

GPSG November 2021 General Assembly Minutes

Call to order: 3:30 PM

Attendance

Current Required Quorum: 34

Total Attending: 59

Opening Remarks: Student Legal Services

They are an on-campus law firm for students. If you aren't required to pay on-campus fees, you may be able to still pay the SLS portion to access their services. They commonly assist with landlord-tenant issues, consumer problems, harassment protection, minor criminal matters, business paperwork, intellectual properties and insurance claims. They work free of charge so there are no attorney fees. For many cases they can even represent us in court. They cannot do immigration cases or tax cases however. Marc is happy to answer any other questions we have (mabplana@indiana.edu). More information is here:

<https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-support/legal-services/index.html>.

Approval of October minutes

Approved.

President's Report: Postponed

Committee Reports

Awards

Reviewing travel grant applications. First community building event is today. The committee is working with other IU units to supplement GPSG award funds. There will be another cycle next semester.

Benefits

Benefits Committee is meeting after Assembly to discuss important benefits-related issues.

Diversity

Congrats to the new Diversity Council (selected by application to represent underrepresented groups and views). The Diversity Committee (volunteers of the representative body) met with members of the Provost Search Committee. Reach out to the chair Louis if you have suggestions for the search.

Health and Wellness

Focusing on sexual violence prevention and mental health access. Also filled positions on campus committees. The GPSG COVID Task Force is recruiting two more members and the application is due Monday, November 15.

<https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1852364/quizzes/3456962>. The COVID Committee is

sending a survey through the GPSG newsletter to collect feedback on COVID concerns and priorities.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Committee has been in contact with Sustain IU, Hilltop Farm, IU Transportation, Sunrise Bloomington, and other organizations. The committee is examining composting on campus and developing a plan. They are also working on getting more active community gardening on campus for us. And, working with IU Farm to bring animals back to the farm and create opportunities for grad student involvement with local food. We are all invited to join them tomorrow at Hilltop Garden.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 20 at 5pm will be a GPSG social at Switchyard Brewing with FREE pizza!

The next GPSG Assembly will be Friday, December 3, 3:30pm on Zoom.

Resolution to Affirm the Rights of Graduate Workers to Unionize

Kaitlin asked if we can make the policy text gender-neutral, even if we are quoting a policy. Cole explained it is just the outdated language from the state law.

Jay suggested "If it is a genuinely pressing concern, could quote text be edited as such? "Have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of [their] own choosing, to negotiate the terms..." etc.? I'm not sure if that would conflict with the need to directly and accurately quote the source text."

Evie asked who the language "IU administration" refers to.

Matthew asked if #3 should include the decision to form or not form a union and if a union was already formed, as it was not made with reference to if a union had been formed. Cole and Sam explained the rights are to form a union and a decision to join a union. The Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition is in a process to form a union.

"Graduate employees decision to join and not join a union, and graduate employees decision to form a union" was suggested to be the new language for #3 in an amendment. The amendment passed.

It was moved and seconded to move to a vote. Motion approved.

The resolution passed with the amendment 57-0-2 (yes, no, abstain).

Meeting Adjourned @ 4:45pm