Graduate & Professional Student Activity Fee Recommendation for 2012-2014

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
Appropriations Committee
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Introduction

This pamphlet 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, adopted on September 26, 2011. Contained herein includes the Committee’s formal recommendation for byline funding and, consequently, the GPSAF (hereafter, "Recommendation").

The Committee has met eight times thus far in the fall 2011 to meet its charge in forming its Recommendation. This pamphlet 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 pamphlet 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. This data will be released publicly as minutes for the Committee before the commencement of GPSA debates on the GPSAF.

Methodology

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

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 2011 as required by the GPSA Charter. The membership limit on the Committee was voted on and approved by the O&SC. Applicants to the Committee were elected to their seats by the O&SC after internal debate. The composition of the Committee is:

- Christoffer Heckman (Chairman). Member of the Graduate School General Committee; former two-term Voting Member of the GPSA.
- William Kreuser. GPSA Field Representative for Horticulture.
- Cresten Mansfeld. Former President and three-term Voting Member of the GPSA.
• Edward Strong. Former two-term Vice Chair of the University Assembly; former three-term Voting Member of the GPSA.
• Michael Walsh. Former Student-elected Trustee; former Vice President, Secretary, and three-term Voting Member of the GPSA.
• Crystal Wilson. Voting Member of the GPSA.

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. As a result, all Committee members served as Chair during their assigned portions. 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 pamphlet.

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, which the Committee feels is appropriate.

On the follow page, we provide a tabular breakdown of the GPSAF over time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Full Funding</th>
<th>4-Cycle (8yr)</th>
<th>Requests5-Cycle (10yr)</th>
<th>Requests 1 Cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.08%</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Red Barn</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell Cinema</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11.05</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>2.85%</td>
<td>2.78%</td>
<td>2.04%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell Concert Commission</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University EMS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>9.63%</td>
<td>8.00%</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University Programming Board</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>2.05%</td>
<td>1.64%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPSA</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>3.89%</td>
<td>-1.82%</td>
<td>-18.81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPSA Programming Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Management</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>0.92%</td>
<td>1.58%</td>
<td>3.92%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISPB</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>5.93%</td>
<td>5.66%</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slope Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.96%</td>
<td>5.38%</td>
<td>21.43%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GPSAFC</td>
<td>23.56</td>
<td>24.25</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>31.01</td>
<td>2.82%</td>
<td>3.03%</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non GPSAFC</td>
<td>38.44</td>
<td>45.75</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>56.99</td>
<td>3.56%</td>
<td>4.83%</td>
<td>7.68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.14%</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPSAFC%</td>
<td>38.00%</td>
<td>82.35%</td>
<td>34.64%</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
<td>35.24%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average CPI since 2004 - 2.5%
Athletics

The reviewer for this group is Michael Walsh.

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 & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Athletics Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
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</table>

Committee’s Analysis

The Committee recommends that the GPSA maintain the current level of funding at $7, meeting the request of the Athletics Department. The funding goes to subsidize men's ice hockey tickets and free admittance to other events. These benefits are also available to spouses and children. Survey results as well constituent feedback indicate the both are very well used and that this deal provides a benefit to the graduate and professional student community that exceeds the level of funding. After evaluating survey results, the committee would like to see a higher level of attendance of graduate and professional students and their families at athletic events. To accomplish this we recommend that Athletics to maintain an open line of communication with the GPSA, GPSPB and other organizations with the goal of identifying opportunities for grad programming around athletics events.
**Big Red Barn**

The reviewer for this group is **William Kreuser**

**Group Profile**

The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center 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 staff person, 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 TGIF event is one of the most well attended events by the graduate and professional student population. Other events have included various dance parties, trivia night, special event nights, and family orientated programming. Also, the BRB has tried to reduce its environmental impact and has increased its compostable waste by 800% including all TGIF and BRB sponsored events which are 100% compostable.

**Request & Recommendation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>BRB Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Committee’s Analysis**

The Big Red Barn continues to be one of the most used graduated and professional student programs supported through the Grad Activity Fee. According to the GPSA survey 36% of survey participants had attended the BRB within the last month. Those students attendees went to the Big Red Barn average of four times within the month. Of the events held at the Big Red Barn, 60% of students responded they participate in TGIF more than other programs (eat/drink 21%, study 8%, other BRB events 9%).

Historically, the Graduate School has subsidized the operations of the Big Red Barn. This will no longer be the case, despite the students’ and Barn’s desire to make the BRB a center for graduate and professional student life. Over the past four years the Graduate School has cut support for the barn from $11,000 to $0 per annum. Therefore, the GPSAF, rental income, and minimal food and beverage profit are the only funding stream to support the Big Red Barn.

It is in the opinion of this committee that the Big Red Barn be funded at $8.00 per student annually to sustain the fiscal health of the Big Red Barn and continue its efforts to cultivate interaction between graduate and professional students. Not funding the Big Red Barn at $8.00 would likely result in staff cuts and therefore program cuts. The management of the Big Red Barn has demonstrated continual fiscal responsibility. Therefore, the request to increase funding by $1 per student is required to the BRB to operate at its current levels.
Cornell Cinema

The reviewers for this group are Michael Walsh and Crystal Wilson.

Group Profile

Offers educational and popular programming centered on film and the cinematic arts. 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. Cinema also seeks to provide a venue for the showing of popular films typically on a second run basis. 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, live musical events. Cinema often partners with student groups or courses to cosponsor showings. Currently 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 maintains 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.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Cinema Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$11.05</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
<td>$11.05</td>
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With requesting an increase of $0.45, Cornell Cinema is requesting a ~$2700 increase in total allocation from the GPSAF.

Committee’s Analysis

The committee recommends that the current level of funding for Cornell Cinema be maintained at $11.05. The organization had requested a 45 cent increase as a way to offset a loss of grant revenue from the New York State Council on the Arts. The committee was impressed by the increase in student participation in the operation and management of Cornell Cinema. Given the organization’s programmatic scope, size, and multifaceted mission, the committee felt that the GPSAF contribution to Cornell Cinema had peaked in comparison to similar groups.

The committee felt that the GPSAF contribution also reached a saturation point as part of Cornell Cinema’s budget, effectively providing a subsidy of $6-$10 for approximately 6000-9000 admissions. The organization has reported that they operate on a very tight budget and indicated that if not granted an increase, ticket prices may be increased. While the committee did feel that some aspects of Cinema’s operation were run frugally, other areas, in particular marketing, were supported at levels that other GPSAF funded organizations do not enjoy. The committee also recognized the possibility of increasing ticket prices, but felt that given the subsidy level and the price of comparable events on and off campus that an increase in sales revenue may be a more appropriate way for Cinema to manage its expected shortfalls rather than an increase in the GSPAF.

In its final analysis the committee felt that the current level of funding should be maintained to support this longstanding investment of the GPSAF, while expecting that Cinema’s operational budget changes through revenue increases or programmatic restructuring to grow out of the current level of GPSAF funding as a proportion of its total budget.
Cornell Concert Commission

The reviewer for this group is William Kreuser.

Group Profile

Cornell Concert Commission (CCC) is tasked with selection, promotion, and production all aspects concerts at Cornell University. CCC hosts free concerts and subsidizes ticket costs of other concerts during the academic year. Paid concerts receive an average subsidy of approximately $5 per show and Cornell students have the first opportunity to purchase tickets of concerts organized by the CCC. Total concert subsidies typically range from 30 to 50%. A few notable past concerts organized by the CCC include Bruce Springsteen (1978), The Grateful Dead (1981), Phish (1992) and Bob Dylan (1999). More recent artists have included Ludacris, Maroon 5, The Flaming Lips, Phoenix, KiD CuDi, and Lupe Fiasco. From fall 2009 until spring 2011, CCC produced 12 shows: 1 on the Arts Quad, 9 in Barton Hall, and 2 in Bailey Hall. There is a graduate student liaison to the CCC that tries to serve the interest of the Graduate and Professional Students at Cornell.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>CUEMS Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5.75</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
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</table>

Committee's Analysis

The committee recommends funding the CCC at its current per-student rate of $5.75. The GPSA survey found that 13% of respondents attended a CCC sponsored show during the fall of 2010. Additionally shows such as Phoenix, The Flaming Lips, and upcoming Billy Joel concert are well attended by graduate and professional students although a very small percentage of their funding is dependent upon the GPSA activity fee. Finally, there is little chance that without a group like CCC large, popular acts would make their way to Ithaca, NY. We therefore believe that the utility gained from subsidizing shows and stabilizing the CCC’s budget, thereby reducing their risk to contract popular artists (with correspondingly high talent premiums), is an excellent utilization of the GPSAF.
CU Emergency Medical Service

The reviewer for this group is William Kreuser.

Group Profile

Cornell University Emergency Medical Services (CUEMS) responds to medical emergencies 24/7 during the academic year for the entire Cornell community. The members of CUEMS are Cornell students that are trained to New York State Requirements for First Responders. CUEMS responds to 911 calls for medical assistance and can perform First Response Basic Life Support care, assist in alcohol emergencies, and provide CPR and AED training courses through both public training classes and private classes (e.g. the entire Chemistry Department and many of the houses in the Greek system). Additionally CUEMS provide services at many large Cornell University affiliated events such as athletic events, concerts, Slope Day, and graduation; asking for a voluntary donation in most cases.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>CUEMS Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.77</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Committee’s Analysis

CUEMS has requested increased funding from both the GPSA and SA to cover rising expenses. The majority of the increase results from increased insurance premiums, which Cornell Risk Management expects to be 10% per annum, and increased vehicle maintenance costs. The level of increase from both the GPSA and SA are by a similar level (grad & professional students fund 46% less per student than undergraduates due to increased calls involving undergraduates).

In our final analysis, we conclude that CUEMS be funded at the level of $1.80 to continue to serve the Cornell Community in an effective manner. The leadership has continually demonstrated fiscal responsibility and has operated in an efficient manner despite continually rising expenses. As an aside however, we feel that the funding model for CUEMS (in which they are primarily funded through the GPSAF and not honoraria for performing their duties) may be misaligned.
Cornell University Program Board

The reviewer for this group is Edward Strong.

Group Profile

CUPB sponsors performances and speakers directly and through co-sponsorships. With the stated goal to "bring the world to Cornell" through these events.

1. They have begun co-sponsorship of events with graduate/professional student groups;
2. Voting and non-voting membership. Voting members obtain status through attending three consecutive meetings;
3. CUPB sponsored events may not discriminate in attendance within the Cornell community;
4. Funds shall not be appropriated for charity nor any candidate running for political office;
5. CUPB strives to make one event per year free, with the majority of others having reduced ticket prices for students;
6. CUPB makes an effort to spend at least 5% of its budget on co-sponsorships;
7. Any Cornell University organization is eligible to request co-sponsorship from CUPB.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>CUPB Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5.55</td>
<td>$5.55</td>
<td>$5.55</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Committee's Analysis

CUPB has not asked for a funding increase in this cycle nor the one previous. This was seen favorable and as responsible from the committee. Regrettably, there is lacking data in the rate of ticket sales to G&P students. Our own GPSA survey was not entirely clear in ascertaining G&P usage because it asked about attendance to only a specific few CUPB events and neglected to explore attendance to co-sponsored events.

However, CUPB's broad lineup and numerous events suggest their events appeal widely to the G&P student body and the Ithaca community. With few exceptions, their events are highly attended and very successful. For a similar reason as CCC, we believe funding CUPB in order to bring diverse and in-demand talent to Ithaca, NY to be an effective use of the GPSAF.
**GPSA**

The reviewer for this group is **Cresten Mansfeld**.

**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 areas and the represented professional schools of 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>GPSA Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$3.95 ($1.84 if GPSPB passes)</td>
<td>$1.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Committee’s Analysis**

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is focusing more on advocacy measures with the spin-off of the Events Committee into a separate Byline Funded organization. The GPSA must ensure that it does not consume too much money nor request too little to be an effective advocate for graduate students at Cornell University. $1.84 seemed to be a reasonable request as it held the funding on par to the 2010-2012 cycle after considering the removal of the Events Committee portion from the budget. However, accounting and ensuring the maximal impact from every dollar spent should still be considered high-priorities to tackle in the 2012-2014 funding cycle.
GPSPB

The reviewer for this group is Cresten Mansfeld.

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. This is the first year that the organization will be registered as an independent student organization and will form its own internal charter and bylaws.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>GPSPB Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previously approx. $1</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee’s Analysis

The GPSPB is a unique organization applying for byline funding as the events planned and held are by G&P students for G&P students. Therefore, the success of this organization will enrich the broad Graduate and Professional Student Community.

This Committee recommends funding the GPSPB at $2.00, $0.50 under the total request. First, this represents a near doubling of the Events Committee budget which shows the support of the GPSA for the GPSPB’s efforts. Second, this recommendation acknowledges the inherit risk with establishing a new byline funded entity and recommends reviewing the successes of the GPSPB over the 2012-2014 cycle to assess future increase and full funding measures.
International Student Board (ISB)

The reviewer for this group is Crystal Wilson.

Group Profile

The International Students Board (ISB) is an organization of students from a diverse background 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 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 & Recommendation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>ISPB Funding Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.46</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
<td>$1.55</td>
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</table>

Committee’s Analysis

The ISB funding application demonstrated a need to find additional resources to compensate for an expectation of funding requests to increase as well an increase to the amounts of funding requests. There was an expression that in the previous funding cycle, the organization was only able to fund 46.3% of all of the funding requests that were received from organizations that seek to fulfill the ISB mission. Of the 76 groups that were able to receive ISB co-sponsorships in the previous funding cycle, 20% of the groups were characterized as graduate student organizations.

The committee also took into consideration the efforts that ISB expressed to continue improving efficiency and fiscal responsibility with funding granted. They expressed ways that they have cut internal spending. An example given was plans to raise prices of the annual Masquerade Ball to pull less from subsidized funds they receive from GPSA and other sources. They also expressed a focus to explore ways to promote more collaboration among groups seeking funding to decrease programming overlap.

The Appropriations Committee feels that ISB has demonstrated great ability to maximize utility of funding as an umbrella funding source for various international student organizations on campus. Historically, their events have been very well organized and attended and adhere to their mission of bringing together diverse cultures from the Cornell community. The Cornell graduate community is comprised of approximately 35% international students and we feel that we should continue and further support the ISB mission to encourage international student programming.
New G&P Student Orientation

The reviewer for this group is Christoffer Heckman.

Group Profile

Orientation is the official welcome for all new G&P students at Cornell University. Organized by the Graduate School, this event is manned by graduate & professional student volunteers at a number of events from a series of resource fairs to receptions. Included is also an abbreviated version of orientation for graduate students that arrive in January, which also serves the rest of the G&P population by open invites to their events (e.g. bowling & ice skating). The number of programs included in orientation is also always increasing year/year, with future orientations including performers from on campus and a series of administrator welcome speeches.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Orientation Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0.70</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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</table>

Committee’s Analysis

Graduate & Professional Student Orientation is the one event when Cornell University, the Graduate School, and the GPSA have all of the G&P students in a single place, barring commencement exercises. Because of this, holding an effective orientation that also attracts new students (as it is not technically mandatory) is of the utmost importance.

There are many proposed improvements to Orientation should their increased budget be approved. Included in this will be the presence of food for attendees at registration, the resource fair, and orientation program, as well as a graduate student-guided tour for fall and spring semesters.
Risk Management

The reviewer for this group is Christoffer Heckman.

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 & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Risk Management Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5.10</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee's 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 increased rate.
Slope Day Programming Board

The reviewer for this group is Edward Strong.

Group Profile

Slope Day is one of the largest and most well attended events, yearly, on Cornell’s campus. Slope Day:

1. is “centered on the Cornell community and its celebration of the past year, working to break down social barriers, building a greater sense of tradition and community, and fostering an environment where students, staff and faculty can come together as one Cornell”;
2. "It has been our mission to make this a 'free' event (with the obvious exception of the Student Activity fee allotment) for all registered undergraduate and graduate students with a valid Cornell ID”;
3. is a 110 year old tradition;
4. has a 160 member programming board;
5. maintains one reserved seat on the executive board for a GPSA appointed liaison;
6. meets regularly and is open to G&P student membership and input.

Request & Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Funding</th>
<th>Slope Day’s Request</th>
<th>Committee Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$3.05</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee’s Analysis

Graduate & professional student attendance at Slope Day is significant. Survey results show that approximate a quarter of graduate & professional students attend this event with about half staying for longer than an hour. The GPSA though the GPSAF has sought to build a relationship with the Slope Day Programming board to ensure that Slope Day becomes an event even more attractive to the wider Cornell community. Over the past several years SDPB has engaged in efforts to include the desires of graduate and professional students in the planning of Slope Day and the selection of artists. While the committee did recognize Slope Day’s justification for increase as responding to a loss in direct financial support from the university, the committee felt that the overall cost of Slope Day particularly for talent was excessive. The Committee does not believe graduate & professional students support the expansion of Slope Day as such an increase in expenditures would indicate.

The Committee finds that the nearly $3 increase requested [near doubling from $3.05 to a requested $6.00] out-paces the relationship we currently have and does not reflect the current value/utility for G&P students.

The Committee also found during its meeting with SDPB and its subsequent presentation to the GPSA that the current model of Slope Day may exhibit a disconnection from its mission statement as supported by the GPSA. These meetings have indicated that the goal of Slope Day is to be an event "by students, for students," while the mission statement reads that Slope day is "centered on the Cornell community and its celebration of the past year, working to break down social barriers, building a greater sense of tradition and community, and fostering an environment where students, staff, and faculty can come together as one Cornell." The Committee felt that the current model for Slope Day does not fully achieve this goal.

Despite these concerns, the Committee felt that an increase to $3.50 was sufficient to continue building a relationship between graduate & professional students and Slope Day. Recognizing that affecting change at a university is a lengthy process, the Committee would like to see more graduate and professional student
involvement in the governance of Slope Day to guide the event to become something that is truly welcoming to the entire Cornell Community. Furthermore, the Committee agrees that the SDPB (Slope Day) has listened to grad/prof students and has tried to choose both artists and concessions that would be more appealing; for details, please research our Committee Minutes.
Conclusion

As a conclusion, we note that:

- there were 12 applicants for byline funding this year, plus the GPSAFC;
- one new group applied for byline funding (GPSPB);
- eight groups requested increases, and the Committee recommends granting 7 of them—5 of them fully.
- one group is recommended for a funding deduction (the GPSA);
- the GPSAFC is at 35.1% of the GPSAF (statutorily, it must be at 35.1%);
- the final GPSAF total is recommended to increase to $81.00 (a 6.6% increase).

Considering only inflation, the GPSAF would have increased to $80. However, the Committee finds it an acceptable “increased growth” that the GPSAF increases to $81, because of the new byline funded group which will presumably add greater utility to the GPSAF (the GPSPB).

Below is provided the breakdown of the Recommended Graduate & Professional Student Activity Fee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Inflation Adjusted</th>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-Athletics</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.37</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<td>-Big Red Barn</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.37</td>
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<td>-Cornell Cinema</td>
<td>11.05</td>
<td>11.63</td>
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<td>6.05</td>
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<td>-Cornell EMS</td>
<td>1.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>-GPSA</td>
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<td>-GPS Programming Board</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-Orientation</td>
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<td>0.74</td>
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<td>-Risk Management</td>
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<td>5.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Slope Day</td>
<td>3.07</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non GPSAFC</strong></td>
<td>49.40</td>
<td>52.01</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GPASFC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total GPSAF</strong></td>
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<td><strong>80.01</strong></td>
<td><strong>89.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>81.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GPSAFC%</strong></td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
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</table>

As a final note, on the next page a plot is provided showing the growth of the GPSAF over time, with the new data point of this Recommendation. Our Committee is extremely pleased that this lies exactly on the previous historical line of best fit for the GPSAF; i.e. the slope of increase of the GPSAF is not appreciably changed by this Recommendation.
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 2011-2012

Christoffer Heckman
William Kreuser
Cresten Mansfeld
Edward Strong
Michael Walsh
Crystal Wilson