

Indiana University - Bloomington

Graduate & Professional Student Government

Resolution in Support of Graduate Worker Unionization

Whereas the majority of graduate student workers at Indiana University have signed union cards requesting membership in the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition-United Electrical Workers (IGWC-UE) demonstrating their interest in bargaining collectively with the Indiana University over their wages, benefits, and other conditions of work;¹

Whereas graduate student workers at Indiana University currently have no effective institutional mechanism to articulate their concerns over wages, benefits, and working conditions with Indiana University Administration;

Whereas the Indiana University Administration has been unresponsive to GPSG resolutions and calls from the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition to end mandatory and international fees during the previous two years;²

Whereas the Indiana University Administration froze wages for the majority of graduate student workers for much of the last decade while consistently raising fees;

Whereas some schools, such as the School of Education, have not provided wage increases to graduate student workers in ten years;

Whereas average wages of graduate student workers at Indiana University are among the lowest in the Big Ten while the fees remain among the highest;³

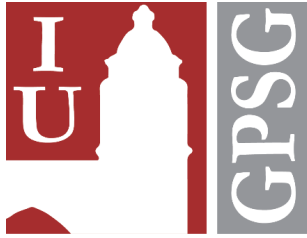
Whereas the vast majority of graduate student workers subsist on an income substantially below the cost of living indexes for Bloomington, Indiana;⁴

¹ <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2021/12/iu-graduate-workers-submit-union-cards-to-board-of-trustees-call-for-union-election>

² https://gpso.sitehost.iu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Resolution-to-Support-the-Indiana-Graduate-Workers-Coalition-Petition-to-Waive-Mandatory-and-International-Student-Fees-with-Friendly-Amendments_PASSED.pdf

³ <https://www.indianagradworkers.org/2019-coas-report>

⁴ <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/18105>



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Whereas Indiana University makes health and safety decisions concerning the current pandemic with minimal input from graduate student workers;⁵

Whereas to form a union is a decision of workers for workers, and should be conducted free of employer influence;

Whereas GPSG should be free to take positions regarding graduate students' relationship with Indiana University; Whereas GPSG should be free to communicate with its constituents about its resolutions and activities;

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

1. We encourage graduate student workers to take the necessary steps to form a labor union including voting Yes in a union election
2. We encourage graduate student workers to participate fully to establish a democratic voice capable of representing the work-related interests of graduate student workers in negotiations with Indiana University Administration;
3. We insist that the University respect the call from a majority of graduate student workers to hold a fair union election and, in so doing, insist that the Indiana University Administration, its officers, managers, and agents remain neutral in all its communications regarding unionization and the voting process;
4. We insist that the Indiana University Administration bargain in good faith with all Indiana University workers who have demonstrated their will to be represented by labor unions.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Assembly on February 4, 2022.

Valentina Luketa

2/4/2022

GPSG President

Date

⁵ <https://www.idsnews.com/article/2022/01/graduate-workers-coalition-send-letter-to-iu-administration-expressing-covid-19-concerns>