

March 23, 2009

To: Bloomington Faculty Council

From: Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee
Brian Horne, Chair

Re: Drop/Add Fees for graduate students

The GPSO passed a resolution on October 3, 2008 recommending a change in the policy regarding drop and add fees for graduate students. The SAAAC considered this resolution and, after consultation with the Registrar and the Bursar, was divided in its opinion on the matter with the faculty members of the committee against the recommended actions and the GPSO members for it, by and large. So that the resolution could be considered by the Bloomington Faculty Council as a whole, the committee chair chose to present the resolution to the BFC, along with the president of the GPSO to advocate for the recommended actions.

After hearing the reaction of various members of the BFC, the GPSO revised portions of the resolution while maintaining the spirit of the recommended actions.

Accordingly, the SAAAC presents the following policy statement to the Bloomington Faculty Council for consideration, but without complete support of its membership:

The Bloomington Faculty Council confirms that the policy of the Bursar levying fees on students for making changes to their course schedules after the first week of classes has a positive effect on the stabilization of the course schedule. However, the BFC concurs with the GPSO that the second penalty levied upon those students who do not pay a flat tuition fee, outlined in the accompanying GPSO resolution, is excessively punitive and should be modified.

Therefore, the BFC recommends to the Bursar and administration of IU—Bloomington that the necessary steps be taken to allow more flexibility to graduate students. This body recommends that the policy be changed to allow students to make course changes through the end of the second week of classes without the accompanying penalty. This refers not to the administrative fees that are paid by every student but only to the second penalty that is paid by students who do not pay flat tuition.

APPENDIX

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION ON THE SECOND LATE DROP/ADD PENALTY

WHEREAS, Indiana University-Bloomington currently assesses a substantial financial penalty to students who do not pay a flat tuition fee for making a change to their course schedule after the first week of classes. For example, a nonresident graduate student enrolled in 12 credit hours will be charged \$874 for switching from one 4-credit-hour course to another in the second week of classes, \$1724 for waiting until week 3, \$2574 in week 4, and \$3425 in week 5 (this information taken from an e-mail announcement from the Graduate Office of the College of Arts and Sciences in the fall of 2008); and

WHEREAS, Indiana University-Bloomington already has a separate set of administrative fees, assessed on all students, to deter students from course-shopping; and

WHEREAS, this second penalty only applies to most Student Academic Appointees (SAAs) and graduate students, but does not apply to most undergraduate students, MBA students and law students; and

WHEREAS, this second penalty effectively penalizes a subset of the student population;

WHEREAS, such a substantial penalty, in effect, precludes any students subject to the penalty from making a course change after the first week of classes; and

WHEREAS, many graduate students may have justifiable academic, professional and personal reasons for making a course change after the first week of classes; and

WHEREAS, this body does recognize the need for some regulation, so as to ensure that graduate courses have sufficient enrollment numbers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the GPSO Assembly recommends that the Indiana University-Bloomington administration modify this second financial penalty to be more lenient and/or flexible for the population of Indiana-University Bloomington students subject to the fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body urges the Indiana University-Bloomington administration to either allow graduate students to make changes without penalty through the second week of classes and/or significantly reduce the penalty.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the GPSO Assembly this the ____ day of _____.

GPSO President