

December 2020 General Assembly Minutes

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current Required Quorum: 27

Total Attending: 66

Approve November minutes

Approved by consensus.

Campus Updates

Committee for Fee Review is accepting applications.

The Diversity Council was announced. Thank you for your service!

At the Board of Trustees, we highlighted challenges of international problems and student employment during the pandemic.

There is a new COVID website (<https://covid.iu.edu/>).

The Mental Health Task Force aims to release a report this spring.

Title IX Resolution: Recommendations are being made for increased transparency and additional protections. Expect to see this in January Assembly.

The VPN Resolution could have a financial challenge, but we can highlight alternate technologies such as IUanyware.

Food insecurity: IU Bloomington received grant funding to combat food insecurity. GPSG is working with IU Dining and others to re-launch the Emergency Meals Project this winter.

Fill out the GPSG Assembly survey on our Canvas page to help us make GPSG more meaningful to you!

IU is announcing 3 wellness days in Spring semester: February 16, March 24, and April 22. A wellness day is a day off to de-stress.

Consensual Relationships Task Force Discussion

The report is awaiting feedback from graduate students before being sent to the University Faculty Council for approval. The student voices are important for it.

It was discussed that clarity is needed, but now may not be an appropriate time for adjudication and policies that make it easier for faculty/student relationships to occur, because

of the problems that these relationships could cause. Also, there are uncertainties with Title IX that could cause the need for additional protections and protocols.

The report shows that graduate and professional students have more desire for a ban. We discussed the need for more rigorous results. It was also brought up if the university may need a separate policy in addition to changing existing policy.

Additionally, we discussed a need to clarify the message in the report, and how the report recognizes that people will still try to have relationships. We should consider an alternative dispute resolution design for when these relationships go sour, such as 3rd party remediation to allow students to rebuild relationships.

Lisa Amsler (IU faculty) has performed research on employment dispute resolutions that would be valuable to research for the report.

(<https://oneill.indiana.edu/faculty-research/directory/profiles/faculty/full-time/amsler-lisa-bloomgren.html>)

Low power and marginalized groups are most harmed by these relationships. What if stricter policies cause relationships to just be more hidden? It was asked why an outright ban wouldn't work. Spousal hires are one reason. Also, a ban and a reporting process would not fit well together. The policy also serves educational purposes.

It was also asked what the plan would be for faculty who violate policy and how long sanctions would take. Much would depend on the uniqueness of each case. Also, with this policy, violations would be sent to the sexual misconduct office.

If you have additional comments, there is a portal on the GPSG Canvas page open to all representatives for the next week. Comments there will be anonymized and sent to the task force. You can also email iugpsg@indiana.edu.

Resolution to Address Parking Concerns

We discussed the need for disabled students to be able to access parking permits. This protects disabled students and at-risk communities.

The amendment was proposed "GPSG advocates for an option for disabled students to access temporary parking permits." It passed unanimously.

Gaining access to carpool parking would include Hoosier Commuter Club benefits.

The resolution passed 61-1-0. Nice work everyone!

Fee Transparency/Reduction Resolution

It is a problem that fees are charged before graduate student employees get the funding that they use to pay them. More clarity about fees is needed and acceptance letters as well. These are good ideas for the Ad-hoc fees committee to work on. Dan M. is in contact with the students who proposed these ideas and will integrate their recommendations with the Ad-hoc fees committee.

The resolution passed 59-2-0. Nice work!

Assembly Survey

Don't forget to fill out the Assembly survey on Canvas!

Upcoming events

The next General Assembly will meet Friday, January 22 from 3:30-5:00pm. There will be a couple resolutions at this meeting.

For future Assemblies, February 5 will be a regular session, March 5 will be GPSG elections, and April 2 will be a regular session.

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:50pm