

February 2021 GPSG General Assembly Minutes

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current Required Quorum: 27

Total Attending: 60

Approve January minutes

Approved (no objections)

Campus Updates

COVID-19

Graduate students are the most COVID-compliant population in the university. Testing is being increased this semester. Dr. Carroll has upcoming webinars about vaccines.

The GPSG COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee has a survey about vaccine prioritization that is open until the end of February and has approximately 400 responses.

Resolution Updates

Dakota met with OIE and Vice Provost Pavalko about the Title IX recommendations. He also met with the IU General Council's Office about an informational document for students.

The Health Center is working on structural changes following the mental health resolution.

Dakota met with Dean Daleke and Provost Robel about developing an offer letter template, following our offer letters resolution passed last month.

The Consensual Relationship Policy is on hold until more student feedback is collected. Our survey is getting lots of responses and is being shared around IU.

GPSG Elections

March 5 elections in Assembly: President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Platforms are due February 26 on the canvas quiz. There will also be opportunities to submit questions.

Appointed position applications are due March 12.

General Assembly Poll - Recommend Policy Issues

Closed Monday. Executive Committee will analyze the findings.

Resolution to Encourage Graduate Student Prioritization in Vaccination

For the most part, decisions are made by the State of Indiana, but we will transition into a system of 'essential' designations where IU will be able to define priorities.

The plan for summer distribution is that IU campuses will distribute the vaccine as soon as possible, including students in Bloomington over the summer.

Annaka G. asked if more broadly all students and programs could be included in prioritization. Dakota will update the resolution including this broad designation.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to include this broad designation.

Bradi asked if undocumented students could be incorporated so they don't become lowest priority. IU could potentially be positioned to better serve undocumented students. We should specify that 'all' students includes undocumented students in the resolution. Dakota will add that in.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to specify that undocumented students are included.

This resolution is written as a blanket for in-person categories. Danielle Peltier asked how this would affect students who come in-person but may not have employment category that reflects this. The wording of the resolution is to all SAA's.

Nick (Jacobs) asked if we could include students in a program practicum for instances where students aren't employed by IU but required to be in-person. The amendment was made to include students in 'a practicum or other equivalent' when not specifically SAA's.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to specify it also applies to students in a practicum or other equivalent.

The resolution passed 54-1-1 (including Tim Reinholz who wasn't on canvas).

Resolution for the Elimination of Unremittable Fees

Zoher mentioned that tuition increases and fees increase too while a stipend raise would be set. Thus, the stipend increase would be less favorable long-term.

The timetable in recommendation 4 would be desired immediately.

Despoina asked if we could add to recommendation #3 not to increase mandatory or program fees to make up for the lost unremittable fee income. Dan B clarified that the funding mechanisms are separate. We can amend the resolution to specify the the reduction in unremittable fees isn't offset by increases in other fees.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to specify that the reduction in unremittable fees isn't offset by increases in other fees, such as program fees (#3).

Annaka G. mentioned that the stipends increase offset wouldn't work for students who are not on a stipend. Dakota followed up that over time 100% of tuition would be covered.

Danielle P. suggested we ammend the resolution to specify that the timetable (#4) and transparency (#2) should be obtained immediately.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to specify the immediacy in #2 and #4.

Unremittable fees are different from mandatory fees because the unremittables are connected to tuition, while the mandatory fees are connected to campus.

The resolution passed 57-0-4 (including Tim Reinholz who wasn't on canvas and Joe Johnson who wasn't able either)

Resolution to Amend the Bylaws

Diego B. mentioned that the resolution should be amended to say that changes the Vice President makes should be reviewed by the whole Executive Committee and reported to the General Assembly. The amendment was approved 54-1-3.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will amend the resolution to specify that changes the Vice President makes should be reviewed by the whole Executive Committee and reported to the General Assembly.

For 2-7.3, the lack of a non-election seeking official would only be a problem if all 10 Executive Committee members run for election, which is unlikely.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution for Climate Action

Peter clarified that we are asking for the Board of Trustees to sign onto the climate action plan. The Bloomington Faculty Council and some other university bodies are also involved with climate neutrality statements.

The resolution passed 54-0-1.

Resolution for Effective Use of Wellness Days

Samantha H. asked if the resolution can specify that wellness days are for the entire undergraduate and graduate populations. It was accepted as a friendly amendment.

ACTION ITEM: Amend the resolution to specify that wellness days are for the entire undergraduate and graduate populations.

Nick mentioned that graduate students and faculty have received notices about wellness days.

It was asked if all students agreed to take a class on wellness day, if that would violate the resolution. Dakota explained that the guidance from the program should limit that. Gavin mentioned that there could be a pressure to vote dynamic that causes students to vote to come to class, creating a bias. Dan B. mentioned that a professor could not have any punishment for a student who didn't attend class during a wellness day in this case.

Lana R. mentioned that regional campuses did not adopt wellness days but that faculty are given the option to have them. Dakota explained that students who are exposed to these situations should reach out to GPSG.

The resolution passed 58-0-1 (including Tim Reinholz who wasn't on canvas and Joe Johnson who wasn't able either)

Final Thoughts

In response to Louis van der Elst's comments on the youtube live stream: Final resolutions are always posted to canvas and the website. Updates are provided in meeting minutes at the beginning of the meeting. Updates are also provided in official statements and a summary report in April Assembly that includes the follow-up performed on all resolutions, reports from all officers and committees, documentation of news coverage, and lots more. It will be a big summary document.

For instance, GPSG issued a statement today about follow-up on finance, policy, and health resolutions.

Meeting Adjourned @ 5pm