

## Indiana University - Bloomington Graduate & Professional Student Government

### **Resolution to Support a Reduced Cost for Graduate and Professional Graduation Caps and Gowns at Indiana University**

Whereas, the average cost of attendance for a graduate student at Indiana University is \$30,632 for residents and \$51,446 for nonresidents<sup>1</sup>; and

Whereas, the cost of a graduation cap and gown for a graduate student is on average \$87.00 and \$162.00 if not paid by a certain date<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas, upon completion of a survey sent to all graduate and professional students via the GPSG Newsletter, approximately 94% of respondents indicated that price was the biggest concern when purchasing their cap and gown; and

Whereas, the average income of a graduate student is incredibly variable; and

Whereas, when contacted, the Indiana University Events Office suggested that the cost was high because of the material used; and

Whereas, students will use and keep their caps and gowns for less than 24 hours before being required to return them; and

Whereas, several other schools do not require students to incur high costs to rent caps and gowns for commencement<sup>34</sup>; and

Whereas, this is a barrier to entry for a student to be able to walk at graduation; and

Whereas, fees should not keep students from attending graduation,

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

that:

- a) GPSG advocates for the University to reassess their current contracts with vendors to find the best available price for renting cap and gowns.
- b) GPSG advocates for a gown that is made out of an alternative material to reduce cost given the short duration for which it will be used.

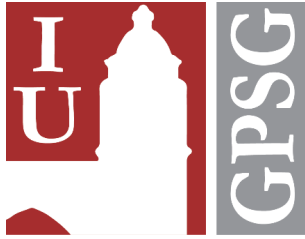
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<sup>1</sup> <https://studentcentral.indiana.edu/pay-for-college/cost-of-iu/estimated-cost.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://collegegrad.herffjones.com/capgown>

<sup>3</sup> <https://commencement.msu.edu/resources-general-info/cap-gown>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.wiu.edu/commencement/ordering\\_info.php](http://www.wiu.edu/commencement/ordering_info.php)



**Indiana University - Bloomington**  
**Graduate & Professional Student Government**

*Kenneth S. Guerra*

GPSG President

*12/07/2018*

Date