

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for February 13, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, February 13, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:33 p.m.
2. The [minutes from the January 30, 2024](#) meeting were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Nina Perlina](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, began the Executive Committee Business Report by announcing the candidates who were nominated to be on the ballot for the BFC President Elect: Alex Tanford, Bill Ramos, and Chase McCoy. The vote will take place later this March. He provided an update on the status of [ACA-33](#) and [BL-ACA-D27](#), and stated that the Faculty Affairs Committee is reviewing these and will be proposing changes to both policies. He also addressed Indiana Senate Bill 202. He thanked Indiana University President Whitten for her public statement last week on the bill, and encouraged the faculty to voice their concerns as citizens of the state. The council then voted to suspend the rules in order to discuss whether to endorse a [joint statement on SB 202](#) written by the IU and Purdue chapters of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). The council voted to endorse the statement.
5. Provost Shrivastav began the Presiding Officer's report by standing by President Whitten's comments on Senate Bill 202. He affirmed his commitment to academic freedom and open inquiry. He stated that the University Relations team, along with other universities in the state, are voicing their concerns with state legislators. He updated the council on the efforts [Kinsey Institute special working group](#) to solicit feedback and recommendations. The working group has provided their recommendations, and these will be shared with the Board of Trustees. He congratulated IU programs that have received recent national recognition. Next, he updated the council on various searches, including the Executive Director for Arts and Humanities, and the Dean of the School of Education. He also announced a newly reimagined position for the Executive Director of Community Engagement. Finally, the provost provided updates on the status of IUB 2030. He addressed questions about the cancellation of the Samia Halaby exhibition, the status of the campus' cultural centers, and Senate Bill 202.
6. Next was an action item on changes to BL-ACA-H21. The proposed changes, [B17-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-H21, IU Bloomington Academic Calendar Principles](#), were presented at the last BFC meeting on January 31, 2024. Starting in spring 2025, the

proposed changes will extend the passing period to a minimum of twenty minutes and no more than twenty-five minutes. The change would also add an additional scheduling block for classes. Concerns were raised about the impact the policy changes would have on the workload for scheduling staff and on students. Additionally, it was asked whether the policy implementation date could be moved to fall 2025, and it was noted that spring 2025 was chosen as it would be the earliest possible implementation timeline. The Registrar stated in response to a question that schools with unique cohorts and scheduling will still be able to adjust the schedule to suit their needs. The council passed the policy, which will go into effect in spring 2025.

7. Alternative Resolution Advisory Committee presented on their charge to assess issues and the concerns of faculty related to interpersonal and other forms of conflict, to address ways to help faculty better navigate conflict, and recommend resources for supporting faculty. They shared the findings from a survey of Bloomington faculty that took place in fall 2023, as well as from focus groups and research conducted on how Big 10 schools address faculty conflicts. From these efforts, five themes emerged: 1) create new procedures and processes for conflict management; 2) establish a culture of communication; 3) improve administration/administrators; 4) face “structural not personal” challenges; and 5) improve overall campus climate through better policies and self-improvement. The committee’s next step is to send their recommendations report to Vice Provost Docherty by the end of February.
8. A discussion item on proposed changes to BL-ACA-D16 was the last item on the agenda. This was initially presented during the [November 14, 2023 BFC meeting](#). Given that there were significant revisions to the proposed changes to BL-ACA-D16 ([B21-2024: Revisions to November CREM policy draft based on feedback](#)) following that November meeting, this was treated as a first reading rather than a second reading. A co-chair of the [CREM Committee](#) walked the council through the changes made by the CREM committee. Some changes include increased collaboration between the provost and the Executive Committee, clarification about the composition of a Review Committee to assess reorganization proposals, and a provision that recommends that the provost not proceed with a reorganization if it is not supported by the faculty from the affected units and the Review Committee. The council was reminded that the policy being presented would actually be an entirely new policy, and would eliminate the CREM committee. In place of the CREM committee, a special Review Committee would be created when a reorganization proposal is put forward. Passing this policy would require changes to the BFC Bylaws. Questions and concerns were raised, especially about language in the proposed policy regarding the composition of a Review Committee. The CREM committee will be reviewing the policy again based on all the feedback provided.
9. The January 30, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.