

University Faculty Council Minutes, Feb. 27, 2024

The Indiana University Faculty Council held a virtual, synchronous meeting via Zoom on Tuesday afternoon, February 27, 2024. With University President, Pam Whitten, as Presiding Officer and Professor Susan Popham acting as secretary, the meeting convened at 1:30 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of December 12, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Business (10 minutes) Philip Goff, UFC Co-chair, of IUPUI/IUI, spoke briefly about the upcoming change from the IUPUI to IUI. He also thanked Pres. Whitten for speaking out against the version of the bill, SB202, that changes the structure of higher education tenure status. Colin Johnson, UFC Co-chair, IU Bloomington, also thanked Pres. Whitten for remaining committed to academic freedom and for upholding the rights of faculty and the institutions to work without political interference. Carolyn Schult, UFC Co-chair, IU South Bend, also thanked Pres. Whitten for being the public face of expressing faculty concerns about the state bill, SB202. Dr. Schult also spoke about the importance of the regional campuses, many of which rank higher in the US News and Reports rankings than the Purdue regionals, but do so with much less tuition revenue than the Purdue regionals.

2. Presiding Officer's Report: Pamela Whitten, President, Indiana University, welcomed new IUPUI/IUI Chancellor, Dr. Latha Ramchand, and encouraged faculty to get to know her. Pres. Whitten also spoke about the Strategic Plan 2030, including key initiatives like the research endeavors, and noted that IU was implementing a suite of dashboards structured around the three pillars of the Strategic Plan so as to represent the data of those pillars. She also spoke about the new IU re-branding, Bring On Tomorrow, with new billboards, new ads, etc. In regards the SB202 and the Indiana General Assembly, which is in a short session (rather than the budget session), Pres. Whitten noted the bill is very concerning to IU, noting that if passed as crafted risks unintended consequences including risks to the reputation of the university as well as the economic productivity of the state and regional locales. Pres. Whitten also spoke about the future of Kinsey Institute, which was prohibited from receiving state revenue last year, and the proposal that is progressing to ensure the stability and future existence of the Institute. She thanked the various stakeholders that had voiced their concern about the Institute, and noted that IU is committed to robust fundraising for the Institute and to research excellence of the Institute. For the quarter of this year compared to this time last year, research funding is up, noting that IU School of Medicine is currently ranked as 13th nationally, moving it very close to meeting the goal of being in the top ten. \$147M in donor fundraising, up 33% from last year. IU manages the 16th largest endowment in the nation. And IU is ranked first for the producing the most Fulbright Student awards.

3. Report on Domain & Email Changes & Updates from Chief Information Officer: Aaron Neal, Deputy Chief Information Officer, spoke to the issue of the upcoming email domain consolidation, a.k.a., One mail. The timeline for the consolidation is by the end of the year in which all email addresses will be consolidated. The main reason is to reduce security threats. Currently there are over 400K email addresses associated with IU, a number that they hope to reduce by half and so as to reduce the security threats. Consolidation of email address systems will also reduce costs associated with providing this resource. Aaron Neal also mentioned that instructions for changing one's email address are housed in Knowledge Base, and that there will be an email digest of usage of old addresses that will be sent to individuals weekly, and a use of a bounce message sent to email senders about the new address. One question asked about the length of time in which the "bounce back" message could be used.

4. Report from University Relations: Michael Huber, Vice President, University Relations, provided a update about the state legislative bills, including SB202, and spoke about the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with state legislators so as to promote impactful work when needed. SB202: BOT to create a diversity committee on all campuses; establishes parameters regarding tenure, including a mandated 5-year post-tenure review; new reporting requirement in state budget request; CHE is the final arbiter of complaints filed regarding “freedom of expression.” HB1179, also en route, requires BoT to adopt policies regarding public statements by employees of public universities; limits the transfer and licensing of intellectual property developed by the university. Both bills, among other higher ed bills, have a lot of vague language that make the implementation of these mandates very confusing and difficulty. One question about the language used in the bills, specifically about the definition of the word, “diversity.” Other questions included 1) the status of proposed amendments to SB202 about the membership of the BoT (that amendment had passed, but be vigilant); 2) how can faculty be helpful for promoting higher education and IU (we need an organized, productive, and effective roadshow); 3) how can we be positive about our work as faculty (our legislators are very interactional, social---try to find the shared concerns with the individual legislators).

5. Discussion on Academic Calendar: Susan Sciame-Giesecke, Vice President, Regional Campuses & Online Education, discussed the student desire for a common calendar for shared vacations and start/stop times. Provost Shrivastav also spoke about the benefits of a shared common calendar, especially for online programs. Comments concerned the existing similarity between campuses on the spring semester, but that the fall break would still need to be negotiated; keeping the student mental well-being at the forefront of the purpose for establishing a shared calendar; using the time of the final exam week more optimally; that a newly proposed Academic Affairs committee would also be working on this issue.

6. Proposed Changes to ACA-33, Academic Appointee Responsibilities & Conduct, & STU-00, Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Conduct: Danielle DeSawal, Chair, Policy Review Committee, spoke about the need for students to have due process related to appealing a grade of academic misconduct, including changing the language from “significant dishonesty” to “academic misconduct,” so as to align both the student handbook and the academic policy. Feedback from campuses mostly related to the management of student misconduct; campuses should review procedures and management. One question concerned the specific placement of the language in ACA-33. (C.6). Motion to change language in ACA-33 made by Kevin Johnson and seconded by Carolyn Schult. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve STU-00 as written on the slides made by Bill Ramos and seconded by Rachael Cohen; motion passed unanimously.

7. Updates from the University A.I. Taskforce: Jerry Daday, Executive Associate Dean & Co-chair of A.I. Taskforce and Kevin Jones, Associate Professor & Co-chair of A.I. Taskforce. Professor Kevin Jones reported on the ongoing work of the committee. He spoke about the history and context of Generative AI, to distinguish it from other AI, listed the many types and names of Generative AI platforms, along with the people and the charge questions by which the committee is working. The committee’s plan is to have by the end of March a list of guiding principles for decision-making, a summary of their findings, list recommendations, provide a plan for implementation of their recommendations. Kevin Jones spoke about several challenges, including the state Open records law, FERPA privacy laws, etc. Jerry Daday spoke about the fallibility of current detection tools, the need for the university to be clear about what counts as evidence about the use of AI, research security and data management, etc. Also spoke about

the need not to subconsciously create a digital divide among students, and the need to implement faculty training, guidance, and professional development about GenAI.

8. Proposed Amendments to ACA-05, Bylaws of the University Faculty Council of Indiana University (10 minutes) Philip Goff, UFC Co-chair, IUI Colin Johnson, UFC Co-chair, IU Bloomington Carolyn Schult, UFC Co-chair, IU South Bend [Discussion Item] U11-2024: Proposed Amendments to ACA-05 16.

Questions/Comments on Proposed Amendments to ACA-05. Proposed changes are to create two new Faculty committees: Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. First readings of the descriptions of both proposed committees (on slides). The proposed Academic Affairs committee would supervise a proposed sub-committee for online education. Colin Johnson noted that the formation of these committees would allow a more streamlined and quicker path to implement changes to

Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.