

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for November 14, 2023

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its meeting on Tuesday afternoon, November 14, 2023, 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 from the October 3, 2023 meeting](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Rudolf Raff \(1941-2019\)](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, began the Executive Committee Business Report by informing the council on what took place during the first formal [UFC meeting in Indianapolis on October 31, 2023](#). He then provided the BFC with a version of his comments made at the recent Board of Trustees meeting on November 10, 2023 concerning the administration's plan to propose a legal separation of part of the Kinsey Institute from the University in light of recent state legislation. The Trustees decided to table the motion of the partial separation until the next meeting in February. The delay is intended to allow more time to explore the issues and consult with stakeholders, especially faculty and staff affiliated with the Kinsey Institute. He discussed a proposal sent to the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) to investigate the existing University-level policies concerning sabbatical-like leave for non-tenure track faculty. FAC recommended that expanding sabbatical-like leave opportunities for NTT should happen through the creation of school-level policies. President Johnson will be communicating with the school Deans and policy committees to encourage them to adopt such policies. Another issue brought to the FAC was in regards to the adoption of gender-neutral language when referring to emeritus faculty. The FAC agreed with this proposal and will develop a resolution to bring to the UFC, since title designation is controlled by University-level policies.
5. Provost Shrivastav gave the Presiding Officer's Report. He began by addressing the world events in the Middle east. He said that he and President Whitten have been meeting with members of the IU Jewish and Muslim communities, and they have been monitoring the situation daily. He provided updates on the IUB 2030 status, the soft launch of IU Innovates, the formation of the new budget model [committee](#), and the ongoing dean [searches](#). He also announced IU's new national brand campaign, "Bring on Tomorrow." In the submitted questions, the Provost was asked about faculty involvement in decisions surrounding the Kinsey Institute. He reaffirmed IU's commitment to the Kinsey Institute and academic freedom, and stated that the University will work with stakeholders to create a solution to have the institute and the collection remain at IU, while remaining compliant with the law. He was also asked

about the fiscal implications of the proposed central administration budget model on the campus' schools, as well what the campus is doing to address pedestrian safety.

6. Carrie Docherty, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, and Logan Paul, co-chair of the Technology Policy Committee, provided updates on the faculty-activity reporting system. In the summer of 2023, a task force was set up to review the Digital Measures Activity Insights (DMAI) system and explore other vended faculty-activity reporting systems. They recommended that the University pursue an RFP for a new system. Demos from the top two or three vendors will be taking place this fall, and a new vendor will be selected in early 2024, with the targeted implementation being fall 2024. One question was asked as to whether a new system will be able to import information from the DMAI, and they responded that the vendors and UITS are aware of this concern.
7. Alex Tanford, co-chair of the CREM Committee, presented a discussion item on proposed changes to the policy [BL-ACA-D16: Creation, Reorganization, Elimination, and Merger of Academic Units and Programs](#). Two documents were shared with the BFC related to this discussion item: [B9-2024: Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D16 and Related Policies](#); and [B10-2024: Background Memo on Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-D16 and Related Policies](#). The proposed policy changes reduces the procedural CREM steps, while retaining the substantive requirements of current policy. The proposal would also eliminate the CREM Committee, and calls on the Provost and the Executive Committee to convene a special review committee when a CREM proposal emerges. He welcomed feedback and input as the proposal moves forward. He addressed questions about the proposal's relationship to existing UFC CREM policies, when the policy would go into effect if adopted, and the differences between this policy and the one that existed prior to the 2015 revision. He was also asked about the proposed elimination of the CREM Committee, and how the special review committee would be formed. He stated that the Provost and the BFC Executive Committee would form the special review committee, and will include faculty from the affected units.
8. President Johnson presented a discussion item on a new proposed university-level policy, [UA-22](#), on employee relations involving students. The policy will be considered for adoption at the upcoming UFC meeting on December 12, 2023. The policy prohibits grooming and the attempt to initiate a relationship between students and employees. The policy does include an exemption process, and it requires prompt disclosure at the start of any relationship by the individual who holds the professional authority. The policy authorizes the Office of Institutional equity to investigate any possible policy violations.
9. President Johnson introduced an action item on [questions for academic dean reviews](#) on the Bloomington campus, which aligns with a UFC-level policy that includes a provision to generate set of 5-point Likert scale questions for the review process. At the October 31, 2023 UFC meeting, the proposed questions were approved. In response to a question about what the current process is, he stated that the questions were

embedded in the previous version of [BL-ACA-D6](#), but in the policy updated last spring the questions were taken out, and it was stipulated that ten questions were to be developed and periodically reviewed. These questions will be sent to all faculty, excluding visiting appointees, in the unit of the dean under review. There was a motion to change the language in question seven, which initially read “the dean understands the strengths of the faculty in the school/college.” The motion to change “understands” to “acknowledges and values” passed with a majority. Following, the motion to approve the revised questions were passed with a near unanimous vote.

10. The November 14, 2023 BFC meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.