

April 10th, 2022

Dear IUB Graduate and Professional Students,

Today I will vote Yes to strike. I am asking all IGWC-UE union members to do the same.

We want an overwhelming Yes vote to show the IU Administration that they must take us seriously and negotiate with graduate employees. The best chance to quickly settle this strike is with the resounding unity of graduate employees. Our union has never been stronger and our voices have never been louder. **We are ready!**

[Nearly 1,000 IU graduate employees](#) have pledged to strike. Join us this week to demand fairness for graduate employees. If you have not already, **[sign the Pledge to Strike](#)**.

To all graduate employees and graduate students, please [join our picket lines this week](#). We are fighting for graduate education accessible to everyone regardless of economic background. This is a vision we think is shared by all graduate students and all Hoosiers.

When we act together as a union we are stronger. Graduate employees at Indiana University won the biggest wage increases in a decade a couple of weeks ago only because we set a strike vote and a strike date. **We wish we were negotiating with the IU Administration across a bargaining table and not through taking strike votes.** This is not our vision of an institution of higher learning. However, the reality is that for years **the IU Administration has rejected every opportunity for dialogue.**

As President of the GPSG, I am committed to protecting the rights of graduate students at Indiana University. I strongly condemn the inflammatory language used by Provost Srinivastav in his communications with faculty and graduate students. These tired threats are made in every union organizing drive and IGWC-UE has warned us for months that IU would likely use them here.

We have no choice but to strike. After years of petitioning and protesting, meeting and talking, it's time that we finally win our seat at the table. **I encourage all IGWC-UE union members to join us at the Monroe County Library Auditorium at 3 PM today, Sunday, April 10th for the strike vote.** (If you cannot attend, a link to the vote will be sent to union members shortly after 3 PM).

Let's vote Yes to Strike together.

I'll see you on the picket line.

Valentina Luketa
GPSG President

Graduate & Professional Student Government

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