



Indiana University - Bloomington

Graduate & Professional Student Organization

Assembly Agenda | April 4, 2014

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

- **Meeting called to order at 3:35pm.**
 - Welcome to the last meeting of the year – enjoy the cupcakes!
- **Approval of the Minutes**
 - Motion to approve made and seconded. Approved through unanimous consent
- **Announcements & Updates:**
 - Upcoming Events – *Kevin, Programming Coordinator*
 - Social hour tonight at Nick’s from 7-9pm
 - Grad appreciation week events coming up week of April 14!
 - Martini Monday at Serendipity
 - Movie Night at Whittenberger Aud.
 - Grad Bash at Root Celler
 - Opera Night at MAC
 - See the webpage! Come join us; let your departments know.
 - President’s Report
 - Carbon footprint/sustainability resolution meetings
 - VP Morrison to discuss energy efficiency plan; going on as planned, but University operates on a slower timeframe because of fundraising needs.
 - Chief Investment Officer of the IU Foundation to discuss divestment; meeting didn’t go well as he wasn’t willing to help and did not want to aid student involvement.
 - In the future, will go to the Board of Trustees next week.
 - Board of Trustees meeting next week on campus. Big items on the agenda – update on research at IUB; moving towards common calendar across university systems (likely won’t impact us); student engagement at university level study by President.
 - Almost all of our awards have been selected – we gave out 8 conference grants; travel awards also (we had over 140 applications)
 - Discretionary funding proposals were selected – travel awards, diversity, career development, etc. every application was granted.

- Diversity – continued meeting with VP of International Students; we have International Reps now, will continue with this next year.
- Open Staff Positions - <http://www.indiana.edu/~gpso/2489079/>
 - Our two staff positions (SAAs) are open; all application materials are online.
 - Advertise them to your friends; downside – working with Brady
- Grad House is being torn down this summer/next year; we're moving! We were going to be placed in cubicles, but instead we're getting a new house!
- Inclusion Survey – *Ariel Sincoff-Yedid, Gender Studies Rep.*
 - Coming up; diversity committee has been working on a survey to assess needs/experiences of students on campus; survey being finalized presently. Will be sent out shortly. Will ask about everyday/monetary concerns, considerations about recruitment/retention. Please publicize to your students! We want more data.
 - Incentive: we will be giving out 3 \$50 rewards.
 - We want to determine priorities for GPSO to bring before the administration.
 - Will be sent out within the next 10 days.
 - Department is optional demographic info.
- Year in Review & Plans for 2014-2015
 - Accomplishments:
 - Productive/active committees
 - Heard directly from campus leaders
 - Proactively met with campus leaders/committees
 - Governing documents update – including more flexible election process
 - Increased programming diversity and collaboration
 - Increased web/social media presence
 - Actively voiced benefits, diversity, and sustainability concerns
 - More legislation/resolutions this year than in past three years
 - Ensured graduate student voice was heard in campus processes.
 - Goals for next year:
 - Continued commitment to inclusiveness and collaboration
 - Rep ownership of process, transparency
 - Address international student issues
 - Collaboration/community building – President's Council

- Strengthening grad student voice
 - Committee involvement, training
 - Accuracy of representation – surveying mechanisms; are we accurately reflecting the student voice?
 - Suggestions?
 - Touching base with students more often; larger social media push; more contact – how to disseminate newsletter better?
 - **Business:**
 - Appointed Officer Confirmations (solicited applications for
 - Awards Officer Nominee – Josh de Leeuw, Cognitive Science & Psychology
 - Current awards officer. Streamlined and automated awards system.
 - Questions
 - How will you keep or change the awards process? We’ve made a lot of changes over the last year. He wants to make things easier for the reviewers. It’s currently a strenuous process.
 - Will you be thinking about fairness in terms of people that have already won awards in the past? Right now, can’t apply for a second grant for the same conference.
 - There are other on-campus awards, should we be taking that into consideration? We look at this as a merit award, we don’t look at financial needs presently, but we do ask how money will be spent and penalize applications that don’t have as large a need.
 - As for reviewing all grad students equally, is there an effort to spread out award based on disciplines? We don’t do that explicitly; sciences get over-represented because people who are presenting their work at conferences are able to show merit. As far as writing goes, we have provided grant writing workshops to help people who need assistance.
 - Motion to approve; seconded.
 - Vote
 - Yes – 43
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 0
 - Benefits Officer Nominee – Ben Draper, Chemistry
 - Current Chem. Rep. Helped jumpstart lactation room stuff.

- Questions
 - What priorities will you be focusing on? Lactation room resolution is a current priority; we'd like to expand number of rooms and to make them more accessible to mothers on campus. I have a few other ideas based on the strategic plan, but I don't feel comfortable talking about them yet.
- Motion to approve; seconded.
 - Vote
 - Yes – 41
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 0
- Sustainability Officer Nominee – Andrew Bredeson, SPEA
 - Questions:
 - Pushed for the bicycle master plan; very involved with that. He's been gathering support for that recently. He is a very active member of the Assembly.
 - What priorities will you be focusing on? Bike master plan needs to be continued; divestment issues must continue to be a focus; identify priority areas for individuals.
 - Motion to approve; seconded.
 - Vote
 - Yes – 41
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 0
- 2014 Assembly Audit – *Debbie, Parliamentarian*
 - This is one of the Parliamentarian's main duties; it has not been done in several years.
 - Chemistry lost a seat due to enrollment decrease (1 seat per 200 students).
 - Law School seat decrease.
 - SPEA and School of Public Health seats decrease, again due to enrollment numbers.
 - Question: Now that seats in School of Public Health have decreased to less than the number of departments, how do they move to choosing reps from the department level to the school level? Short answer: The school will be contacted, and they will be responsible for determining how the seats are filled.

- Question: How will we find enough students to fill campus committees?
Answer: Non-reps can serve on campus committees.
- Question: When do these changes go into effect? Answer: Next year, your school/department will have to determine the best way to hold elections.
- Question: How are departments defined? They're essentially names of the seats.
- Motion to approve made and seconded.
- Debate:
 - I don't understand why seats are being removed. Attempt to
 - Where departments consolidated in this process? Yes. This was done consistent with the program/department names/enrollment info provided by the programs.
 - If someone wants to create a new department, why would the assembly create it?
- Vote:
 - Yes – 15
 - No – 11
 - Abstain – 13
 - Assembly audit approved through simple majority vote.
- Supporting an Inclusive Student Body Resolution – *Evelyn Carter, Diversity Council*
 - Help people engage with others; increase visibility of diversity issues on campus.
 - Aim to be inclusive; mandatory training in diversity
 - Motion made and seconded to approve.
 - Discussion:
 - Question of negative enforcement behavior
 - Benign compared to IUSA resolution
 - Some departments have diversity training already
 - Maybe we don't need it?
 - Other departments don't have outright diversity talk. Only the people who are affected by these issues go to the talks.
 - Huge discussion about religion.
 - This is about the University protecting people with diverse identities.
 - Cloture motion
 - Vote:
 - Yes - 32
 - No - 1

- Abstain - 3
 - Vote on the main motion
 - Yes - 30
 - No - 1
 - Abstain - 5
- Awards Application Equalization Act – *Justin Vasel, Student Affairs Committee Vice-Chair*
 - Minor changes; removed requirement that mandates an active assembly rep for awards
 - Ethics provisions; cannot use GPSO resources for own personal gain; no embezzlement.
 - Questions:
 - What about tying representation in Assembly based on participation? Not relevant. Bring idea to student affairs.
 - Motion to approve made and seconded.
 - No discussion.
 - Vote:
 - Yes – 36
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 0
- **Committee Meetings** – Benefits, Diversity, Programming, Student Affairs, Sustainability
 - No time, check with committee chairs.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:53pm