



Indiana University - Bloomington

## Graduate & Professional Student Organization

Assembly Agenda | January 24, 2013

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

- **Meeting called to order at 3:35pm**
- **Approval of the Minutes**
  - **Motion made and seconded.**
    - **Approved through unanimous consent.**
- **Announcements & Updates:**
  - Upcoming Events – *Kevin, Programming Coordinator*
    - We had a great 1<sup>st</sup> Grad Café yesterday
      - Next one on the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8:30-10:30am.
    - Social hour Tonight at The Vid
      - Pizza!
    - Social hour after next assembly meeting at Atlas
  - Graduate Student Spotlights & Recognition Award
    - Cayla talked about this last time, this is our replacement for Student of the Month. Details are online. We want to feature our grad students and what they’re doing on campus. At the end of the year we’ll select the winner for the year.
    - We’re really depending on the Assembly to jumpstart this program. It is a great way to recognize someone doing great work in your department.
    - Please submit!
    - If there are a couple of students that do great things as a group, can the group be nominated?
      - Yep. I don’t see why not.
    - Also, you can nominate yourself, if you’re that awesome.
  - Upcoming Speakers – Provost Robel, VP Wimbush
    - Provost Robel coming in March; she will be talking to you directly and there will be an open floor
    - Possibly for February – VP Wimbush
    - If you have further suggestions, please let us know!
  - President’s Report
    - Last semester was about getting GPSO to function more effectively and in a more organized fashion.

- We've had more than three times as many resolutions passed last semester than in the past three years.
  - Now the execs are working on getting the resolutions implemented or brought to the notice of admin.
- Thanks for the survey results – we'll do more officer reports during these meetings. Most of the information is provided through committee channels, but now we'll make sure to provide the info to you directly.
  - We will also be sending out a midpoint email between meetings with updates about what is going on in the committees, so that resolutions/legislation isn't as much of a surprise.
- BFC meets every other week. Brady is one of the reps on the council – this week talking about faculty tenure; Herb Terry gave update on BoT meeting from IU-East
  - Trustees asking for more common calendar across campuses. Long process to change that, but that is something that admin will be looking at.
  - Smoking ban on all IU Campuses – trustees have decided to add e-cigarettes to that ban.
  - Trustees want to see an IU strategic plan – unsure if compilation of campus strategic plans or if separate plan.
- IDS is paying attention to us – yay!
  - We have thus created a press listserv to provide the media with information about what we're doing.
  - We're actually in the paper today, pick it up!
- Dean of Students up for review – either Dave or Brady will sit on that committee.
- Media School committee forming with relevant students involved. If you're in a relevant program, please see Brady during committee time.
- Strategic plan details to come soon!
  - Presently internal; February 10<sup>th</sup> it will roll out to the public. Then admin will want feedback. We have had a rep on the committee, but public comment period will be coming.
- Dave and Brady met with provost today – Provost particularly looking at: completion time with grad students, paths grad students take, the support levels provided to the programs relative to their size.
  - Feedback will be sought soon.
  - Will also contact other universities to learn about changes they had to graduate education

- All substantive resolutions working through admin presently; very lengthy process, but underway!
      - SAA pay schedule, preferred name resolution, fossil fuel divestment
    - A few committee changes – if interested in serving on these committees, please speak to Brady.
      - Grad commons
      - Work-Life Balance
      - Accessibility
  - Sustainability Update – *Jeff, Sustainability Officer*
    - Fossil fuel resolution is going well – meetings in progress.
    - We’re working on bike infrastructure resolution – hopefully coming to assembly in February.
      - Bike resolution – what is it?
        - We’re looking for the university to improve bike infrastructure; university will be using some profits from parking to improve bike master plan. We support the bike master plan and would like it implemented.
      - Does it make sense for parking fees to go to biking instead of parking?
        - Parking fees are used for all transportation on campus
      - Could some of the money go towards cleaning the bike lanes?
        - We’ll look into it.
    - Sustainability fund – looking to expand, and creating a student council to determine which projects get approved.
- **Business:**
  - **Speakers:** Dan Rives, *Associate Vice President for University Human Resources & Christan Royer, Healthcare Program Services Manager*
    - Kat provided update last semester, but we wanted a more direct feedback.
    - Messenger for ACA-related information; Christan director of special projects, including graduate medical/dental plan.
    - ACA has three pieces – helps US citizens acquire health care insurance; not about making health care less expensive, but creating a system where more people are covered.
      - Mandate that everyone must have insurance
      - Infrastructure so people could purchase insurance – public exchanges; in IN two products – MedWise and Wellpoint/Anthem

- Recognizing that corporate America has been providing insurance, and trying to continue this.
  - This is the piece that IU has paid most attention to.
  - IU covers about 43000 lives.
    - \$217 million approximately paid by IU, with employees paying a bit out of paycheck.
- Trustees upset that IU spending 7% more last year than year before.
- ACA changed definition of full-time – 30 hours. IU had to lower definition from 40 hours to 30 hours per week.
  - This required setting a baseline and keeping the thresholds in mind to prevent adding costs.
- Things are going well. Departments are following the policies put in place. There are a few exceptions, but overall university is doing well.
  - Two areas of attention – adjuncts and temporary employees.
    - Created formula linking credits taught to hours worked.
- Extended policy to 118 hours over 4 weeks – more flexibility. We’re trying to improve flexibility.
  - Goal: avoiding penalties from noncompliance.
- HHS developed rules, IRS knows how to work with employers. Treasury working with exchanges/individual mandate. We’re waiting on IRS to tell us when/how to report.
- Questions?
  - What steps can be taken to get students on partial fellowship and AI scholarship to be on one plan throughout the year?
    - We have one plan for grad employees and one for fellowships. Part of ACA rules got us thinking - we need to treat grad students more like employees. They’re now in a different plan – an employee plan, but low deductible. We think it is a very good plan now. University paying for GA, GA pays for dependents. Fellowships are on a different plan. They’re not employees so they can’t have employee plan. We’re looking to create a same plan for August 1, but it might have a cost. We’re working on that.
  - Talk about changes to SAA not applied during the summer. Can you talk about that change?
    - What happens to GA’s during the summer? Our resolution is that it would continue through the summer. Solution: appointments won’t end until the end of the summer, so

the coverage is normal during the summer. This will be paid for by the departments.

- Cobra benefits – GAs treated as employees – 18 months of coverage after separation.
- Now you can join the plan whenever appointed as GA.
- In terms of GA insurance, does GA insurance only cover us in IN, or does it cover us in other states?
  - International plan; reciprocity with BlueCross, BlueShield in all 50 states. So, basically you have coverage across US.
- Now \$50 copay for out-of-network dentists.
  - It could be a claim issue. If out of network provider for both, it should be the same dollar amount. Please email me. [cmroyer@indiana.edu](mailto:cmroyer@indiana.edu)
- How do credit/adjunct hours work?
  - If you think of all the type of work in the US, the only type that was carved out of the preamble of the ACA was adjuncts. Congress recognized adjuncts different – can't count hours in classroom only, had to include hours prepping for class. VP of Academic Affairs put together a working group and developed formula
    - 3 credit hour course = 8 hours per week
    - So far, this seems to be working.
    - Challenge is when adjuncts teach on multiple campuses.
- Please email with further questions!
  - [drives@iu.edu](mailto:drives@iu.edu)
  - [cmroyer@indiana.edu](mailto:cmroyer@indiana.edu)
  - [gpsobene@indiana.edu](mailto:gpsobene@indiana.edu)
- Constitutional Amendment No. 1\*
  - To remove summer meetings from constitution
  - Motion to approve a second time made and seconded.
  - Vote
    - Yes – 45
    - No – 0
    - Abstain – 0
  - Approved!
- Constitutional Amendment No. 2\*
  - Allows flexibility in electing executive officers for the next academic year.

- Motion to approve a second time made and seconded.
  - Vote
    - Yes – 44
    - No – 0
    - Abstain – 0
  - Approved!
- We will be doing elections in March now. Execs will answer questions before that.
- Nominations can only come from Reps; nominations can be made in person or via email.
- You can nominate yourself.
- 2014 Election Reform Act\*
  - Basically this would have the bylaws conform to the constitution. Provides for nominations to be taken at least 21 days before election – guarantees enough time to accept nominations.
  - Motion made and seconded. No debate.
  - Vote:
    - Yes – 45
    - No – 0
    - Abstain – 0
  - Approved!
- More details in February/March. If you have questions about the positions, please let us know!
- **Open Floor**
  - Because of survey responses we'd like to offer open floor; it shouldn't turn out to dep't events.
  - Quick comment: law mandates that every building on campus have a lactation room. Most buildings don't. University has guidelines about this. If you need help working this out, talk to the chemistry people about how to set this up. Many people may be afraid to speak up, but there are protections from the university.
  - Does GPSO want to make a comment about the move of Fiji? Fiji will be moving where GPSO is presently. Do we want a resolution on this?
    - Good idea.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm
- **Committee Meetings** – Benefits, Diversity, Programming, Student Affairs, Sustainability
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Next Event:** Social Hour, Jan. 24th (Tonight!), 7:00 – 9:00 pm, The Vid

- **Next Meeting:** Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:00pm, Woodburn 100