

Indiana University - Bloomington
Graduate & Professional Student Government

Resolution in Support of The Kinsey Institute

Whereas, since its inception in 1947, the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University has made significant contributions to our understanding of sex and sexuality through research addressing sexual health, consent, contraception, violence, and 2SLGBTQ+ health and wellbeing¹.

Whereas, the Kinsey Institute has been subject to the spread of enduring disinformation and misconceptions, in part, due to contention and politicization surrounding its topics of study².

Whereas, Indiana's State Budget of 2023 (HB1001) was instated with an amendment prohibiting the allocation of State funds toward supporting the Kinsey Institute³;

Whereas, the basis of this amendment included largely debunked and unproven allegations regarding the undertakings of the Institute⁴.

Whereas, in November 2023, the University administration proposed the creation of a new 501 c3 organization that could sever part or all of Kinsey Institute from the aegis of IU⁵, posing concerns for affiliated staff, faculty, and graduate students⁶.

¹ Overview of Kinsey Research: <https://kinseyinstitute.org/research/index.php>

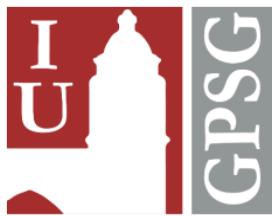
²Addressing Misinformation about Kinsey:
<https://kinseyinstitute.org/about/kinsey-institute-faq.php#false>

³ Indiana State House Bill 1001: <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2023/bills/house/1001/details>

⁴ News Article (Lawmaker comments):<https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/kinsey-institute-prepares-for-future-without-state-funding.php>

⁵ News Article (Board of Trustee's proposal):<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/kinsey-institute-indiana-university-separation-plan-trustees>

⁶ Letters from the community:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w2vCGp-elllxfo3hmxdV7zwh8_fsU?usp=drive_link



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Whereas, Indiana University administration has suggested retaining the Kinsey Library and Special Collections⁷, the largest sexuality-related collection and archive in the world, under its ownership while severing ties with the Institute itself⁸.

Whereas, affiliated staff and students continued to voice apprehensions, citing insufficient advertising of the Listening Sessions⁹, and that the proceedings have yet to be released to the public, limiting overall access.¹⁰

Whereas, affiliated staff and students have also amplified concern about the paucity of information regarding specifics of the decision-making process, reflecting a more significant deficit in transparency.¹¹

Whereas, there are concerns that the Kinsey-offered PhD Human Sexuality minor¹² would be threatened, along with other academic offerings such as the Sexual Science Research Seminar, Summer Human Sexuality Intensive, and the Indiana University School of Medicine scholarly concentration in Human Sexuality and Health.

⁷ Kinsey Special Collections: <https://kinseyinstitute.org/collections/index.php>

⁸ Indiana Public Media News Article:
<https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/researchers-decry-admin-plan-to-sever-kinsey-institute-from-iu.php>

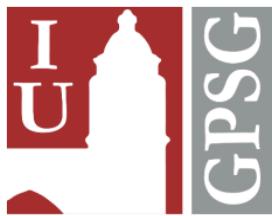
⁹ News Article (Reactions to Listening Sessions):
<https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/kinsey-working-group-takes-input-but-few-questions-answered.php>

¹⁰ Friends of Kinsey (@friendsofkinsey on Instagram) response to Listening Sessions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UatdHBuFEBkAvO9r_I9yZ0TuK6QUujalSIYgUWZIWI/edit

¹¹ News Article (Transparency concerns):
<https://www.idsnews.com/article/2024/01/kinsey-staff-say-iu-lacking-transparency-in-funding-problem>

¹² Human Sexuality PhD Minor:
<https://kinseyinstitute.org/education-outreach/minor-in-human-sexuality.php>

Kinsey Affiliates Letter Outlining Concerns :
https://www.scribd.com/document/682177155/Letter-to-IUBOT-IU-Administration-Re-Kinsey-Institute#fullscreen&from_embed



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Whereas, students who rely on student assistantships and employment may not receive critical financial assistance if Kinsey Institute is separated through the formation of a 501c¹³.

Whereas, HB1001 limits the appropriation of State funds¹⁴, possible solutions include reorganizing the accounting structure while retaining Kinsey's status within Indiana University¹⁰.

Whereas, following HB1001, there has been an uptick in threats and allegations against Kinsey staff and faculty, resulting in a greater need for continued security, which would likely be compromised in a case of separation¹⁵.

Whereas, the GPSG has received several accounts from affiliated graduate students, underlining the impending jeopardy to academic freedom and graduate employment in case of a Kinsey-IU separation.

Whereas, President Whitten and Provost Shrivastav have stated their commitment to Kinsey's mission¹⁶, factors such as low process-related transparency and lack of proposal specifics have communicated otherwise to the community¹⁷.

Whereas, as part of advocacy efforts, a petition¹⁸ for Kinsey Institute to remain at Indiana University, which has now garnered 9,854 signatures, was presented to the Board of Trustees in November 2023;

¹³ More about SAAs: <https://hpsc.indiana.edu/graduate/saa.html> ; KI confirms 25 graduate students on payroll (personal communication with S.Kulkarni).

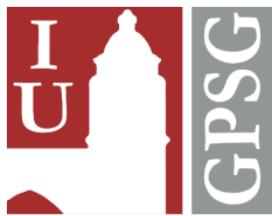
¹⁴ News article (Funding cuts).<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2023/05/01/state-indiana-cuts-funds-kinsey>

¹⁵ News Article (Threats). Also see,¹¹:
<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2023-05-22/kinsey-institute-experts-study-sex-gender-as-misconceptions-block-state-dollars>

¹⁶ Office of Provost and EVP Q&A: <https://provost.indiana.edu/news/2023/nov-06-kinsey.html>

¹⁷ News Article (Lack of Administrative Support):
<https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/kinsey-faculty-students-left-confused-worried-over-institutes-future>

¹⁸Petition in Support of Kinsey: <https://www.change.org/p/support-the-kinsey-institute-and-collections>



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Whereas, the Board of Trustees¹⁹ tabled the issue with plans to revisit it this month, on February 29th - March 1st, 2024.

Whereas, there is an apparent need for the Indiana University administration to demonstrate proactive leadership to ensure the Institute's longevity, and proffer unambiguous support for its affiliated staff, students, and faculty.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly that the GPSG advocates that:

1. The notice of meetings, sessions, and news related to the status of the Kinsey Institute be compliant with Indiana University policy process by making information accessible, widely distributed, and shared amongst all stakeholders at Indiana University and following long-standing policies that govern organizational structures.
2. Indiana University collaborates with the Kinsey Institute to furnish solutions that navigate the impact of the HB1001 without the formation of a 501 c3, thus protecting the integrity, reputation, and livelihoods of affiliated staff, students, and faculty.
3. Indiana University refrains from dividing Kinsey Library and Special Collections from the Institute, preventing both harm to the Collections and impediment to any related research.
4. Indiana University proactively supports graduate student employment, research endeavors, the interdisciplinary graduate minor, and classes being offered through the Kinsey Institute.
5. Indiana University vehemently defends the Kinsey Institute, specifically against the recent multitude of defamatory threats against faculty and staff, thereby supporting the longstanding mission of the Institute.

Respectfully submitted to the Graduate and Professional Student Government at Assembly on February 2, 2024.

¹⁹ News Article (Tabled Vote):

<https://news.iu.edu/live/news/32672-iu-board-of-trustees-tables-vote-on-kinsey&sa=D&source=apps-viewer-frontend&ust=1706556295706134&usg=AOvVaw11kd4lzEJwtZUwETgJ9m3b&hl=en>