

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council
September 17, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its regular biweekly meeting on Tuesday afternoon, September 17th, 2024 in Presidents Hall. The meeting came to order at 2:30 PM with Provost Rahul Shrivastav as Presiding Officer and Professor Dana Anderson acting as secretary.
2. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its April 2nd, 2024 meeting.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus Harbans Singh Bholra (1932–2021).
4. On behalf of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Co-Chair Erin Bentley Wyatt called on the BFC to resolve to take one concrete action in the coming academic year to more fully acknowledge its existence on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples. Professor Wyatt noted that the Committee had made the same call to the BFC in the prior academic year, stating that a more substantial commitment to honoring those peoples and the history of their displacement is an important first step in ensuring IU's support of all its students.
5. Faculty President Danielle DeSawal presented the business of the Executive Committee. She summarized the Executive Committee's efforts over the summer to address the requirements and university-wide implications of Senate Enrolled Act 202. She noted that two separate requests had been made to put this item on the present meeting's agenda, noting as well a request that standing committees be convened to address these matters. The Executive Committee decided at its September 3rd meeting that these items would not be placed on the agenda for this first meeting, reiterating that work was already in progress that would be addressed in future meetings. This is in part to emphasize the central role of policy committees at the school and college level. She addressed the requirement that the university maintain a single system across all campuses for fielding complaints related to SEA 202 (currently EthicsPoint), stating that many questions have arisen regarding the processes that are involved in both gathering and responding to complaints. The BFC Faculty Affairs Committee has been charged to work with the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs to discuss and make recommendations regarding the criteria for how a complaint is identified as SEA 202. The UFC will continue its work to suggest new language and a new layout for EthicsPoint, and these suggestions will be part of an ongoing conversation with the BFC.

Faculty President DeSawal also reported on the listening sessions that she and Search Committee Co-Chair David Daleke have led as part of IUB's effort to fill its new Chancellor position. The Committee is working with the firm Isaacson, Miller to finalize language for the position description.

Faculty President DeSawal concluded by presenting a resolution that the Council honor the extensive and dedicated service of its outgoing Faculty President, Professor Colin Johnson.

She also expressed the council's gratitude for the work of Professor Cate Reck in service to the BFC.

6. Provost Rahul Shrivastav presented the Presiding Officer's report, detailing record enrollment and applications to IUB this year, with the incoming undergraduate class being the second largest in its history. Updates also included the hire of 30 new faculty members, the increase of research productivity, the receipt of a Lilly Foundation Grant toward development of the Trades District, the establishment of a new advising structure, and the success of University fundraising efforts in having exceeded its goal. Several new high-demand academic programs are awaiting approval by the Board of Trustees. This year also begins with the launch of a multi-year revision of General Education.

Provost Shrivastav echoed Faculty President DeSawal's remarks on the ongoing work of responding to SEA 202, commenting as well on the progress of the Chancellor search. The University is also in the process of a national search for a new Dean of the School of Education and a new Executive Director of Arts and Humanities.

7. On behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, 2023–24 Co-Chairs Jessica Lester and Katherine Ryan presented changes regarding BL-ACA-D-22 grievance and review procedures for academic appointees. Their work emphasized procedural clarification, including the work of a subcommittee on BL-ACA-D27 to be presented in a future meeting. Revisions clarified the roles of individuals at various stages of the review process. FAC recommended several key items for continued consideration and possible revision, informed by extensive feedback from IUB faculty and by comparisons with the grievance and review policies of peer institutions. These ongoing items include the possible delineation of circumstances in which the University President may diverge from the findings of the hearing board; and the addition of language that more explicitly prohibits retaliation regarding grievances and their review.
8. Vice Provost Docherty, Professor Logan Paul (Co-Chair, 2023–24 Technology Policy Committee), Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Akash Shah, and VPFAA Business Analyst Brandalynn White discussed the status of the new faculty activity reporting tool, Elements. They reviewed the process by which this platform was selected to replace DMAI and commented extensively on improvements that the new system enables, including the ability to account for a broader range of activity types. A pilot of Elements involving 50 faculty has already been initiated and has resulted in improvements regarding our implementation. Elements will be available for use by all faculty in November 2024. They concluded by expressing their gratitude to the many units and administrators who have helped thus far in the progress toward a successful University-wide implementation.
9. Professor Ben Kravitz, Vice President of the Indiana University Bloomington Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, discussed the work of the AAUP and invited increased support from the IU community in helping to safeguard faculty governance, tenure, academic freedom, and other crucial aspects of university work.
10. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.