

Resolution on No Confidence in President Whitten's Administration

I. Whereas the Administration of President Pamela Whitten has violated the right to fair representation;

- A. The majority of SAAs at Indiana University (IU) have signed union cards requesting membership in the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition (IGWC), demonstrating their interest in bargaining collectively with IU over their wages (which, as of this year, are for the overwhelming majority of SAA's over \$10,000 below a living wage for Bloomington¹), benefits, and other conditions of work;
- B. On January 16, the IGWC submitted 1,300 union cards to the Administration, demanding a union election so that graduate workers would have the opportunity to have a free and fair election regarding their union representation, and President Pamela Whitten has yet to respond;
- C. The IU Administration refuses to enter into dialogue or even meet with the chosen representatives of the majority of graduate employees;

II. Whereas the Administration of President Pamela Whitten has violated the principles of shared governance;

- A. Graduate student workers at IU currently have no effective institutional mechanism to articulate their concerns over wages, benefits, and working conditions with the IU Administration;
- B. The May 2022 vote of the full IU Bloomington faculty, which overwhelmingly called for the IU Administration to begin the recognition process for the IGWC, was ignored;

III. Whereas the Administration of President Pamela Whitten has actively corroded the educational mission and campus climate of Indiana University, including through their recent and blatant violations of academic freedom;

- A. President Whitten's Administration unilaterally suspended tenured Professor Abdulkader Sinno related to incoherent charges of incorrectly filling out a form in

¹ Based off the annual income for one adult, with no children, presupposing a 10-month contract, the total stipend would amount to approximately \$34,500. See: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/14020>

- violation of the rights of tenured faculty on campus in order to suppress pro-Palestine viewpoints or actions;
- B. President Whitten's Administration canceled the exhibition of renowned Palestinian-American abstract artist and IU alumna Samia Halaby, three years in planning and on the verge of opening, with no apology to the artist or the museum staff and no public explanation, in order to suppress pro-Palestine viewpoints or actions;
 - C. President Whitten's Administration's refusal to engage in collegial dialogue on topics including the graduate workers' union, academic freedom, and shared governance has produced a tense campus climate, undercutting mentor-mentee relationships;
 - D. Whereas, in regards to the Kinsey Institute, President Whitten administration has demonstrated a lack of transparency and communication concerning the possibility of severing the Kinsey Institute from Indiana University; ²
 - E. President Whitten has not expressed any willingness to resist Senate Bill 202³, which seriously jeopardizes tenure and free speech on campus, despite condemnation from the IU-Bloomington chapter of the AAUP; ⁴
 - F. Whereas President Whitten failed to take a stand in support of IU faculty member and OB/GYN Dr. Caitlin Bernard, while Dr. Bernard was under attack for providing a legal abortion to a 10-year-old. ⁵

Therefore, be it resolved, the Art History Association of Graduate Students:

1. Expresses a Vote of No Confidence in the leadership and Administration of President Pamela Whitten;
2. Encourages all other graduate student bodies to pass resolutions of No Confidence.

² See: <https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/kinsey-faculty-students-left-confused-worried-over-institutes-future>

³ See <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2024/bills/senate/202/details>

⁴ See <https://aauppurdue.org/2024/02/joint-statement-of-iu-bloomington-and-purdue-west-lafayette-aaup-chapters-on-senate-bill-202/>

⁵ See <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/whittens-defense-of-dr.-bernard-meets-mixed-reception.php>