Welcome & Announcements

IU News
- Winter commencement December 16th
- IU has a new Vice President of International Affairs
- IU Men’s Basketball got first Big 10 win under Archie Miller

GPSG Administrative updates
- IU GPSG looking for a new office space
- Voice report is being prepared and will be sent out in the Spring
- Travel and Research awards applications will be released in the Spring

Approval of Minutes

Minutes Approved

Programming and Outreach Updates—Rick Brewer, GPSG Community Development Coordinator

- Social hours 12/8 at Crazy Horse, 7-9pm
- Reminder about GPSG podcast!
- Looking for a Journalist Assistant to help with press releases, editing the podcast, interviews, etc.
  - Contact Rick if you are interested
  - Email Rick with any programming suggestions

Advocacy Committee Updates

Benefits—Kehinde Ligali, Benefits Officer
- Working with the IU Records Office regarding graduate student stipend information
  - Looking to show the range of stipend value by department and criteria for securing these funds
  - Excel file of this data is available
- Interested in creating a Partners Club
If anyone would like to lead this initiative, please contact Kehinde

Health & Wellness—Josh Barnathan, Health & Wellness Officer

- Provided Lori Reesor with a long-term plan for Crimson Cupboard
  - Waiting until after the holiday for a response
  - Other foci: food insecurity and mental health

IU working on plans for RPS to provide more healthy food options to students

Sustainability—Dylan Finley, Sustainability Officer

- Looking for representative to work with the Office of Sustainability
  - Email Dylan if would like to learn more.

Diversity—Joseph D’Ambrosi and Louis van der Elst, Diversity Vice Chairs

- Met with VP of International Affairs regarding increase in international student fees from $91 to $200
  - Increase in fees was made based on benchmarking with other Big 10 universities
  - VP agreed to have a student present at future budget meetings to have student view heard

- Met with University to improve Bais Incident Reporting
  - Graduate students will have a representative on the task force being formed to improve this

Introduction of Student Ambassadors

- Scott Miller – Veterans Ambassador
- AJ Asomani-Adem – International Student Ambassador
- Joseph D’Ambrosi – Teaching Ambassador
- Daniel Bullock – Research Ambassador
- Kailey Good-Hallahan – Parent-Student Ambassador

Presentation on Tax Proposal—Zach Bailey, Maurer Law Student
• Senate and House bills would remove student loan interest deduction (today this deduction is capped at $2,500)

• House bill would include tuition waivers in gross income

• These changes would result in an increase in annual taxes that graduate students would pay

• Question: Why are graduate students paying high tuition, that is then subsequently waived?
  • Answer: Not all grad students are employed by the University, so some students still need to pay tuition. Also, the amount of tuition charged directly impacts the way departments are funded.

• Question: Is there a difference in impact on in-state vs. out-of-state students?
  • Answer: Need further research, but potentially given that there are tuition differences.

• Question: G901 Students impacted by this bill?
  • Answer: No, since not charged tuition. But this should be examined further.

• Question: If passed when would the bill go into effect?
  • Answer: 2018 tax year.

• Question: Would students working status change?
  • Answer: No.

• Question: Is anyone in the academic community supporting this?
  • Answer: No.

• Presentation on Efforts—Nic Bussberg

  • President McRobbie issued a statement opposing this bill
  • GPSG organized a grad student walkout last week to protest the tax bill
  • GPSG lead an email campaign to show support against the bill
  • Dean Daleke responded:
    • IU is working on alternatives if the bill passes
    • The university cannot publicly disclose their plans to protect students if this bill were to pass
• Will have reps sign a letter that GPSG will send to Indiana state representatives
  • Lobbyists working on behalf of IU have been making progress
• If you have any questions about the Tax Plan please contact Shed.
• Question: Has anyone contacted Mike Pence about this?
  • Answer: Not that we are aware of.
• Question: Could we contact industry partners that hire a large number of grad students to lobby on our behalf?
  • Answer: We will look into this further.
• Presentation: Resolution Opposing the Taxation of Tuition Waivers – Adam Reneker
  • Taken from the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC)
  • Leveraging a combined effort
  • Graduate students oppose the tax plan
  • If the tax plan passes, we ask IU to find alternatives to protect graduate students
  • BFC is doing a lot to protect grad students

• BFC is supporting students on this topic
• all of the presentation and resolution materials are available through Canvas
• Question: Can a resolution be made without McRobbie’s support/vision?
  • Answer: Can make a motion to amend the resolution.
• Motion to Amend
  • Amended wording passed
• Discussion and Vote
  • outcome: 58 for, 2 against, 2 abstention
  • note: digital vote included 59; 3 paper votes after assembly included (62 total)
  • Resolution Passed
• Statement Opposing Taxation of Tuition Waivers – Nic Bussberg
Indiana University - Bloomington
Graduate & Professional Student Government

- Sending letter to both Senate and House Representatives from Indiana
- Tuition waivers are not income, students never physically receive these funds
  - If the tuition waiver is taken away, many grad students would not be able to afford continuing their education
  - IU grad students support the Indiana state economy
- Committee Breakout!