

CONGRESS RESOLUTION NO. 08-10-13

Sponsor(s): Luke Fields (SBP), Andrew Hahn (VPC)

Co-Sponsor(s): Nicole Hakes (Willkie), Mike Coleman (Teter)

Filed on Oct. 16, 2008. Considered on 10/21/08 with a final disposition of Unanimous Approval.

**RESOLUTION TO CONCUR WITH THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT ORGANIZATION REGARDING RESOLUTION ON DROP/ADD LATE FEES FOR
GRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY-
BLOOMINGTON**

1 **WHEREAS**, in the last year, Indiana University imposed a financial penalty on graduate and
2 professional students for changing courses after the first week, so that, after September 8th, graduate
3 students who dropped a class and then replaced it with another class forfeited a portion of the graduate
4 tuition fees paid, even if the class was covered by a fee remission or a fee scholarship (graduate students
5 lost \$874 for switching from one 4-credit-hour course to another in the second week of classes, \$1724
6 for switching in week 3, \$2574 in week 4, and \$3425 in week 5); and,
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8 **WHEREAS**, academic departments at Indiana University are not always able to offer finalized course
9 listings to their graduate students until the month before the start of the academic year; and,
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11 **WHEREAS**, in some academic departments at Indiana University, incoming students are not able to
12 register until the week before the start of the academic year; and,
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14 **WHEREAS**, academic departments generally post tuition remissions of Student Academic Appointees
15 (SAAs) or tuition scholarships at different points of time in the month of August; and,
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17 **WHEREAS**, the Bursar imposes substantial fees, in the form of interest, on SAAs if they register for
18 their classes prior to the fee remission posting to their account and are unable to cover the balance of
19 their tuition; and,
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21 **WHEREAS**, many graduate students thus have incentives to wait until immediately prior to the
22 beginning of the semester to register for classes; and,
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24 **WHEREAS**, most graduate courses meet only once per week and only use the first week to present the
25 syllabus; and,
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27 **WHEREAS**, these constraints ensure that graduate students do not have enough time to assess the
28 quality of the teaching and content of the available courses by the second week of classes; and,
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30 **WHEREAS**, Indiana University seeks to ensure the highest quality training for every graduate student;
31 and,
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33 **WHEREAS**, these strict financial penalties effectively prevent and deter graduate students from
34 making changes that may be necessary to ensure that they receive the highest quality training; and,
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37 **WHEREAS**, this body does recognize a need for some regulation, so as to ensure that graduate courses
38 have sufficient enrollment numbers to stay on the books;

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40 **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the IU Student Association concur with the decision of
41 the GPSO Assembly in recommending that the administration revise this policy to adopt more lenient
42 and flexible penalties on graduate students who make course changes after the first week of classes.
43 This body would recommend that Indiana University allow graduate students to make changes without
44 penalty through the second week of classes and, after that, impose smaller financial penalties, as is done
45 with the undergraduate community.

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