

Minutes  
Bloomington Faculty Council  
April 6, 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 Council's presiding officer. The minutes from March 16, 2021 were approved acclamation.
2. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko offered a memorial resolution in honor of Dennis Organ.
3. The first order of business on the agenda was a proposed resolution offered in response to recent events at the University of Evansville. It was presented by Moira March and Diane Henshel, past-Presidents of the Bloomington Faculty Council. As Marsh explained, the proposed resolution was drafted following close consultation with members of the University of Evansville's AAUP chapter, and the national AAUP, after both groups expressed concerns about the limited role faculty were allowed to play in the recent reorganization of that institution. Henshel noted that the resolution expresses support for colleagues at the University of Evansville and urges a more inclusive approach to the practice of shared governance on that campus. During the discussion period, Council member Steve Sanders expressed support for the proposed resolution, noting that faculty everywhere have an interest in speaking in support the principle of shared governance generally. Council President John Walbridge concurred with Sanders' statement. The proposed resolution was then adopted by acclamation without audible objection.
4. President Walbridge began his comments by noting the recent appointment of John Applegate to the position of Interim Executive Vice President and Provost of the Indiana University Bloomington campus. Walbridge assured members that they could rest easy knowing the campus was in good hands for at least the next year. Walbridge also made note of the recent death of Patrick O'Meara, whom he characterized as "essentially IU's foreign minister" and the person who "represented IU to the world." He also observed the passing of J. Michal Dunn, founding Dean of what is now the Luddy School. In the course of memorializing these colleagues, Walbridge noted, as a point of personal privilege, the importance of the human connections that develop between colleagues at IU over time. He urged the continued maintenance of these personal and professional bonds. Finally, he reported on the work of a UFC committee which will be advancing a formally articulated Climate Action Plan to the UFC within the next few weeks. Walbridge urged members with thoughts about the plan to forward comments to Diane Henschel, who has effectively been chairing the task force.
5. Like President Walbridge, Provost began her comments by noting the passing of Patrick O'Meara, noting that he "embodied everything you would want in a diplomat." She also commented on O'Meara's legendary sense of hospitality. She had only just learned of J. Michael Dunn's death, but took a moment to celebrate his accomplishments and contributions to the university as well. She also noted how pleased she was to learn that

John Applegate would be stepping into the role of Interim Provost. Finally, Provost Robel offered a report regarding the recent repatriation and reburial of 750 human remains at Angel Mounds. She explained that the repatriation and reburial process was done in accordance with existing law and under supervision of tribal authorities. For cultural reasons, some remains could not be handed directly to tribal authorities, so appropriate representatives of the university were actively involved in returning, arranging, and reburying them. From Provost Robel's perspective, this repatriation effort represents the "the beginning of addressing a wound." Finally, Provost Robel noted that vaccination efforts appear to be going well. She reported that she expects the newly established vaccination site at IUB will administer roughly 70,000 vaccines over time. During the question-and-answer period a question was asked about the status of scheduled breaks next year. Provost Robel reported that both Thanksgiving break and spring break had been added back into the 2021-22 schedule. Fall break, which is typically just one day, will likely also be restored.

6. The next order of business was the second reading of proposed amendments to BL-ACA-H10, Indiana University Bloomington's Policy on Accommodations for Religious Observances. The measure was presented by Israel Herrera and Steve Sanders, Co-chairs of the Faculty Affairs Committee. Sanders reviewed the substance of measure and reminded members that it arrived at the Council floor with the support of the Faculty Affairs Committee. During the discussion period, President Walbridge asked whether it is true and sufficiently clear that the list of approved religious observances that the VPFAA maintains is not exclusive. Sanders said he believed this was case and noted that he was under the impression the VPFAA intended to convene an expert advisory group to help assess whether observances not included on the published list should be recognized under the terms of the policy. Student representatives also expressed support for the proposed amendments. The measure passed with unanimous support.
7. The next order of business on the agenda was a second reading of proposed amendments to BL-ACA-D9, the Bylaws of the Bloomington Faculty Council of Indiana University. The proposed amendments were brought to the floor by Rachael Cohen, Parliamentarian and Chair of the Constitution and Rules Committee, and presented by Alex Tanford, Past-President of the Bloomington Faculty Council. As Tanford reminded members, the proposed amendments essentially give the BFC Executive Committee authority to create and appoint ad hoc committees and task forces, and to recommend appointees to serve on administratively appointed committees. During the discussion period a question was raised about whether granting the Executive Committee this authority would encroach upon the Nomination Committee's realm of authority. Tanford said that he did not believe that it would. Nor did he believe doing so would run the risk of saddling the Executive Committee with more work than it can handle since the Executive Committee always has the right to refer such matters to relevant BFC committees in cases where it feels those committees are better positioned to give specific matters careful consideration. The measure passed with unanimous support.
8. The final item on the agenda was a first reading of proposed amendments to BL-ACA-H28, the campus Policy on Faculty Instructional Responsibilities. The proposed

amendments were presented by J Duncan and David Rutkowski, Co-chairs of the Educational Policies Committee. Duncan offered a detailed report comparing the reach of the current policy to the proposed revised policy, noting that the proposed revised policy stands give various stakeholders a much clearer picture of how beginning students are fairing in all of their classes during their first full year of residence on the IUB campus. The revised policy would require early reporting from more instructors, but those reports would track a more thoughtfully targeted pool of students and, ultimately, requiring fewer early evaluations overall. There was then some discussion of a second iteration of the proposed policy revisions. This version would treat transfer students newly arrived on the IUB campus as “beginners” for the revised policy’s purposes. This is version of the proposed revised policy that the Educational Policies Committee currently recommends that the Council adopt. Because this was a first reading of the proposed revisions, not action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Colin R. Johnson, BFC Secretary