

Dear IUB Graduate and Professional Students,

This evening, the Graduate and Professional Student Government held an emergency meeting in order to take a [vote of "No Confidence"](#) in Provost Rahul Shrivastav. The vote passed 55 For, 2 Against, 4 Abstain and declares that the GPSG as the representative body of graduate students has no confidence in the Provost's leadership and formally withdraws all of its representatives from all shared governance bodies at Indiana University.

Throughout my tenure as GPSG President this past year, I have watched as graduate students dedicated enormous time and energy to the representative process. We passed four important [resolutions](#) on graduate student well-being. Despite these efforts, there is no formal mechanism for Indiana University to implement any of the resolutions. In fact, when we directly asked administrators to act on them, they categorically refused.

During this year's campaign for unionization, the IU Administration regularly referred to the GPSG as the voice of graduate employees and their preferred interlocutor. GPSG represents all 10,000 graduate and professional students *as students*. However, our assembly has acknowledged that the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition - United Electrical Workers ([IGWC-UE](#)) represents 2,500 graduate employees *as employees* of the university. GPSG cannot serve as a substitute for the IGWC-UE.

Last weekend, I met with the Provost's Chief of Staff who asked if GPSG could act as a mediator in settling the strike. It was my first time meeting with the Office of the Provost. After an exchange of ideas and a promise to continue the dialogue, the Provost announced the creation of another committee claiming that his idea evolved from our conversation. It did not. This was a violation of the most fundamental norms of dialogue and felt like a teenage stunt to trick us into endorsing his ideas, once again claiming he was consulting the GPSG as if his ideas had emerged out of a genuine dialogue.

The Provost has shown poor, near incompetent leadership since arriving here two months ago. He has mismanaged his interactions with graduate students and graduate employees. His communications with us are typically through threats to our livelihoods and our well-being. Graduate students generally dismiss his words and are angered by his arrogance and intransigence.

Our statement of no confidence sends a message to the Board of Trustees that we have lost all faith in Provost Shrivastav's leadership. It is time for the IU Administration to recognize the union and to take seriously the notion of dialogue with graduate students represented by GPSG and graduate workers represented by IGWC-UE. It is no longer clear that the Provost has the competency to make this happen.

Sincerely,

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GPSG President

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