

Minutes  
Bloomington Faculty Council  
April 13, 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 April 6, 2021 were approved by acclamation.
2. Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Beth Gazley offered a memorial resolution in honor of Robert Heinich.
3. President Walbridge began his comments by notifying members of several matters pending before the University Faculty Council. The first is a set of proposed alterations to the university policy on consensual relationships (the current university policy language is contained within ACA-33, The Code of Academic Ethics). The proposed revisions include a number of granular adjustments to the existing language but err on the side of mandating strict reporting requirements and monitoring of potentially conflicted intimate relationships rather than an outright prohibition against certain types of relationships. The second is a charge document for a task force that will focus on developing a climate action plan for the university. The charge tasks the group with charting a course toward carbon neutrality by 2040. President Walbridge also noted that there is currently a massive document that deals with grading policy working its way through the UFC. Finally, he reported that action is being taken to make the "diversity indicator" feature in the DMAI more functional as a meaningful data collection tool. Walbridge then spent a few minutes reflecting on his term as BFC President during a very unusual and exceedingly challenging year. At the conclusion of his remarks, a member inquired about the timing of the consideration of the proposed alterations to the consensual relationships policy. Specifically, they wondered if there would be an opportunity for members of the Council to review the proposed changes and comment. President Walbridge said he thought there would be and agreed to have an accounting of the proposed changes forwarded to members of the Council for review. Past-President Henshel noted that the UFC is aware of the sensitivity of this matter and might consider delaying a vote until the fall if there is significant pushback, but also feels some urgency to move ahead as soon as possible. Following President Walbridge's comments, President-Elect Marietta Simpson took a moment to thank members of the Council on the Executive Committee's behalf for their service to the campus and their commitment to the enterprise of shared governance. She also took a moment to thank Provost Robel for her many years of thoughtful engagement with the Council, and President Walbridge for his leadership under truly unprecedented circumstances. Simpson's thanks to Provost Robel was accompanied by a formal resolution acknowledging and commending her for her decades of exemplary service to the campus the university. The resolution was adopted by acclamation.
4. Provost Robel began her final report as the Council's presiding officer by noting that she will be sending a report to the campus regarding the very large number of equity and inclusion initiatives that have been undertaken this year, even as the campus struggled to

meet challenges posed by the pandemic. Among these efforts is the work of the University Naming Committee, which recently issued a report that will undoubtedly yield several recommended changes. Provost Robel also said she is expecting a report soon regarding how the campus might begin to address its exclusion of Japanese American applicants during World War II. She then announced the first cohort of winners of the newly instituted Indiana University Inclusive Excellence Award. Given the fact that she will be stepping down from the position of Provost this summer, Robel then took a few moments to reflect on her experience serving as the Council's presiding officer over the past nine years. She praised the Council and its various leaders for their historically consistent thoughtfulness and collegiality over the years. She also observed that "any understanding of what makes academic community special has to begin with the understanding of the importance of shared governance." Finally, Robel underscored her sense of the importance of having the Provost serve as the Council's presiding officer insofar as doing so helps to hold the campus' top administrator directly accountable to the Council, and helps to build trust between the faculty and administration, which she said is "important when times are good, but especially when times are challenging." During the question-and-answer period, inquiries were made regarding several issues including whether international students who are unable to return to campus in the fall will be accommodated, whether masking will be required, whether hybrid instructional modalities will continue to be supported, and what measures will be taken during commencement weekend to mitigate the continued threat of viral transmission. Robel noted that the situation with international travel and visa approval remains fluid, but assured members that the university continues to monitor the situation very closely. She reported that masking in the fall will almost certainly be required, but social distancing requirements will be relaxed. She then reported that Deans have been charged with developing plans for the use of different instructional modalities that make sense for their units. As for concerns about crowding during graduation, Provost said she was reluctant to forbid gatherings in front of iconic structures such as the Sample Gates given how meaningful such moments are for graduates and members their families, but she did note the general concern.

5. The next order of business was a report on the University Libraries. The report was brought to the Council floor by Ann Elsner and Ilana Stonebraker, Co-chairs of the Libraries Committee, and presented by Carolyn Walters, Ruth Lilly Dean of University Libraries. As a point of personal privilege, Provost Robel took a moment at the beginning of the presentation to thank Dean Walters, who will be retiring in June, for her many years of exemplary service to the campus and the university. Dean Walters then her presentation, noting that the report being delivered was actually the second part of larger presentation regarding the library's efforts to ensure that access to knowledge remains sustainable that was first brought to the Council several years ago. Walters' report highlighted several significant changes that have occurred in the structure and operation of the university's library program since her arrival at IUB in 1987. These include the physical centralization of library operations on the Bloomington campus and the increasing use of offsite storage. It obviously also includes increased reliance of digital resources, although Walters was careful to note that the library continues to a robust acquisition program where physical materials are concerned. Indeed, IU Libraries

currently ranks 12<sup>th</sup> among public university libraries where total acquisition expenditures are concerned, and 6<sup>th</sup> among institutions in the Big Ten. She also noted that the Big Ten library systems have increasingly embraced the idea of inter-institutional collaboration, even as individual member systems have retained strong commitments to their own independent futures. Walters described several examples of inter-institutional collaboration including the Big Ten Shared Print Repository program, the Hathi Trust digitalization initiative, and the Big Ten Geoportal. She also previewed the Big Collection initiative, which aims to facilitate discovery, delivery, knowledge creation, and knowledge preservation across members institutions. Finally, Walters discussed some challenges and opportunities all university library systems are encountering within a quickly evolving publishing environment. These include increased costs, especially where journal subscriptions are concerned, new licensing and purchasing models, decreasing sales and use of print monographs, and a strong push for open access. By way of conclusion, Associate Dean Erin Ellis updated members on several upcoming changes to library operations, broader notice of which will be provided to all faculty at in late April or early May.

6. The agenda then turned to a report on the preliminary results of the survey on non-tenure track faculty participation in governance. The report was presented by Stacey Giroux, Co-chair for the Research Affairs Committee, and Sally Letsinger, a member of the Research Affairs Committee. Giroux began by explaining that the survey was conducted in response to a 2019 BFC resolution on regarding NTT voting rights. The purpose of the survey was to gather data on the involvement of NTT faculty in shared governance at various levels. The surveyed was directed toward all IUB units that employ NTT faculty and included lecturers, clinical professors, professors of practice, research scientists, and full-time research scholars. This approach resulted in the survey being routed to members of the target population by way of 66 units heads. Giroux noted colleagues in NTT positions comprise roughly a third of IUB's faculty at this point. The majority of these are appointed within the lecturer track. While the data are preliminary at this point and still need to be cleaned, the survey had revealed that most units do invite NTT appointees to attend faculty and other committee meetings. The extent to which they are allowed to vote on non-tenure related matters differs from unit to unit, however. When asked to account for differences in voting rights, many unit heads cited the fact that NTT appointees do not have the breadth of professional responsibilities that TT appointees do. The survey also inquired about whether units have written policies regarding the applicability of the 60/40 rule. Twenty-five percent of surveyed units reported that they did, but only ten percent of those reported having enough NTT faculty to necessitate its use. By way of conclusion, Giroux and Letsinger noted that they intend to continue to work on refining the data and will make the finalized results of the survey available on the VPFAA's website as soon as that work is complete. Provost Robel then thanked Giroux and Letsinger for their work on this important issue. During the question-and-answer period, several questions regarding how to interpret certain aspects of the preliminary data were posed. Giroux and Letsinger offered qualified clarifications where possible but cautioned against arriving at any conclusions until the survey results have been finalized.

7. The final item of the agenda was a second reading of the proposed amendments to BL-ACA-H28, the policy on Faculty Instructional Responsibilities. The measure was presented by J Duncan and David Rutkowski, Co-chairs of the Educational Policies Committee. Duncan reminded members that the primary purpose of the proposed amendments was to reconfigure the practice of providing early feedback and reporting to focus on “beginners” at the Bloomington campus, including newly arrived transfer students. No questions were raised or comments offered during the discussion period. The proposed measure was then adopted with 98% support.
8. Provost Robel then concluded the meeting with one final round of “happy announcements,” commending Dionne Danna and Claudia Johnson on having recently been named Herman B Wells Endowed Professors.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Colin R. Johnson, BFC Secretary