



## Indiana University - Bloomington

### Graduate & Professional Student Organization

Assembly Agenda | November 1, 2013

*“Advocating for an inclusive and empowered graduate and professional student community”*

- **Announcements:**

- Upcoming Events
- Grad House – Study Hours, Meeting Room Space, Grad Café
  - Grand opening next Tuesday – November 5<sup>th</sup> – 4-6pm
  - Can be used for meeting space
  - Has computers
  - Grad Café – Tuesday from 9-11am
- Graduate Student of the Month Nominations
  - Depends on faculty nominations; it’s name recognition at this point. Get some applications in – we have yet to receive a single nomination.
- Dissertation Resolution (from 12/12) Update
  - Resolution passed last year
  - Speak to Brady about this during committees to determine if new resolution is needed
- Upcoming Speakers – VP Rives, Provost Robel
  - Next meeting – someone from HR to describe ACA impact
  - Provost Robel will come in either January or February.

- **Campus Updates:**

- Board of Trustees & AUSA – *Brady & Dave, President & Vice President*
  - Board of Trustees met here last month.
  - Parking Privatization
    - Will not privatize at this point.
  - Media School - <https://sites.google.com/a/umail.iu.edu/school-of-media/>
    - Biggest item that came up; plan in works to merge Journalism, Telecommunications and Communications/Culture to be joined in Franklin Hall.
    - Passed unanimously.
    - Board very optimistic, but it wanted to make sure it retained Ernie Pyle’s legacy; wanted to ensure faculty and students will develop the school’s creation.
      - Plan very bare-bones – provides overarching ideas, but students and faculty need to be involved and guiding the process.

- Talk to Dave with questions.
- AUSA Initiatives – Online Courses, ACA, Student Input at BoT
  - All University Student Organization; student body presidents from all IU campuses; meets when Board of Trustees meets. Met at the last BoT meeting.
  - Key things wanting to work on over the next year:
    - Online courses – digitization; but maintain 10% cap: only 10% of courses offered online.
      - Looking for student input.
      - Starting master list of online classes, so that if it is offered at one of the campuses it can be taken by students at other campuses. Pilot program; IUB not involved presently.
        - Town hall event will follow.
    - ACA
      - Resolution saying whenever university has to make decisions that the decisions should be the least detrimental as possible. Will be drafted by Brady.
    - Student input at BoT
      - Brady had 5 minutes to talk to Board, but requested more time for student input at Board meetings. Particularly, committee involvement is the goal.
  - Strategic Plan Update – *Ron, Treasurer*
    - Wrapping up in the next few months but planning for the entire university. Email Ron with any ideas or concerns.
  - No questions on previous information.
- **Business:**
  - GPSO Budget for 2013-2014 – *Ron, Treasurer*
    - Revenues from student fees – approximately \$1/student; some money left over from last year and then some from the University for academic support
    - Expenses – 60% are for GPSO compensation; otherwise for academic support (travel grants, research awards, etc.)
      - Three SAAs – Communications Coordinator, Operations Coordinator, and President
      - Everyone else \$1000
      - Projected to the same from last year.
      - Academic support – collaboration with conferences, grants are the other expenditures.

- Community building – orientation events, grad bash, family events, social events, cosponsored events and professional development events.
  - Advocacy – GPSO Liaison goes to NAGPS Conference
  - Resources also funded through budget – webpage, Grad House.
- Does surplus just roll over?
  - Yes. This year it was \$13,000; last year it was \$7,000.
- On GPSO webpage.
- Is there a final surplus amount?
  - Projected: \$5500. We'll keep you updated; it will change.
- Motion to approve the budget made and seconded. Seeing no debate.
  - Yes – 38
  - No – 1
  - Abstain - 1
- Proposed Seat for Dept. of Statistics – *Jacob Shields*
  - Last year had 45 students in Statistics; this year 67 – we're growing. We would like to be involved. We want to organize a student group within the department. We really want to become involved in campus, through GPSO, allowing a channel to provide professional development.
    - IUSA, IU undergrad – understands parli pro.
  - Statistics doesn't have a seat?
    - No. I believe we're represented by CAS, but we haven't heard anything from anyone in GPSO. Department created in 2007 for MA; 2011 for PhD.
  - Why isn't there a seat already?
    - GPSO bylaws provide guidelines for seating.
  - A motion to provide the department of statistics a seat in the GPSO Assembly. Seconded.
  - Representation?
    - College of Arts and Sciences have departments represented in GPSO, but statistics hasn't been represented in past.
  - Vote:
    - Yes – 38
    - No – 0
    - Abstain - 2
- 2013 Transparency in Voting Act\* – *Justin Vasel, Student Affairs Vice-Chair*
  - Housekeeping – here removing absentee voting. Currently we could permit people to vote via email, but to us that seemed confusing.
    - Does that count towards quorum?
    - More disorganized.

- If there is debate before the vote, the absentee voter wouldn't hear the debate and couldn't make as an informed decision. We thought it would be best to remove absentee voting. It hasn't been used recently, so no one would miss it.
  - See legislation. Basically removed absentee voting provisions.
  - From my reading of that, is there any measure of if that was strict – could you still send a proxy?
    - Yes, proxies wouldn't be changed. They would still be able to vote.
  - Motion to approve the 2013 Transparency in Voting Act. Seconded. No debate. Vote:
    - Yes – 34
    - No – 2
    - Abstain - 6
- SAA Pay Schedule Resolution\* - *Mary Christian, English Rep.*
  - Issue with the SAA pay schedule is that SAAs are paid on a 10 month pay schedule and the payments are distributed over 8 months. This has raised concerns, particularly the long gap over the summer with no income. We looked into a way to distribute the payments more evenly over the 10 months of the school year, especially with regard to the first payment of the year, which presently comes mid-September.
  - In committee we came to a few decisions, but there has been a new development, that I wanted to share. Jessica (Benefits Committee) and Mary met with Assistant Vice Provost who is working with Financial Management services to make the pay calendar for next year. When she heard concerns, she proposed a movement to the payroll department to move the first pay date forward.
    - Schedule being revised to allow pay date to be moved from 9/15 to 9/5.
    - Amendments will be forthcoming to have the resolution reflect the recent changes in the situation.
  - Very critical issue, what does the clause on the bottom of the first page mean?
    - Bursar's office, the office we pay our student fees, permits SAAs to wait to pay the student fees until October, after our first two stipend payments have been received. University acknowledges this is a difficulty for SAAs.
  - Resolution would push back last payment until June?
    - Resolution as it stands presently would push back last payment in mid-May to the end of May.

- Would allow SAAs to survive.
- Did you say the first payment would be September 5<sup>th</sup>?
  - That is the change proposed by the Assistant Vice Provost.
- Why not the end of August?
  - Assistant Vice Provost explained that the reason that payment is different for SAAs compared to regular faculty, is that some departments don't finalize their SAA contracts until after classes have already begun, then after contracts executed they must be processed through e-docs in school system, then voucher has to be sent from the department to HR verifying that the person should be paid. Then the payroll can be closed. Process for the SAAs takes weeks. Her proposal is to have the contract/appointment date as early as possible to provide two weeks to get everything done before the paychecks are sent out.
  - We asked to move
- Assembly stood at ease. Assembly returned to order.
  - Motion to approve and second.
  - Motion to amend the Resolved clause to read:
    - (1) "The FMS enact its proposal to designate September 5 as the first SAA pay date for Fall 2014; and
    - (2) That Assistant Vice Provost McCammon continue to work with Payroll and the GPSO to evaluate the effectiveness of this change, with the goal of moving the first SAA pay date to August 31 in the future, if this can be done without delaying the first pay date for first-year and international SAAs.
  - Made and seconded.
    - Vote:
      - Yes - 34
      - No - 1
      - Abstain – 6
    - Amendment approved.
  - Back to debate on the main motion.
  - What is the advantage of moving the pay date in May to the end of the month?
    - Rationale to make the schedule more predictable and to make budgeting easier. Currently earlier in May because of graduation so graduates can be paid before exiting the system. To do otherwise, would require special checks. We would like to withdraw the proposal to move the May and December pay dates to the end of the resolution.
  - Paychecks received earlier is progress, but my concern is that this is complacent because it might not have functional benefit.

- This appears to be a compromise. We need to stress that this is a temporary fix.
  - If we moved it to the 31<sup>st</sup> that international students wouldn't be paid until the end of September; it didn't seem fair to have international students be paid later than domestic.
  - Will the due date of student fees change?
    - I don't believe so. Tuition and fees pushed back in the past, assumed it would stay the same.
  - Vote:
    - Yes – 23
    - No – 6
    - Abstain - 11
- Preferred Name Protection Resolution\* – *Ariel Sincoff-Yedid, Gender Studies Rep.*
  - Came from Diversity Committee.
  - Preferred name proposal before BFC; more broadly applicable, but specifically to transgender or gender non-conforming communities. Would allow anyone to use their preferred name. Other states have restrictions on legal name changes. This is a matter of respect for the individuals who are not “out” and provides them protection from being “outed” by others.
  - Before the BFC? Verbatim?
    - Ours is based on proposal brought to BFC we just want to support the inclusiveness of the IU community. We want to support the integration of preferred names. We want to keep access to legal names as restricted as possible.
  - Does this mean that the legal name would be removed from the university record?
    - No, legal names on records for legal purposes, but legal names are presently used for addressing students. The goal of this is to keep legal names hidden as much as possible.
  - This would apply to all university IT systems.
  - Would people be persecuted for using individuals' legal names?
    - No. The idea is to be as inclusive as possible.
    - Access to legal name would have to be requested and granted.
  - Motion to approve made and seconded.
    - The proposal to BFC has been drafted by a very inclusive group; can be implemented.
    - This is a resolution to try to not recognize a person's sex.

- Resolution doesn't handle other information, such as sex. A name doesn't always identify a person's sex. This is solely about preferred names.
  - There is a lot of info protected by federal law.
  - Vote:
    - Yes – 35
    - No – 3
    - Abstain - 5
  - Supporting IU Membership in Freedom Indiana Resolution
    - Text not provided in the agenda, therefore read aloud to the Assembly. IU supports Freedom Indiana Coalition, which is against HJR6. BFC unanimously supported this action. This resolution would show support for this action as well.
    - Motion to approve made and seconded.
    - Vote:
      - Yes – 39
      - No – 2
      - Abstain – 2
- Committees' work is so rewarding; thank you for being active.
- **Committee Meetings** – Benefits, Diversity, Programming, Student Affairs, Sustainability started at 4:51.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Next Event:** Social Hour, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (Tonight!), 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Atlas
    - Grad House Grand Opening, Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
    - Grad Café, Tuesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Grad House
  - **Next Meeting:** Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:00pm, Woodburn 100
- Meeting adjourned after committees.