**Graduate & Professional Student Activity Fee (GPSAF)**

**Recommendation for 2016-2018**



**Graduate & Professional Student Assembly**

**Appropriations Committee**

Table of Contents

[Introduction 3](#_Toc436673771)

[Committee Composition 3](#_Toc436673772)

[History 3](#_Toc436673773)

[Methodology 5](#_Toc436673774)

[Procedures 5](#_Toc436673775)

[Contents 5](#_Toc436673776)

[Athletics 6](#_Toc436673777)

[Big Red Barn 7](#_Toc436673778)

[Cornell Cinema 8](#_Toc436673779)

[Cornell Concert Commission 10](#_Toc436673780)

[Cornell University Emergency Medical Service 11](#_Toc436673781)

[Cornell University Programming Board 12](#_Toc436673782)

[Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) 13](#_Toc436673783)

[Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Programming Board (GPSPB) 15](#_Toc436673784)

[International Students Union 16](#_Toc436673785)

[Orientation - Graduate School 17](#_Toc436673786)

[Risk Management: Club Insurance 18](#_Toc436673787)

[Summary 19](#_Toc436673788)

[Cornell Tech Campus Funding 20](#_Toc436673789)

[Conclusions 21](#_Toc436673790)

[Appendix 22](#_Toc436673791)

[GPSA Resolution 18 (Spring 2013): A Resolution Concerning the Setting and Allocation of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for Cornell NYC Tech Students 22](#_Toc436673792)

# Introduction

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

The Committee has met several times thus far in Fall 2015 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.*

## Committee Composition

The Chairman of the Committee was unanimously elected to the position by all members of the GPSA. The Committee was formed by the GPSA Operations & Staffing Committee (O&SC) at the beginning of AY 2015 as required by the GPSA Charter.

* Siddarth Chandrasekaran (Chairman). One term appropriations committee chairman, Graduate student in the field of Chemistry.
* Mariko Alexander. Graduate student in the field of Plant Pathology.
* Jesse Goldberg, GPSA Voting member from the Humanities, Former Chairperson of the GPSA Advocacy Committee, Graduate Student in the field of English.
* Christine Kraus. Graduate student in the field of Plant Pathology.
* Hoang Long Nguyen, Two term field representative of Chemistry, Chairperson of the GPSA Finance Commission.
* William Nicholson, Three term field representative of Statistics, GPSA Voting Member from the Social Sciences.
* Ian M. Small. Former two term GPSA voting member for Biological Sciences, Former member of the GPSA Finance Commission, Former Chairperson of the Appropriations 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 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 for the initial years are primarily a result of funding of new groups. However, in the last few years this activity fee has been increasing about $2-3 per activity fee cycle which is in tune with the current rates of inflation.

Below, we provide a breakdown of the GPSAF over time for the different byline funded groups.

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

\*International Student Board has adopted a new name – International Student Union

**\*\*** 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. In May 2012, the SDPB chose to reject the GPSA’s allocation. 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 ceased to exist as a GPSAF byline-funded organization. Efforts made by the current chairman of the Appropriations Committee to find out their interest in becoming a byline funded were promptly turned down by the SDPB. There was no increase in the GPSAF for the 2014-2016 cycle as the Slope Day budget was readjusted among the different byline funded groups

\*\*\* All amounts reported in this document are per student per year.

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.

# Methodology

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

## 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 by all members of the Committee.

## 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 to the GPSA as well as suggestions made to the byline funded groups.

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**.

### Athletics

Reviewer – Ian Small

#### 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 immediate families gain free admission to all home athletic events, except for men's ice hockey games and postseason contests. The by-line funding arrangement does provide a $5 discount on men's ice hockey tickets ($13 instead of $18). This discount is available for individual game tickets as well as season tickets for graduate students and their family members. 250 men's ice hockey tickets are reserved in prime seats for graduate and professional students.

#### Request and Recommendation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Funding** | **Request** | **Recommendation** |
| **$7.00** | **$8.00** | **$7.82** |

#### Committee Analysis

The committee recommends that the GPSA increase the funding level for the Athletics Department to $7.82. The value of discounted men’s ice hockey tickets and free admission to all home athletics events for students and immediate families may easily exceed $100 per student. Additionally, the reserved 250 Men’s Ice Hockey tickets and guaranteed 4 hour maximum line wait time for grad and professional students is beneficial to the graduate 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 requested Cornell Athletics to:

* increase advertising to graduate and professional students to improve awareness of the Big Red Sports Pass.
* collect data on graduate and professional student attendance/participation for Athletics programs.
* avoid infrequent requests for large funding increases and instead adjust their funding request at each by-line funding cycle to account for inflation. The last funding request from Cornell Athletics was in 2007/08.

### Big Red Barn

Reviewer – Mariko Alexander

#### 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. The BRB serves as the hub for graduate student life on campus. In addition to TGIF events, which are historically very well-attended, the BRB hosts regular trivia nights, student mixers, coffee hours, write-ins, and other events specifically geared toward graduate and professional students. Six BRB fellows (a recent increase from five) are each responsible for at least one additional program in their area (family, culture, arts, social, or personal finance) per month, resulting in over 300 events in 2014-15.

#### Request and Recommendation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Funding** | **Request** | **Recommendation** |
| **$11.75** | **$10.50** | **$10.42** |

#### Committee Analysis

In the previous funding cycle, an increase of $3.75 per student was approved for the BRB, which was broken down into $1.25 for the rising cost of programming and $2.50 for improvements to the BRB’s infrastructure, including structural repairs and the first phase of improvements to the audio/visual system. Following completion of structural repairs in 2014, it became clear that splitting the A/V improvements into two phases over two funding cycles, as originally planned, was not practical. Therefore, the remaining FY 2014-16 media improvement allocation was encumbered by the BRB until sufficient funding had been saved to complete both phases of the A/V upgrades. Compressing this project into a single phase had the additional effect of reducing the overall cost of the upgrade. To account for these changes while permitting completion of the proposed A/V upgrades, which are necessary to support coverage of sporting events, political debates, and other events, the Committee recommends an effective reduction in funding to $10.42 per student (the original request of $10.50 per student was based on a lower estimate of graduate student numbers than current estimates). This is broken down as an increase in funding compared to FY 2012-14 of $1.25 per student for increased programming, plus $1.17 per student for A/V upgrades.

The BRB has consistently surpassed obligations set forth by the Committee, including serving hot food at more than the required number of TGIF events in the previous funding cycle, and demonstrates a clear commitment to serving the graduate and professional student community.

### Cornell Cinema

Reviewer – Mariko Alexander

#### Group Profile

Cornell Cinema offers educational and popular programming centered on film and the cinematic arts on 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 and 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 $6 graduate 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** |
| **$10.00** | **$12.00** | **~~$10.64~~ $10.54** |

#### Committee Analysis

Cornell Cinema (CC) is a unique and valuable resource on campus for the graduate and professional student community as well as the larger Cornell and Ithaca communities, and provides an average of 3-6 programs per week. CC’s production costs have continued to rise, outside funding has decreased, and changing technology has necessitated a major upgrade to projection equipment; this has caused their general reserves to deplete. Due to pricing structures for film, grant eligibility requirements, and the level of staffing required to run the Cinema, it is not feasible to lower costs by further decreasing the level or quality of programming offered. To account for these factors Cornell Cinema requested an increase of $2.00 per student for FY 2016-18.

Following Committee recommendations after a funding decrease for the 2014-16 budget cycle, Cornell Cinema raised admission prices for both students and non-students and reduced the number of programs it offers to attempt to account for rising costs. However, though the Committee did recommend that Cornell Cinema increase its ticket prices for graduate students, we note that Cornell Cinema did not consult with the Appropriations Committee before determining the increase in graduate student pricing, as required by the obligations set forth by this Committee in Spring 2014. Based on the Committee’s feedback, CC has greatly increased advertising toward graduate students, including advertising in the BRB and graduate student newsletters, and began tracking graduate student attendance at most shows, though we still recommend a more formal mechanism for gathering these data. The committee greatly appreciates the efforts made by Cornell Cinema in promoting their events with the graduate student population. However, in spite of increased efforts to reach the graduate and professional student community, Cornell Cinema estimates that these students make up less than 20% of their audience. Although the GPSA and SA provide a similar level of per-student funding to the Cinema ($10.00 and $10.60, respectively), undergraduates utilize this resource approximately three times more often than graduate and professional students do.

The Committee believes that Cornell Cinema has made an effort to comply with previous recommendations and to decrease reliance on byline funding. Further, Cornell Cinema provides immense cultural and artistic value to the community, and is in danger of disappearing if these funding issues cannot be resolved. Hence, it is our recommendation (by a majority though not unanimous vote), that funding be increased to $10.64 per student to attempt to keep this valuable resource on campus.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends (by a majority though not unanimous vote) that the requested amount of $12.00 per student is excessive given the degree to which graduate and professional students use the Cinema. We also suggest that Cornell Cinema continue to seek out alternative funding sources, including greater support from the SA and possibly increasing non-student admission prices, and reduce costs where feasible. As a condition for continued funding, we require that the Cinema continue to track graduate and professional student attendance (to be included as an obligation in Spring 2016), as a case cannot be made for GPSA support without knowing what proportion of their audience is made up of graduate and professional students.

**Revised Recommendation: T**he Committee was asked to reconsider its allocation for Cornell Cinema as the initial recommendation of $10.64 failed to pass through the GPSA. Using preliminary data (~500 respondents at time of meeting) from a survey of the graduate and professional student population, the Committee determined that the Cinema is a resource which is highly valued by the community but which is generally less utilized than other similarly-funded byline organizations, confirming our previous statement that the Cinema is an important resource for the graduate and professional student community. However, an anonymous survey of the voting members revealed that the majority felt that our recommendation of $10.64 was in excess of the support we should be providing. It should be noted that voting members were highly divided on this issue, and there were also a significant number of members who supported our previous recommendation or felt that we should be providing even greater support. To attempt to find a balance between vastly differing viewpoints on this issue, while keeping in mind that the community at large does value the Cinema, we proposed a new recommendation of $10.54 per student.

### Cornell Concert Commission

Reviewer – Siddarth Chandrasekaran

#### 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** | **$5.76** |

#### 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 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. 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. Their commitment to remain for the next cycle within this allocation is appreciated and admirable.

Further, CCC has made efforts to work on the recommendations made by the Committee in the previous appropriations cycle; these include tracking the number of graduate student attendees as well as reaching out to the GPSPB (GPSA Programming Board) to increase their visibility among graduate students. The Committee was concerned that CCC was unable to produce a free show in Fall 2015 due to many logistical concerns and recommends that CCC make all efforts to hold a free show every year (as stipulated in the obligations for the organization).

Finally, the committee discussed with CCC the possibility of reserving a share of the total tickets for all CCC events to graduate students so that an appropriate number of graduate students can be represented in all their events. These discussions will be highlighted in their group obligations to be submitted to the GPSA in Spring 2016.

### Cornell University Emergency Medical Service

Reviewer – Jesse Goldberg

#### 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, as well as providing services completely free of charge to patients. For medical emergencies, CUEMS is dispatched via radio by the University Police Department.

#### 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 for helping to support them. That CUEMS has managed to find other funding sources too, and refrains from needing an increase from the GPSA, is welcomed. The committee is also impressed with CUEMS's recent push to expand their public outreach programs such as first aid and bystander training, alcohol awareness events, and public health campaigns.

### 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** |
| **$3.55** | **$3.50** | **$3.56** |

#### Committee Analysis

CUPB events in the past have been well-attended and tend to add great value to the Cornell experience. The committee appreciates the efforts that CUPB have made to reach out to graduate students; this is clearly reflected in the numbers of graduate students attending their events. However, the access of tickets for popular events to graduate students is poor as they tend to get sold out within minutes of their availability. Hence this committee recommends that a certain number of tickets be specifically reserved for graduate students. The details of this arrangement will be specified in more detail in the obligations documents to be submitted to the GPSA in Spring 2016. Overall the committee is very satisfied with the kind of programming that CUPB provides and recommends that they be funded at $3.56.

### Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA)

Reviewer – Siddarth Chandrasekaran

#### Group Profile

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is the governing body for all graduate and professional students at Cornell University's Ithaca, New York 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.

*Based on the 2014-16 recommendation, no more than 20% of the GPSA budget can be utilized for travel (~$3000 per year) unless such travel receives approval in the form of a super majority vote by the assembly.*

#### Request and Recommendation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Funding** | **Request** | **Recommendation** |
| **$1.95** | **$2.00** | **$4.50** |

#### 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 $1.95 to $4.50. In the past few years, the committees in the GPSA have been active in lobbying for a more prominent role in student governance at the university.

The committee also notes that significant rollover, has been slowly reduced over the past funding cycles. The current rollover would be sufficient to fully support the GPSA for about one year. Further, the committee encourages the GPSA to be prudent with their funds, especially in lowering the costs for food at their events.

##### Anabel Grocery:

The GPSA has decided to support the subsidized grocery store initiative to be located in Anabel Taylor Hall. This grocery is going to be student run and will provide low-cost groceries to all students. Further, the grocery store will provide substantial discounts to food insecure students (i.e, students who are unable to secure food supplies due to financial and mobility reasons). This grocery store will provide additional resources such as cooking and healthy-eating classes to help students’ better address insecurity. The GPSA in general is very supportive of this initiative however some concerns on the grocery store accessibility and availability need to be addressed in cooperation with the grocery store.

This grocery store will require only short-term funding (i.e, $80,000 to be disturbed over the next four years, i.e, $20,000 annually) from the GPSA and hence it wouldn’t be appropriate for them to be a by-line funded organization. Further GPSA would like to have direct oversight over their operations and hence store will be directly funded by the GPSA as a special committee under the GPSA. Out of the $4.50 annual allocation to the GPSA, $2.50 will be reserved for the grocery store. This reservation will amount to about $17,500 per year to the grocery store. The rest of the $20,000 budget for the grocery store will be supported by the GPSA rollover funds (~ expected to be about $2,500 annually). This reservation of GPSA funds can be annulled by a simple majority of seated voting members in the assembly as required for any major financial decisions concerning the GPSA internal budget. This request for funding removal should be submitted as a resolution by the Chair of the Appropriations Committee.

Note 1: It is recommended that the Appropriations Committee revisits the funding for the Anabel grocery when the byline funded groups for the 2018-2020 cycle are evaluated.

Note 2: If the grocery store will require funding beyond the four years, then it is recommended that they apply to be their own by-line funded organization satisfying all the eligibility requirements for a by-line funded group.

### Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Programming Board (GPSPB)

Reviewer – Will Nicholson

#### Group Profile

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly 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** |
| **$3.00** | **$3.00** | **$2.22** |

#### Committee Analysis

Though the Committee appreciates the efforts of the GPSPB in creating social events for the graduate student population, the Committee was concerned by the lack of frequency of events and the extremely large expense of the Grad Ball, which even after accounting for ticket sales, comprised almost 2/3 of the GPSPB's budget. Since this event is restricted to at most 450 graduate students, the Committee would prefer a scaled-down (in terms of cost) Grad Ball complemented by an expanded series of social events throughout the year. We feel that such a schedule of events can be accomplished on a reduced budget, hence the Committee recommends decreasing the GPSPB's allocation from $3.00 to $2.22. The committee has already discussed the possibility of funding cuts with the programming board, and the GPSPB were open to this idea, and assured us that they will be able to function with a lower but more streamlined budget model.

As in the previous funding cycle, 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 these groups, such as Cornell Cinema, Cornell Programming Board, and Cornell Concert Commission.

### International Students Union

Reviewer – Christine Kraus

#### Group Profile

The International Students Union (ISU) is an organization of students from diverse backgrounds committed to promoting dialogue and awareness about world events, cultures and issues. ISU 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, ISU 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. ISU 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 ISU throughout the year include The Masquerade Ball, movie screenings, dance workshops, round-table discussions and lectures.

#### Request and Recommendation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Current Funding** | **Request** | **Recommendation** |
| **$1.35** | **$1.80** | **$1.62** |

#### Committee Analysis

The Committee feels that the ISU 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. ISU events could be a perfect venue for international students to socialize and make new friends. Last time, the committee encouraged ISU to organize more events or at least to co-host them, rather than just funding other organizations. This year’s Committee felt that ISU has taken the advice; however, we think ISU should continue hosting and co-hosting more events and continue decreasing their co-sponsorship efforts. We also strongly encourage ISU to become more of an advocacy organization for international students and to work more with the ISSO. We think it is important to have an organization in charge of disseminating information that is relevant for international students. However, considering the efforts they have made so far, this Committee is happy to recommend an increase in allocation to this organization.

### Orientation - Graduate School

Reviewer – Christine Kraus

#### 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

Graduate School Orientation events are an important venue for first year PhD students to acquire valuable information. It is also a great opportunity to socialize and make new friends. Orientation is making great efforts in organizing events throughout the year including a Fall and Spring orientation, a series of seminar called Transitions (Navigating Graduate School for First-Year Students) as well as several social events. 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. Finally, we encourage the Graduate School Orientation to contact other Cornell offices like ISSO and Gannett to be present be at the Fall orientation event, so that all students sign-up events can be coordinated in the same location. Hence, the committee is happy to recommend that this group receive their allocation of $1.00.

### Risk Management: Club Insurance

Reviewer – Ian Small

#### 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. enables clubs to use off-campus facilities;
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 graduate student events that follow guidelines for responsible use of alcohol.

The program is currently made of two insurance policies. The current program provides $1,000,000 of general liability coverage, $1,000,000 of catastrophic medical coverage and $3,000,000 catastrophic injury cash.

*\* 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 independent clubs on campus could not function. Therefore, it would be unwise to eliminate funding for Club Insurance. This program allows all independent clubs on campus to run without having to purchase their own insurance plans and provides personal liability protection to the individual leaders of clubs. Due to the necessity of this service for independent clubs, the Committee recommends that we approve Club Insurance at the requested rate.

### Summary

Below is a summary of all the requests and the recommendations from the Appropriations Committee.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group | 2014-2016 Funding | 2016-2018Request | 2016-2018 Recommendation |
| Athletics & Physical Education | 7.00 | 8.00 | 7.82 |
| Big Red Barn | 11.75 | 10.50 | 10.42 |
| Cornell Cinema | 10.05 | 12.00 | 10.54 |
| Cornell Concert Commission | 5.75 | 5.75 | 5.76 |
| CU Emergency Medical Service | 1.80 | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| CU Programming Board | 3.55 | 3.50 | 3.56 |
| GPSA | 1.95 | 2.00 | 4.50\* |
| GPSA Programming Board | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.22 |
| International Students Union | 1.35 | 1.80 | 1.62 |
| Orientation – Graduate School | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Risk Management: Club Insurance | 5.50 | 5.50 | 5.50 |
|  |
| Byline Funding Total | 52.65 | 54.85 | 52.34 |
|  |
| GPSAFC (>35%) | 28.35 | 30.50 | 30.26 |
|  |
| Total | 81.00 | 85.35 | 85.00\*\* |
| \* Includes funding to the grocery store in Anabel Taylor Hall\*\*Amounts reported are per student per year |

Hence the committee recommends that the activity fee be set at $85.00 per student for the academic years 2016-2018. This is a $4.00 increase in activity fee from the previous cycle which is keeping in tune with the rates of inflation.

# Cornell Tech Campus Funding

In accordance with Resolution 18 (*A Resolution Concerning the Setting and Allocation of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for Cornell Tech Students - See Appendix Below*) of the GPSA (Spring 2013), the activity fee set by the Appropriations Committee via this resolution will be applicable to all the students at the Cornell Tech students. The activity fee (GPSAF) appropriately deducted for the contributions to the GPSA & Risk Management will returned to a registered and officially recognized organization at the Tech campus in NYC. According to this document, this amount will be $75.5 per student annually for the 2016-2018 cycles. The appropriations committee chair has already consulted with the Cornell Tech representative and this amount ($75.5) should be sufficient for all their current programming needs.

It is to be noted that all Ithaca-based students shall be eligible to attend events organized at Cornell Tech and similarly Cornell Tech-based students shall be able to attend events organized at the Ithaca campus at the same subsidized rate as all other students of appropriate/equivalent standing.

The Cornell Tech organization formed will have to satisfy these conditions

1. Register with the SLECA office via the OrgSync platform (or equivalent registration system needed for every student organization at Cornell University)
2. Have a university account number associated with this organization to which the total amount can be transferred
3. Submit a detailed report to the appropriations committee every two years in the activity fee setting year outlining all their expenses similar to every byline funded organization
4. Subject to all Cornell regulations as enforced by the GPSA and the Office of Assemblies
5. Review and update their bylaws & funding guidelines every year two years. It is recommended that this be performed in the spring semester of the activity fee setting year.
6. Follow all the regulations required for a byline funding organization

# Conclusions

The Committee has evaluated hundreds of pages of financial documents, organization mission statements, and justifications for byline funding. The value of each byline funded 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 directly to graduate and professional students. We have strived to keep the fee in tune with inflation for the next funding cycle. This GPSAF cycle we have reduced funding to GPSPB and Big Red Barn based on the programming requirements and needs for these groups. We have increased funding to Cornell Cinema and the Athletics department as neither of these groups have received any increase in allocation in the past three activity fee cycles. Also, we have returned ISU to the funding levels they were at (corrected for inflation) before a funding cut at the last GPSAF cycle. Finally, this year we have recommended that the GPSAFC (Finance Commission) receive more than 35% of the activity fee due to the formation of multiple new graduate student organizations in the past few years. This has necessitated that the GPSAFC require more support from the activity fee (GPSAF).

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 2015**

Siddarth Chandrasekaran

Mariko Alexander

Jesse Goldberg

Christine Kraus

Hoang Long Nguyen

Will Nicholson

Ian Small

# Appendix

## GPSA Resolution 18 (Spring 2013): A Resolution Concerning the Setting and Allocation of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for Cornell NYC Tech Students

**WHEREAS**, In December 2011, Cornell won the competition to create Cornell NYC Tech on Roosevelt Island in New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, The first class of students matriculated in Spring 2013, at rented space in Manhattan; and

**WHEREAS**, The GPSA is charged with representing all graduate and professional students, including those at Cornell NYC Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, Students at Cornell NYC Tech are members of the same graduate fields and departments as students based in Ithaca; and

**WHEREAS**, The GPSA sets and allocates the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee (GPSAF); and

**WHEREAS**, The majority of services and events funded by the GPSAF take place in Ithaca; and

**WHEREAS**, The procedures governing the setting and allocation of the GPSAF are established by in a letter dated March 1, 1999 (the Guidelines) and the GPSA Charter (the Charter), Section 2.02; and

**WHEREAS**, The GPSA has the ability to allocate the fee differently for different groups of students; and

**WHEREAS**, The GPSA leadership met with Barbara Knuth, Dean of the Graduate School, Susan Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services, Cathy Dove, Vice President for Cornell NYC Tech and representatives from Counsel’s Office, the Student Activities Office and the Graduate School on April 5, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, This resolution reflects the agreement reached at that meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, The GPSA will set and allocate the fee in Fall 2013; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That —

(1) All graduate and professional students, including those at Cornell NYC Tech, will pay the full dollar amount of the GPSAF;

(2) Students at Cornell NYC Tech will form a student organization, registered with the Student Activities Office (SAO).

(3) The GPSAF collected from Cornell NYC Tech students will be allocated, such that the only byline funded organizations they will fund are: (a) The GPSA, at the same amount as Ithaca-based students; and (b) Club Insurance, at the same amount as Ithaca-based students.

(3) The remaining balance of the GPSAF collected from Cornell NYC Tech students will revert to their student organization account, to be used according to the same guidelines as any other byline funded organization (GPSA Eligibility Criteria & Obligations for Byline Funded Organizations, especially Item V).

(4) Ithaca-based students will be able to attend events at Cornell NYC Tech and NYC Tech-based students will be able to attend events in Ithaca at the same price, whether free or subsidized, as all other students.

(5) This arrangement will be reevaluated in Fall 2015, with the next setting and allocation of the activity fee.

**RESOLVED**, That this resolution will be sent to David Skorton, President; Barbara Knuth, Dean of the Graduate School; Daniel Huttenlocher, Dean of Cornell NYC Tech; Cathy Dove, Vice President of Cornell NYC Tech; Kent Hubbell, Dean of Students; and Peggy Beach, Director of the Office of the Assemblies.

Respectfully submitted,

**Vinay Pagay**, Chair of the GPSA Finance Commission

**Mitch Paine**, President of the GPSA

**Evan Cortens**, Counsel to the GPSA