

Minutes
Bloomington Faculty Council
September 1, 2020

1. Due the COVID-19 pandemic, the first regularly scheduled meeting of the new academic year occurred remotely, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM by Provost Lauren Robel, the council's presiding officer. The minutes from April 7, 2020, were approved by acclamation, and without objection.
2. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko offered a memorial resolution in honor of Eliot Hearst.
3. Council President, Professor John Walbridge, drew members' attention to circulars describing the council's membership, the membership of council committees, and actions taken during the previous year. He also took the opportunity to thank various members of the council and the broader IU community for the work they did during the summer to manage challenges associated with the pandemic.
4. Provost Robel provided a general report on the state of campus. She began by expressing her sense of gratitude to many groups on campus, but especially the staff who have worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare the campus for students' return. She also reported on the incoming classes of new faculty and students, both of which are among the most diverse in the campus' history. Provost Robel then provided an update on the campus COVID-19 testing program, which she characterized as being among the most aggressive university-based testing regimes in the country.
5. Professor Levinson inquired about the job security of staff members and those without the protections of tenure, and suggested cost savings, if necessary, should not come at the expense of the least well compensated among us. Provost Robel said she was unaware of any layoffs or furloughs except in Athletics. These are a result of the entire athletics season having been cancelled. She also noted that she could think of only one salary increase off hand, a result of someone moving from one administrative position into another that entails different duties. The Provost noted that the campus has been making every possible effort to place dislocated staff in different positions as quickly as it can. She also reiterated in the strongest possible terms her commitment to doing whatever she can to protect the interests of campus staff.
6. There was a brief discussion of the suspensions related the COVID-19 situation. Thus far 20 students have been summarily suspended from campus. Most policies governing summary suspension related to the COVID-19 pandemic emanate directly come from the Board of Trustees.
7. There was a brief discussion regarding which metrics will be used to determine whether campus should remain open. Provost Robel reported that campus leaders are considering a range of metrics, but noted that, ultimately, and most holistically, the question they are

asking themselves most regularly is “Are we in a position where we cannot control community spread?”

8. Discussion then turned to the proposed “Resolution of the Bloomington Faculty Council in Support of the Rights and Protections for Graduate Student Academic Appointees during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The resolution was discussed, superficially amended, and unanimously adopted as amended by acclamation. No audible objection was heard.
9. Discussion then turned to the proposed Interim Suspension Policy, which was presented by Professor Paul Sokol on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee. The proposed policy would allow the Dean of Students and other campus officials to react quickly in situations where a student’s continued presence on campus poses an imminent threat to the safety of the IUB community, even as other formal review and appeal processes are ongoing. While IUB has arguably needed such a policy for some time, the impetus for this specific proposal was a change to rules and regulations related to Title IX that was issued recently by the Department of Education. Questions were raised about the scope of the policy. Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students O’Guinn assured members of the council that the policy would only be used narrowly, as a tool to address immediate threats to community welfare, and not as a means to manage or resolve situations like protests. The proposed time allowed students to appeal interim suspensions was increased by formal amendment from 3 to 5 days. The policy was finally adopted by acclamation, notwithstanding one nay vote and one abstention.
10. President Walbridge invited members of the council to contact the Executive Committee with questions, concerns, or ideas about matters they would like to see taken up by the council this year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
Colin R. Johnson, BFC Secretary.