



## **A Resolution to Establish the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) Strategic Planning Committee**

S-04-13-25A

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**Sponsor:** Indiana University Bloomington

**Co-sponsors:** Michigan State University

1. *Whereas*, the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) serves as a collaborative organization representing the interests of student governments across the Big Ten Conference;
2. *Whereas*, ABTS has historically played a vital role in amplifying student voices, advocating for shared priorities, and fostering cross-campus collaboration among member institutions;
3. *Whereas*, each year, the student body presidents who represent their institutions within ABTS engage in discussions about the future of the organization, including our lack of recognition by the Big Ten Academic Alliance, engagement with the new and less active members of the conference, and our tax-exempt and lobbying status, but due to the limited duration of their terms there is often a lack of sufficient time to act on these conversations or implement long-term strategic initiatives;
4. *Whereas*, many presidents have expressed concerns about the lack of a formal structure for ABTS, as well as a lack of lobbying power and organizational funds, which has contributed to a lack of buy-in from several member institutions;
5. *Whereas*, members of the ABTS Executive Board have also expressed these concerns but similarly lack the time or ability to implement long-term solutions due to their numerous responsibilities related to the current state of the organization and their commitments to their home institution's student government;
6. *Whereas*, the evolving landscape of higher education, necessitates a proactive and strategic approach to student advocacy and organizational sustainability;
7. *Whereas*, many peer organizations employ strategic planning processes to ensure long-term continuity, goal alignment, and effective governance;
8. *Whereas*, a formalized strategic planning initiative would strengthen ABTS's standing within the Big Ten, optimize its operational framework, and elevate its capacity to advocate effectively on behalf of students;

9. *Whereas*, establishing a Strategic Planning Committee would enable ABTS to develop a structured plan that aligns with the needs and aspirations of student governments across the Big Ten;
10. *Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) hereby establishes the ABTS Strategic Planning Committee;
11. *Be it further resolved*, that this committee shall work to identify barriers to the success of ABTS and develop solutions to address them, including but not limited to recommendations for structural and operational improvements within the organization;
12. *Be it further resolved*, that the committee shall conduct its work over a period of six (6) months following the passage of this resolution, culminating in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for ABTS;
13. *Be it further resolved*, that upon completion of the strategic plan, the committee shall present its findings and recommendations to the sitting ABTS presidents for approval;
14. *Be it further resolved*, that upon approval of the plan, the sitting ABTS presidents shall vote to establish an Implementation Committee tasked with executing the recommendations outlined in the strategic plan, with a deadline for achieving the goals of the plan within six (6) months of its approval;
15. *Be it further resolved*, that the Strategic Planning Committee shall be composed of one (1) representative from each active member institution, appointed by the current ABTS presidents unless deferred to their successors;
16. *Be it further resolved*, that each representative must be available over the summer of 2025 and throughout the following academic year;
17. *Be it further resolved*, that Kathryn Harding (MSU) and Cooper Tinsley (IU) shall be named Co-Chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee, with the authority to establish and assign additional responsibilities as necessary to ensure the committee fulfills its mandate effectively;
18. *Be it further resolved*, that this committee shall operate independently of ABTS and student government terms and voting authority; however, the committee may not implement substantive changes to ABTS without the approval of a majority of sitting ABTS presidents or the Executive Board, where appropriate;
19. *Be it further resolved*, that the Strategic Planning Committee shall have the authority to consult with external stakeholders, conduct research, and engage with experts to inform its recommendations; and
20. *Be it finally resolved*, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**Vote:**                      In Favor   10                        Opposed   0                        Abstentions   7  

**Therefore, the bill:**                      **PASSES**                      FAILS