

## Minutes

### Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for March 21, 2023

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its regular biweekly meeting on Tuesday afternoon, March 21, 2023, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Shrivastav serving as the Presiding Officer in the chair and Professor Danielle DeSawal acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:30 p.m.
2. The [minutes from March 7, 2023](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko read a memorial resolution for [Professor Kimberly Geeslin \(1971-2023\)](#).
4. Faculty President, Professor Reck (Chemistry) began with several reminders to the members and for their constituents. The first reminder was to vote for next year's BFC members and President-elect, and to complete the committee volunteer form. Both the election and the volunteer form close on March 27, 2023. Second, a reminder and encouragement for faculty participation in the candidate townhalls for both the dean of the graduate school and the vice president for research. Third, the [IU Climate Action Planning Committee](#) is holding a series of open forums on each IU campus to discuss the progress on IU's climate action plan. Forth, award nominations for the annual [Campus Catalyst Awards](#) through the Office of Sustainability are open and will be accepted until March 31, 2023.

President Reck read the following statement from the BFC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC):

*The Bloomington Faculty Council, on behalf of the IUB Faculty, unequivocally agrees that racial violence and hate crimes in any form are unacceptable. We recognize that we have a responsibility in society and as educators to actively oppose harassment and violence against individuals from all backgrounds.*

*We encourage thoughtful engagement from every faculty member on campus to work against racism and other forms of prejudice within ourselves and to be proactive in supporting our communities on our campus and beyond.*

*The Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs (OVPDEMA) provides the [Inclusive Campus Environmental Toolkit](#) to serve as a reference guide to information and resources to support university community members as they address situations, while also offering strategies for action and suggesting steps you can take to help build safe and inclusive campus communities.*

*As part of the training resources, the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning provides a variety of [teaching resources for diversity and inclusion](#) specific to classroom instruction, including [Increasing Sense of Belonging](#) and [Trauma-Informed Teaching](#).*

*Further, mental health support and counseling remain available through the [SupportLinc Employee Assistance Program](#) any time you need it. If your students need extra help, please urge them to connect with the mental health professionals at [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS) or submit a [care referral](#). Also, if your students have experienced a bias related incident, please encourage them to submit a [bias incident report](#) for additional support.*

*To our fellow faculty members impacted by recent racial violence and hate crimes on campus and in our community, we support you and your needs. Your safety and mental health are paramount and must be prioritized if we are to support our students and provide a positive example of self-care. Please reach out if you would like to bring a concern to the Bloomington Faculty Council: <https://bfc.indiana.edu/get-involved/concern.html>*

The reading of the statement concluded her comments to the BFC.

5. Provost Shrivastav began by welcoming everyone back from spring break and noted that while this time of the year feels rushed it is a time for celebrations. He congratulated the IU women and men's basketball teams for all their success this past year. Provost Shrivastav announced the [accelerating imagination initiative](#) and shared that the initiative is to identify AI-based solutions for a wide range of applications in society. He encouraged individuals to reach out to [Professor David Crandall](#) (Computer Science) who is the Director of Luddy Artificial Intelligence Center for more information. The IUB 2030 strategic plan will be launched later this spring. Focused efforts related to the strategic plan will be announced in the coming weeks. Updates on dean's searches and the vice provost for graduate education were provided, as well as the vice provost for faculty and academic affairs. Two questions were submitted in advance of the meeting. The first question was similar to the question raised at the March 7, 2023 meeting in response to the concerns expressed surrounding the communication from Faculty Governance in fall 2023 in response to SB1. He again articulated that no disciplinary action was taken in the case and feels the issue has been resolved. The second question was asking if IU has completed an after action report in response to COVID. Provost Shrivastav shared that a substantial group was pulled together in summer 2022 to begin that work and the [office of the chief health officer](#) will be responsible for managing the next steps. He further shared that IU learned many lessons from the pandemic and that while we are prepared to respond to crises, we can never be fully prepared for the unknown. Additional questions from the floor focused on the BFC president-elect ballot and a request for the BFC nominations committee to begin earlier to establish a larger pool of candidates. Clarification was asked about the rules surrounding the number of candidates. President Reck noted that nothing specific is stated regarding the total number of candidates, only that at least two need to be on the ballot.

6. Professor Dennis Groth (Informatics, Computing, and Engineering), Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education presented changes to BL-ACA-H32: Grades Given Upon Withdrawal from Courses-Undergraduates Only. The focus of the change is to remove the COVID pandemic statement. Vice Provost Groth shared that approximately 5% of all grades from all classes were issued a W in pre-pandemic years. Since the implementation of the COVID statement that has increased to 6%. This change is to move the campus back to pre-pandemic operations. He did note that the Education Policy Committee (EPC) should look at the overall policy and withdrawal processes on campus in the near future. An initial question focused on clarifying that the red text box at the top of the policy would also be removed with these changes. Additionally, it was asked how academic advisors are responding to the removal of the COVID sections before a complete review of the policy by EPC. Vice Provost Groth shared that the response was mixed. This was a discussion item.

[Current BL-ACA-H32: Grades Given Upon Withdrawal from Courses-Undergraduates Only](#)

[B43-2023: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-H32: Grades Given Upon Withdrawal from Courses-Undergraduates Only](#)

7. Parliamentarian Cohen (Libraries) presented the proposed amendment to BL-ACA-D9: Bylaws of the Bloomington Faculty Council of Indiana University. The proposed change was made by a faculty member. The Constitution and Rules Committee (CARC) approved the amendment. The proposed amendment adds “and to speak on behalf of the faculty on matters of concern to the university community.” to 10.j under the responsibilities of the Faculty President. Discussion began with sharing that the request comes from a feeling that campus administrators may lack an understanding of the role of the Faculty President, and the additional language would broaden the representation. A question about how this might change how the BFC listserv could be utilized was asked. President Reck clarified that the use of the BFC listserv falls under [BL-ACA-123: Mass Email Procedures and Restrictions](#) and the listserv is specifically noted to be used to communicate BFC business. It was also shared in discussion that the additional language is repetitive to “represent” which is already in 10.j. This was a discussion item.

[Current BL-ACA-D9: Bylaws of the Bloomington Faculty Council of Indiana](#)

[Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D9: Bylaws of the Bloomington Faculty Council of Indiana University](#)

8. Parliamentarian Rachael Cohen (Libraries) and Professor Alex Tanford (Emeritus) presented the proposed changes to BL-ACA-H30: Grades and Grading. The proposed changes are to align the IUB policies on grades and grading with [ACA-66](#). The proposed changes document provides an outline of the [proposed changes](#) for the entire policy to

align with ACA-66. Discussion began with clarification of why this policy needs to be addressed this at this point rather than have the BFC Educational Policy Committee (EPC) review the policy and present the proposed changes that consider the context of the IUB campus. It was noted in the discussion that ACA-66 was put into place in spring 2021 and the campus has been submitting grades successfully since that point. Multiple members shared a concern that adopting the exact language from ACA-66 could be problematic for processes and procedures associated with grades/grading on the IUB campus. A formal motion to refer BL-ACA-H30 to the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) was made, seconded, and a hand vote was in the affirmative. This policy is being sent to the BFC Educational Policies Committee for review and EPC will present proposed changes once the review is complete.

### [Current BL-ACA-H30: Grades and Grading](#)

### [B47-2023: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-H30: Grades and Grading](#)

### [B52-2023: Clean Copy to BL-ACA-H30: Grades and Grading \(with Changes\)](#)

9. Professor DeSawal (Education), Chair, BFC Task Force on Mediation presented the proposed changes to BL-ACA-D23: SAA Mediation Committee, BL-ACA-D28: Recommendations to Departments on SAA Grievances, and BL-ACA-D29: Student Academic Appointee Mediation Procedures. The proposed changes come with the support of the task force and the newly formed Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee (SAAAC). The changes were identified after a review of all the policies connected to SAA grievance procedures through BFC.
  - BL-ACA-D28 changes focus on updating language to provide clear recommendations to departments and inclusion of a statement on SAA's right to appeal actions or conditions affecting their role.
  - BL-ACA-D23 changes focus on an SAA being able to directly request mediation without attempting a resolution at the department/unit level, context for mediation, clarification and integration of content from BL-ACA-D29 to outline procedures, and clarification that mediation is voluntary.
  - A request to rescind BL-ACA-D29 was made since the content has been integrated into BL-ACA-D23 and BL-ACA-D28.

Discussion focused on clarifying business days versus instructional days and what happens if a department/unit declines to participate in mediation. Business days are defined as "days when the institution is open/when we can expect people are working to conduct business." This was approved by BFC in spring 2022 as part of the student conduct policy updates. An SAA may take a grievance directly to the SAA Board of Review if a department/unit does not agree to participate in mediation. This was a discussion item.

### [Current BL-ACA-D23: SAA Mediation Committee](#)

### [B48-2023: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D23: SAA Mediation Committee](#)

[Current BL-ACA-D28: Recommendations to Departments on SAA Grievances](#)

[B49-2023: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D28: Recommendations to Departments on SAA Grievances](#)

[B50-2023: Motion to rescind BL-ACA-D29: Student Academic Appointee Mediation Procedures](#)

10. Professor Catherine Sherwood-Laughlin (Public Health), Chair, SAA Board of Review (SAABR) presented the proposed changes to BL-ACA-D24: SAA Board of Review. The proposed changes come with the support of the task force on mediation. The changes focus on allowing SAA's to directly go to SAABR with a grievance and clarifying the timeline to include business days. Procedural changes focused on noting that a preponderance of evidence will be used to indicate how the SAABR will reach its recommendation, and an option to include a statement of dissent in the recommendation to the Provost was added to provide a holistic view of the hearing. Discussion focused on why language was included to specify a minimum of 3 hours for the hearing and options to have multiple sessions. The minimum is presented to allow for the process to continue and not be cut off. Additional sessions can be held at the discretion of the SAABR. This was a discussion item.

[Current BL-ACA-D24: SAA Board of Review](#)

[B51-2023: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D24: SAA Board of Review](#)

11. The meeting concluded at 4:20 p.m.