

To: BFC
From: Creation Reorganization Elimination and Merger Committee
Alex Tanford & Sena Durguner, co-chairs
Date: November 14, 2023
Re: Proposed amendments and revisions to BL-ACA-D16, Creation, Reorganization, Elimination and Merger of Academic Units and Programs, and to sections of related policies concerning campus academic reorganization

A. The BFC CREM Committee has reviewed BL-ACA-D16 and related policies on the reorganization of academic units and programs and finds:

1. The current policy requires 40 procedural steps involving five committees and six remonstrance periods. It is unworkable.
2. The policy places too much responsibility on a small CREM Committee which lacks the expertise to evaluate specific reorganizations.
3. The policy poorly defines what kinds of reorganizations should be reviewed by a campus-wide committee. That definition needs to be clarified and updated to reflect our current campus structure.
4. A resolution passed in 1988 by the BFC called on us to have such a discussion. It was mislabeled as a policy (BL-ACA-D18) and should be removed as a policy.
5. The Provost and Executive Committee meet regularly to discuss campus priorities. That is the appropriate place for initiating the reorganization process and creating an appropriate committee.
6. A standing CREM committee is not needed and should be eliminated.

B. This motion has 4 parts:

1. A revised policy on reorganizing academic units and programs to replace BL-ACA-D16.
2. Amendments to remove references to the CREM Committee from BL-ACA-B10 (BFC Committees), BL-ACA-D17 (Faculty participation in campus-level budget decisions), and BL-ACA-D19 (BFC faculty selection for university financial exigency committee).
3. The removal of BL-ACA-D18, Academic Program Initiatives, as a policy.
4. Amendments to the bylaws of the BFC (BL-ACA-D9) to eliminate the CREM Committee.

C. For discussion purposes, each paragraph in the text of this motion is given a unique number (in parentheses) that will be removed from the posted final version.

D. Supplemental materials setting out explanations and context for these provisions have also been disseminated.

E. The CREM Committee moves that the BFC take the following actions:

SECTION 1: Repeal current BL-ACA-D16, Creation, Reorganization, Elimination, and Merger of Academic Units and Programs, and replace it with the following:

BL-ACA-D16. Reorganization of Academic Units

Effective Date: _____ Date of Last Review/Update: _____
Responsible University Office: Bloomington Faculty Council
Responsible University Administrator: Provost, Indiana University-Bloomington
Policy Contact: bfcoff@indiana.edu

Scope

(1) A. This policy applies to the reorganization of academic units on the Bloomington campus if the reorganization:

- a. Creates or eliminates a school;
- b. Creates or eliminates a department or program with academic appointees from more than one school;
- c. Moves a department or program from one school to another;
- d. Is not otherwise covered under a school reorganization policy.

(2) B. This policy does not apply to the reorganization of units as a result of a university-wide financial exigency, when the policies outlined in university policy ACA-41, Faculty Role Regarding University Financial Exigency [[link](#)] and BL-ACA- D19, Faculty Selection for University Financial Exigency Committee [[link](#)] shall apply.

(3) C. In the case of a reorganization proposal that affects a school that has a presence on more than one campus, and will affect departments, programs or academic appointments on more than one campus, university policy ACA-79, Merger, Reorganization and Elimination of Academic Units and Programs Involving Core Schools shall apply.

(4) D. Any question regarding whether a reorganization falls under this policy shall be resolved by consultation between the Provost and the Executive Committee of the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC).

Policy Statement

(5) A. Circumstances such as developments scholarship, new directions in sciences and the arts, changing student expectations, financial opportunities or constraints, or administrative efficiencies, may make it prudent to consider the reorganization of academic units, and may necessitate a reallocation of financial resources and the reassignment of academic appointees, staff, and students to new academic homes.

(6) B. Reorganization should occur only when that action is expected significantly to enhance the ability of Indiana University Bloomington to perform its academic mission.

(7) C. It is in the mutual interests of the faculty and Provost to provide the highest quality academic units at Indiana University-Bloomington. Consultation among the Provost, faculty, and other constituencies is therefore the most desirable way to consider the reorganization of academic units. The review procedures set out in this policy, in which primary responsibility is vested in a diverse committee, is presumptively the most useful method of consultation.

(8) D. This policy should be interpreted and applied in a way that is guided by the principles of shared governance, academic freedom, honoring tenure and faculty appointments, and preserving the role of peer review in decisions affecting academic personnel.

(9) E. All university and campus policies on diversity apply to the selection of a Review Committee and the reorganization process.

(10) F. Primary faculty responsibility for reorganization under this policy is vested in the BFC Executive Committee which meets regularly with the Provost, can refer matters to any relevant standing committee, and can act promptly to create a Review Committee.

(11) G. The appointments of academic appointees with tenure or long-term appointments shall not be terminated as a consequence of a reorganization except as provided in university policies ACA-41, Faculty Role Regarding University Financial Exigency [\[link\]](#), and ACA-52 §§ D-E, Involuntary Dismissal of Academic Appointees [\[link\]](#).

1. Necessary reductions in the number of faculty with tenure or long-term appointments shall be achieved instead by voluntary attrition or reassignment and in consultation with the relevant unit faculty governance organizations.

2. Appointees whose academic home is eliminated or substantially changed may be reassigned to a new academic home based on the mutual fit of scholarly, scientific or artistic interests. Every effort shall be made to find a new home that is agreeable both to the affected appointee and to faculty members in the receiving unit, with the understanding that in rare instances it may be impossible to find an arrangement that fully satisfies all parties.

3. The dean of the affected school and the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs have ultimate responsibility for finding a new academic home for affected faculty members.

(12) H. Probationary appointees and those with one-year appointments whose academic home is eliminated or substantially changed may be reassigned to a new academic home based on the mutual fit of scholarly, scientific or artistic interests. A reasonable effort shall be made to find a new home that is agreeable both to the affected appointee and to faculty members in the receiving unit, with the understanding that in some instances it may be impossible to find a satisfactory arrangement.

(13) I. When an academic appointee is moved to a new unit, tenure and promotion reviews shall be conducted under the criteria and standards of the new unit, subject to these provisions:

1. Tenure-track appointees who are moved during the probationary period may choose to be reviewed under the tenure standards of their original home unit at the time they were first appointed.

2. Whenever an appointee is reassigned to a new home, there shall be a memorandum of understanding concerning the distribution of professional responsibilities and how input shall be gathered from the former home unit for tenure or promotion decisions.

(14) J. Appointees remain obligated to perform customary research/creative activity, teaching and service responsibilities throughout the period of reorganization.

(15) K. Reorganization of academic units shall not result in involuntary base pay reductions or alteration of negotiated agreements with academic appointees, or in the loss of time accumulated toward vacation or sabbatical leave eligibility.

(16) L. Every effort shall be made to enable students enrolled in degree programs at the time of reorganization to complete the requirements for those degrees, and arrangements for completion of degree programs shall be included in the reorganization plan.

(17) M. Contracts and agreements with graduate students, including the continuation of their fellowships, stipends, student academic appointments, and research programs, shall be honored.

(18) N. An academic appointee adversely affected by the reorganization of academic units may file a grievance with the Faculty Board of Review.

(19) O. Each school should have a policy for the creation, reorganization, elimination and merger of departments and programs within that school which is approved by its faculty governance organization.

Reason for policy

(20) The Constitution of the Bloomington Faculty provides legislative authority to the faculty in matters pertaining to the creation, reorganization, merger, and elimination of academic units that affects more than one school on the campus. These matters are critical to our academic mission. Consistent with our commitment to shared faculty and administrative governance, this policy specifies the role faculty play in campus reorganization.

Procedures

(21) A. A reorganization of academic units may be proposed by university or school administrators, faculty governance bodies, student government, or any member of the university community. A reorganization proposal should be presented to the Provost who shall decide whether to move forward with it.

(22) B. If the Provost decides to move forward with a reorganization proposal, the Provost shall:

1. Inform the BFC Executive Committee, the full BFC, and the faculty governance bodies at the affected units.
2. Present a proposal that explains why the reorganization is both desirable and feasible and addresses the relevant topics set out in paragraph J.
3. Set a timeline for the review that allows ample time for the process and takes into consideration the normal cycle of faculty appointments, graduate student recruitment, and student course registration.
4. Request that the BFC Executive Committee provide names of faculty to serve on a Review Committee.

(23) C. The Provost appoints the members of the Review Committee. The committee should contain:

1. Members selected by the Provost in consultation with the deans of the affected schools.
2. An approximately equal number of faculty recommended by the BFC Executive Committee, some of whom should be from the affected unit(s).
3. At least one representative of the undergraduate students, the graduate students, and the staff.
4. The Committee usually should have a minimum of 12 and maximum of 25 members.

(24) D. The final committee membership should be agreed upon by the Provost and the BFC Executive Committee, and no person should be on the committee who is opposed by either.

(25) E. The Provost may select the chair of the Review Committee.

(26) F. The Provost shall provide a charge to the Review Committee that includes a description of the proposed reorganization.

(27) G. The Provost shall arrange for adequate staff and financial support for the activities of the Review Committee.

(28) H. A Review Committee shall establish its own operating procedures but must in all reviews:

1. Consult widely with affected members of the university community.
2. Consult with the affected unit policy committees.

3. Include one or more open meetings that provide an opportunity for questions and discussion.

4. Produce a comprehensive Recommendation Report.

(29) I. The committee may consult with experts in the discipline from outside Indiana University.

(30) J. The Recommendation Report should cover:

1. The significance of and justification for the reorganization to advancing the mission of I.U. Bloomington.

2. The budgetary impact including both resources and expenditures.

3. The physical plant impact including changes in the location of faculty and administrative offices and teaching, research and creative activity space.

4. Plans for current and future academic appointments, including how probationary faculty will progress toward tenure and job security for non-tenure-track faculty.

5. Plans for the interim and permanent addition, reassignment, or elimination of deans and other senior administrators and a timetable for such changes.

6. A list of proposed staff reassignments, additions or eliminations and a timetable for implementing any changes.

7. A description of any courses, programs or degrees being added, reduced or eliminated, a timetable for such changes, and legacy plans for students currently in those programs who will be affected.

8. How graduate students will be supervised and funded and legacy plans for graduate students currently in those programs who will be affected.

9. Arrangements for interim and permanent faculty governance documents, including tenure and promotion guidelines.

10. Any implications of the reorganization on unit accreditation.

(31) K. The Recommendation Report shall be presented to and voted on by the eligible faculty in the affected units. The Report will be deemed to have faculty approval if at least two-thirds of the votes cast by eligible faculty members support the plan. If fewer than two-thirds of the faculty support the plan, the Review Committee may revise and resubmit the proposal to the affected units for a new vote.

(32) L. The Report and final votes will be reported to the BFC Executive Committee, the affected units, and the Provost.

(33) M. If the Provost is unable or unwilling to follow the Committee's recommendations, the Provost shall inform the Review Committee and the BFC Executive Committee and provide a statement of the reasons why. The Provost shall then consult with the Executive Committee about whether to revise and resubmit the reorganization proposal to the same or a different Review Committee.

Definitions:

(34) a. "Academic unit" is a school, department or program that has one or more academic appointees and/or offers courses for credit or degrees.

(35) b. "School" includes schools, colleges, and any other academic unit headed by a Dean.

(36) c. "Department" is an academic subdivision of a school typically headed by a Chair.

(37) d. "Program" is an academic subdivision housed in, or affiliated with, one or more schools, typically headed by a Director. The term may include subdivision with titles other than program, such as centers, institutes and workshops.

(38) e. "Academic home" is the academic unit in which an appointee's primary appointment is located.

(39) f. "Faculty" means tenure-track faculty and librarians and non-tenure-track faculty as defined in sections 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 of the Constitution of the Bloomington Faculty [link].

(40) g. "Academic appointees" refers to all faculty plus other academic appointment categories as defined in ACA-14, Classification of Academic Appointments. [link]

(41) h. The "Provost" refers to the individual holding this office at Indiana University-Bloomington, or those to whom the responsibilities have been delegated by the Provost.

(42) I. "School or unit policy committee" refers to policy committees as described in BL-ACA-D7, Unit Policy Committees.

(43) History:

a. Created as the Merger, Reorganization and Elimination of Academic Units and Programs; BFC 12/14/1982; Amended 10/16/1984; Amended 4/19/2011

b. Revised and current CREM version approved, BFC 4/28/15.

c. Amended by BFC Executive Committee 2/26/2019.

d. Amended 4/05/2022 to move section on "Faculty Participation in Campus-Level Budget Decisions on Financial Difficulties" into a separate policy (D17), where it originally been.

e. Substantially revised by BFC on _____.

SECTION 2: Make the following amendments to remove references to the CREM committee from other policies:

(44) BL-ACA-B10, BFC Committees

* * *

Duties of the standing committees

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4. ~~The Creation, Reorganization, Elimination and Merger Committee (CREM) is a standing committee charged with monitoring and safeguarding the legislative authority of the faculty over CREM initiatives. The committee is governed by policy BL-ACA-D16, Creation, Reorganization, Elimination, and Merger of Academic Units and Programs.~~

(45) BL-ACA-D17. Faculty Participation in Campus-Level Budget Decisions on Financial Difficulties

A. As soon as a financial crisis for IUB appears imminent or an ongoing financial crisis worsens, the Provost shall request recommendations from the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC)

B. This information will be supplemented by a report from the Budgetary Affairs Committee, (BAC) ~~and recommendations/input from the Creation, Reorganization, Elimination, and Merger (CREM) committee.~~

C. If the Provost believes that the circumstances for the IUB campus may be severe enough to lead to a declaration of financial exigency he shall request that the BFC consider the best way forward.

* * *

5. If a financial exigency is declared for the IUB campus and all options short of eliminating faculty appointments have been exhausted, the BFC ~~and BAC, and CREM~~ committee will, considering the financial realities of the campus, collaborate in gathering information regarding the scholarly value of all impacted.

* * *

F. Upon receipt of the recommendations of the BFC, the president of the university shall meet with the Executive Committee of the BFC and the chairs of the Budgetary Affairs Committee ~~and the CREM committee~~ to discuss the recommendations. Subsequently, the president of the university shall notify the BFC of the trustees' and president's assessment of the crisis and the proposed means for alleviating it and shall allow an opportunity for questions and discussion in a time frame to be agreed upon by the president and the BFC.

(46) BL-ACA-D19 – BFC Faculty Selection for University Financial Exigency

Policy statement

A. In the event that financial exigency is invoked by the university, the UFC will form an ad hoc Financial Exigency Committee.

B. In said event, the BFC will provide a list of faculty members from which additional members of the UFC Financial Exigency Committee will be selected.

C. This list of faculty members should be representative of a broad range of faculty, reflecting the diversity of faculty appointments, and other skills and expertise ~~as~~ deemed important ~~by CREM.~~

Procedures

A. The BFC Executive Committee shall, in consultation with ~~CREM and~~ the full BFC membership, be charged with the formation of the said list.

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SECTION THREE: (47) Rescind BL-ACA-D18, Academic Program Initiatives as a policy.

~~Resolution 1:~~

~~—A. The Bloomington faculty has constitutional authority to establish policies regarding academic program initiatives which establish new programs or revise existing ones.~~

~~—B. The Bloomington Faculty Council confirms the authority of the faculties of the schools to establish and revise academic programs, including programs which they may establish by negotiation with other schools.~~

~~—C. Academic program initiatives on the Bloomington Campus not authorized by the faculty of a school must be approved by the Bloomington Faculty Council.~~

~~—D. Where the faculty of a school considers that its academic programs will be adversely affected by an academic program initiative of another school, either school may refer the matter to the Bloomington Faculty Council to make policy recommendations to the Vice President on the questions raised by the conflict.~~

~~—E. The Educational Policy Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee should establish and maintain liaison with the policy and curriculum committees of the schools.~~

~~—F. When the Budgetary Affairs Committee of the Bloomington Faculty Council considers the budgetary implications of academic program initiatives, that committee should refer initiatives to the Agenda Committee when matters of campus-wide academic policy may be involved.~~

~~Resolution 2:~~

~~—The University Faculty Council and the campus faculty councils should review our faculty constitutions to determine what constitutional revisions are needed in light of the university's current complex structure and missions.~~

SECTION FOUR: Amend the BFC Bylaws (BL-ACA-D9) as follows:

(48) Bylaw 16. Organization of the standing committees:

A. Standing committees of the Council are those constituted for an indefinite term.

B. Standing committees of the Council shall consist of the Benefits Committee; the Budgetary Affairs Committee; the Constitution and Rules Committee; ~~the Creation, Reorganization, Elimination and Merger Committee~~; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; the Educational Policies Committee; the Executive Committee; the Faculty Affairs Committee; the International Affairs Committee; the Library Committee; the Long Range Planning Committee; the Nomination Committee; the Research Affairs Committee; the Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee; and the Technology Policy Committee.

C. Standing committees shall be divided into three categories: committees with primarily consultative functions, committees with primarily legislative functions, and committees that support the critical administrative functions of the Council. This does not mean that consultative committees do not occasionally have legislative tasks, nor that legislative committees do not consult on issues. This is meant only to describe the primary function of the committee.

1. Standing committees with primarily consultative functions are: the Benefits Committee; the Budgetary Affairs Committee; ~~the Creation, Reorganization, the Elimination and Merger Committee~~; the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee; the International Affairs Committee; the Library Committee; the Long Range Planning Committee; the Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee, and the Technology Policy Committee.