

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council

Minutes for September 19, 2023

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its meeting on Tuesday afternoon, September 19, 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 August 29, 2023](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [memorial resolution for Timothy T. Baldwin](#) (1958 – 2022).
4. Faculty President, Colin Johnson, updated the council on pending items received by the BFC Executive Committee, including a request for clarity on the University's policy [UA-17 on Conflict of Interest and Commitment](#). He brought up faculty concerns about the UFC's revisions to [STU-00](#) in spring 2023. These concerns have been submitted to the Student Affairs Committee. President Johnson updated the council on the UFC meeting on September 12, 2023. During that meeting, IU President Pamela Whitten outlined her priorities and concerns for the University to the UFC members, which included a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as agreeing to the need to create a taskforce on the impact of artificial intelligence at the University. Finally, he discussed concerns and comments raised by the Bloomington faculty during the BFC Town Hall on September 12, 2023.
5. Provost Shrivastav began the Presiding Officer's Report with an update on the status of the IUB 2030 implementation. Working groups for the plan's pillars are being formed this fall. He discussed the approval of the [Indiana University Climate Action Plan](#) that [was announced](#) on September 11, 2023. The Bloomington campus will form a [sustainability committee](#), which will work in partnership with the IU Office of Sustainability. The Provost detailed the status of the [Honoring Hoosiers working group](#), which was created last year to come up with the recommendations for honoring faculty, staff, and students who pass away each year. He then discussed the recent scooter accident on campus, and how the campus is working with the city of Bloomington to address scooter safety on campus and city streets. Finally, he provided a few updates regarding campus searches. [Professor of Sociology Brea Perry](#) has been named the Associate Vice President for Research and Vice Provost for Research for Bloomington. On September 26, there will be a town hall for the final candidate for the [Dean of the IU School of Optometry](#). The Executive Director for IU Innovates Hub, Julie Heath, officially started her position on September 18.
6. Aaron Carroll, IU Chief Health Officer, discussed the current status of COVID-19 on the Bloomington campus. Infections over the last two months have been on the rise, but the number of reported cases is steadily decreasing. The campus is following the [CDC guidelines](#) and is urging people to [report their infection](#). Antigen tests are still covered by insurance for faculty and staff. Free tests are being provided to IUB students at the

Student Health Center. Dr. Carroll was asked if the ventilation systems in the classrooms and buildings were adequate enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus. He stated that research was conducted on whether students were more likely to contract COVID-19 if they attended class versus those who did not. There does not seem to be an increased risk for students attending classes. He stated that his office does not know about the status of the ventilation systems.

7. Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, Vice President for Student Success, gave an [overview of her office](#), and on the status of the new platform for student success. In August 2023, the University announced they would be partnering with [Stellic](#) to provide an integrated system for student success. This platform includes applications for degree auditing, scheduling, reporting, degree pathways, and advising. The implementation of the platform is underway, with the goal of having the audit and degree pathway applications operational across the IU system by fall 2024. The first alpha release of these applications will take place on one of the regional campuses in spring 2024. The advising and scheduling applications will follow in fall 2024/spring 2025. At the moment, the platform is only for undergraduate students, but David Daleke, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Bloomington Graduate School, stated that they will continue to review the Stellic platform's capabilities for graduate students. Vice President Payne-Kirchmeier was asked if there were any concerns that this system would create and encourage a prescriptive path for undergraduate students in determining their degree choices and course selection, and whether this would stifle academic exploration. She stated that to prevent creating a prescriptive environment, advisors are going to be instrumental in the process of helping students explore academic opportunities. Finally, Vice President Payne-Kirchmeier introduced [Lamar Hylton](#), the new Vice Provost for Student Life. Vice Provost Hylton, who at the time of the meeting was on day fourteen in his role, spoke about his enthusiasm for being at IU and his excitement for working to support and enhance the student experience.
8. Aimee Heeter, Vice Provost for Finance and Administration, then provided the BFC with an overview of the Bloomington campus' fiscal trends and a brief summary on the University's budget model redesign. The Bloomington campus has seen a 7% increase (+208) in faculty FTE, including +6% for tenure track and +7% for non-tenure track positions. The Bloomington 2024 fiscal year budget is around \$2 billion, with the primary sources of revenue come from tuition and fees (\$1.1 billion), followed by state appropriations (\$225.5 million), ICR (\$28.7 million), and other income (\$8.6 million). She outlined internal and external forces that are pressuring the campus budget, and discussed ways the campus plans to address future fiscal challenges. She was asked for numbers on the growth in faculty salaries as compared to administrative salaries on campus, but she did not have the data at that time to be able to provide an appropriate response. She then presented on the University's new budget model redesign. The goal of the redesign is to align the model with the IU 2030 strategic plan, simplify resource allocation, improve transparency, and increase operational efficiency. The first phase of the redesign will focus on developing a model for the University's central administration starting in fall 2023. The second phase will focus on creating a model at the campus-level. There will be a steering

committee that will include representation from the campus' deans, vice provosts, faculty, and staff. The steering committee will engage in model visioning, and will help to develop the model and seek feedback from the campus community. The goal is to have the model implemented for the 2026 fiscal year. A question was raised about how open and transparent the development and implementation of the model will be. The Provost stated that once phase 1 is complete, which is currently underway and focuses on how the central University units are funded, the phase 2 process will be more transparent.

9. John Trinidad, co-chair of the [Budgetary Affairs Committee](#), provided a summary of the committee's 2022-2023 actions. He stated that the committee participates in budget meetings with academic and non-academic units on campus, and makes recommendations on the use of the Provost's funds. Last year, they approved to fund over half of the total requests for funding from the Provost's funds, whereas in previous years only around 30-40% of requests were funded. Additional funding from the Provost's office was also made available for other funding requests.
10. FACET Director, Michael Morrone presented on the [Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching](#) (FACET). FACET is a collaborative community of faculty who are committed to teaching excellence and advancing their pedagogy. Currently, there are 60 FACET members on the Bloomington campus. Current members are distributed across faculty rank, and all faculty ranks and tracks are encouraged to join. He also discussed various opportunities through FACET, including [Peer Review of Teaching Certification](#), as well as fellowships, grants, and events. FACET has [two peer reviewed journals](#), the Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (JoSoTL) and the Journal of Teaching and Learning with Technology (JoTLT).
11. The meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.