



Indiana University – Bloomington

Graduate & Professional Student Government

Resolution to Support the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition Petition to Waive Mandatory and International Student Fees

Whereas, graduate and professional student mandatory fees amount to \$1,372.06 for this academic year¹; and

Whereas, the international services fees amount to over \$416 for returning international students annually, with a planned 2% increase annually, having increased in 2017 without prior notice from annual fees of under \$200²; and

Whereas, the international services fees amount to \$700 for new and program-transferring international students in the academic year 2019-2020, with no apparent change in international student conditions and benefits³; and

Whereas, IU's fees are the second worst proportional to the minimum graduate worker salary in the Big 10 Conference⁴; and

Whereas, annual fees have far exceeded the median monthly rent in Bloomington, increasing since the year 2006-2007 by 60 percent⁵; and

Whereas, in recognition of the often invisible labor of graduate and professional students and the fluid status of funding from semester to semester graduate and professionals student workers should be understood to include all graduate and professional students; and

Whereas, graduate and professional student workers pay technology fees of \$394.18 annually making them pay for the very infrastructure the campus relies upon for them do their jobs; and

Whereas, graduate and professional student workers pay "Repair and Rehabilitation" fees of \$390.90 annually that were initially approved as a temporary fees in 2011, essentially making workers pay for maintenance such as asbestos removal; and

Whereas providing basic services to employees such as classroom technology and maintained buildings is expected in any workplace, and should not be funded from the income of already financially precarious employees; and

Whereas, the recent increase in the international services fees were not announced until just before the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester, nor are the international fees listed when estimating fees online; and

Whereas, this increase was justified in part by an IU spokesperson with the argument that "a growing international student population" necessitated the increase in the international services fees amount per student, regardless of the obvious mathematical absurdity; and

Whereas, the average income of graduate and professional student workers is already low; and

¹ URL: <https://moneysmarts.iu.edu/calculate-costs/index.html>

² URL: <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2018/04/iu-increases-fee-for-international-students>

³ URL: https://www.hoosiertimes.com/herald_times_online/news/iu/iu-increases-international-student-fee-again/article_19a276d2-60e4-51e8-a420-8cabdcf11d01.html

⁴ Data provided by the Graduate Employees Union at Michigan State University and published online on the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition webpage: <https://www.indianagradworkers.org/facts-page>

⁵ URL : https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_05_EST_S2503&prodType=table



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Whereas, graduate and professional student workers come from different socioeconomic backgrounds and are typically self-sustained; and

Whereas, international graduate and professional student workers are strictly limited to 20 hours of work a week covered by their stipend or fellowship as a source of income; and

Whereas, the University of Oregon does not charge international service fees to their international graduate students, their international student recipients who have received need-based scholarships, their international students participating in a University of Oregon Direct Exchange program, or their Waseda-TSA students⁶; and

Whereas, Indiana University is in the middle of its largest fund-raising success in history with the “For All: The Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign”; and

Whereas, over 1,400 graduate and professional students have signed the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition (IGWC) petition to date; and

Whereas, over 300 graduate and professional students attended in person at the IGWC Town Hall on September 12⁷; and

Whereas over 200 faculty members have signed a letter in support of the petition; and

Whereas, graduate and professional student workers on the IU Bloomington campus deserve high quality working conditions, including adequate pay, benefits, and freedom from discrimination. Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly that:

- 1) We endorse the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition “Petition to Waive Mandatory and International Student Fees” and ask the university to respond by fulfilling the demands promptly and completely, while maintaining the current level of services.
 - a) Those demands being: “...full mandatory fee (technology fee, repair and rehabilitation fee, activity fee, etc.) and international student fee waivers for all graduate student workers enrolled in the university.”⁸
- 2) We affirm the right of any other graduate and/or professional student group at IU to endorse the petition if they so choose.
- 3) We affirm the right of any graduate or professional student to sign the petition and participate in the campaign if they so choose. We emphasize that international students have these same rights.
- 4) We ask IU to issue a statement affirming points 2 and 3, to ensure that graduate and professional students, whether as groups or as individuals, can exercise their rights without fear of reprisal regardless of citizenship status.

GPSG President

Date

⁶ URL: <https://issu.uoregon.edu/scholarships/fee-waiver>

⁷ URL: <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2019/09/graduate-workers-stand-up-against-unfair-conditions>

⁸ URL: <https://www.indianagradworkers.org/petition-page>