

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for March 7, 2023

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council held its regular biweekly meeting on Tuesday afternoon, March 7, 2023, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Shrivastav serving as the Presiding Officer in the chair and Professor Danielle DeSawal acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:32 p.m.
2. The [minutes from February 21, 2023](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko read a memorial resolution for [Professor Andrew Lenard \(1927-2020\)](#).
4. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Eliza Pavalko read a memorial resolution for [Professor Ciprian Foias \(1933-2020\)](#).
5. Faculty President, Professor Reck (Chemistry) provided reminders for the faculty to complete the COACHE Survey of Faculty Job Satisfaction and to submit nominations for the 2023 Indiana University Inclusive Excellence Award from the BFC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. President Reck addressed the Kinsey Institute and House Bill 1001. She addressed the historical attacks against the Kinsey Institute and the lack of evidence against any of the claims made toward the Kinsey Institute. She further noted that the Vice President for Governmental Relations is actively working to address the misconceptions, however the BFC Executive committee felt a statement was needed regarding academic freedom and the Kinsey Institute. The following statement was read:

Academic freedom, which forms the foundation of universities' work of discovery, depends on researchers' ability to freely choose their subjects and methods, draw conclusions, and publish their contributions to their fields, in accordance with rigorous professional standards and without fear of political or ideological interference. Indiana University has a proud tradition of nurturing and defending academic freedom, as exemplified by the university's support of excellent, cutting-edge research and the free expression of a wide variety of academic opinion, despite the popularity or unpopularity of the subjects explored or views expressed. All research has the potential to lead down controversial paths — as all new, consequential knowledge or understanding should.

The Bloomington Faculty Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to academic freedom and calls upon the administrative leadership of Indiana University to vigorously defend it and to counter any unproven allegations about the work of IU researchers, teachers, and clinicians. In particular, it should work constructively with state officials to promote a truthful representation regarding the work of Dr. Alfred Kinsey and the world-renowned Kinsey Institute and their

work to study and to better the lives of people everywhere through the rigorous and objective study of human sexuality.

Indiana University Bloomington Faculty Council Executive Committee

She concluded by encouraging faculty to engage with our legislators in productive conversations about the necessity of research and education across the state.

6. Provost Shrivastav began by thanking President Reck for her comments and the statement about the Kinsey Institute. He further shared that both, he, and President Whitten, support the work of the Kinsey Institute and remain in close communication with the faculty and affirm academic freedom. Provost Shrivastav announced a multi-year effort to update instructional spaces on campus. Data will be used to identify the spaces that need renovation first and the initiative will begin immediately. He further shared another initiative focusing on [improving the staff experience](#) at IUB. The IUB 2030 draft is currently under review and in the final steps before being officially released. Updates on dean's searches and the vice provost for graduate education were provided, as well as the vice provost for faculty and academic affairs. A submitted question that inquired about the recently revised BL-ACA-D6: Review Procedures for Administrators on the Bloomington Campus wanted to know why all the vice provost's were not included (i.e. vice provost for strategy and innovation and vice provost for diversity and inclusion). The policy is controlled by the BFC and not the Provost. Provost Shrivastav responded that he believes they should be included. Additional questions focused the communication from Faculty Governance surrounding SB1 from fall 2023 and sharing the BFC scholarship fund recipients. The Provost clarified that general counsel was responding to a complaint that [University Policy GR-01](#) was violated by a communication sent to the faculty by faculty governance officers in response to [SB1](#). He further shared that general counsel is not monitoring faculty governance work and only responded due to the complaint that was filed. Provost Shrivastav reassured the BFC that he has no intention of censuring faculty. In response to sharing the names of recipients of the BFC scholarship, President Reck deferred to Vice Provost David Johnson who shared that due to the nature of the private funding supporting DACA students, each student is asked if they want to have their information shared.
7. Professor Nancy Nelson (Speech, Hearing and Language Sciences) co-chair of the Benefits Committee and Director of Benefits, Christian Royer provided a report on the mental health benefits for faculty and staff. The [new workplace mental health website](#) was shared after extensive work to identify how to make the information accessible. The tools include how to find help and resources to support or improve mental well-being, how to connect with professionals for 24/7 support, information on how to respond to individuals considering suicide, and resources for departmental HR partners, supervisors and managers. Webinars and events related to mental health and well-being are also featured on the site. Royer noted that it is too soon to know what changes will occur for the 2024 benefits and they are working on establishing an employee clinic on campus. Questions focused on linking trainings noted on the main page to resources for leaders.

8. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, David Johnson and Assistant Vice Provost & Executive Director of Admissions, Sacha Thieme presented proposed changes to BL-ACA-H11: Undergraduate Admissions Policy. They began with thanking the EPC for their work and guidance to update the policy, and the math department has been involved in the updating of the policy. The proposed changes focus on expanding the math requirement to align with other BIG10 institutions and states across the country and eliminating the test-optional language. Questions focused on the language surrounding the math requirements and what would be considered alternative courses. The response indicated due to the multiple titles of courses it is hard to have a prescribed list and the language provides an indicate that alternative courses can be considered at the discretion of admissions. This was a discussion item.

[Current BL-ACA-H11: Undergraduate Admissions Policy](#)

[B42-2023: Changes to BL-ACA-H11: Undergraduate Admissions Policy](#)

9. Professor Kelly Eskew (Business), Co-chair of the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) withdrew the proposed changes to BL-ACA-H29: Examinations and BL-ACA-H21: IU Bloomington Academic Calendar Principles that were presented at the February 21, 2023 BFC meeting. Data will be gathered by the campus and be used to draft a new set of proposed changes.
10. Parliamentarian Rachael Cohen (Libraries) presented the proposed changes to BL-ACA-B10: Bloomington Faculty Council Committees. The changes focus on adding the Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee (SAAAC) to the list of committees under the “duties of the standing committees” section and adding a sentence to the procedures for committee selection noting that the SAAAC will have three co-chairs, one being an SAA. No discussion followed. This was an action item and passed with a hand vote.

[Current BL-ACA-B10: Bloomington Faculty Council Committees](#)

[B35-2023: Changes to BL-ACA-B10: Bloomington Faculty Council Committees](#)

11. Changes to Pandemic Guidelines and Proposed Changes to BL-ACA-H32: Grades Given Upon Withdrawal from Courses-Undergraduates Only was postponed to a future BFC meeting.
12. The meeting concluded at 3:42 p.m.