

## Indiana University - Bloomington Graduate & Professional Student Government

### Resolution to Enhance International Students' Services and Fee Transparency

Whereas, international students have experienced a wide array of financial, psychological, and academic vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, international students of Indiana University Bloomington (IUB) must participate in long-distance online courses and/or programs outside the United States because of U.S. [travel restrictions](#) during the pandemic of COVID-19. International students who are physically in different time zones have to attend synchronous online classes during their late nights to meet attendance requirements, which increases their health risks;<sup>1</sup>

Whereas, some U.S. embassies and consulates may close and suspend the issuing of F-1 visas to upcoming first-year international students, which may cause delays for students required to attend in person classes given the shift away from online courses in Fall 2021;

Whereas, the suspension of in-person services provided by the IUB Office of International Service (OIS) prevented international students from receiving desired assistance like psychological counseling and documents review originally located in OIS Office;

Whereas, the [virtual service](#) provided by OIS currently cannot meet some of the needs of the international students. For example, OIS's phone-call-only service burdens telecommunications costs of international students who are not in North American telecom carriers' serving areas. OIS's Quick Question Advising is only from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the American Eastern Time Zone. This is not friendly to international students who are physically in other time zones;

Whereas, the IUB international student fee has nearly [quadrupled](#) from \$91.80 in 2017 to \$357 now;

Whereas, the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) Assembly has frequently highlighted [concerns](#) about the amount of international student fees charged.

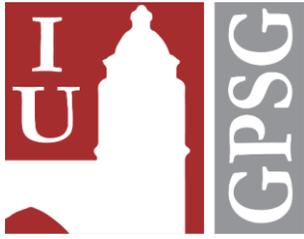
...

Therefore, be it resolved by the GPSG Assembly that:

GPSG calls on the University to enhance services for international students impacted by COVID-19 as soon as possible;

---

<sup>1</sup> Point to recognition of the passing of [an international student's sudden cardiac death](#) at another campus.



## **Indiana University - Bloomington**

### **Graduate & Professional Student Government**

GPSG advocates for OIS to consider the following actions for serving international students until reopening the OIS office:

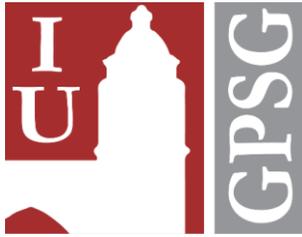
- (1) OIS will ask all instructors NOT to require international students who are in other time zones to attend synchronous classes and NOT to penalize students' attendance grade;
- (2) OIS will ask all instructors to consider international students' time zones when instructors set times of synchronous exam, review sessions, or office hours;
- (3) OIS will provide upcoming students with their best assistance to get their visas before the Fall 2021 orientation, will provide international students who intend to join the in-person class remotely with technical assistance, and shall assist in providing notice to instructors about students who may need online access;
- (4) OIS will set appropriate deadlines for their review of international students' documents, forms, and applications related to academic records, immigration status, and others. OIS shall inform students that when they will complete reviews;
- (5) OIS will partner with the IU Student Health Center and CAPS to provide free, online counseling services for international students, separate from the free CAPS sessions.
- (6) OIS will provide ZOOM Drop-in advising sessions during the working time that are convenient for time zones of international students who are physically outside the U.S. OIS may survey international students' current time zones to find session time working for most international students;
- (7) OIS will provide a chat service for students;<sup>2</sup>
- (8) OIS will timely inform international students of any policy changes related to international travels and visas in lucid languages. OIS may consider the forms of the weekly newsletter or online introductory sessions until the end of the pandemic of COVID-19;

GPSG advocates for faculty and staff to consider the geopolitical circumstances of international students when those students request accommodations.

GPSG seeks greater transparency on the use of international student fees. OIS shall publicize annual cost reports on international student fees by the end of each academic year, specially outlining the expenses associated with federal regulatory compliance.

---

<sup>2</sup> Similar in nature to the UITS chat service which is 24/7. <https://uits.iu.edu/>



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

GPSG supports a five-year freeze on any and all increases associated with the international student fees. GPSG encourages OIS to charge discounted international student fees for students taking all online classes, like [discounted combined mandatory fee policy](#).

GPSG advocates for the university establish an International Student workforce for retention, funding, and responding to employment disruptions resulting from COVID-19 – and to honor the admission letters for students who are unable to enter the U.S. due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on April 2, 2021.

*Dakota Coates*

---

GPSG President

4/2/2021

---

Date