

Indiana University - Bloomington

Graduate & Professional Student Government

Resolution for a Campus-wide Task Force to Prioritize Improvements to Graduate and Professional Student Funding

Whereas, graduate and professional students working for Indiana University Bloomington include Student Academic Appointees, Research Assistants, and Graduate Assistants;

Whereas, graduate and professional students frequently communicate their financial struggles caused by insufficient funding packages to the Graduate and Professional Student Government;

Whereas, by insufficient funding, we imply that net stipends from funding packages are often:

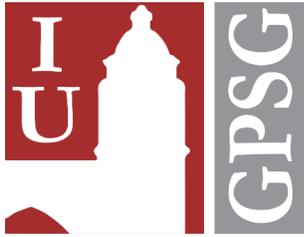
- a. Near or below the Monroe County single adult poverty line of \$12,147 per year, and poverty line with a child of \$16,453 per year (<https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/18105>),
- b. Below the Indiana single adult Medicaid eligibility line of \$17,448 in 2019 (<https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/59.htm>),
- c. Several thousand dollars per year lower than the estimated cost of attendance at Indiana University Bloomington, after tuition remission (<https://studentcentral.indiana.edu/pay-for-college/cost-of-iu/estimated-cost.html>), or
- d. Otherwise significantly lower than funding packages offered at competitor institutions on a per-department basis;

Whereas, there are no regularized increases in stipends for graduate students employed by the university, while faculty get regular salary increases most years;

Whereas, the Graduate Professional Student Government is partnering with the University Graduate School and the College of Arts and Sciences on a survey of funding concerns for graduate and professional students, which is on track to go out in Spring 2020. This survey will collect additional data to analyze funding conditions.

Whereas, Student Academic Appointments and other funding opportunities are open to graduate and professional students of all departments, and are often posted to the GradGrants Center's website for all graduate and professional students to consider (<http://www.indiana.edu/~gradgrnt/category/saa-vacancies/>)

Whereas, the current funding conditions for graduate and professional students create unneeded stresses and difficulties, causing many of us to find secondary employment, and detracting from our research, teaching, and academic responsibilities. These conditions could compromise IU's ability to recruit and retrain high quality students and faculty in competition with other universities;



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Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly that –

- (1) In response to concerns from the graduate and professional students we represent, Indiana University Bloomington should immediately create a task force, with representatives of administrators, academic units, and the graduate and professional student body, to:
 - a. Assess current conditions for graduate student funding across the university.
 - b. Develop a robust, data-based argument to improve funding for graduate and professional students into the future. This argument should include a livable minimum stipend, annual stipend increases, and stipends that are competitive in the Big Ten Academic Alliance on a per-department basis.
 - c. Identify priorities for improving funding packages as well as potential sources of funding.
 - d. Within one year of the closing of the student funding survey, produce a report for central administration and the Board of Trustees outlining the conditions, arguments, and priorities for improving graduate and professional student funding.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on this 7th day of March, 2020.

GPSG President

Date