

GPSG General Assembly Minutes

December 3, 2021

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current required quorum: 34

Total attending: 44

Approval of November Minutes

Kortney Stern motioned and Mary Noble seconded to approve the November meeting minutes. Approved. There were no "no" votes and no abstentions.

President's Report

-BFC: grad students who aren't on contract used to be able to purchase IU insurance, but these plans were discontinued because more and more people bought insurance on the open market instead. President Luketa and Dean Daleke are working on getting them reintroduced.

-Aaron Carroll is working with the results of mental health surveys on campus. He is working with President Luketa to not just increase CAPS sessions but take a holistic view of factors affecting grad student mental health: power imbalances at work, the housing market, etc.

-VP for International Affairs Buxbaum OIS meetings: better funding, more transparency about where funding is coming from, acknowledging threatening and misleading nature of email last year

-Provost Search: GPSG representatives not included even though we are democratically elected to represent graduate students

-GPSG was recently removed from BFC Benefits Committee

Provost Search Updates

-Dan Myers went to the first meeting Monday

-7 or 8 students at the meeting, we were the only grad representative

-Amy Dittmar. Deputy Provost of Academic & Budgetary Affairs at University of Michigan

-chaired U of M Task Force on mental health

-put students on committees, holds town halls, meets students in focus groups (grad & undergrad)

-alternative sources of funding for students

-addressing sexual assault issues (no shaming, anonymous hotlines)

-Alice Lind question about the role of the provost

-Virginia Gomez question about funding disparities across departments

-President Luketa: you will hear that departments deal with their own funding, but there is quite a bit that the provost can do

-Darcy Furlong: suggestion that we ask for tangible solutions to poor grad student compensation since it is an issue across campuses

-Sreekar Chigurupati: who will select the provost? We don't have an ultimate vote, the Board of Trustees will choose

-Virginia Gomez: how will we attract faculty of color and from marginalized communities?

-Darcy Furlong: how are the DEI statements being evaluated?

-Sreekar Chigurupati: there are only a few masters' students in most classes, how can we ensure they are represented too?

Upcoming Events (moved up in agenda)

-Swasti: we'll have a hot chocolate social in the afternoon the first week we are back

-Spring 2022 General Assemblies

-February 4, Zoom, 3:30pm

-March 4, Zoom, 3:30pm (executive board elections)

-April 1, Zoom, 3:30pm

Graduate Student Wellbeing Survey

-Evan Arnet: this survey had great success at IUPUI and we think we can get a lot of valuable information out of it; hoping to send out survey in the beginning of next year, looking for help coding and advertising the survey

-President Luketa: qualitative and quantitative data. Important for showing that our concerns are systematic issues, not just affecting one student or one department.

-Darcy Furlong: concerns about sexual harassment language 'consent must be clearly communicated'

-Charles Ault: what is a better way to phrase it?

-Ruhun Wasata: concerns about "sexual assault" versus "rape"

-These concerns will be taken up by the Health & Wellness Committee

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.