



Indiana University - Bloomington

Graduate & Professional Student Government

November General Assembly Minutes

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current Required Quorum: 27

Total Attending: 60

Approve October minutes

Approved unanimously.

Campus Updates

Inactive seats resolution is helping us fill more seats.

Access to course information resolution will be discussed at next Graduate Faculty Council meeting

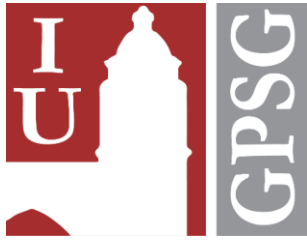
Access to food security resolution is leading to a centralized body to address food security and funding.

Graduate student marketing resolution has been sent to IU Studios

Student Trustee Applications are open.

Get flu shots by December 1.

Committee for Fee Review applications will go live in the next few weeks.



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GPSG VPN Resolution

Shouyue Zhang introduced the resolution to improve access to high speed VPN. Students in other countries have had to purchase commercial VPNs because IU VPN didn't provide adequate speed.

IU could update the existing VPN, purchase a commercial VPN to make available in IUware, subsidize VPN expenses, or provide a discount for students out of the country.

GPSG advocates that IU take these actions without increasing fees to students.

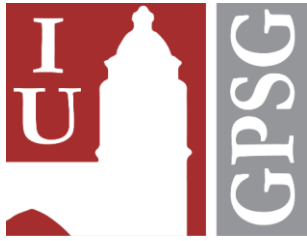
Discussion: We should ask for improved VPN to benefit all students, not just those out of the country. Also, is there a process to ensure export restrictions considered and ensure student privacy and safety. IU VPN can be used in other countries for academic purposes. It was suggested we should talk to UITs about a solution to the slow VPN problem: 25 mb/s and in compliance with international regulations.

Amendment: "GPSG advocates for the university to adopt an international solution to the above VPN challenges. The following are current recommendations from the GPSG general Assembly with the goal to get at least a download speed of 25 mb/s at all times and locations tested." passed 58-0-3.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Response to McGibbon

Professor McGibbon had repeated instances of sexual harassment, but was still able to keep some positions in his department. He now resigned. How can we ensure sexual harassment does not happen again?



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Assembly voted 43-16 to begin a closed session to allow students more privacy in the discussion.

We discussed a potential resolution addressing academic retaliation concerns, promoting a bias incident reporting system, preventing return of a faculty member to power after they harassed student graduates, removing accused faculty from advisor roles with students, promoting clarity and openness, and developing a more transparent reporting system to make other students aware of problems.

We also discussed preventing faculty from being a part of committees when they have been accused. Also removing faculty from theater director and 1-on-1 meetings with students. With Level 2 sanctions, termination of the faculty member is an option, but was not implemented.

One concern is that after a faculty member is terminated and goes through sanctions, they are not prevented from getting in a position someone else where the harassment could continue. Also, there should be a rehabilitative approach rather than criminalization approach for the faculty member.

Also, could we recommend retroactive termination?

The type of violation depends which judicial board deals with the problem faculty.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will get full confirmation as to when students serve on the faculty boards dealing with accused faculty members.

Ensuring students can serve protected on these boards is an idea too. Transparency and clarity are important needs too.



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A faculty member on the BFC judicial committee has been accused by the bias reporting system of denying sexual harassment and racism but there has been no change.

ACTION ITEM: Dakota will follow up on this issue and see what we can do about this issue on BFC.

Tenure does provide some protections for faculty who are accused of harassment.

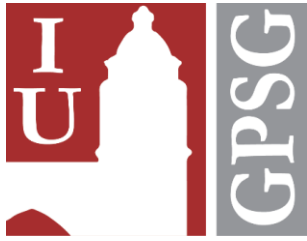
Departmental transparency is also important, particularly where it concerns advisory and committee roles.

Mackenzie Cory wants it on the record in the minutes that he believes that every disciplinary and appellate board should have at least one graduate student, especially where graduate students are involved, and that transparency is important.

Alterations to faculty tenure would have barriers for GPSG to affect, but needs to change.

A resolution on these issues is being drafted, with the goal of presenting it for the December or January Assembly meetings. Reach out to Russell Long at ruslong@iu.edu to participate.

ACTION ITEM: GPSG ExComm will discuss if we want to have a formal ad-hoc committee to address longstanding alterations to faculty tenure issues.



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Upcoming events

The next General Assembly will meet Friday, December 4 from 3:30-5:00pm

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:35pm