

## Minutes

### Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for January 16, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, January 16, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:33 p.m.
2. The [minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Fred McElroy \(1950-2018\)](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, began the Executive Committee Business Report by reminding the council that ballots for electing a new BFC President Elect will be coming out shortly. His report addressed two recent events on campus, including the administrative disposition of a disciplinary case involving a faculty member and the cancellation of a public exhibition at the Eskenazi Museum of Art. He raised procedural concerns that have emerged from the disciplinary case, particularly focusing on specific university and campus-level policies concerning faculty conduct and disciplinary procedures. Questions have been raised regarding whether the Bloomington campus policy [BL-ACA-D27 "Policy on Faculty Disciplinary Procedures"](#) is still relevant given recently approved revisions on April 25, 2023 to the university-level policy [ACA-33 "Academic Appointee Responsibilities and Conduct."](#) He voiced concerns about the implications of ACA-33, and stated that Executive Committee has referred BL-ACA-D27 to the Faculty Affairs Committee to review and amend the policy to ensure its applicability in light of the recent revisions to ACA-33. He reminded the council that ACA-33 does provide a mechanism for faculty to contest sanctions through a Faculty Board of Review. The cancellation of the Samia Halaby exhibition at the Eskenazi Museum of Art was the second controversy he addressed. The president expressed regret that no elected member of the faculty leadership had been consulted before the decision was made.
5. Provost Shrivastav gave the Presiding Officer's Report. He framed the report around three topics: the University's commitment to our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim community members; affirmation to academic freedom, artistic expression, and open inquiry; and commitment to faculty governance. He affirmed the campus' commitment to our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim community members. The Provost stated that he was not able to speak to individual personnel issues, but decisions related to the matter of the disciplinary case were made independently by university officials by considering all of the factors associated with the case. He then discussed the University's commitment to academic freedom, artistic expression, and open inquiry, but also addressed the need to ensure safety and security on campus. The provost addressed the issue of the Palestine Student Group event in November 2023. He stated that the event

was not cancelled, nor were restrictions on the event put in place due to its content. Rather, the event was not properly planned in advance following campus policies. Therefore, the necessary security to ensure the event's safety could not be guaranteed. The event took place regardless, although the provost stated the group had been asked to reschedule the event due to the campus' safety concerns. Provost Shrivastav also discussed the cancellation of the planned exhibition at the Eskenazi Museum of Art of the Palestinian artist Samia Halaby. The administration believed the exhibition would have become a controversial event, threatening the safety of the IU community. Along with the discussion of academic freedom, he brought up the Kinsey Institute. A special working group hosted [listening sessions this past week](#), to hear how the campus can continue to support the Kinsey Institute while complying with the new state law that prohibits the University from using taxpayer dollars to support the institute. Carrie Docherty, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, then discussed how campus policies, such as ACA-33 and BL-ACA-D27 are implemented regarding disciplinary actions taken towards faculty. She also provided data on disciplinary cases on the Bloomington campus over the past five year. Prior to questions, the provost announced that the campus will be [raising the stipend level for student academic appointees](#). He answered a question about faculty involvement on the Kinsey Institute working group. The provost was asked questions about the credibility of the threats to safety, and whether invoking these concerns without specifics or evidence was concerning. He was also asked if Halaby had been an IU faculty member, would the decision had been different. In response, he said that it would have been, as then it would have involved academic freedom. Finally, in response to a question about creating an advisory board similar to the anti-Semitism advisory board to address anti-Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim incidents on campus, he stated that the campus is taking steps to address issues related to Islamophobia.

6. Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) co-chairs, Jessica Lester and Katherine Ryan, presented discussion item on a [new policy on tenure and promotion](#). The purpose of the policy is to explain the promotion and tenure process, and is an iteration of an existing campus document, "Principles and Policies on Tenure and Promotion." This document was approved by the BFC on April 15, 2019, and was amended on November 19, 2019. However, it was not an official campus policy, nor does it have an assigned policy number. The proposed changes include gender neutral language, formatting it to be consistent with the BFC policy templates, and to remove appendices and endnotes. They addressed a question about an effective implementation data, as well as clarifying the reason for changes made to the existing document.
7. Julie Hardesty, co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, provided updates on her committee's actions and the charges assigned to them. She discussed the committee's recommendations concerning a BFC Land Acknowledgment, and the subcommittee on Critical Race Theory's (CRT) review of CRT resources. Finally, she presented on the campus' Inclusive Excellence Awards, and informed the committee that nominations will be made available soon. In response to questions associated with

the Land Acknowledgement, she stated that there have been discussions about tuition reduction and the campus has increased scholarship opportunities for Native American students.

8. David Daleke, Dean of the Indiana University Bloomington Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, provided updates on the Graduate School. He outlined the three missions of the school: academic excellence; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and student development. Fall 2023 enrollment numbers were provided, as was an update on the 2024 application numbers. He discussed his charge to increase master's enrollment and outlined the various efforts being undertaken. Finally, he discussed the efforts the Graduate School is taking in the area of graduate student development.
  
9. The January 16, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.