

The proposed Expressive Activity Policy that is up for a Board of Trustees vote on August 1st, 2024, does not protect Hoosiers. Instead, it is a thinly veiled attempt to target students, staff, and faculty who have been engaged in recent expressive actions that contradict the facade our administration wants to show Indiana's politicians and the public at large. This spring and summer, the Hoosier community has come together to collectively express our dissatisfaction with Indiana University's administration and their decisions. During this time, IU's administration has proven that the desires of the people they are supposed to lead and care for do not matter to them. Their decisions directly affect us, but we are unable to have a say. Given our limitations, expressive activity such as protests, teach-ins, artwork, rallies, and marches are the only way we can attempt to have our voices heard. This new policy is meant to further silence us and ensure there is no shared governance at IU and that the desires of a few are unobstructed, even while they harm many.

I came to this school for my master's and now my PhD because the faculty in my department are incredible. They love their community and their students. They seek not just to make our small academic community better, but to pour into our local community and into the state. They foster our curiosity, guide us to ask hard questions and find answers with integrity, and care about us as people. They defend us, speak up for us, and put their own interests aside so we can grow. I would be remiss if I did not also work to make this place better for the people who come behind me and for the undergraduate students I am honored to teach. This proposed policy harms the people who come before me and have given so much to me and it harms the students I mentor and give so much to. Please hear me, IU Board of Trustees. Do not let these incredible humans down. The students, staff, and faculty here are precious and treasured. You hold their wellbeing in your hands. Do not take that responsibility lightly and do not allow their voices to be silenced anymore.

-Naomi Satterfield, PhD student, Applied Health Science