



Voice IUSA
Policy Platform

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Dear Voter,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Voice IUSA! The four of us, along with a team of over 100 individuals, have come together with one main interest in mind –your student voice. As such, we created a plan to reflect this.

First, and to be specific, we did not come up with all of these ideas or action plans on our own. Instead, we reached out to organizations and groups on campus – who we're calling our stakeholders –to hear their voices and thoughts.

With careful consideration, our entire team used this input to craft representative, pragmatic, and forward-looking policy to some of the major issues facing our campus today. With this approach, we know full well that our policies aren't finished. We are working every day to connect with more students and more voices and create even more paths to change that represent them.

However, we want you to see the progress we've made thus far, and we hope to hear your input. Thank you again for taking the time to learn more about us! We hope to earn your vote on March 27 and 28. If you have any questions as the election approaches, do not hesitate to reach us at voiceiusa@gmail.com.

Best,

Alex, Maggie, Alyssa, and Bernie
Voice IUSA Executives

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Diversity & Inclusion

With students from more than 130 countries, Indiana University is home to many unique communities. Our aim with Diversity and Inclusion is to bring these communities together while encouraging every student to have a voice in creating meaningful change to make IU a more inclusive and accommodating home. We can put our voices together and create a more welcoming, engaged, and proactive campus environment.

Voice IUSA has met with the following stakeholders to discuss policy regarding diversity and inclusion on campus:

- Muslim Student Association
- La Casa
- Middle Eastern Student Association
- IMPACT
- Pakistan Student Association
- Board of Aeons
- J Street

Diversity Council

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Creating a Diversity Council to help improve the impact and involvement minority and marginalized communities have in their student government.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. Many student leaders have expressed their dissatisfaction with relations between IUSA and marginalized student organizations.
 - b. IUSA is meant to be representative of student voice, but previous administrations haven't consistently reached out to hear that student voice.
 - c. Students must have an institutional avenue to express grievances to create a more responsive student government.

2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Increased transparency regarding incidents within communities will create a more receptive and conscious student government.
 - b. Continuous communication between IUSA and minority student organizations will lead to a more inclusive and comfortable trans-organizational social environment.
 - c. Work being done within a student organization will be shared not only with IUSA but other organizations, promoting an environment of collaboration and partnership.

3. Precedent
 - a. University of Maryland
 - i. President Loh created a student advisory council in response to local and national diversity and inclusion issues.
 - ii. This council proved to be an excellent way to convey pivotal information happening on the ground to the upper echelons of the school's administration.
 - iii. Increased transparency as well as optimized the school's response time to pressing issues involving diversity and Inclusion.

4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Student leaders across campus have already committed to be members on the Diversity Council.
 - b. Establish a day and time that the Diversity and Inclusion committee will meet with the Diversity Council bi-weekly.

Government Relations

IU encompasses 49,000 students in about 3 square miles. That is a lot of student voice in a very small area. Our goal within community is to create a working relationship with all the parties that make decisions to affect our IU family: Bloomington city government, Indiana's state government, and federal representatives. We want to make sure all student voices are heard across all levels of government.

Hate Crimes Legislation

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Working with the Indiana General Assembly to re-introduce and pass official hate crime legislation for the State of Indiana.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. In October 2015, an IU student was arrested for assaulting a Muslim woman outside of a cafe in Bloomington. The student yelled “white power” multiple times and pulled at her headscarf while assaulting her.
 - b. This incident is one of many throughout the campus of Indiana University, and in general the entire state where individuals are attacked on the basis of their race, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Identifying hate crimes and classifying them as such, as opposed to bunching them with other general crimes (such as assault or harassment) will ensure a fairer punishment.
 - b. Indiana will be seen as a state that takes a tailored interest in respecting individuals and their dignity. This bill would show Indiana’s interest in ensuring those charged with hate crimes understand the larger consequences and destruction to society their actions cause when motivated for traits such as race, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
 - c. An opportunity for Indiana University to make clear their support and priority to both combatting and adequately punishing prejudiced crime.

3. Precedent
 - a. City of Bloomington, Carmel, Indianapolis, have all passed relevant legislation at the municipal level.
 - b. Indiana is one of five states nationwide to have no statewide statute.

4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Send an e-mail to relevant General Assembly stakeholders (i.e. Rep Matt Pierce, other state Reps that cover areas of Bloomington, Carmel, and Indianapolis) to arrange a follow up meeting after [the recent failure](#) of the IN General Assembly to pass hate crimes legislation.
 - b. Work with Government Relations Committee, IUSA Congress, Indiana University administration, and other interested individuals/organizations on proposed changes to most recent House Bill.
 - c. Speak with other university student governments (i.e. Purdue, Ball State, IU regional campuses, Valparaiso) to gather input and support for a unified bill proposal.
 - d. Begin advertisement campaign of student-proposed version across campus, urging students to contact State Legislators to express support for the new legislation.

RPS Roommate Responsibility Rule

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Work to change/do away with the RPS Roommate Responsibility Rule, which states that roommates are responsible for the RPS violations/misconduct of each other.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. The Roommate Responsibility Rule has demonstrably and wrongfully affected students by holding them accountable for the actions of their roommate(s), in certain circumstances without the individual having knowledge of the RPS violation/misconduct.
 - b. “Residents are responsible for any activities, damages, or policy violations that occur in rooms or bathrooms to which they have been assigned when it can be reasonably shown the residents knew or reasonably should have known that the inappropriate activity or damage occurred— including, but not limited to, activities, damages, or policy violations caused by guests.” (2017-18 Residence Hall Rules and Regulations, E. Room Responsibility, Rule 1).
 - c. <http://www.rps.indiana.edu/obligations.cfml#ResidencyPolicy>
 - d. Recommending we instead focus on adequate punishment for the violators of RPS rules, regulations, and contracts.
2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Many students may be found responsible for violations that have transpired within their own rooms under the clause, “(...) when it can be reasonably shown the residents knew or reasonably should have known (...)” Doing away with this rule, or changing it in some capacity, would prevent Indiana University Students from being unjustly found guilty of violations that did not commit and did not have any knowledge of.
 - b. This will restore students’ faith in the fact that, as legal adults and paying attendees of Indiana University, they are responsible for their own actions and their own actions only; not for the actions of their cohabiters.
 - c. This will also signal IU’s trust in the student body as a whole, and subsequently reduce the number of RPS violators of which the Conduct Board must hear.
3. Precedent
 - a. Purdue University has already implemented this policy.
 - i. http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/regulations.html
4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. This begins with a meeting between IUSA Government Relations committee, Residence Hall Association members, and RPS.
 - b. Ultimately this bill will appeal to the student body as a whole, with foreseeable hesitation from IU Resident Programs and Services (RPS).

Health & Well-being

The health of our student body is crucial to the success of IU students. Voice IUSA plans to implement policies that help a variety of students in a multitude of situations. We will work on implementing policies for students experiencing grief, centralizing campus resources, raising awareness of IU's own student food bank, and much more.

Voice IUSA has met with the following stakeholders to discuss policy regarding health and well-being on campus:

- NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)
- Recreational Sports
- Student Advocates
- Culture of Care
- Office for Sexual Violence Protection and Victim Advocacy

Healthy Vending Machines

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Supporting students' healthy eating habits by expanding the current Healthy IU color-coding scheme in vending machines

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. In a meeting between Voice IUSA and Kathy Bayless, Director of Recreational Sports, we brainstormed potential ways to encourage IU students to live healthier, more nutritional lives. Vending machines were one topic of this conversation.
2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Students deserve to have the means to make an informed decision about their study-break snack. Requiring all vending machines to label food choices encourages individual accountability and a greater awareness of nutritional information. Offering more healthy snacks is a great way to spur healthy decisions and equip students with choice.
 - b. Vending machines on campus will:
 - i. Offer healthy snack choices, marked in green and others snacks in either red or yellow to signify relative health.
 - ii. Require that at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the snacks offered in an individual vending machine are "green."
3. Precedent
 - a. Iowa State University
 - i. Three colors to distinguish which snacks are "good for you," which snacks are "better for you," and which snacks are "somewhat okay" by using a green, yellow, and red color code system, respectively. (<http://bit.ly/2Fvxxvy>)
 - b. UCLA
 - i. 100 snack vending machines were stocked with either one or two rows of healthier options. Each machine was marked with a Healthy Campus Initiative sticker, and stickers in front of each row of healthy snacks identified the wholesome options. The school intends to make adapt the idea through with all vending machine. (<http://bit.ly/1rMrwfl>)
 - c. Penn State University
 - i. Penn's vending machines are now clearly labeled so you can easily find the healthiest options. The school has a slogan "Go Right, Go Green" on their vending machine representing healthy snacks option for students and faculties. (<http://bit.ly/2IhuRU3>)
4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Sit down with IU staff from the Office of the Dean, Recreational Sports, Healthy IU, RPS dining, and others to understand who is responsible for the current color-code system and how food is currently purchased and restocked.
 - b. Work with appropriate groups to reevaluate what snacks are purchased and how to introduce more color-coding to vending machine hardware.

Enhancing the Current CARE Report

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Continue updating and enhancing the current CARE Report, which works to help put students who are in crisis situations in the hands of individuals who can help them the best.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. The current IUSA administration began working with the Office of the Dean, Student Advocates, Student Life and Learning, and RPS to address concerns about what the IU community knows about resources for a student in crisis.
2. Potential Benefits
 - a. This policy will work to make sure students in a crisis situation get in touch with the best resources and individuals for their situation in the timeliest manner.
 - b. Enhancements will include better defining the language of the report and marketing the purpose.
 - c. Make students aware of the CARE report and where they can find it.
3. Precedent
 - a. Purdue University
 - i. Students at Purdue University have a 24/7 Crisis Hotline that will put them in touch with the necessary individuals that will help them in their crisis. Students may also drop in on weekdays from 8-5. The idea of a successful crisis hotline/report is crucial for the health and wellbeing of university students. (<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/crisis-support-services/>)
 - b. University of Iowa
 - i. Iowa has a crisis tab that lists a variety of resources students could go to in the case of an emergency. This is similar to the report we are trying to implement as it lists all the crisis resources in one place and helps to direct students to the places they need to go to get the help they need. (<https://counseling.uiowa.edu/services/crisisemergency/>)
4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. This Conduct a focus group with students and engage student voice.
 - i. Figure out what thoughts students have about the current report and the ideas they think of if they were in a situation to submit a CARE Report.
 - b. Meet with Sara Ivey Lucas, Assistant Dean of Students for Parents and Off Campus Student Affairs, to discuss background information on the CARE Report and how individuals are sent to the correct resources.
 - c. Meet with CARE Team to discuss the changes they would like implemented.
 - d. Revise and edit current CARE Report.
 - e. Establish new CARE Report and make it easily accessible and recognizable for students.

Student Life

Life at IU isn't easy, but it can get easier! We are setting up an alliance of students and organizations to fight for things that effect both individuals, and the masses. We are pursuing innovative ways to lower the cost of education and improve each student's overall experience while a student.

Student-To-Student Textbook Marketplace

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Making textbooks more affordable. We plan to work with the administration to create a student-to-student (s-t-s) textbook marketplace. Students will be able to buy and sell textbooks at reduced rates, cutting out any middle men.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. We have listened to our peers who worry about the rising costs of textbooks.
 - b. We are students, too, and know that there must be a better way.
 - c. The cost of new college textbooks in the United States has, over the ten-year period from 2002 to 2012, risen by 82%, faster than the rate of inflation, the cost of healthcare, or the cost of higher education at large (Source: US Government Accountability Office).

2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Money saved from buying and made from selling textbooks s-t-s.
 - b. This will streamline the process of finding affordable books and put the buying power in student hands.

3. Precedent
 - a. This marketplace already exists through IU Classifieds.
 - b. Students from other universities take part in similar programs through companies like SmartStudents.

4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - c. Meet with UITS to discuss ways to adjust IU Classifieds for the addition of textbooks or create a marketplace similar to it.
 - d. Meet with companies to discuss potential academic partnerships to help reduce the cost of textbooks and online education resources.

Safety Escort Renovation

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Revamping the current safety escort to hire more drivers, add more cars, and extending the current hours of operation.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. We reached out to current students that are often on campus late at night and use the current safety escort system providing us with constructive feedback
 - b. Currently, our safety escorts only go until 1:45 am each day of the week. It is also noted that “on busy nights, we might stop taking requests...” Students should be provided with a more accessible safe way to get home rather than this current system.
2. Potential Benefits
 - a. By revamping the current safety escort and adding more service vehicles, drivers, and longer running times, students will be provided with safe transportation more frequently.
 - b. Provides more student job opportunities on campus.
3. Precedent
 - a. University of Illinois
 - i. Their safe-walk operates until 3 am and their rides until 6 am providing their students with dusk to dawn safe options of travel.
4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Meet with IU Motor Pool and Office of the Provost, who provide the vehicles and funding respectively, to discuss the feasibility of an expansion.
 - b. Communicate with current administrators the need for more vehicles and later running times for IU Safety Escort, in relation to U of I’s SafeRide program.

Sustainability

It is our duty as a student body to be environmentally conscious and work to minimize the University's impact on the environment. We will work to raise awareness of environmental issues among students. We are focused on improving energy efficiency of IU buildings, enhancing the quality of food on campus, and increasing waste diversion from landfills.

Voice IUSA has met with the following stakeholders to discuss policy regarding sustainability on campus:

- Students for Environmental Action
- Sustainability Club
- Residence Hall Association Eco-Reps

Promoting “Green” Student Events

Voice IUSA is committed to...

The reduction and diversion of waste generated from on-campus events by requiring that all events funded by student fees be, at minimum, a bronze-level certified Green Event via the Office of Sustainability's Green Events guidebook and qualifications.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. It is recognized that events held by student organizations at IU create a significant amount of waste, most of which is sent directly to a landfill.
 - b. IU has already taken steps to become a zero-waste campus, including the commitment from RPS Dining to upgrade every location to be zero waste. Student organizations have expressed interest in seeing IUSA help with and expedite that transition to the fullest capability.

2. Potential Benefits
 - a. Zero waste events would incorporate a strong educational element for both the event organizers and the event attendees. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills in practicing sustainability which they can take with them into their lives and careers.
 - b. This focus on Green Events would be a significant step toward making IU Bloomington a sustainable campus. This in turn would bolster the reputation of an IU degree.

3. Precedent
 - a. University of Michigan
 - i. The Central Student Government at the University of Michigan passed legislation requiring that all events funded with student fees be zero waste. They have a complete and easy to use system in place to facilitate that requirement including educational videos, a compost bin circuit, and other materials necessary to host such an event.
 - b. RPS Dining is committed to being 100% zero waste by the year 2020. It would prove valuable to align with that transition.
 - c. The IU Office of Sustainability already has a thorough and developed system in place for hosting green events.

4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Collaborate with the Office of Sustainability to determine the best route for widespread implementation of their green events guidebook and system.
 - b. Lead by example: make a large event at IU, such as a basketball game or the Indiana University Dance Marathon, a certified green event.
 - c. Reach out to and collaborate extensively with the RPS Director of Dining Rahul Shrivastav for guidance in this process as he played a large role in the transitioning of the University of Michigan to zero waste events and is spearheading the RPS Dining transition currently.

IT Energy Saving

Voice IUSA is committed to...

Reducing the amount of energy wasted by on-campus computers by working with UITS to install a system that will turn off desktop computers when not being used at night.

1. Demonstrated Need for IU Students
 - a. It is recognized that the computers available for student use in the libraries, classroom buildings, and computer labs require an immense amount of energy to power constantly. Usually these computers are left on all night when no students are using them. This is an incredible waste of energy and student organizations would like to see energy saving efforts in this area.
 - b. University Information Technology Services (UITs) has expressed interest in implementation of a system of this kind already, and would benefit from the help of IUSA in this endeavor.
2. Potential Benefits
 - a. This would save the university money in energy expenses.
 - b. The initiative would increase confidence in the university's efforts to be environmentally sensitive.
 - c. It would serve to lead by example – hopefully inspiring other universities or students to practice their own personal energy saving techniques.
3. Precedent
 - a. We were unable to find an institution with similar policies.
4. First Steps Taken in Office
 - a. Reach out to Noma Maier, a UITS staff member and co-chair of the IT working group through the IU Office of Sustainability, to discuss her progress on this project thus far.
 - b. Determine where IUSA can most effectively assist.