

Indiana University - Bloomington Graduate & Professional Student Government

Resolution to recognize the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition – United Electric

Whereas, graduate and professional students have been demanding better living conditions since 2018, including, but not limited to ending all additional fees, a living wage with annual raises, fairness for marginalized groups such as non-US citizen students.

Whereas, the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs raised international student fees¹;

Whereas, Graduate and Professional Student Government has raised concerns raised with the Board of Trustees², and the committees it serves on in the Bloomington Faculty Council, the Graduate Faculty Council, and the University Faculty Council;

Whereas, Graduate and Professional Student Government has voted and passed multiple resolutions to address the betterment of graduate workers living conditions;

Whereas, the then Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition submitted a Petition for change with over 3000 signatures;

Whereas, graduate workers organized a walk with 300+ grad workers and meeting with the University Graduate School³;

Whereas the aforementioned steps were met with IU Provost and Executive Vice President Lauren Robel debating the meaning of a living wage⁴ — while earning almost half a million dollars (\$442,702.00 in 2021)⁵;

Whereas, the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition – United Electric submitted over 1500 signed union cards to form a graduate workers union and be recognized by Indiana University⁶;

¹ Source: <https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/2019/08/22/iu-increases-international-student-fee-again/46946809/> and <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2018/04/iu-increases-fee-for-international-students>

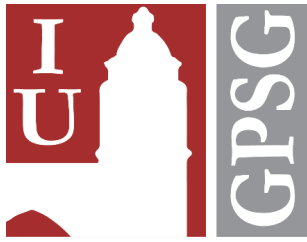
² Source: <https://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/iubot/view?docId=2018-04-06.xml&chunk.id=d1e219&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d1e219&brand=iubot&text1=reneker&op1=and&op2=and&field1=text&field2=text&field3=text&startDoc=1>

³ Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=FncGxIwsA5U&feature=emb_logo and <https://bloomingtonian.com/2020/01/28/iu-graduate-students-march-against-mandatory-fees/>

⁴ Source: <https://provost.indiana.edu/images/one-off-pages/response-to-the-gwc.pdf>

⁵ Source: <https://ops.fms.iu.edu/psgi/Salary/results>

⁶ Source : <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2022/02/iu-graduate-workers-continue-fighting-for-unionization-despite-tough-legal-environment-strike>



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Graduate & Professional Student Government

Whereas, the Interim Provost John Applegates had refused to open the dialogue with the elected representative bodies of the graduate and professional student community;

Whereas, the Indiana University Student Association published a Proclamation in support of the demands of the graduate student community⁷;

Whereas, the Bloomington Faculty Council voted and passed a resolution supporting the recognition of the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition – United Electric as a union;

Whereas, the College of Arts and Science removed unremittable fees⁸;

Whereas, after ten years of salary stagnation for many departments and schools/colleges, raises were announced, albeit remaining below projected inflation in Spring 2022;

Whereas, the Office of the Provost has engaged in threatening measures against the graduate's student's right to strike according to policy HR-20;

Whereas, the Office of the Provost has undergone the draft of new Student Academic Appointee contracts without input from the graduate and professional students or their representative organizations⁹;

Whereas, graduate workers held a 4-weeks-long strike in Spring 2022¹⁰, which has been the only effective communication method to the Board of Trustees, Office of the President, and the Office of the Provost to establish an emergency Task Force and be willing to implement their recommendations to better the working and living conditions of graduate workers as a result;

Whereas, Indiana University finally made concessions to increase stipends across the Bloomington campus for Student Academic Appointees, and to cover mandatory fees for graduate and professional students¹¹;

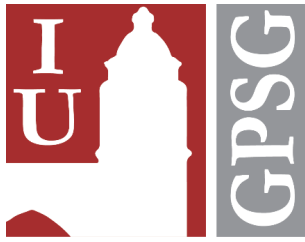
⁷ Source : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MFJ_BVOgV8Ev65KXOGeDDS6PgubbZVCq/view

⁸ Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06IHsXSj3c0>

⁹ Source: <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2022/07/indiana-graduate-workers-coalition-united-electrical-workers-condemn-new-contract-for-student-academic-appointees>

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F8rJedcaWA>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKouCYn3IdE>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swWB2o_vt34, and <https://www.chronicle.com/article/grad-students-suspend-their-strike-at-indiana-u-but-the-fights-not-over>

¹¹ Source : <https://news.iu.edu/stories/2022/08/iub/02-bloomington-student-academic-appointees-update.html> and <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2022/08/iu-increases-graduate-worker-stipend-waives-mandatory-fees>



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Whereas, Indiana University finally made additional concessions to waive international student fees¹²;

Whereas, the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition could go back on strike in Fall 2022, if the Indiana Board of Trustees does not recognize its union¹³.

Whereas, finding a path toward the election for the establishment of a union for graduate students is the only way to move resources from the administrative level into departments, to secure better resources for graduate students, and to allow graduate students to live a dignified life. So there needs to be bargaining representation of the graduate students, and that should exist for the faculty as well. All that is left at this stage is for IU's leadership to have a will to work with its people and not against them.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly that –

- (1) The Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition – United Electric be recognized as a graduate workers union at Indiana University, an organization of workers intended for maintaining or improving the conditions of the graduate workers and bargaining power with the executive and decision-making organs of the Indiana University administration, holding a key role in securing better wages and benefits, improving working conditions, establishing grievance procedures, and auditing rules governing the status of graduate employee status.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on this 23rd day of September, 2022.

GPSG President

Date

¹² Source : <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2022/09/iu-task-force-graduate-education-waive-international-graduate-student-fees>

¹³ Source : <https://www.wishtv.com/news/iu-grad-workers-union-frustrated-with-pace-of-negotiations/>