

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for March 19, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, April 2, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:32 p.m.
2. The [minutes of the March 19, 2024](#) meeting were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Terence Kelso Thayer](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, presented the Executive Committee Business report. He began by announcing that Bill Ramos won the election to be the next BFC President Elect, and that the Nomination Committee will be putting together the ballots for other BFC elected positions. He encouraged the council to remind their colleges to sign up to volunteer to serve on BFC committees. President Johnson then announced that he received a petition on Wednesday, March 27 that was signed by 226 IUB faculty. The petition calls on President Johnson to convene a special meeting of the faculty to consider a vote of no confidence in Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty, Provost Rahul Shrivastav, and President Pamela Whitten. The petition invokes Article IV section 4.3 in the [Constitution of the Bloomington Faculty](#). The special meeting of the full faculty will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, from 2:30 – 5:30 in the IU Auditorium. The special meeting will take place during what was to be the final BFC meeting of the 2023 – 2024 academic year. During the special meeting, eligible voting faculty will be able to debate and vote on three separate motions: a vote of no confidence in Vice Provost Docherty; a vote of confidence in Provost Shrivastav, and a vote of no confidence in President Whitten. He presented the voting procedures as outlined by the constitution, and who is considered a voting faculty, which only includes tenure and non-tenure track faculty, and librarians who have at least .75 FTE appointments, as well as emeriti faculty. President Johnson stated that the special meeting will be his final meeting in his role as the BFC President. He thanked his BFC colleagues, members of the Executive Committee, and the Faculty Council office for their support and collegiality, as well as members for the university and campus administration.
5. Provost Shrivastav gave the Presiding Officer's Report and began by thanking BFC President Colin Johnson for his thoughtful and collaborative leadership. He then informed the council that at the time of the meeting he did not have answers regarding the impact and implementation of Indiana Senate Bill 202. He stated that the University is working with and seeking guidance from faculty leaders and the University Faculty Council. He thanked everyone who attended and was involved with creating the event

“Remembering Hoosiers: A Memorial Service for IU Bloomington Faculty, Staff and Students” that took place on March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Presidents Hall. He then reminded everyone that due to the upcoming Solar Eclipse, there will be no in-person classes on April 8, 2024. He also announced that details of upcoming campus research space improvements are forthcoming. The provost thanked Cate Reck, BFC Past-President, for her leadership throughout his time as the provost. He also thanked Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Giordano, who is the Army ROTC representative on the BFC, for his service and leadership. Giordano will be retiring at the end of summer. The provost was asked for more details about Senate Bill 202, as well as the role of a new position for an Associate/Assistant Vice Provost for Experiential Learning and Outreach. The provost was asked to respond to the Faculty Board of Review’s recommendation regarding the case of Professor Abdulkader Sinno. The provost did not comment on the case because he said that it is a personnel matter, and that he needed to review the Faculty Board of Review recommendation.

6. Andrea Need, co-chair of the Educational Policies Committee, and Vasti Torres, Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education presented a discussion item on a new policy on Academic Standing for Undergraduate students ([B33-2024: Academic Standing for Undergraduate Students](#)). This new policy provides consistent academic standing terminology and processes. At the moment, there are no standards on campus, as units describe academic standing differently. They noted that currently on campus there is no existing policy by which students can be dismissed by Indiana University Bloomington. They responded to a question about the appeal process for students, and students dismissed from University Division. Due to the announcement made earlier in the meeting that this would be the last official BFC meeting of the 2023 – 2024 academic year, a motion was made to vote on this new policy. The [Bylaws of the Bloomington Faculty Council of Indiana University](#) do not require that policies have a first and second reading. The motion passed by a near unanimous vote, and the new policy was adopted.
7. Bill Ramos, co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee presented an action item on changes to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Conduct - [B31-2024: Changes to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Conduct](#). The first reading took place during the [March 19, 2024 BFC meeting](#). Based on the feedback during that meeting, they decided not to change the composition of the hearing board for academic misconduct cases that have been appealed. The only things that were under consideration during this reading was changing the responsible office for overseeing graduate student misconduct to the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, and the removal of the word “serious” in regard to student appeals in misconduct cases when there is a procedural error. The council vote was near unanimous in favor of the proposed changes. These changes will be implemented starting in fall 2024.
8. Ben Kravitz, co-chair of the Research Affairs Committee, presented an action item on proposed changes to BL-ACA-A1, Academic Appointments, and BL-ACA-A5, Research Ranks at Indiana University:

- a. [B27-2024: Background and Overview to Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A1 and BL-ACA-A5](#)
- b. [B35-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A1, Academic Appointments \(Second reading\)](#)
- c. [B36-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A5, Research Ranks at Indiana University \(Second reading\)](#)

He briefly highlighted the reasons for these proposed changes, and the establishment of new titles for research ranks for research faculty. These were presented in detail during the [March 5, 2024 BFC meeting](#), and no edits had been made to these proposals since that meeting.

9. The floor was then opened for discussion prior to the vote. He was asked to confirm that the faculty ranks discussed in this policy are non-tenure track faculty, to which he confirmed. The Provost then called for a vote on the proposed changes. The motion passed and the vote was near unanimous in favor of the proposed changes.
10. Carrie Docherty, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, Amanda Diekman, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, and Wen Qi, Director of Faculty Analytics, presented on the results from the 2023 [Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education](#) (COACHE) faculty satisfaction survey. The survey captures data on faculty satisfaction. The faculty surveyed include tenure track, non-tenure track, librarians, research scientists, clinical professors, and professors of practice. Faculty satisfaction has decreased slightly in the last ten years. They discussed our campus' strengths and weaknesses regarding faculty satisfaction, and outlined action items that will be taken based on the survey results to improve faculty satisfaction. During the question and comment period, a concern was raised about the narrative presented about faculty satisfaction based on the charts shown to the council. They were also asked what steps would be taken to address faculty compensation and issues related to faculty retention. There was an additional comment about the need for increased collegiality between faculty and campus leaders.
11. The March 19, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:20 p.m.