

April 21, 2009

To: Bloomington Faculty Council

From: Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee  
Brian Horne, Chair

Re: Drop/Add Fees

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Bloomington Faculty Council endorsed the following language as an informal indication of the sense of the Council regarding the GPSO/SAAAC resolution on Drop/Add fees for students who do not pay a flat tuition fee:

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 Indiana University—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.

The SAAAC offered this policy statement to ascertain the sense of the Council. Susan Cote (Bursar), Roland Cote (Registrar), and Aimee Heeter (Senior Campus Planning Officer for the Office of the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer) were offered the opportunity to comment on the financial impact of a policy change, as well as any detrimental effect on the stability of the course schedule.

Susan and Roland Cote, in their University capacities as Bursar and Registrar respectively, have offered their comments at meetings of the Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee and the Bloomington Faculty Council but, to my knowledge, have not expressed a strong opinion for or against the proposed change in policy. No written comments were sent to the SAAAC, except for the following from Aimee Heeter:

I have had an opportunity to look at the available data and to discuss with both Susan Cote and Neil Theobald. Given the current data available, it would be difficult at best to create a cost model for this request with any level of accuracy. Thus, this data will not be available for the April 29<sup>th</sup> [sic] meeting.

The SAAAC thought it best to have as much information as possible available for members of the Bloomington Faculty Council to render a decision as to the appropriate action regarding the proposed change in policy. However, the primary concern of the Committee was not the financial impact but rather the impact on the stability of the course schedule.

Although there is not complete information available as to the impact of the change in policy, it is still the decision of the Student Academic Appointee Affairs Committee to offer the language that was passed in spirit on March 24<sup>th</sup> as a formal resolution for consideration to the BFC.

The SAAAC, therefore, recommends the change in policy, presented by the GPSO, which would allow students who do not pay the flat rate tuition through the end of the second week of classes to make changes to their schedules without suffering the second penalty (tuition refund).

In other words, the BFC voted on the above language in spirit on March 24<sup>th</sup>, pending further investigation. We now ask for formal action on the same language.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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GPSO President

