

To whom it may concern,

This letter has been crafted after extensive discussion amongst students and explanations from leadership. Based on the information known, this letter's intent is to express the concerns of the students on the BUS - L 272 trip, explain our experiences leading up to the night of Thursday May 12th , and advocate for our classmates implicated in this incident.

We understand that our safety is the priority of the Kelley School, Indiana University, our leadership, and to us. The events of May 12th occurred without significant regard for safety but rested on precedence from international study tours, including our own. When we embarked on this journey we did so knowing the experiences of some previous students in X-272 courses involving open free time after 6pm, allowing them the space to visit aspects of the country's nightlife as a group. This freedom is also shared by many of the study tours across the world. This does not excuse the factor of safety, but given this context it is natural and probable that a group of students in similar circumstances would act in a similar way. The actions of our classmates on May 12th could've been any of ours and we empathize with those implicated. We have seen other students in other countries including Hungary, Greece, The Netherlands, and Thailand use their freedom to participate in extracurricular activities in their countries, including mountain biking, riding on motorcycles with locals, going on independent walks, and partaking in nightlife. In hindsight their actions may have taken this freedom too far, but we were all unaware at the time of the gravity of our choices.

While safety should have been more highly regarded, the precedence by which their actions were inspired can be understood. This then begs the question: if there is no enforced standard amongst all international study tours regarding nightlife, can one suddenly select an isolated incident to begin to enforce these standards?

As classmates and friends to those implicated, we want to express our sincerest support and advocacy for them.

We would like to provide further information of the culture of our time in Costa Rica to give context to the night of the 12th. The staff we traveled with made notable efforts to ensure we remained professional, punctual, and safe at all times. We completed our client presentations, business tours, and networking events while maintaining the Kelley standard of professionalism. However, leadership was fluid regarding nightlife and

drinking. We were not allowed to drink during the day, as per the code of conduct, but at night we were not regulated or admonished. The culture was friendly and casual, and we visited a bar and drank with leadership on multiple occasions. They maintained professionalism and mostly adhered to the two drink limit, but as time went on the rules became more lax and lines became blurred. This fostered a positive and comfortable atmosphere where we felt like we could be expressive and honest with them, but also blurred some lines. When we arrived at our hotel on Thursday, May 12th late in the evening, the restaurant where we ate dinner had a volume order discount, leading many students to order multiple drinks at once, again with no remarks from leadership. All of these factors contributed to the mistake made that night, and while we understand that there was a breach of trust and disregard for safety, we hope that further context will allow for proportional disciplinary action.

Finally, we want to reemphasize our adamant support for our peers, understanding that any of us could have been in their shoes, and many students across the world are partaking in similar activities. We also understand the effects that punishment as severe as failing L-272 can have on someone's degree plan, graduation date, and even ability to finish college due to financial constraints. As they acted within the boundaries of the law in Costa Rica, and were adhering to a perceived malleable code of conduct, we ask on their behalf for grace and compassion in decision making.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Students of the Kelley School of Business

If you have any questions please contact us at [CRpeeradvocates@gmail.com](mailto:CRpeeradvocates@gmail.com)