

Meeting: Assembly

Date: Friday, September 04, 2009 3:30 PM

Location: Wells Library E-174

Attendees: 57 department representatives

Agenda:

1. Discuss and vote on proposed changes to Bylaws and Constitution

Nick reviewed the changes in the Constitution:

- Changes to the way the GPSO Parliamentarian collects enrollment numbers. Passed with 57 yeas.
- Ten new voting seats; five from Graduate Diversity Council and five from International Center. Passed with 53 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention.
- Term of each Assembly seat runs from May 1 to April 30. An Assembly representative requested to insert language that the selection of representatives shall be done by the first fall Assembly meeting. A motion was given to table this issue in order to give representatives time to go back to their departments and discuss. This issue will be revisited at the October Assembly meeting. Tabling of issue passed with 51 yeas, 1 nay, and 5 abstentions.
- Insert new officer positions into constitution. Passed with 57 yeas.
- Addition of leave policy. Passed with 57 yeas.
- Committee restructure. Passed with 57 yeas.
- Move to accept all constitutional changes minus the third bullet above regarding timeline of Assembly representative selection. Passed with 57 yeas.

2. Discussion of Health Insurance Plans

Nick discussed the three current health plans at IU:

- **SAA Mandatory plan.** Currently, 4000 graduate students have this coverage. The plan is comprehensive; the premium costs approximately \$1800 and is paid by academic departments.
- **International student plan.** This plan is mandatory for the 2100 enrolled international graduate students. The coverage is semi-comprehensive and the premium costs approximately \$700.
- **Voluntary plan.** This plan is open and available to all IU graduate students. Currently 1700 graduate students are enrolled. The coverage is for accident and injury and the premium costs approximately \$1900. This plan does not have a pre-existing exclusion and has maternity coverage. In addition to the high cost of this health plan some students are not satisfied with this plan details. An alternative to the plan:
 - If the GPSO were a member of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) all IU graduate students would have access to a health plan through this organization that is lower cost. The annual membership fee to join

NAGPS is approximately \$400. The low cost coverage plan available through NAGPS is approximately \$700. The high cost coverage plan available through NAGPS is a little bit less than the current IU voluntary health plan. There are drawbacks to the plans available through NAGPS: non-acceptance of pre-existing clause for 6 months, no maternity plan, and historically bad customer service. As an additional concern, human resources of IU feel that a consequence of pursuing this association will cause Aetna to lose enrollment numbers. The counter argument to this is that a majority of students who would use the NAGPS plan are students who currently have no health coverage. The Assembly moved to give graduate students at IU access to the health coverage plans available through NAGPS. 52 yeas, 1 nay, and 4 abstentions.

3. Resolution on Mandatory Health Insurance

This resolution asks for an investigation of the potential cost consequences, benefits, and implications of requiring mandatory health insurance for all IU students. Human Resources of IU have asked the GPSO to provide this mandate in order to gather this data.

There was a discussion among the Assembly about the potential risk that the mandatory enrollment would preclude some students from attending school. In addition, it was noted that students are not allowed to apply loan funds to health insurance premiums. The Assembly requested that language be added to gather information about how other similar institutions benefit from mandatory student health care.

It was reiterated that this is only a request for information; it is not a movement to pursue this as an option.

Resolution passed to ask for an investigation of the cost implications with 51 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention.

4. Overview of campus committee appointments

The following officers introduced themselves and invited Assembly members to contact them with any ideas, concerns, or issues:

- Joseph Leenhouts-Martin - Benefits Officer.
- Tony Cak - Grants Officer.
- Scott Nissen - Sustainability Officer.
- Mike Cox - Awards Officer.