

Minutes

Bloomington Faculty Council Minutes for January 30, 2024

1. The Bloomington Faculty Council meeting took place on Tuesday afternoon, January 30, 2024, in Presidents Hall. With Provost Rahul Shrivastav as the Presiding Officer and Lecturer Chase McCoy acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 2:30 p.m.
2. The [minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting](#) were approved.
3. Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Carrie Docherty read a [Memorial Resolution for Virginia Alice Woodward \(1927-2021\)](#).
4. Colin Johnson, the BFC President, began the Executive Committee Business Report by informing the council that the Bloomington campus policy [BL-ACA-D27](#) is being reviewed by the Faculty Affairs Committee. He reminded the council of the importance of faculty participation in shared governance. He thanked the non-tenure track faculty for their engagement over the past several years. However, he spoke about decreased participation in faculty governance across the institution from tenure track faculty. He encouraged the council to remind and encourage their colleagues to participate in shared governance.
5. Provost Shrivastav gave the Presiding Officer's Report, and began by updating the council on the University's efforts to solicit feedback from the campus community, alumni, and donors on the Kinsey Institute. The Board of Trustees will address the Kinsey Institute during their upcoming meeting [February 29 – March 1, 2024](#). He addressed the proposed Indiana Senate Bill No. 202, and commented that the University has raised their concerns about the bill with Senate leadership. The provost updated the council on the progress being made on IUB 2030 in each of the three pillars of the plan. Search and hiring updates were also provided. He addressed questions submitted before and during the meeting related to the cancelation of the Samia Halaby exhibition at the Eskenazi Museum of Art. Other questions included those about the Faculty 100, the size of the campus' administration, and his response to the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition's letter sent to IU President Whitten.
6. Hilary Kahn, the Interim [Vice President of International Affairs](#), provided the council with updates from her office. She started with data about international student enrollment and international alumni. Next, she discussed progress made on IU 2030 as it relates to global initiatives. She also reminded the faculty of ways that her office supports faculty through various grants opportunities. Finally, she discussed the Global Gateways, and announced the opening of a new Gateway office in Accra, Ghana in May 2024. She was asked about how student fees are distributed by her office, and about how her office could financially support international scholars relocating to the United States.

7. The Faculty Affairs Committee co-chair Jessica Lester presented on a new policy on tenure and promotion - [B16-2024: Indiana University Bloomington Principles and Policies on Tenure and Promotion](#). She reminded everyone that this policy would replace a previous document on tenure and promotion, which has not been an official campus policy. This was a second reading and an action item for the council. There was a motion to amend the policy to include language on the protection of faculty by placing them in another position should their unit be removed from the University. That language was in the original document, but had been removed from the policy since it exists word-for-word in another campus policy. The motion passed, and the amendment was added. There was another motion to rescind six campus-level policies related to tenure and promotion if the new policy under discussion was passed. The argument that was made for rescinding these policies was that these policies would in effect become redundant and would be superseded by the passing of the new tenure and promotion policy under discussion. Concern was raised about voting to rescind six policies associated with tenure and promotion on the floor of the BFC without the council having had the time to review those policies. The motion to rescind the six policies failed. A vote was then called on the new policy with the added amendment, and it was approved.
8. Andrea Need, co-chair of the Educational Policies Committee, presented a discussion item on proposed changes to [BL-ACA-H21](#). The proposed revision to this policy is in regards to the length of the passing period times between classes. The proposed revision would change the length of the passing period for all course types from 15 minutes to 20 minutes, and allow up to 25 minutes at the discretion of the Registrar. The proposed change, if passed, would go into effect starting in Spring 2025. Questions raised focused on how students and faculty would be impacted by this policy change, and how the policy would impact the workload of schools as it relates to course scheduling.
9. Christan Royer, Director of Benefits, and Jim Sherman, co-chairs of the Benefits Committee, provided an update on the new [Employee Clinic](#) as the final agenda item. The new IU Employee Clinic will provide primary and acute care to IU employees and their family who are on an IU-sponsored medical plan. IU has partnered with Marathon Health, a third-party provider, to develop the clinic. The plan is for the clinic to open at the end of March 2024, and will be located on the eastside of Bloomington. Christan was asked about the length of the contract with Marathon, if there was opportunity for expansion should there be a high demand for the clinic, and about the security of employee health data. There were also two questions on how the clinic would support prescriptions.
10. The January 30, 2024 BFC meeting concluded at 4:25 p.m.