculty and their concerns regarding the academic mission of the institution remain at the forefront and are not infringed. However, as faculty we must be willing to adapt, and as challenging it will be to implement some of the proposed changes, many are vital for ensuring that our institution retains the status of academic excellence for our faculty and students, remains fiscally stable, and is prepared to navigate the challenges and pressures put upon us from external bodies.