

October General Assembly Minutes

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current Required Quorum: 41

Total Attending: 68

Approve September minutes

Approved

Dean Daleke talk

Dean Daleke gave an overview of the exceptional programs of the University Graduate School, including Academic Affairs, Diversity & Inclusion, Student Development, the Graduate Mentoring Center, Funding, and special programs involving career opportunities and mental health.

Dean Daleke was asked how the process for better working conditions for IU grad students is going. The University Graduate School is also working with departments and programs to help students complete their programs, such as extending G901 credits and graduation deadlines due to pandemic delays. UGS also contributed to restarting research after the shut down this spring.

Dean Daleke was asked about an increase to minimum wage for grad students. That is handled by HR for the most part, but UGS did increase the minimum stipend for their graduate assistants to 18,000 per year.

UGS is also partnering with GPSG on a survey of graduate student finances.

Campus updates

Dakota gave a series of campus updates (links in presentation).

The GPSG Canvas calendar has been updated with Assembly meetings.

COVID-19 Dashboard shows downward trends, with no graduate student spread. Students will be required to get flu shots. Get them as soon as possible; there are deadlines.

The student trustee application is open - interested students are strongly encouraged to apply. Contact GPSG Awards Officer Katie Shy with questions.

IU Police Department released a police data dashboard.

The Board of Trustees accepted President McRobbie's recommendations to rename Jordan-affiliated landmarks on campus. Ask GPSG Communications Coordinator Sarah Kelly with inputs.

GPSG President Dakota Coates is participating on the advisory committee for the Presidential Search. GPSG will host events and provide recommendations for improving the process.

Inactive seats resolution

A couple students have already reached out about filling inactive seats, so the resolution is serving its purpose.

Deeming inactive has no detriments to students (e.g. no loss of funding opportunities or representation)

The consolidations process will benefit programs by helping programs that are currently not represented to get representation.

It was asked if there is a plan to solicit engagement. Sarah Kelly has been emailing directly with department chairs. The plan includes additional call-outs and providing structural support to programs.

It was asked if Schools would be tasked with redistributing seats. This would be done in a mutually beneficial way between the programs and GPSG.

It was asked if staff will be involved. Yes. Students would be discussed with as well.

Inactive seats will constantly be included in communications and outreach for future years. The inactive status will not hinder the ability for a student to run in the future (seats become immediately active upon having a representative).

We aim to fill the remaining seats for the rest of the year.

The resolution passed with 98% for, 2% against, and no abstentions.

Omnibus bill

The goal is to turn concerns from graduate students last year into actionable resolutions. Two additional resolutions (campus parking and campus fees) are going to the GPSG advocacy committees.

The omnibus includes resolution for increasing GPSG transparency, supporting the renaming of Jordan-affiliated university property, enhancing mental health support, addressing food insecurity on campus, improving graduate student marketing, and providing more timely access to course information.

It was asked if GPSG discretionary funds will pay for more CAPS counseling sessions. No discretionary funds were allocated in the budget, and the goal is for university infrastructures to cover costs.

There are some departments where instructors are not notified which course they will teach until right before it starts. It was brought to attention that this could create difficulties for those departments. Thus, an exemption option would be beneficial.

It was asked if increasing graduate salaries would be most helpful in decreasing food insecurity. This will be a part of fee and funding issues in a future resolution.

It was asked if bills could be voted on independently instead of as an omnibus. The reason is that the wording of some bills needs to be reconsidered, while others could be passed.

It was asked if there are other locations for mental health coverage being considered since some grad students feel uncomfortable going to CAPS because they might see their students. This is something that GPSG is advocating for. For instance, we are working toward graduate student mental support in some departments.

A motion was made to vote on the omnibus as a whole. An objective was made because the wording of the resolutions could use improvements. The Assembly voted to not vote on the Omnibus as a whole.

The transparency resolution passed overwhelmingly, with 89% for, 2% against, and 9% abstain.

The food security resolution passed with 96% for, 2% against, and 2% abstain.

The marketing resolution passed with 82% for, 6% against, and 12% abstain.

The course access timing resolution passed with 87% for, 4% against, and 9% abstain.

The Jordan naming and mental health resolutions will be sent to the respective committees (Diversity and Health & Wellness). 100% for, 0% against. Students who are not in these committees will be able to contact the committees with questions or comments.

Upcoming events

The next General Assembly will meet Friday, November 6 from 3:30-5:00pm

Meeting Adjourned @ 5:00pm