



## Indiana University - Bloomington

### Graduate & Professional Student Organization

Assembly Agenda | December 6, 2013

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

- **Meeting called to order at 3:35pm.**
  - Thank you for coming despite the terrible weather. We will continue as planned.
- **Approval of the Minutes**
  - Motion to approve made. Seconded. Minutes approved en masse by unanimous consent.
- **Announcements & Updates:**
  - Upcoming Events – *Kevin, Programming Coordinator*
    - First Friday Social Hour tonight cancelled because of slush/snow/ice misery. We’ll possibly schedule something for next week.
      - Now cancelled, we’ll look at possibility to do something next week. Straw poll taken to see interest.
    - Transforming stress event on Tuesday – E174 in Wells Library 12/10, 5:30-7pm.
      - Smoothies, free massages, presentation on posture/stretching, etc.
  - Graduate Student Spotlights & Recognition Award – *Cayla, Comm. Coordinator*
    - We used to do Grad Student of the Month, revamped. Originally required faculty nominations, but very hard to get nominations. We’ll now allow students to nominate other students. We’ll recognize one outstanding grad student each semester.
      - Nominations from Assembly Reps and faculty.
    - Three different types – research, community involvement, teaching.
    - Spring final deadline – 4/29/2014 at 5pm.
      - Will start in spring.
    - Every other week in newsletter we’ll spotlight people to show what’s going on in the IU community.
    - Nominations submitted on GPSO webpage.
  - Nat’l Assoc. Grad. & Prof. Students (NAGPS) Conference Report – *Olivia, Liaison*
    - Went to Kalamazoo, MI and attended three presentations
      - Free Open Education Resources – journal articles from free platforms, textbooks available for free use and are of high quality.

- Benefits – saving students more money than institutions investing.
  - Recommendation that student gov'ts should adopt resolutions calling on administrations to adopt policy.
- Dream Zone Act – DREAM legislation allows undocumented immigrants who arrived in US before 16 to obtain conditional documented status and allow them to obtain work/pursue post-secondary education
  - IN is one of 5 states that bar/restrict access to higher education and prohibits in-state tuition for undocumented students.
  - Components
    - Discussions of bias/misconceptions
    - Share tools/resources
    - Share real stories and research findings
- Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT students – models at ASU, UPitt, and Northwestern; LGPT studies, SafeZone Trainings, gender-neutral restrooms, coming out counseling, Queer Pride Graduate student Association, etc.
  - Great way to steal best practices and to get involved in policy debates. Relationship with other similar student governments would be helpful.
- Upcoming Speaker – Provost Robel
  - Dan Reeves will not be in attendance today, because of the weather.
  - Provost Robel will be coming, she is the head of our campus – great opportunity to ask her any questions you want to ask her.
  - Suggestions for who you'd like to see?
    - Possibilities: VP Wheeler, VP Wimbush, Trustee Farlow (student trustee), Vice Provost Daleke?
    - Any other suggestions? Nope.
- **Business:**
  - Constitutional Amendment No. 1 – *Debbie, Parliamentarian*
    - First thing: remove the required summer meeting. To approve this amendment – must be brought before two separate
    - Motion to approve made and seconded.
      - No debate.
      - Vote:
        - Yes – 34
        - No – 0

- Abstain - 1
- Proxy Reform Act – *Justin Vasel, Student Affairs Vice Chair*
  - We want to change how proxies work – essentially we’re changing three things
    - If a proxy will be sent to assembly, notify GPSO ahead of time and detail who they’re sending
    - Proxies have to come from the same department as the person sending the proxy
    - And striking last sentence that basically said something about absentee voting/proxies should work. This is frivolous based on last meeting.
  - Question: if we’re sending proxy how early?
    - Before meeting starts.
  - Motion to approve made and seconded.
    - Vote:
      - Yes – 33
      - No – 0
      - Abstain - 1
- **Speakers:** Dan Rives, *Vice President for University Human Resources* & Christan Royer, *Healthcare Program Services Manager*
  - Kat doing update instead because Dan Rives could not attend.
  - SAA - student academic appointee; official title of graduate TA.
  - ACA changed IU’s procedure to be in compliance.
    - IU spends a lot to cover staff and employees, including SAA. Board of Trustees requiring cap on spending.
    - ACA defines full time as employee serving at least 30 hours per week or 130 per month.
  - IU’s strategy – approved by BoT in July, went into effect in September
    - All employees subject to ACA; hourly employees must track hours.
  - Important comparisons between Etna and Anthem plans – this will change.
    - Etna plan for SAAs will be dissolved and replaced by Anthem plan
      - Premiums paid by university
      - No preexisting conditions requirements; no deductible if in-network provider;
    - Prescription co-pays have decreased
      - Express Inc. is preferred provider for prescriptions
      - Vision – everyone will have to pay a \$20 copay.

- Life insurance coverage now provided.
- Expect new ID cards to be sent to address listed in OneStart; dental cards will be available online.
- Dependent enrollment will be handled by HR.
- If dual-appointment, automatically transitioned to Anthem.
- Prescriptions – show new cards for refills if in early January.
- If SAA should have received email from HR regarding transition. More emails will follow.
  - Questions? Call/email/website:
    - 812-856-46-50
    - [enews@iu.edu](mailto:enews@iu.edu)
    - [http://hr.iu.edubenefits/grad\\_appointees.html](http://hr.iu.edubenefits/grad_appointees.html)
- Will not impact CAPS etc.
- Presently only covered when working, in future looking to provide coverage over the summer.
  - Timeline?
    - Diligently working on this; will follow up in January.
- Do we want more open info sessions? Another straw poll
  - Yes, there are still concerns/questions. We'll let her know that we would like to see more open forums.
- Information summary will be emailed out
- GPSO Officer Nominations
  - Last two years constitutional timeline not followed. Will be followed this year.
  - Officer elections are supposed to be in January, with nominations opened in February. Terms don't start until May. Elected officers – President, VP, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and Liaison.
    - Process:
      - Nominations open today
      - Only reps can nominate, but can nominate any eligible grad/professional student.
      - Nominations can come during this meeting, via email, or next time opened.
      - Elections scheduled for January meeting
        - More details emailed out.
      - Opportunity to speak to Assembly and answer questions.
  - Constitutional Amendment No. 2 – *Debbie, Parliamentarian*

- Gives more time for consideration of possibility to serve as an officer in the next year; provides flexibility; allows people to actually consider what they're doing the following year.
  - Motion to approve made. Seconded.
    - Review of approving constitutional amendments
    - Votes:
      - Yes - 37
      - No – 0
      - Abstain – 0
- Regardless of when elections are held, nominations will begin to be taken now.
  - Motion to open the floor for nominations. Seconded.
    - Nominations:
      - None presently.
- Fossil Fuel Divestment & Carbon Neutrality Resolution\* – *Kathleen de Onis, Communication & Culture Representative*
  - From the sustainability committee. Feel free to ask questions for clarification.
  - Resolution continues good momentum that Coal Free IU was able to achieve – end of coal use/use of solar panels.
  - We're drawing language from energy master plan – working towards making IU carbon neutral. We're looking for healthy planet and healthy people, continue to move university towards renewable energy sources.
    - Over 300 colleges/universities in US that are working towards these goals already.
  - Energy master plan identified inefficiencies on campus.
  - We're looking towards divestment in fossil fuel companies and to invest in renewable energy and publicly present this information this progress.
  - How do you define fossil fuel company? Could include some green companies
    - According to Carbon Trackers Initiative
      - Carbon Trackers – other schools have used this resource, we're trying to follow in similar vein; investigates companies that are involved in fossil fuels putting results on web.
  - Would clarification of fossil fuel company require you to bring this up again?
    - We would first target big offenders

- Some of the larger fossil fuel companies are investing millions on green technology, might hurt efforts.
- Are there other universities comparable to IU that have done this?  
Impact on portfolio?
  - A number of universities are working on this, ex: Brown University, there is debate there about how to divest. Of this size, yeah, but not name
    - UNC has resolution like this from last year.
    - There are other smaller universities that have already achieved this.
- 5% standard is from Sierra Club.
- Would this have an impact, would this be harmful to scholarships if the investment doesn't go well?
  - That was something that would be determined in implementation phase.
    - This is an ideal goal – way to ask university for what we want.
- They will continue to use mixed fuels; University is dedicated to sustainability.
- Precedent of passing resolutions, but no endowment would have more than 10% of endowment in one sector. In 1990s, student resolutions led to divestment of tobacco industries.
- Motion to approve made and seconded.
  - If we passed it, we're passing entire text verbatim. Template will have accurate date/signature.
  - It might benefit us to look at definition, if anything it provides a loophole for administration to avoid it. We should fine tune that.
  - Nonbinding resolution, showing admin where our allegiance lies.
    - It's just noteworthy that some of those companies do some good.
  - Vote:
    - Yes – 26
    - No – 2
    - Abstain – 8
  - Approved – will be forwarded to appropriate university officials.
- Thank you
  - Our committees have been so active – this hasn't happened in past few years
  - Increased participation

- Already passed multiple things; last three years only two things have been approved
- Shared governance involvement
- Added another seat
- Great officers and staff.
- Administration is noticing increased involvement. We'll do officer reports, review, goals in January.
- Survey being sent out right after this meeting – please fill it out – it is really short.
- Adjourned at 4:35pm
- **Committee Meetings** – Benefits, Diversity, Programming, Student Affairs, Sustainability
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Next Meeting:** Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:00pm, Location TBA