

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council

October 1, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its regular biweekly meeting on Tuesday afternoon, October 1, 2024 in Presidents Hall. The meeting came to order at 2:30 PM with Faculty President Danielle DeSawal acting as Presiding Officer and Professor Dana Anderson acting as secretary.
2. The Council voted to approve the minutes of its September 17, 2024 meeting, with one vote against.
3. Associate Vice Provost of Faculty and Academic Affairs Amanda Diekman read a memorial resolution for Professor George Smerk (1933–2023). Professor Smerk was a Professor in the University School of Business, and he also held the position of Director of Indiana University Campus Transportation. He was recognized many times in his career, both nationally and in service to the state of Indiana, with particular distinction in regard to the latter, having received the highest award for service to the state—the Sagamore of the Wabash Award—twice.
4. Faculty President DeSawal presented the business of the Executive Committee. The Committee continues to envision and prepare for the university-wide implications of Senate Enrolled Act 202. She also addressed the sudden announcement of the cancellation of the Intensive First-Year Seminars program, noting that the BFC leadership had no role in that decision, nor did anyone in Council leadership know of the program’s closure before it was announced by Vice Provost Vasti Torres on October 4, 2024.

Faculty Present DeSawal closed her remarks on Executive Committee Business by inviting representatives of staff governance and student governance to introduce themselves and their governing bodies to the BFC. Presenting were President Jen Berry on behalf of the IUB Staff Council; Claire Cumberland on behalf of the Communications Workers of America Local 4818; President Cooper Tinsley and Vice President Nicole Santiuste on behalf of the IU student body; Vice President Katharina Schmid-Schmidfelden, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair Daniel Reischer, and Matthew Jackson of the Graduate Student and Professional Government; and Professor Tim Walton of IU ROTC.

5. The meeting was opened for general questions to the BFC, which included the request for an update on the status of Dunn Meadow. It remains closed after its recent resodding and does not as yet have a date set for reopening.
6. Professor David McDonald presented a motion to the floor that the Provost open each future BFC meeting by sharing the following information regarding sanctions under UA-10:
 - How many IUB community members have been sanctioned in total;

- How many of those total sanctions were given to IUB faculty members; and
- The locations on campus where the sanctions were given.

The motion carried with one vote opposed.

7. Professor Russell Skiba addressed similar concerns regarding UA-10, reading an extended statement into the record and urging both President Whitten and the Board of Trustees to issue an immediate moratorium on the enforcement of UA-10. Discussion raised the question of whether Professor Skiba was making a formal motion to the Council, as well as attendant questions of procedure if so. It was agreed that any potential motion on the floor would be foregone in favor of a motion to refer Professor Skiba's proposal to the Executive Committee for consideration, thus allowing it to be examined with a thoroughness more in keeping with its content. The motion for referral to the Executive Committee carried.
8. Professor Lisa-Marie Napoli, Director of the Political and Civic Engagement program, discussed the program's involvement in the Council on the Student Voter Engagement and Big Ten Voting Challenge. She discussed the initiative's three-fold purpose of increasing voter registration, providing nonpartisan voter education, and raising overall voter turnout. During extended discussion, members of the Council responded with clear support for these objectives but also with equally clear concern that these are the very activities that seem rendered suspect in the current campus climate under Senate Enrolled Act 202. Professor Napoli agreed to follow up and report to the Executive Committee on the specific question of whether instructors were allowed to cancel class on election day in order to facilitate student voting.
9. Faculty Affairs Committee Co-chairs Jessica Lester and Katherine Ryan presented the committee's ongoing revisions of BL-ACA-D22 Grievance and Review Procedures of Bloomington Academic Appointees. After the Council discussed changes and implications, including the alignment of a revised policy with other campus and university policies, the motion was made to refer the item back to the 2024–25 Faculty Affairs Committee for additional consideration. The motion carried unanimously.
10. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Vasti Torres presented the Annual General Education Report and an update on her office's development of the First Year Experience they are currently piloting. Vice Provost Torres then turned the time over to ex-officio Faculty President and Long-range Planning Committee Chair Colin Johnson, who addressed the Council on foreseeable challenges and opportunities for general education in light of the 2030 Strategic Plan. Professor Johnson closed his remarks with a call to Council members, and to the faculty at large, to re-envision general education in the coming year as a reinfusion of intellectual substance into the curriculum and as a challenge to the transactional discourse that predominates in its stead.
11. Discussion in response to the presentations by Vice Provost Torres and Professor Johnson targeted the unclear role of the BFC, if any, in OVPUE's development of its First Year

Experience, as well as the relationship between that program and the now-defunct Intensive First-Year Seminar Program. Vice Provost Torres clarified that the BFC's involvement was limited to the Executive Committee's joint creation of the work group to explore the proposal of a viable first year program. Further questioning from various Council members clarified that the creation of that working group was in fact the limit of the BFC's involvement; the BFC was not consulted on any additional matters regarding the content or execution of a potential First Year Experience, nor was it consulted in any capacity regarding the sudden cancellation of IFS.

12. The Council employed its remaining time in discussion of Senate Enrolled Act 202, with particular emphasis on clarifying the provisions and protections that might be afforded to faculty by way of already existing institutional structures and policies.
13. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.