

Spring Session of the 2021-2022 IU Student Body Congress

CONGRESS ENROLLED

PROCLAMATION No. 107

A PROCLAMATION concerning unionization of graduate workers.

Whereas, The Indiana University Student Government has the right to represent the interests of its constituents;

Whereas, The undergraduate student body has an interest in having access to educators and workers able to provide them support in the educational process;

Whereas, The graduate workers of Indiana University play a crucial role in the process of educating and serving the undergraduate students of Indiana, the United States, and the world;

Whereas, Graduate workers could better serve the undergraduate student body should they have a union to negotiate their conditions and remuneration;

Whereas, The majority of graduate workers at Indiana University have signed a union card signifying their interest in bargaining collectively over their wages, benefits, condition of work, and other issues, as well as requesting their membership in the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition-United Electrical Workers (IGWC-UE);

Whereas, The Graduate and Professional Student Government has proclaimed that: (1) there exists no effective institutional mechanism for graduate workers to advocate for their interests concerning wages, benefits, conditions, and other issues, and (2) the administration has been unresponsive to calls from the Graduate and Professional Student Government to end graduate student fees;

Whereas, Society has a duty to remunerate and treat its workers and servants in a manner that secures those individuals' dignity, welfare, and respect;

Whereas, A union provides workers with the ability to take legal action to bargain collectively for better conditions and remunerations to secure their dignity, welfare, and respect; and

Whereas, The decision to form a union is the decision of the workers and the workers alone, and employers should have no influence over this decision: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the students of Indiana University in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Student Body petitions the Indiana University Administration to affirm by university policy HR 12-20, which states in § 1 (a) "Staff employees of the university will have the right, freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join and assist any lawful employee organization, or to refrain from any such activity", the right of the Indiana Graduate Workers to unionize.

SECTION 2. The Student Body requests that the Indiana University Board of Trustees recognize the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition's efforts and hold a vote to form a union for graduate workers.

SECTION 3. The Student Body calls on the Indiana University Administration, including the Department of Human Resources and other offices, managers, and agents of the Indiana University Administration, as employer and potential custodian of union elections, to remain neutral with regard to graduate employees' decisions on:

(1) whether to form a union; and

(2) whether to join a union;

and to refrain from any attempts to influence the outcome of union elections as a neutral arbiter, including all attempts to provide "neutral information" to graduate employees concerning unions and collective bargaining.

SECTION 4. The Director of Student Life of Indiana University Student Government is authorized to encourage and work with other undergraduate student organizations and the general student body at Indiana University Bloomington to rally support for the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition - United Electrical and their unionization effort.

SECTION 5. The student body encourages all graduate workers inclined to pursue unionization to take the necessary steps

to forming a union and discourages the individuals employed at Indiana University Bloomington, and members of the public, who oppose unionization from harassing or harming those pursuing a union.

SECTION 6. The Student Body recognizes and honors those who have worked so hard to win a union for themselves and the graduate workers to succeed them.



FINAL ADOPTION

Benjamin May
Speaker of the Student Body Congress

Ky Freeman
Student Body President of Indiana University

Date: 3/22/22

Time: 3:00 p.m.

