

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for March 19, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, March 19, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:32 p.m.
2. The [minutes of the March 5, 2024](#) meeting were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for James Reilly](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, presented the Executive Committee Business report. He informed the council that the BFC and UFC leadership is working with university and campus leaders to discuss the implications and implementation of the provisions in Indiana Senate Bill 202. He also announced that Alex Tanford withdrew his name from the upcoming ballot for the election of the BFC President Elect. Then ballot will now have two candidates, Chase McCoy and Bill Ramos.
5. Provost Shrivastav gave the State of the Campus Report and began by providing an overview of the state of and challenges for higher education in the US. He provided the council with an update on undergraduate applications for fall 2024. He also addressed the campus' fiscal status, including state funding, increased externally funded research and fundraising, and changes to the campus and university budget model. He then discussed how students are choosing to pursue degrees with clear career paths, and that as an institution we need to ensure that those types of programs thrive, while also investing in the arts and humanities. As for faculty and student diversity efforts, he pointed out that the campus has added 62 new faculty through the Presidential Diversity Hiring Initiative, and how enrollment and persistence for unrepresented and first-generation students has increased. He discussed the campus' investments in improving undergraduate and graduate student success, including increased stipends for SAA's, redesign of the Hutton Honors College, and the Office of Student Life. The provost mentioned efforts to engage and serve the state and our local communities. He discussed campus investments to improve campus learning and research spaces through Project Inspire and funding from the Board of Trustees. He also welcomed new campus leaders, including the deans of the Media School, the Hamilton Lugar School, and the School of Optometry, as well as the Vice Provost for Research and the Vice Provost for Student Life. The provost took questions about initiatives for undergraduate students, including the first-year seminar and efforts to improve student academic performance. He was also asked about financial support for world language centers on campus. He also addressed a comment about whether changes on campus are in the best interest for the campus.

6. Bill Ramos, co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee presented a discussion item on changes to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Conduct - [B31-2024: Changes to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Conduct](#). Also present, was Janett Thomas, Assistant Director for Academic Misconduct. One key change presented was changing the language about the office responsible for overseeing graduate student misconduct to the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Health Sciences. The proposal would also modify the composition of the hearing board for academic misconduct cases that have been appealed. Currently, the board is composed of three faculty members and two students. The proposal would change the composition to two faculty and one student. Many of the questions and concerns were about the proposed changes to the faculty-to-student ratio on the hearing board for academic misconduct appeal cases. Ramos called for a straw poll of the council members to assess whether they believed that the size of the hearing board for academic misconduct appeal cases should be reduced. Based on the straw poll results, the majority of the faculty believed that the size of the board should not be reduced. President Johnson pointed to the language in the proposed change about the responsible office for graduate misconduct. He questioned whether it was necessary to include Health Sciences in the title, considering that the current Vice Provost in that position is unique in that he is currently assuming two roles. He noted that future a person in this role would likely only be the Vice Provost for Graduate Education. Ramos said that he will be taking the recommendations back to the Student Affairs Committee.
7. Carrie Docherty, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, Amanda Diekman, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, and Wen Qi, Director of Faculty Analytics, presented on the results from the 2023 [Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education](#) (COACHE) faculty satisfaction survey. The survey captures data on faculty satisfaction. The faculty surveyed include tenure track, non-tenure track, librarians, research scientists, clinical professors, and professors of practice. Faculty satisfaction has decreased slightly in the last ten years. They discussed our campus' strengths and weaknesses regarding faculty satisfaction, and outlined action items that will be taken based on the survey results to improve faculty satisfaction. During the question and comment period, a concern was raised about the narrative presented about faculty satisfaction based on the charts shown to the council. They were also asked what steps would be taken to address faculty compensation and issues related to faculty retention. There was an additional comment about the need for increased collegiality between faculty and campus leaders.
8. The March 19, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:20 p.m.