

## Indiana University - Bloomington

### Graduate & Professional Student Government

#### **Resolution in Support of Transparent Acceptance Letters**

Whereas, programs at Indiana University Bloomington send acceptance letters to new students with details about funding and workload;

Whereas, university policy [ACA-26](#) states “Letters or other documents appointing adjunct faculty and associate instructors shall include the duration of the appointment, the compensation, any benefits, and the responsibilities of the appointee;”

Whereas, graduate students have notified the GPSG that acceptance letters can be incomplete or unclear about funding packages and workloads;

Whereas, this lack of information can involve estimates of the dollar value of program fees, mandatory fees, and international student fees that are assessed each semester;

Whereas, the lack of clarity can also include descriptions of the expected workload for program-specific tasks;

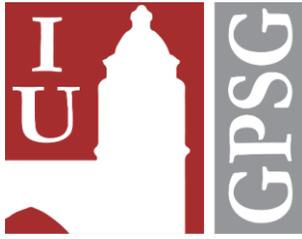
Whereas, these letters can also include confusing or misleading descriptions for the amount of years that funding is guaranteed (e.g. a letter can contain “4 years, subject to renewal” but then not be renewed after the first year);

Whereas, it is our observation that these letters tend to be unclear in a way to make it seem that a prospective student is being offered more than they really are;

Whereas, the lack of clarity in acceptance letters can cause unnecessary difficulties for students to plan their finances and time, as their education is hindered by unexpected expenses or work requirements. It also prevents prospective students from making an accurate, informed decision when deciding on a school to attend;

Whereas, we believe this lack of clarity can place letters in violation of ACA-26 when Associate Instructor positions are involved. However, it is important that this clarity apply to all acceptance letters;

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

- (1) Indiana University Bloomington regulate that acceptance letters to prospective graduate and professional students should include: 1) estimates of program-specific, mandatory, and international student fee expenses; 2) a concrete description of the work required by the department and the number of years of funding offered; 3) clear information about all additional expenses or requirements that would impact a student's financial or schedule planning; and 4) would include the timing and schedule for when the fees will be assessed.
- (2) Programs found to be in violation of ACA-26 or otherwise lack clarity in expenses and workload should be required to fix their letters and notify all students, regardless of their time in the program, who were misled.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on January 22, 2021.

*Dakota Coates*

GPSG President

1/22/2021

Date