

Minutes
Bloomington Faculty Council
January 19, 2021

1. Due the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting occurred remotely, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by Provost Lauren Robel. The minutes from December 1, 2020 were approved acclamation.
2. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko offered a memorial resolution in honor of James Huff Justus.
3. The meeting began with a report on COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans for the Bloomington campus. The report was presented by Aaron Carroll, Director of Surveillance and Mitigation Testing, Medical Response Team, Lana Dbeibo, Director of Vaccine Initiatives, Medical Response Team, and Doug Booher, Executive Director of University Events. The presentation began with an overview of where vaccination efforts stand currently in the state of Indiana. The state began in mid-December vaccinating specific groups (e.g. frontline medical workers) and then shifted to an age-based approach because mortality was highest among the elderly. Members of the Medical Response Team expect the state will begin vaccinating people 60 and older in the next few weeks. Beyond that, they know little about how the state's vaccination program is likely to progress. As of the middle of January, Indiana had administered around 300,000 doses, fully vaccinated around 70,000 people, and exhausted roughly half of its vaccine supply. Dbeibo noted that IU is collaborating actively with the state and local agencies to facilitate vaccination because the sooner various segments of the general population are vaccinated the sooner the university will be able to protect members of its own community. Carroll observed that, although infection rates over the past few weeks have been relatively encouraging, statewide infection rates over the past few months have been "terrible." "Things are still just not safe," he said, and he noted that we will be entering the spring term in an even "hotter" environment than we did in the fall. On the upside, Carroll noted that IU will be doing much more testing than it was able to do early in the fall now that its labs are fully online. He also noted that the university continues to experiment with new approaches to testing, like drive-through testing. Finally, Booher discussed how mitigation will function in spring, noting that conscious efforts are being made to make the process as quick and easy as possible. The formal presentation was followed a question-and-answer period during which members posed several specific questions to the presenters, many of which had to do with what the Medical Response Team had learned about the likelihood of transmission in different on-campus contexts, based on data collected during the fall term. Generally speaking, rates of transmission on campus seemed to extremely low during the fall term, except in cases where recommended safety protocols were not, or could not be, observed (e.g. certain congregate living situations).
4. President John Walbridge began his portion of the agenda by welcoming everyone back and thanking all the medical professionals who have been working to ensure our safety. He then urged the chairs of BFC committees to contact the Executive Committee with

news of any measures they hope to put before the council for consideration prior to the end of the year. Finally, President Walbridge informed members that the meeting originally scheduled for February 16th has been rescheduled for April 13th considering adjustments recently made to the spring calendar.

5. Provost Robel also welcomed members back and said she hoped everyone had gotten some semblance of a relaxing break despite the recent attempted insurrection in Washington DC, and other related unpleasantness. She reported briefly about the previous day's MLK Day program and thanked everyone involved, noting that it was "inspiring and wonderfully reflective way to start the semester." Finally, Provost Robel offered a brief report regarding spring term enrollment numbers and undergraduate admission and recruitment. In both areas, the campus seems to be doing quite well. A member inquired about the state of Native American student enrollments. Provost Robel observed that the numbers have typically very small, but also noted this is an area where Vice Provost David Johnson has been making significant efforts to recruit. Finally, there was a brief discussion about campus security, considering the impending inauguration, and recent incidents of vandalism of on campus, two of which were "clearly hate-related." Professor Robel reported that campus authorities are keeping a close eye on the situation but noted that IUPUI has been the primary focus of concern because of its proximity to the state capitol building.
6. The Council then received its annual report from the Athletics Committee. The report was made by Carrie Docherty, Chair of the Athletics Committee, Scott Dolson, Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and Kurt Zorn, in his capacity as Faculty Athletics Representative. Following an introduction by Professor Docherty, Vice President Dolson discussed the Athletics program's governing philosophy and its major accomplishments, both recent and over time. Among other things, he emphasized the program's genuine emphasis on student well-being, personal development, and academic success. He also discussed how the Athletics program has worked to ensure the well-being of student athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, Vice President Dolson discussed several new initiatives, including several strategic partnerships with Kelley and the Media School, and the Women's Excellence Initiative, which Dolson hopes will make IUB's women's sports program the best overall in the Big Ten. Members inquired about the Athletics program's financial health, given the challenges it has faced during the pandemic. Vice President Dolson responded that the challenges faced by the Athletics program are real and comparable to challenges being faced by athletics programs nationwide. He also said he felt IUB's program would be able to meet those challenges, although doing so may require significant creativity.
7. The Council then turned its attention to proposed amendments to BL-ACA-A3 which would allow for the option of offering five-year rolling contracts to non-tenure-track faculty. The proposed amendments were presented by Israel Herrera and Steve Sanders, co-chairs of the Faculty Affairs Committee. Herrera and Sanders noted that the only substantive change being proposed was the allowance of five-year rolling contracts; currently only three-year rolling contracts are allowed by campus policy. Responsibility for deciding how to make use of this new allowance would continue to reside with

individual units. Members were informed that the Faculty Affairs Committee supports the proposed amendments. They were also reminded that conversations about the proposed amendments have been ongoing since the fall of 2018. Finally, members were told that the proposed amendments are being offered partly in response to President McRobbie's call, several years ago, for campuses to consider ways to enhance the career paths available to NTT faculty. Herrera and Sanders' presentation was followed by a discussion among members regarding the potential pros and cons of five-year rolling contracts. This was a first reading of the proposed amendments, so no action was taken.

8. Provost Robel concluded the meeting by pointing out that, although the campus has been very concerned about student athletes during the pandemic, it has also been concerned about students in the performing arts. She noted that the campus has worked with performing arts programs to try to provide the testing and other resources they need so that their students can do what they came to Indiana University to do.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.
Colin R. Johnson, BFC Secretary