



IUB Graduate and Professional Student Government President Platform

Manish Reddy Nandineni for GPSG President

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Stronger Advocacy. Greater Transparency. A More Connected GPSG.

Fellow graduate and professional students,

When I first joined GPSG as a representative, I quickly realized something - most students have no idea what GPSG does, and even fewer know how it can actually help them. That's a huge problem.

We are dealing with rising costs, limited funding, unclear policies, and a lack of student input in major decisions. But how often do we feel like we actually have a say in any of this? The university makes decisions about us, but rarely with us. That needs to change.

GPSG has made significant contributions to student advocacy, but there is room to build upon its successes. It can be more visible, more engaged, and more proactive in addressing student concerns. I'm running for GPSG President because I believe we need a student government that fights harder for us, connects better with us, and makes real changes that actually improve our experience at IU.

What I Will Fight For

Fair Pay and Better Funding - Because We Deserve It

Graduate workers keep this university running, but our pay doesn't match the cost of living in Bloomington. For Master's students, the situation is even worse, many have little to no access to funding.

This isn't about asking for favors. It's about demanding fairness. IU has the resources, but the way funding is distributed doesn't reflect student needs. I will push for:

- **Higher wages for graduate workers, that account for Bloomington's cost of living.**
- **More funding opportunities for Master's students, who are often overlooked.**
- **Greater transparency in how student funding is distributed so we know where our money is going.**

Challenging the Expressive Activity Policy

This is simple: students should not have to ask for permission to express themselves.

IU's Expressive Activity Policy limits when and where students can engage in activism and public speech. That's not just restrictive, it's unacceptable. The university should be protecting student voices, not regulating them.

This will be the first issue I raise with the Board of Trustees. I will work to ensure that:

- **Students have the right to peacefully protest and express themselves without unnecessary restrictions.**
- **University policies do not suppress student activism or limit free speech on campus.**
- **If IU truly values diversity and inclusion, that must include diversity of thought and opinion.**



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Financial Transparency - Where Is Our Money Going?

Every semester, we pay tuition and fees. Every year, the university increases costs. But how often are we told where that money actually goes?

Students shouldn't have to dig through complex reports to understand how their university is using their money. If elected, I will:

- **Push for clearer financial reporting on university spending.**
- **Ensure GPSG's budget is spent in ways that directly benefit students.**
- **Make sure policies affecting funding, tuition, and fees are clearly communicated and easy to access.**

No more hidden numbers. If students are paying for this university, they deserve to know how it's being run.

IU Is Falling Behind the Big Ten - We Need to Catch Up

Indiana University is part of the Big Ten, but when it comes to graduate student funding, benefits, and institutional support, we are not even close to the top.

Other Big Ten schools offer better pay, better funding, and stronger student advocacy. Why should we settle for less? I will make sure:

- **IU addresses these gaps and invests more in its graduate students.**
- **GPSG pushes for greater recognition at the Big Ten level.**

We work as hard as graduate students at Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin and we should be supported at the same level.

Supporting Students Through Uncertainty

Between visa regulations, research funding cuts, and shifting national policies, many students, especially international students are left uncertain about their futures.

GPSG should not be passive in moments like these. I will fight to:

- **Push for stronger legal and academic support for affected students.**
- **Ensure IU administration takes a more active role in advocating for its students.**

Every student deserves stability and the ability to focus on their education without fear of external disruptions. GPSG should be there to fight for them.

Strengthening GPSG's Role

GPSG Should Be More Than Just a Name - It Should Be a Presence

Most students only hear about GPSG when elections come around. That's a failure in outreach.

GPSG should be a visible, active force on campus, not just a governing body that exists in the background. I will:

- **Expand GPSG's presence online and on campus.**
- **Strengthen direct outreach with students in every department.**
- **Host at least one major event every year to engage students more directly.**

Students shouldn't have to go looking for GPSG. GPSG should come to them.



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A More Proactive Approach to Student Concerns

Right now, if students have an issue, they have to find a GPSG rep and hope their concern is addressed. That's not good enough.

I will implement:

- **A structured system where GPSG reps actively gather feedback from students.**
- **Regular surveys that actually influence GPSG decisions.**
- **More direct communication about what GPSG is doing and how students can get involved.**

If GPSG is supposed to represent students, it needs to listen to them first.

Making Information Easy to Find and Understand

Transparency only matters if students can actually access the information they need. Right now, many important policies and funding details are hidden in bureaucratic messes.

I will make sure:

- **GPSG's policies, budget, and advocacy work are clearly available to students.**
- **University policies affecting students are easy to find and understand.**
- **Regular updates are given so students always know what's happening.**

Why Me?

When I first got involved in student government, it wasn't because I wanted a title. It was because I saw a problem that needed to be fixed.

At my undergraduate university, there was no Student Council. No representation. No system for students to voice their concerns. So, instead of waiting for change, I built one from the ground up. As the first General Secretary of my university's Student Council, I:

- **Created a governing system that lasted beyond my time.**
- **Ensured students had a direct line to the administration.**
- **Led initiatives that made real, lasting changes for students.**

I didn't do it for a title. I did it because I knew students deserved better.

I'm running for GPSG President because I believe in action, not just discussion. I want to make sure that students at IU know their government, feel its presence, and see its impact.

Vote for Manish Reddy Nandineni for GPSG President.

Let's make sure our voices are heard.