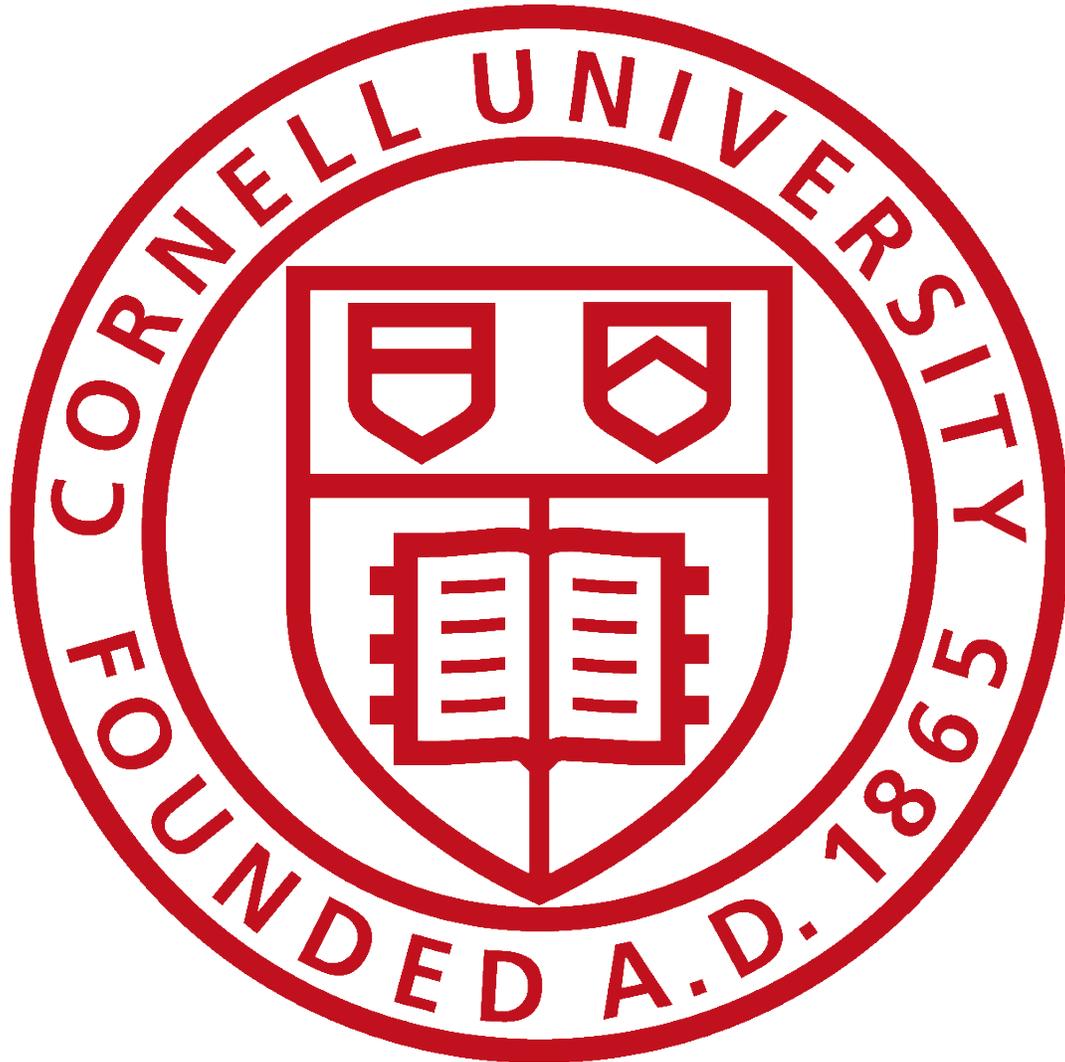


**Graduate & Professional Student Activity Fee
Recommendation for 2012-2014**



**Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
Appropriations Committee**

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Introduction

This document is a conclusion of fact-finding and analysis conducted by the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) Appropriations Committee (hereafter, "Committee"), as mandated under the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures is Article IX of the GPSA Charter. Contained herein includes the Committee's formal recommendation for byline funding and, consequently, the GPSAF (hereafter, "Recommendation").

The Committee has met seven times thus far in the fall 2013 to meet its charge in forming its Recommendation. This document contains all official records of the Committee, barring the full applications themselves.* It is the hope of the Committee that these data will serve as justification for the Recommendation contained herein and help streamline debate.

** By decision of the Committee, the full applications are not being distributed due to their voluminous and confidential nature. In general these applications contain budgetary data and references to those data that the Committee would prefer to hold in confidence.*

Contents

Contained in this document is a chapter for each Applicant. All chapters follow the same general format; each contains:

1. a group profile, to give a very brief description of the group for the lay reader;
2. funding levels from the previous cycle, the requested amount by the group for the next cycle, and the Committee's recommendation for funding; and
3. a brief justification for the Committee's recommendation.

As stated above, all information was primarily curated by the Chair listed for the individual Applicant, but includes other Committee members' findings and thoughts as well.

This report does not contain the data collected by the Committee in deciding upon its Recommendation and authoring this document.

Methodology

Below, we document general information on the methodology of the Committee to provide background.

Committee Composition

The Chairman of the Committee was unanimously elected to the position by the Voting Members of the GPSA. The Committee was formed by the GPSA Operations & Staffing Committee (O&SC) at the beginning of AY 2013 as required by the GPSA Charter.

- Bill Kreuser (Chairman). Two term appropriations committee chairman, one term voting member representing biological sciences, and one term field representative for Horticulture.
- Siddarth Chandrasekaran. One term field representative for Chemistry
- Lindsay Jordan. Graduate student in the field of Horticulture
- Nathan Koskella. One Term field representative for the Law School
- Ian Small. One term field representative for Plant Pathology and member of the GPSA Finance Committee

Procedures

Individual Committee members were delegated authority over particular Applicants' fact-finding, from parsing the applications themselves to leading meetings with the Applicants and follow-up conversations related to those Applicants. For each Applicant, members of the Committee served as secondary reviewers for the applications and contributed to fact-finding and deliberation over the Recommendation. The Committee Chairman served as final reviewer on all portions of this document.

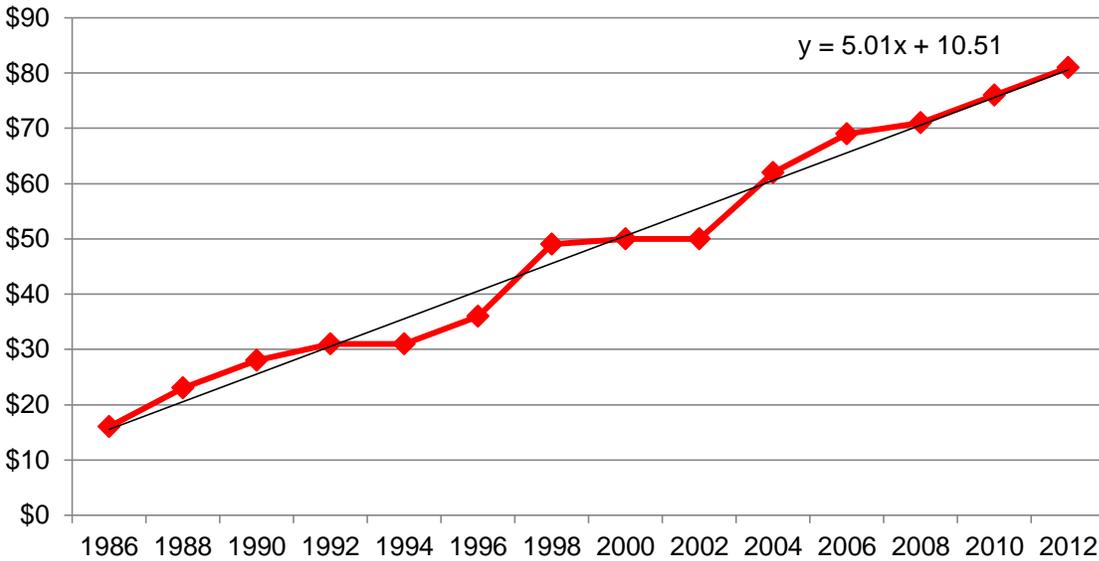
The Recommendation was voted on and approved unanimously by members of the Committee.

History

This GPSAF was established to "support organizations and programs that are operated primarily for students, by students." Over the years, we have seen the GPSAF evolve to encompass other aspects of student life, as well. So, whereas many Applicants are student organizations with large budgets, there are also non-student organizations that now apply for funding (e.g., Risk Management and Athletics). In this document, the Committee gives justification for their continued funding, and their recommended funding levels.

For some historical background, below is a graph of the gross amount of the GPSAF as a function of time. The Committee notes that this trend closely resembles linear growth of \$5 per year. Large increases in growth are primarily a result of funding of new groups.

Historical GPSAF



The committee strives to address growth of the GPSAF as a whole as well as the individual requests of byline groups. The current slope of the GPSAF has exceeded the growth of inflation, bls.gov, and left unchecked, can be burdensome on graduate students with no or fixed stipends and professional students facing increased cost of living and tuition. The committee has strived to re-evaluate the value each byline funded group provides to graduate and professional students.

On the follow page, we provide a tabular breakdown of the GPSAF over time as well as the funding level requested by the byline funded groups and the committee's Recommendation for the 2014-2016 funding cycle.

	2008	2010	2012	2014 Request	2014 Committee Recommendation
Athletics	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Big Red Barn	7.00	7.00	8.00	15.00	11.75
Cornell Cinema	11.00	11.05	11.05	11.05	10.05
Cornell Concert Commission	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Cornell University EMS	1.30	1.77	1.80	1.80	1.80
Cornell University Programming Board	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55
GPSA	2.76	2.95	1.84	3.00	1.95
GPSA Programming Board	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	3.00
International Student Board	1.51	1.46	1.55	1.55	1.35
Orientation	0.68	0.70	1.00	1.00	1.00
Risk Management	4.70	5.10	5.50	5.50	5.50
Slope Day	1.50	3.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Non GPSAFC	45.75	49.40	49.04	49.04	52.65
GPSA Finance Commission	24.25	26.60	31.96*	31.31	28.35
Total	70.00	76.00	81.00	89.46	81.00

* During the proceedings 2012-2014 Activity Fee allocation process, the Slope Day Programming Board (SDPB) was allocated \$3.50 from the graduate and professional activity fee. This same resolution laid out the contingencies for what would occur if a group chose to forego GPSAF funding. In May 2012, the SDPB chose to reject the GPSA's allocation, which would have represented a 14% increase in funding. Given the date at which the decision was made, the GPSAF difference was allocated to the GPSAFC, making the funding available to all registered graduate and professional student organizations. Thus, the SDPB is not currently a GPSAF byline-funded organization.

Athletics

Reviewer – Lindsay Jordan

Group Profile

Cornell Athletics offers access for all graduate students to a wide array of sporting events on campus. Through the Big Red Sports Pass (part of the Cornell Student ID Card) graduate and professional students and their families gain free admission to all home athletic events, except for men's ice hockey games and postseason contests. The arrangement does provide a \$5 discount on men's ice hockey tickets (\$13 instead of \$18). Discount is available for individual game tickets as well as season tickets for graduate students and their family members. 250 tickets are reserved in prime seats for graduate and professional students.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$7.00	\$7.00	\$7.00

Committee Analysis

The committee recommends that GPSA maintain the current funding level of \$7 for the Athletics Department. The funding to subsidize Men's Ice Hockey Tickets and free admittance to all other sports events means that a graduate student needs only use their Big Red Sports pass once to nearly or completely make up for the cost in their student activity fee. Additionally, the reserved 250 Men's Ice Hockey tickets and minimal line wait guarantee for grad and professional students is also extremely beneficial and specifically addresses the needs of the graduate community. The included free access to the spouses and children of graduate students benefit the larger graduate and professional student community. The service is well used by graduate students with 30% of graduate students reported attending an athletics event in the 2011 Student Activity Fee-Funded Services Consumption Patterns Survey (no numbers on spouses/children are available).

The committee encouraged greater advertising to graduate students to bring greater awareness of the Big Red Sports Pass signup to increase participation.

Big Red Barn

Reviewer – Bill Kreuser

Group Profile

The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center (BRB) is the only centrally located gathering place for graduate and professional students at Cornell University. The Big Red Barn staff (comprised of an 11 month professional manager, two graduate student Assistant Managers, several graduate student staff and five BRB Fellows) are tasked with providing programming aimed to increase social, cultural, and intellectual exchange among students. The weekly "Tell Grads Its Friday" (TGIF) is an extremely well-attended event by the graduate and professional student population. Other events have included various dance parties, trivia night, special event nights, and family-orientated programming.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$8.00	\$15.00	\$11.75

Committee Analysis

The Big Red Barn is facing a unique set of challenges. With the collaboration of groups such as the Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB), the BRB has increased the number of events for graduate students over the past two year cycle. This is a result of rapidly increasing attendance and use of the facility by graduate and professional students. This has limited the amount of paying external events (such as weddings and reunions), which have significantly supported the BRB in the past. Additionally, the BRB will be closed during the upcoming summer for much needed renovations. This will reduce summer revenue and jeopardize the solvency of the BRB.

The manager of the BRB also has clear plans to improve the facility's infrastructure, which include an upgrade in the audio/video equipment. This upgrade is essential to continue to host events such as the World Cup coverage, presidential debates, and other events which require modern A/V facilities.

The BRB is important to the graduate and professional student population. At the first TGIF event of the 2013 Fall Semester, there was a record 758 graduate student ID swipes; approximately 10+% of all graduate and professional students at one event. The newly passed Graduate and Professional Community Initiative (GPCI) from Spring of 2013 cites the importance of the Big Red Barn. We need to support this key campus institution during this period of renovation and increased usage to insure its survival for future graduate and professional students. The committee recommends funding the BRB for the next two years at \$11.75 per student and also recommends relieving them from providing free hot food at one TGIF a month which is included in the Appendix of the 2012-2014 Funding Document.

Cornell Cinema

Reviewer – Lindsay Jordan

Group Profile

Cornell Cinema offers educational and popular programming centered on film and the cinematic arts on the Cornell campus. The Cinema operates as an enterprise unit of the university. Cornell Cinema's primary mission is educational in scope providing access to a wide array of film genres not typically available to the Cornell and local communities. The Cinema also seeks to provide a venue for the showing of popular films, typically on a second run basis. The Cinema also engages in programming beyond nightly screening. Popular events include movies on the Willard Straight Terrace in the summer, talks by guest filmmakers, student film showcases, children's film festival, and live musical events. The Cinema often partners with student groups or courses to cosponsor showings. Currently, the Cinema charges a \$4 student admission to a typical screening, but does offer occasional events at a lower rate and sells multi-event discount cards. Cornell Cinema has a Student Advisory Board that works with the staff to set the programmatic goals of the organization, plan events and coordinate outreach. There are several graduate and professional students involved on this board, one appointed by the GPSA.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$11.05	\$11.05	\$10.00

Committee Analysis

The committee recommends reducing the current level of funding for the Cornell Cinema to \$10.00. The organization had requested to maintain its current \$11.05 funding level and asked for an increase from the Student Assembly (SA). While acknowledging that the Cornell Cinema is trying to adapt to student needs by adjusting its schedule to screening movies in only Willard Straight Hall, which has slightly increased reported attendance numbers, Cornell Cinema still does not reach the majority of graduate students who are subsidizing its existence. The committee felt that \$11.05 was excessive given only 24% of all graduate students used the Cornell Cinema according to the 2011 Student Activity Fee-Funded Services Consumption Patterns Survey, which is collaborated with the Cornell Cinema's estimates of 24-32% of all attendees being graduate or professional students.

While acknowledging budget constraints on any arts organization, the committee felt that issues specifically raised in the analysis from the previous byline funding cycle had not been addressed, specifically, that areas, such as marketing, are not executed efficiently. The committee had concerns that marketing efforts specifically targeting graduate and professional students were minimal and the reliance on print sources ineffectual. Given the low level of attendance of graduate and professional students, and the significant sum of money being

asked per student, the committee felt that a reduction to \$10.00 would still enable the Cornell Cinema to operate while encouraging efforts to attract more graduate and professional students, and engage in more frugal practices seen in other GPSA byline funded organizations. To compensate for this loss, the committee suggests the GPSA vote increase to graduate and professional student ticket prices, making our ticket price in line with what undergraduates pay and shifting the burden of subsidizing the Cornell Cinema's budget to those who attend and use the Cornell Cinema.

Cornell Concert Commission

Reviewer - Nathan Koskella

Group Profile

The Cornell Concert Commission (CCC) is a division of the Dean of Students and the Student Activities Office at Cornell University. CCC is operated and run completely by Cornell students. Its purpose is to provide the campus and Ithaca community with large-scale musical acts at a reduced price to full-time CU students. CCC has brought national stars and other popular, widely sought out musical talent, and all for ticket prices a fraction of national averages.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$5.75	\$5.75	\$5.75

Committee Analysis

Recent CCC shows and performances have been well-attended, and have contributed to the artistic and entertainment options for students at the University. The Committee is aware that the universe of the top musical talent is always getting more and more expensive, and aware, too, that attracting internationally acclaimed, established star musicians to Ithaca, NY can be a challenge. But we are impressed with the success the CCC has had in achieving their mission of providing that level of talent—and all for substantially lower costs to student concertgoers than the amount such a musician typically commands. Concerts do not get much more high-profile than those by Lupe Fiasco, Bob Dylan, or Ke\$ha, and CCC is asking for the same allocation as the current cycle. Their commitment to remain for the next cycle within this allocation is appreciated and admirable.

Cornell University Emergency Medical Service

Reviewer - Nathan Koskella

Group Profile

The Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) is a certified, student-run Emergency Medical Service (EMS). The Cornell University Undergraduate Student Assembly, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and Environmental Health and Safety fund CUEMS. The squad provides emergency response to medical emergencies on Cornell University campus and surrounding university-owned properties. It also provides stand-by service for university events and provides CPR, First Aid and other training seminars to the Cornell community. For medical emergencies, Cornell EMS is dispatched via radio by the Cornell University Police Department. CUEMS provides services completely free of charge to patients.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80

Committee Analysis

CUEMS does important, life-saving work, which makes Cornell a better place to study, work, and live. The CUEMS administrators have been very open with the Committee about their schedule for new emergency vehicles, the level of staffing they require, and their training and readiness activities. Moreover, they were upfront about their other sources of revenue and have asked only to continue the baseline funding, and the Committee is happy to recommend continuing this allotment. CUEMS is available to all members of the Cornell community, and the graduate and professional community keeps the important work running with this sum. The committee thanks the University of helping to support CUESM. That CUEMS has managed to find other funding sources too, and refrain from needing an increase from the GPSA, is welcomed.

Cornell University Programming Board

Reviewer - Siddarth Chandrasekaran

Group Profile

The Cornell University Programming Board (CUPB) is a student organization located within the Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Activities Office at Cornell University. CUPB organizes lectures and entertaining events that are open to the Cornell community. Past CUPB shows that have featured Joseph Gordon-Levitt, John Oliver, Jon Stewart, Donald Grover etc. They also selectively co-sponsor events that are held within Cornell campus to about 5% of their total budget.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$3.50	\$3.50	\$3.50

Committee Analysis

CUPB events in the past have been well-attended and tend to add great value to the Cornell experience. The committee appreciates that they have projected a net decrease in operating costs for 2015-2016, as they are making efforts to reduce their budget rollovers. Though the CUPB events are well-attended and are highly reviews, the committee would like to see a greater effort to increase the awareness of their events by graduate students. The committee would like to see more collaboration with members of the graduate student community (e.g. GPSPB, Graduate School and GPSAFC organizations) to maximize graduate student participation. The Committee also notes that CUPB has not asked for an increase in allotment in the last few appropriations cycles, and lauds their efforts in keeping their event costs low.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA)

Reviewer - Ian Small

Group Profile

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is the governing body for all graduate and professional students at Cornell University's Ithaca and Geneva campuses. The representative structure is by graduate school fields and the represented professional schools of Johnson Graduate School of Management (JGSM), Law, and Veterinary Science. The main mission is to provide a source of advocacy and ensure that the Graduate community's social, fiscal, and residential needs are being considered by Cornell University's Administration. The GPSA also maintains the power to set and collect a Student Activity Fee to be distributed among programs that enrich the graduate and professional student experience while at Cornell University.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.84	\$3.00	\$1.95

Committee Analysis

The GPSA provides a valuable service to the graduate and professional student community by addressing non-academic related issues. The Committee recommends an increase in the allocation from \$1.84 to \$1.95. Events such as the GPSA Student Advocacy Committee's Dine and Discuss, and the formation of the Faculty Awards and Diversity and International Student Committee, add value to the mission of the GPSA but have caused expenses to surpass GPSAF annual allocation. The current GPSA budget exceeds its allocation by \$0.23 per student. The committee has noted the significant rollover which has been slowly reduced over the past funding cycles. The committee recommends that the GPSA strive to reduce this rollover. The current rollover would be sufficient to fully support the GPSA for one year. Further, the committee encourages the GPSA to be prudent with their funds, in particular with travel costs and formation of new committees. The Committee recommends that not more than 20% of the GPSA budget be utilized for travel unless such travel receives approval in the form of a super majority vote by the assembly.

Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB)

Reviewer - Ian Small

Group Profile

The Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (GPSPB) was formerly the Events Committee under the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA). The mission of the GPSPB is to improve the quality of social and wellness oriented programming for graduate and professional students at Cornell University.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.00

Committee Analysis

The Committee found that the GPSPB has performed effectively over the past funding cycle and has successfully achieved its mission to provide social and wellness-oriented programming for the graduate and professional student community. Attendance for events, such as “Grads Night Out,” has dramatically increased, and the Grad Ball was sold out in 2013. Considering the projected increases in programmed events over the 2014-2016 funding cycle and their associated costs, the Committee recommends the increase of the GPSPB allocation from \$2 to \$3 per student. The Committee recommends that the GPSPB not only plan and organize its own events, but also investigate the possibility of coordinating with other byline funded groups in order to increase the awareness of the graduate student community of events organized by other byline-funded groups, such as Cornell Cinema, Cornell Programming Board, and Cornell Concert Commission.

International Student Board

Reviewer - Siddarth Chandrasekaran

Group Profile

The International Students Board (ISB) is an organization of students from diverse backgrounds committed to promoting dialogue and awareness about world events, cultures and issues. ISB serves as an umbrella group for international and ethnic associations at Cornell University. In addition to assisting groups with funding for their own specific events, ISB also advises groups on the planning and execution of their events, as well as with general questions they may have or assistance they may need. ISB also hosts its own events, highlighted each year with the International Festival, occurring in late spring. The Festival annually includes such favorites as International Food Tasting, Flag Painting, and a Mini-World Cup, among others. Additional events organized by the ISB throughout the year include The Masquerade Ball, movie screenings, dance workshops, round-table discussions and lectures.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.55	\$1.55	\$1.35

Committee Analysis

The Committee felt that the ISB serves an important role in creating a diverse and vibrant community on the Cornell campus, especially considering the large number of international graduate students joining Cornell each year. Further, as reflected in 2011 Student Activity Fee-Funded Services Consumption Patterns Survey, attendance at ISB events can be used to socialize and make new friends.

The committee felt that the ISB should organize more events (even simple events, such as movie screenings) or co-host events rather than just function as a funding organization like the SAFC/ GPSAFC. Finally, even though 25% of the ISB funding is through the GPSAF, only 5-10% of the funds were directly used to fund graduate and professional students organizations (defined as GPSAFC funded organizations). The committee acknowledges that many events organized by the undergraduate organizations can also be attended by graduate students, however, we are not satisfied with the direction the board has taken to function more as a funding agency than an organization that works directly to grow the international student community at Cornell.

Orientation - Graduate School

Reviewer - Siddarth Chandrasekaran

Group Profile

Orientation is the official welcome for all new graduate and professional (G&P) students to Cornell University and Ithaca. It is organized by the graduate school with the help of student volunteers. Orientation has a number of events, ranging from resource fairs, to receptions, to campus tours, and other social events (e.g. bowling, Ithaca by Night, etc.). These social events are used to build a cohesive campus environment as the new students get to interact with senior graduate student volunteers, and learn firsthand about life at Cornell. Included is also an abbreviated version of orientation for graduate students that arrive in January.

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00

Committee Analysis

Orientation events are mainly attended by first year and incoming students, and so the Committee discussed with Representatives of the Graduate School (GSRs) if it was fair to charge senior graduate students for it. The GSRs indicated that they will try to open up Orientation social events (e.g. an ice cream social, etc.) to the larger graduate and professional community. This would also help break the ice between new students and senior graduate and professional students. With these changes, Orientation can be one event that unites the different players (Cornell University, Graduate School, GPSA, Student Organizations and the G&P students) of the graduate and professional programs at Cornell.

The committee values the role that Orientation plays in helping new graduate and professional students settle down in campus, and finds it to be an important part of the graduate and professional student experience at Cornell.

Risk Management: Club Insurance

Reviewer – Bill Kreuser

Group Profile

All independent registered graduate and undergraduate student clubs are covered by the student club insurance policy, which is purchased via a nominal portion of the Student Activity fee. The program*:

1. protects club officers from lawsuits (and enables students to pursue leadership positions without worrying about personal liability as a result);
2. allows clubs to function off-campus;
3. allows clubs a more liberal use of the Cornell name;
4. allows clubs to avoid filing for their own insurance policies which would usually be not as strong;
5. lowers the cost per student, and obviates insurance on a per-club basis;
6. meets national league organization requirements for insurance coverage;
7. provides host liquor legal liability coverage for events that follow guidelines for responsible use of alcohol.

** This information is meant as a summary and, as such, does not represent the complete terms and conditions of the policy. In the event of conflicting terms with the policy, the policy shall be the authoritative document regarding coverage.*

Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.50

Committee Analysis

Without Club Insurance, most clubs on campus could not function. Therefore, it is essentially not an option to disinvest in Club Insurance. This program allows all clubs on campus to run without having to purchase their own insurance plans and without risk to the individual leaders of clubs. Due to the necessity and non-negotiability of this service, the Committee recommends we approve Club Insurance at the requested rate.

Conclusions

The Committee has carefully evaluated hundreds of pages of financial documents, organization mission statements, and justifications for byline funding. The value of the each organization to the graduate and professional student community at Cornell University has been weighed with respect to the group's fiscal responsibility, planning, and service provided. We have strived to keep the fee flat to account for the next funding cycle while rewarding groups such as the Big Red Barn, the GPSA, and GPS Programming Board with more funding. Their ability to increase graduate and professional student involvement demonstrates their added values to the campus community.

We have recommended funding to Cornell Cinema and the International Student Board be reduced to help keep the fee flat. Specifically, the Committee is not satisfied with the lack of direct programming provided by the ISB. We'd like to see this organization directly facilitating growth expansion of the international student community at Cornell, and function less as a funding board which historically has only funded less than 10% GPSAF registered groups. Finally, the committee strongly concludes that Cornell Cinema is funded at a level exceeding its value to Cornell graduate and professional students. Although fine arts are rarely profitable and it is expensive to run a cinema, the level of subsidy the both the SAF and GPSAF provides to Cornell Cinema is unacceptable relative to their revenue and spending. As digital media abounds and Cornell Cinema attendance has declined, we feel it prudent to reduce Cornell Cinema's funding level to bring it closer in line with its value relative to other byline funded organization.

Our Committee appreciates the time and patience of all applicants, administrators, and members of the GPSA through the process of forming this Recommendation. We look forward to the discussions in the coming weeks about the Graduate & Professional Student Activity Fee.

Respectfully submitted,

GPSA Appropriations Committee AY 2013-2014

Bill Kreuser
Siddarth Chandrasekaran
Lindsay Jordan
Nathan Koskella
Ian Small