

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for March 5, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, March 5, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:30 p.m.
2. The [minutes of February 13, 2024](#) meeting were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Jack Shiner](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, began the Executive Committee Business Report by informing the council of the Board of Trustees decision on Friday, March 1, 2024 to endorse President Whitten's proposal not to create a 501c3 for the Kinsey Institute. He addressed a pending [Indiana University Student Government \(IUSG\)](#) bill that was to be discussed on the floor of the IUSG Congress on March 4, 2024. The bill expressed no confidence in President Whitten and her administration, and called on the Bloomington Faculty Council and the University Faculty Council (UFC) to respond and put forth their own votes of no confidence by April 22, 2024. In response to the IUSG, he brought a contingent no-confidence resolution to the BFC Executive Committee on the morning of March 4 to discuss and seek approval for adding it to the March 19, 2024 BFC meeting agenda. The Executive Committee voted unanimously, aside from President Johnson, against the contingent no-confidence resolution. Although President Johnson made the decision to bring forward a contingent no-confidence resolution to the Executive Committee, he expressed grave concerns about the IUSG bill and presented these to the BFC. He argued that forcing a public vote, as called on by the IUSG bill, could disenfranchise the many faculty on the council who are not protected by tenure from voting their conscience. He also voiced his frustration that the language in the IUSG legislation demanded that the BFC and the UFC respond by a set deadline. President Johnson expressed his relief that the IUSG legislation was not considered or voted on during the IUSG Congress meeting on the evening of Monday, March 4. He called on Provost Shrivastav to initiate a meaningful dialogue with faculty, staff, and students during his annual State of the Campus Address at the March 19, 2024 BFC meeting.
5. Provost Shrivastav began the Presiding Officer's report by updating the council on the Board of Trustees decision regarding the Kinsey Institute to forego the creation of a separate non-profit for the Institute. The next step is to send a plan for the institute to the Indiana Board of Accounts. Provost announced a [new annual ceremony](#) that will take place on March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Presidents Hall to honor the faculty, staff, and students that have passed away during the past year. He provided campus search updates, including that final campus visits for the School of Education Dean candidates

are finishing. First round interviews for the [Executive Director for the Arts and Humanities](#) have started, and the finalists will be brought to campus after Spring Break. The new Hamilton Lugar School Dean [John Ciorciari](#) officially started on March 4, 2024. The Provost addressed questions about the Samia Halaby Exhibition at the Ezkenazi Museum of Art and campus events, Senate Bill 202, and policies associated with the faculty disciplinary process.

6. Michael Huber, Vice President for University Relations, and Angela Smith Jones, Associate Vice President for State Relations, presented on Senate Bill 202 and other bills concerning higher education from the current Indiana legislative session. They referenced President Whitten's opposition to Senate Bill 202, especially its five-year review mandate, calming that it will create a competitive disadvantage for recruiting and retaining faculty at IU. They also presented on House Bill 1179, House Bill 1001, and Senate Bill 8. They were asked about the steps taken to protect faculty speech on campus, how Senate Bill 202 defines a university faculty member, and whether we could still use DEI-type statements in the hiring process.
7. Scott Dolson, the Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, presented the annual report from the Athletics Committee. He discussed the programs and accolades of IU athletics related to the IU Athletics Five Priorities: playing by the rules; holistic care and development of student athletes; academic excellence; athletic excellence; and integrating with the university. He referenced the Women's Excellence campaign, which has raised private support for IU women's varsity sports. He presented data on the diversity of head coaches and the IU athletics staff. He addressed questions about Name Image and Likeness and IU's position on paying athletes.
8. Ben Kravitz, co-chair of the Research Affairs Committee, presented on proposed changes to BL-ACA-A1 and BL-ACA-A5. The proposal is to add three new titles for research ranks for research faculty: assistant research professor, associate research professor, and research professor.
 - [B27-2024: Background and Overview to Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A1 and BL-ACA-A5](#)
 - [B28-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A1, Academic Appointments](#)
 - [B29-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-A5, Research Ranks at Indiana University](#)
9. Carrie Docherty, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, provided the council with an update on the new faculty-activity reporting tool. The plan is to acquire the Symplectic, which will be implemented in fall 2024. She discussed how the software also has functionalities that could be used in the future for the promotion and tenure process. She was asked about the role of faculty governance in vendor selection process and in implementing the software.
10. The March 5, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.