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Platform:

I have been in IGWC-UE leadership for three years. This year I've been a GPSG representative, President of the Political Science Graduate Students Association, a member of the Student Academic Appointee (SAA) Board of Review, and a member of the Bloomington Faculty Council's SAA Advisory Committee. I view service work as especially important when so much is at stake in our university. In no uncertain terms, IU is under attack from its upper administration. It is my intention to fight back against that attack to ensure that graduate and professional students at IU can continue to receive the world class education this university is known for.

As Vice President, I would keep up that fight. I would make sure that GPSG and IGWC work hand in hand to ensure that the dual rolls of graduate students and graduate workers are insulated from the imposed austerity regime. I hope to use this office to elevate graduate workers as they use their voices to demand union recognition, a living wage, a timely pathway to their degree, a world class education, protections against abuse by faculty and administration, and an end to Whitten's unjust government by decree. It is important that graduate workers be the ones to empower themselves. Union recognition for the IGWC-UE will benefit us in GPSG because it will clearly establish another body to handle workplace grievances, contractual bargaining, and other labor issues. GPSG is not equipped to handle these issues, and to the extent that graduate workers are forced to pursue their aims through this mechanism, they are being underserved by IU.

Union recognition for the IGWC-UE would free GPSG to take a narrower focus on curriculum reform, community-building, quality of life issues in our education, and increasing opportunities for educational success. These issues appear to many of us as less urgent than the immediate concerns foisted on us by the poverty wages Whitten pays us while she racks in more and more money each year. But they must be addressed. Our first demand should therefore be union recognition so that we might in turn take up the task of focusing on the issues we face specifically *as students*. Funding cuts affect our ability to remain in our programs, to earn our degrees in a timely way, and to retain immigration status for our international students. Degree requirements are often ambiguous.

Funding opportunities are often opaque. The governing institutions that control our lives as students are disempowered by our administrators. Our rights in the classroom are curtailed by SEA 202, an issue on which we still lack proper guidance from the administration. Our rights to free expression outside the classroom are curtailed by UA-10. The campus climate is one of fear and intimidation, which is directly contrary to the principles of academic freedom and thus hurts us as developing scholars and professionals. We deserve to graduate prepared for our careers, with ample support for those activities that make us competitive job candidates, including professional development and conference travel. We deserve to do our work on a sustainable campus. We

deserve to have the mentoring support and curricular clarity we need to graduate as exceptional scholars and professionals.

Most of us are bookish academics who want to keep our heads down and do our work.

Unfortunately, our hostile administration has made this less and less possible during Whitten's presidency. I ask for your vote for the office of GPSG Vice President, but I also ask you to become an advocate for your education, to recognize that there is no longer an option to remain quietly focused on your studies while education is under attack by this administration and by the state and federal governments. If you want to graduate with the best education possible, you must get loud.

You must get organized. I ask you to join me in fighting for your education. I will use the office of GPSG vice president as much as I can to pursue change, but I need your help. Together, we can build a better IU.