

A summary of University of Evansville (UE) recent events explaining the BFC support resolution. *(some of this is taken verbatim from the sources)*

1. In 1989, UE Board of Trustees reaffirms commitment to shared governance by amending the university charter to include the requirement that both the faculty and the board vote annually on budgeted tuition and fees (<https://saveue.com/history/>)
2. UE has been operating at a deficit for at least several years (<https://www.evansville.edu/realignment/faq.cfm>). UE has lost \$12M annually on athletics costs. Administrators have outnumbered faculty since about 2008, contributing to the growing fiscal crisis. Enrollments are dropping.
3. Previous President cuts faculty and benefits. In Spring 2018-2019, current President cuts 16% of faculty (virtually all non-tenure track) and 9% of staff and administration. Faculty not consulted. Full time student numbers continue to drop.
4. April 2020, President says more program closures and faculty cuts will be necessary. September 2020, Faculty Senate formally asks for involvement in program evaluation process (supported by the new AAUP chapter). President assures faculty they will be consulted. October 2020, Faculty Senate votes no confidence in the president because he still has not consulted the faculty.
5. December 10, 2020, President announces “draft academic realignment plan” that cuts 38 tenure-track or tenured faculty positions, 3 departments, and 18 majors. Faculty have one month to provide feedback and propose alternatives, but no provision to include the Faculty Senate as required by UE Faculty Manual. December 16, 38 faculty receive provisional notices of dismissal. Faculty Senate votes no confidence in the proposed realignment. Alumni and students protest the plan.
6. January 2021: “faculty input” period extended until end of February. Administration opens window for faculty to enroll in “voluntary separation incentive program.” 27 January, President writes to Faculty Senate Chair promising to submit any proposed cuts of majors or minors to the Senate Curriculum Committee by early March.
7. March 11, 2021: President announces revised realignment plan: 19 faculty “elected” (UE’s language) to accept voluntary separation; 3 others to enter phased retirement, and 5 more to be reassigned within the university. Revision incorporates suggestions made by individual faculty since December. 3 majors (philosophy, religion, art history) are cut for incoming students, no admissions for at least one year in Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Software Engineering. (There is no Software Engineering program, however.)

8. March 12 2021, Board of Trustees votes to approve revised realignment plan, except for the proposal cutting 3 majors, which is to go to the Curriculum Committee and Senate for their recommendation. In a webinar with faculty, President states that the faculty associated with those three majors “do not exist.” As of 17 March, nothing had been sent to Curriculum Committee.