

Cornell Student Assembly



2024 – 2026 Student Activity Fee Allocation Cycle

Cornell University Student Assembly

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Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Activity Fee Allocation Proposal

2024-2026 Byline Funding Cycle

Organization	2022-2024	2024-2026		% Change
	Allocation	Request	Allocation	
Alternative Breaks	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.50	--
Athletics and Physical Education	\$ 7.13	\$ 8.00	\$ 7.70	7.99%
Collegiate Readership Program	\$ 4.30	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.92	-32.09%
Community Partnership Funding Board	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	0.00%
Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.60	\$ 0.50	-68.75%
Emergency Medical Services at Cornell University	\$ 4.70	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.15	9.57%
Minds Matter at Cornell	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.63	\$ 0.50	-69.33%
Tatkon Center for New Students	\$ 11.00	\$ 14.20	\$ 13.86	26.00%
Outdoor Odyssey	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.90	45.00%
Student Assembly	\$ 1.50	\$ 4.25	\$ 2.75	83.33%
Student Club Insurance	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 5.50	0.00%
Students Helping Students Awards	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.60	\$ 4.60	-8.00%
Cornell Sports Council	\$ 22.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 29.00	31.82%
Interfaith Council at Cornell	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 6.50	-7.14%
Student Activities Funding Commission	\$ 113.28	\$ 132.00	\$ 148.53	31.12%
Student Programming Council	\$ 0.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00	--
Convocation Committee	\$ 18.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 18.00	0.00%
Cornell Concert Commission	\$ 13.50	\$ 27.42	\$ 22.00	62.96%
Cornell University Class Councils & Senior Days	\$ 7.40	\$ 16.45	\$ 16.00	116.22%
Cornell University Program Board	\$ 13.56	\$ 17.74	\$ 15.39	13.50%
Multicultural Community Fueled Activities Board	\$ 0.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.75	--
Slope Day Programming Board	\$ 21.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	138.10%
Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board	\$ 3.30	\$ 6.60	\$ 6.60	100.00%
ALANA Intercultural Board	\$ 20.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 14.00	-30.00%
CUTonight Commission	\$ 8.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 12.00	50.00%
Gender Justice Advocacy Center	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	0.00%
Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union	\$ 4.40	\$ 5.40	\$ 5.40	22.73%
Environmental Collaborative	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	-100.00%
International Students Union	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.50	21.43%
Multicultural Greek Fraternity Council	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	100.00%
Total Student Activity Fee	\$ 310.00	\$ 435.91	\$ 424.00	36.77%

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Organization	Alternative Breaks
2022-2024 Allocation	\$0.00
2024-2026 Request	\$0.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$0.50

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Alternative Breaks at \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Alternative Breaks (Alt Breaks) is a student-led organization housed under the David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement. Alt Breaks is an organization of students who share a commitment to social justice, personal growth, and community engagement. Through educational opportunities, root cause analyses, reflection, and reciprocal engagement with community agencies, Alt Breaks demonstrates a commitment to addressing social justice issues using a racial lens. By examining racial disparities across all systems, Alt Breaks works to shift the societal narratives perpetuated by implicit biases, stereotypes, and institutional discrimination. Informed by the knowledge and expertise of our partner agencies, Alt Breaks seeks to raise awareness of systemic patterns disproportionately affecting disadvantaged communities.

The yearly timeline of Alt Breaks is that at the beginning of the Fall, they facilitate applications from students interested in attending the spring break trip. Next, Alt Breaks conducts interviews and selects applicants. During the Fall semester, these new members are enrolled in a 12-week learning curriculum about the specific issue they are looking to address, as well as complete all required training for attending the trip. Additionally, the leadership of Alt Breaks works closely with the agency they will be going to in the spring to better identify their current goals and needs. Once spring break comes around, Alt Breaks leadership and members go to NYC for the week to work directly with the agency they have been in communication with throughout the year.

Operationally, the current composition of the Alt breaks executive board is 3 members who are all current juniors. Although CPFEB needs to find interested applicants each year to recruit and take on the trip, they have a fantastic advisor, Joyce Muchan, who has been helping Cornell organizations like Alt Breaks for over 24 years.

Concerning the financial component, during the 2020-2021 academic year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Alt Breaks was not able to go on their annual trip, meaning that they were unable to spend most of their allocation. Coming into the 2021-2022 academic year, Alt Breaks had a rollover account balance which was 213.79% of their annual allocation at that time before the 2021-2022 allocation was distributed. During that academic year, Alt Breaks received a noticeable decline in interested applicants, and to rebuild the program, lowered the overall size of the organization, resulting in them only spending 52.02% of their annual allocation and 16.58% of their initial Fall 2021 total account balance. In the Fall 2021 SAF Allocation cycle, Alt Breaks decided to request \$0.00 to spend down their accumulating rollover account balance. In the 2022-2023 academic year, Alt Breaks was still in the rebuilding phase and opted again to keep the spring break trip small. With Alt Breaks not receiving an annual allocation, they only spent 6.45% of their starting Fall 2022 total account balance.

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Notably, in the Fall 2021 semester, when Alt Breaks realized the situation they were in, they requested a \$0.00 allocation for the 2022-2024 academic year. Acknowledging their situation, the VP of Finance at that time presented Alt Breaks with three options to pursue in the Fall 2021 cycle:

- 1. Submit a final byline app between now and Friday, November 19 at noon and attend a Byline Hearing on Monday, November 22 in the evening and request \$0.50 for the sole purpose of remailing a byline-funded organization (the assumption is that you'd rely on your surplus to carry you through 2022-2024)*
- 2. Submit a final byline app between now and Friday, November 19 at noon and attend a Byline Hearing on Monday, November 22 in the evening and request your regular amount (if there is no surplus to carry you through 2022-2024)*
- 3. Do not submit a final byline app this cycle and rely on your surplus to carry you through 2022-2024, then submit a final byline app in fall 2023 to become a fully-funded byline org again (no consequences)*

In the end, Alt Breaks decided to pursue option #3 for the 2022-2024 SAF allocation cycle. However, according to the SA Charter, for current byline organizations to maintain their byline status, they must request at least \$0.50 from the SAF. As a result, for Alt Breaks to be eligible to apply for a 2024-2026 SAF allocation, they would have needed to re-obtain 1500 signatures to be considered an eligible applicant. Despite this, the Appropriations Committee has decided to honor the previous offer made to Alt Breaks in Fall 2021 and allow them to be eligible to apply for funding in the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle.

Currently, when Alt Breaks submitted their application for the 2024-2026 cycle, they still requested \$0.00 because of their enormous rollover balance which has continuously grown since the COVID-19 pandemic year. Considering this fact, when the Appropriations Committee meets with Alt Breaks in Fall 2025 for the 2026-2028 SAF Allocation cycle, to get Alt Breaks back on track regarding their eligibility, the Appropriations Committee has formulated a plan to fix their eligibility problem.

Under this plan, the Appropriations Committee voted to allocate Alt Breaks \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle to ensure eligibility in future cycles. Moreover, because of the large amount of rollover that Alt Breaks currently has, the organization plans to spend this over the next two years without tapping into their new annual allocation of \$0.50. Lastly, Alt Breaks and the Appropriations Committee agreed that the Student Assembly would find a way to claw back this \$0.50 Alt Breaks annual allocation over the next two years and subsequently lower the current Student Assembly 2024-2026 SAF allocation request proportionately.

Considering all the factors of Alt Breaks, and the impactful work they do for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$0.50 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. In the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years, Alt Breaks will only spend down their current reserve account balance and not spend this \$0.50 annual allocation. This \$0.50 annual allocation will be transferred in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years to one of the Student Assembly accounts so that it can be utilized by that organization.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$0.50	6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Athletics and Physical Education
2022-2024 Allocation	\$7.13
2024-2026 Request	\$8.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$7.70

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Athletics and Physical Education at \$7.70 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Before this year, a portion of the Athletics SAF allocation was dedicated to funding the Big Red Sports pass, which allowed all students free admission to all sporting events, except for Men's Ice Hockey and post-season competition. However, this process has changed, and currently, the Athletic and Physical Education department does not spend money on the BRSP. Instead, portions of the SAF allocation are divided between granting student discounts on season passes for Men's Ice Hockey games and marketing/ promotion efforts to generate more student engagement at games.

Regarding the use of their SAF allocation on Men's Ice Hockey student season pass discounts, this change in funding usage is new and raised some questions from the Committee. Relating to the fact that, while any student could purchase these discounted season passes, quantity and capacity constraints ultimately govern how many students receive this benefit. Moreover, because the minimum price of a season pass without the student discount is \$329 per season, many students at Cornell simply cannot afford that initial cost even when the discount is applied. Considering this, the eligibility criteria, "*This organization allows all students equal access to services and/or participation*", is not so clear cut and binary, especially if this is what a majority of the SAF funds are used for.

For marketing and promotional activities, these costs are broken down into t-shirts, giveaway items, and advertising expenses. Apart from a few athletic teams, many of the games played in the Ithaca area are not well attended by students. In an effort to drive student attendance, advertising through the channels students see, as well as offering free items for attending, Athletics believes these will drive their desired student engagement. Additionally, for many of these giveaway items, the cost of them has been accelerated in previous years due to inflationary pressures, fossil fuel price hikes, and supply chain disruptions. This means that, in order for Athletics to give enough items away, more money will be needed to fund these giveaways than in previous years.

Despite the belief that giving away small free items with the Cornell logo on them will generate the intended increase in student attendance, it is difficult to think Cornell students, who are already as busy as it is, will be drawn to athletic events by such giveaway efforts. In discussion with the Committee, advertising to and meeting the students where they currently are (e.g. social media) or asking other performance-based undergraduate organizations to perform at these athletic events are more cost-effective options, and more likely to help Athletics achieve their goal.

For any department byline organization, the fundamental question, should this Cornell University department be dipping into the SAF, is brought into consideration. Considering the fact that other byline organizations are in desperate need of funds at the moment and that the annual Athletics & Physical Education operating budget is over 10 times what the total annual

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2022-2024 SAF pool of money was, this opinion becomes less of a binary one. If the Athletics allocation was removed completely, the money will be found in some other way to continue the departments operations.

Considering all the factors of Athletics & Physical Education, and how important athletic events are for undergraduate Cornell students, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in Athletics & Physical Education is necessary for the organization to continue growing fan attendance at games. However, given the use of SAF funds to subsidize already expensive Men's Ice Hockey season tickets, and the questionable eligibility standard to allow all students equal access to services and/or participation this increase in SAF funding is less than what Athletics & Physical Education has requested. Lastly, the Appropriations Committee recommends that future marketing and promotional activities engage students through social media channels and reliance on other undergraduate student organizations.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$8.00	4-4-0
\$7.90	4-4-0
\$7.80	4-4-0
\$7.70	5-3-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Collegiate Readership Program
2022-2024 Allocation	\$4.30
2024-2026 Request	\$2.92
Appropriations Recommendation	\$2.92

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Collegiate Readership Program (CRP) at \$2.92 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle. The Committee supports CRP’s mission to encourage lifelong learning, create a newspaper readership habit, and increase undergraduate student awareness of local, national, and international events. The Committee hopes that the CRP will continue to enhance the learning environment on Cornell’s campus by offering students free access to the New York Times (NYT) and Wall Street Journal (WSJ) for years to come.

In a financial analysis of CRP, at the start of this academic year, the rollover balance amounted to 44.22% of its current annual allocation. Additionally, since the subscription prices of the NYT and WSJ have not increased over previous years, it is expected that the CRP will have the same expenses as those years. Due to this, and in alignment with the current goal to limit the amount of “locked-up” funds, the Appropriations Committee would like to see the current rollover account balance be utilized over the course of the next two academic years. As a result, the recommended CRP allocation of \$2.92 is designed to leave as little money as possible in the CRP rollover account by the end of the 2025-2026 academic year, while at the same time, continuing the NYT and WSJ subscriptions for all students.

For the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle, the Cornell Library Department neglected to turn in the application on time, and when granted an extension to complete it, still neglected to complete the application. As a result, the VP of Finance reached out to individuals who used to work in that department to figure out the rollover account balance and subscription prices. Since this \$2.92 request was not officially approved by this department, the Cornell Library Department would be allowed to appeal their allocation until November 16th, 2023 when the total SAF fee is presented to the Student Assembly.

Considering all the factors of CRP, and the necessity for it, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$2.92 is necessary for the NYT and WSJ subscriptions.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$2.92	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Community Partnership Funding Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$2.00
2024-2026 Request	\$2.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$2.00

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Community Partnership Funding Board at \$2.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle. The Community Partnership Funding Board (CPFEB) is a student-run board that seeks to foster student leadership and social responsibility by encouraging students to take action against social justice problems through student-initiated service projects and civic engagement. CPFEB assists students in developing community action projects and administers grants of up to \$2500 to make these projects possible.

The yearly timeline of CPFEB is that at the beginning of the Fall, they facilitate grant applications from individuals and organizations. During this process, CPFEB evaluates written applications, conducts interviews with student applicants, and interviews community agencies the applicants intend to partner with. On Decision Day, all board members discuss the proposals and vote on which grants to fund (partially or in full). Evaluative criteria that prioritize CPFEB's core philosophy helps the board members discern which projects promise the greatest potential impact while fostering student innovation, social responsibility, service learning, and community partnership. CPFEB also prioritizes its organizational goal to support grants that address a diverse array of issues. These core values are social responsibility, student management, community partnership, service learning, and project evaluation. If a project is not selected, CPFEB advises each applicant on how to improve, strengthen, and build upon their project ideas. Additionally, the board members hold weekly informal office hours to meet and work with students to create or improve their project proposals for future consideration.

Once applicants are selected, there is a strict set of deliverables that grantees need to fulfill to fully engage in the CPFEB process. After acceptance of project proposals, each student applicant and the CPFEB sign a funding contract. As grantee mentors, each board member has weekly meetings, as well as constant communication and mentoring with the grant contact. Any changes to the project or budget must be re-submitted and approved through the board. Each project is continually supported through weekly meetings between grantees and CPFEB board members. CPFEB collects weekly meeting reports and written updates from these interactions with grantees, regularly meets with partner agencies, and discusses foreseeable problems and solutions at our weekly board meetings. CPFEB also requires an evaluation of all project proposals during and upon the completion of the project.

At the conclusion of the Spring semester, CPFEB hosts the annual grant symposium where all grantees and their community partners give a short presentation on the community need being addressed by their project as well as their project's outcomes and evaluation. This symposium is open to all Cornell students, faculty, staff, and local community members, promoting continued community engagement and offering an opportunity for attendees to form new partnerships.

Operationally, the current composition of the CPFEB executive board is 4 members who are distributed across the 2024, 2025, and 2026 class years. Although CPFEB does not currently have a g-body to help them achieve their mission, they have a fantastic advisor, Joyce Muchan, who has been helping Cornell organizations like CPFEB for over 24 years. In this current

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structure, the E-board is responsible for hosting 2hrs of office hours per week throughout the year for grantees to ask questions or seek advice regarding their projects. Despite this, CPFEB has the stated goal of expanding its board to 9 members in the coming years in order to offer better support to their grantees.

Regarding the financial component, during the 2020-2021 academic year, due to COVID-19 in-person restrictions, all grants needing to be virtual, agency closures, and staff furloughs at community agencies, CPFEB only received grant applications totaling 42.03% of their account balance and only disbursed a total of 19.86% of their account balance to 5 applicants. In the 2021-2022 academic year, with the ongoing restrictions, CPFEB was only able to successfully fund 11 applicants, which amounted to 32.68% of their total account balance at the beginning of Fall 2021. In the 2022-2023 academic year, with restrictions easing and grant applications rolling in, CPFEB funded 19 grant projects. Out of these 19 applicants, CPFEB granted them 61.15% of the total money in their account at the beginning of Fall 2022. From this granted money, grantees spent 91.60% of that money.

The beginning 2023-2024 CPFEB account balance before the annual allocation from the SAF amounted to 112.59% of their yearly allocation. Knowing this, as well as projecting an increase in applications granted, leading to higher expenses, CPFEB is requesting the same \$2.00 allocation from the previous SAF cycle. Notably, this accomplishes two of the key elements that make byline organizations successful. Firstly, this allows CPFEB to chip away at their rollover account balance, thus ensuring SAF money is not locked up in a reserve account. Secondly, CPFEB is aware of its current operational capacity to support grantees, meaning that despite a projected increase in grants awarded, they do not want to sacrifice the quality of the projects they decide to fund.

One final notable element to mention is that for the symposium at the end of the year, this event's overhead cost is financially supported by the Einhorn Center for Community Engagement. This means that every dollar CPFEB receives from the Appropriations Committee is allocated for grants only. When inquiring how the Appropriations Committee and Student Assembly can help CPFEB, they stated that we could assist them by helping to advertise their grant opportunities as well as publicize their recruitment efforts when they begin to start finding new members.

Considering all the factors of CPFEB, and the impactful work they do for the undergraduate Cornell community and large Ithaca community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$2.00 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$2.00	6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS)
2022-2024 Allocation	\$1.60
2024-2026 Request	\$1.60
Appropriations Recommendation	\$0.50*

* Due to the \$0.50 funding of Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS) for them to maintain their byline status, and agreement with the Student Assembly to transfer those funds to the Student Assembly for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, the effective request of the Student Assembly is \$4.50 per student per year. With the stipulation of the \$0.50 transfer from Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS) the Student Assembly effectively will receive \$4.25 per student per year for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AYs.

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Alternative Breaks at \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS) is a student-led organization wholeheartedly committed to building communities of support and belonging on Cornell’s campus. Through its peer mentorship, training, outreach, and leadership-development programs, EARS fosters empathy, advocates for mental health and emotional well-being, and ensures that any student can find connections at Cornell. Each semester, EARS offers training in empathy, listening, and helping skills to empower members of the Cornell community to offer support in their respective social circles. Additionally, EARS provides workshops for campus groups and departments to promote mental health awareness, help-seeking behavior, and ways to support others. Lastly, EARS has reimagined its services through a new model of peer mentoring, support, and outreach which involves building relationships and integrating EARS-trained students into communities on campus. The three programs—EARS Peer Mentors, Workshops, and Empathy Chairs—extend EARS’ outreach to the Cornell Community.

EARS has a significant impact on providing mental health resources to the Cornell community. It is essential in increasing mental health awareness across campus organizations and departments. Through our Training and Workshop outreach initiatives, we not only increase literacy in mental health and well-being but also assist participants in navigating difficult situations common to the student experience. The Peer Mentoring service that EARS provides further acts as a highly available safe space and collection of resources for members of the Cornell community. As such, EARS is an invaluable resource for anyone who is struggling with mental health. In conclusion, EARS plays a vital role in the Cornell community by increasing awareness of mental health issues, hosting various community outreach events, and being a critical resource in servicing students.

For context, a few years ago, EARS was formally attached to the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives and provided counseling services (similar to what CAPS counselors do). However, after Cornell University realized their insurance did not cover the program because students were the counselors, and couldn’t technically maintain confidentiality, the EARS organization was restructured, such that the former counseling services would now be offered as peer mentoring opportunities.

Operationally, the current composition of the EARS executive board is 14 members, with three being seniors, eight being juniors, and three being sophomores. Since EARS is classified as a department byline organization, its assigned department is still the Skorton Center for Health

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Initiatives, and its advisor helps them primarily with the finances of the organization. In order to become a peer mentor, applicants need to attend two semesters worth of training before they can begin staffing the hours EARS offers their services. EARS offers their peer mentoring services every day from 4-8PM (except for Saturdays) and meets weekly with all peer mentors to train them. The organization also frequently reaches out to other organizations to collaborate on upcoming events. At the time of the hearing, EARS currently has 50-60 peer mentors, which are the equivalent of a g-body.

During the pandemic time period, and with the concurrent restructuring of the organization, EARS struggled to continue its operations while at the same time losing a substantial loss in recognition of other students on campus. In the 2021-2022 AY, EARS had a beginning-of-the-year rollover balance that was approximately equal to 93.73% of their annual allocation from that year. Since EARS was facing issues during the restructuring, as well as internal issues to rebuild the organization, their expenses were significantly lower than their annual allocation, so the organization entered the 2022-2023 AY with a rollover beginning balance approximately equal to 118.04% of their annual allocation from that year. Just like the prior year, the organization struggled to spend its allocation throughout the 2022-2023 AY, leaving it with a beginning-of-the-year rollover balance that was approximately equal to 146.89% of its 2023-2024 AY allocation.

Broadly speaking, regarding their expenses from the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 AY, EARS does not typically spend a significant amount of money to provide the services they do. Specifically, in the 2022-2023 AY, the organization spent 27.85% of its expenses on providing food for their peer mentors during staff meetings, 19.01% on graduation stoles/ cords, 35.19% on their retreat, 13.82% on their lantern event, and 4.13% on their post-prelim hot chocolate event. Notably, when looking over the department budget sheet submitted by EARS from the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, there was a budgeted charge of \$5,000 to pay hourly student wages. According to lines 671 and 672 of the Student Assembly Charter, it stipulates that this use of SAF funding is specifically prohibited.

***“Prohibition on Compensation:** No Advisor, President, Treasurer, staff member, other officer, or member of an organization may be compensated from an organization’s SAF account or SAF earned income account.”*

When asked about this during the hearing, the EARS representatives cited that the two student coordinators of the program are paid 6 hours per week for the work they do with the program. This paid work does not include training or peer mentoring hours, rather, it is paid for when the coordinators offer workshops or are reaching out to other organizations to collaborate on events. While it is unclear if this is a distinct separate account from the one EARS uses, the coordinators were reminded of the prohibition on compensation and were instructed to ensure that for the future, there was a clear distinction on where the funds to pay them were coming from.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle, EARS had originally officially requested to remain the same with their allocation of \$1.60 per student per year, however, since their expenses are expected to continue to remain at about 46.66% lower than their new projected annual allocation, this would mean that by the end of the 2025-2026 AY, EARS would have an ending rollover balance that is approximately equal to 270.95% of their projected annual allocation. The reasons for these low projected expenses include the fact that EARS has seen a

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recent dip in activity on campus of students using their services and that there is a lack of awareness among students about the program. As a result, EARS is beginning to focus more on the marketing aspect of their organization to get the word out about the program and they are attempting to expand the scope of what they offer, namely with the larger scale workshops to train many people at the same time.

In recognition of the recent struggles of the organization, when the Appropriations Committee realized that financial resources were not a constraint, lower allocation amounts were explored for the EARS organization. According to the Student Assembly Charter, the lowest amount a byline organization can receive while still having byline status is \$0.50 per student per year, however, if EARS was granted this, their 2025-2026 end-of-year rollover balance would only decrease by 13.72% from where it was at the beginning of the 2024-2025 AY.

After more discussion with EARS, an effective allocation of \$0.00 (\$0.50 on paper) for the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle was explored. Under this model, similar to how Alternative Breaks was allocated \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the Student Assembly would find a way to take back the total dollar amount of a \$0.50 allocation from the EARS organization in the 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 AYs, and the Student Assembly 2024-2026 requested SAF allocation would subsequently decrease by \$0.50. This would allow EARS to maintain its byline status, meaning they would not have to recollect 1,500 undergraduate signatures to reapply in the 2026-2028 SAF allocation cycle, and would still leave the organization with a 2025-2026 end-of-year balance of approximately \$15,600. This would allow the EARS organization to effectively spend down their rollover balance over the upcoming years and allow them to focus more on the internal operations of their organization.

After walking through this alternative option and what it would mean for the EARS organization, the representatives approved this approach of granting an effective allocation to EARS of \$0.00 (\$0.50 on paper) for the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle. The representatives wanted to underscore the fact that this allocation decision now will have no burden on their 2026-2028 SAF allocation cycle recommended amount and that if they worked to decrease their rollover in the upcoming years, they would likely make a requested 2026-2028 SAF allocation of around where they are now (\$1.60 per student per year), or even greater depending on the needs of the organization.

The Appropriations Committee wants to highlight how understanding EARS was to this new adjustment and their willingness to pursue a reduction for the sake of lowering the total 2024-2026 SAF recommended allocation. As an organization, EARS does fantastic, impactful, and fulfilling work on campus, and they have been fantastic to work with throughout this process.

Considering all the factors of EARS, and the impactful work they do for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$0.50 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. In the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years, EARS will only spend down their current reserve account balance and not spend this \$0.50 annual allocation. This \$0.50 annual allocation will be transferred in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years to one of the Student Assembly accounts so that it can be utilized by that organization.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$1.60	0-14-0
\$1.50	0-14-0
\$1.40	0-14-0
\$1.30	0-14-0
\$1.20	0-14-0
\$1.10	0-14-0
\$1.00	0-14-0
\$0.90	0-14-0
\$0.80	0-14-0
\$0.70	0-14-0
\$0.60	0-14-0
\$0.50	14-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Emergency Medical Services at Cornell University
2022-2024 Allocation	\$4.70
2024-2026 Request	\$5.15
Appropriations Recommendation	\$5.15

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Cornell University Emergency Medical Services (CUEMS) at \$5.15 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) provides professional, efficient, and effective first-response basic life support care to the entire Cornell community. Serving Cornell students, graduate students, faculty, staff, visitors, and their children and families, CUEMS responds to all 911 calls for medical assistance and evaluation twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week during the academic year on a volunteer basis. CUEMS also provides extensive, weekly training to all squad members consisting of basic emergency medical technicians (EMT-B). Moreover, CUEMS offers training to the entire Cornell community in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillation (AED), calling 911, alcohol emergencies, basic first aid, and the control of life-threatening bleeds. Working together with emergency services from all of Cornell and Tompkins County, CUEMS provides a valuable resource available to the Cornell campus and much of the surrounding Tompkins County community.

CUEMS makes an invaluable contribution to the Cornell community through its provision of free emergency medical care and education. This commitment has far-reaching benefits, both in terms of financial savings and community well-being. In terms of cost savings, CUEMS plays a crucial role in mitigating the financial burden on individuals who may require medical attention but choose not to be transported to a hospital, known as Refusal of Medical Attention (RMA). Paid ambulance services in Tompkins County typically bill \$300.00 for RMAs. During the 2022-2023 school year, CUEMS responded to 373 medical calls resulting in RMAs, thus saving members of the Cornell community a substantial sum of \$111,900.00. CUEMS's dedication to providing Basic Life Support (BLS) event standby coverage further underscores its significance. Many university events necessitate EMS coverage, and securing a BLS standby event crew from an external agency can cost upwards of \$80 per hour. During the 2022-2023 school year, CUEMS covered 67 university events, collectively dedicating over 1,561 hours to event coverage. This substantial contribution translates into savings of at least \$124,900 for the Cornell Community, thus making events safer and more accessible.

Operationally, the current composition of the CUEMS executive board is 8 members who are distributed across the 2024, 2025, and 2026 class years. The CUEMS g-body is comprised of 36 members, and CUEMS has a fantastic faculty advisor, Dan Maas. In this current structure, the E-board is responsible for completing the behind-the-scenes operations, outreach, staffing, and overall functioning of the organizations. When it comes to staffing CUEMS patrols, each member of the organization is required to fulfill 80 hours of shift work per semester. They also take on additional responsibilities, including weekly office cleaning, comprehensive truck equipment checks, and quarterly mock call scenarios to observe Crew Chiefs in Training and receive valuable feedback.

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In terms of the structure of CUEMS, prior to last year, CUEMS was housed under the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), however, with the creation of the Department of Public Safety at Cornell, CUEMS is now housed under the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). With this switch, CUEMS needed to transition its four accounts (CUEMS Capital Reserve, CUEMS Vehicle Reserve, CUEMS Operating, and CUEMS Gifts) to four new accounts under the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Notably, with the cash flow of these accounts, when CUEMS is granted its annual SAF allocation, CUEMS initially allocates \$15,000 to its Vehicle Reserve account, then CUEMS incurs expenses with its annual operations, and the remaining money left over is transferred to its Capital Reserve account. In this model, CUEMS technically carries no beginning or ending balance of their Operations account.

Regarding the financial component, during the 2021-2022 academic year beginning balances, CUEMS had \$36,308.63 in its Capital Equipment account, \$35,092.32 in its Vehicle Reserve account, and \$9,094.36 in its Gift account. During the 2021-2022 AY, the SAF allocation was \$63,979.94. During the 2021-2022 AY ending balances, CUEMS had \$19,949.43 in its Capital Equipment account, \$50,092.32 in its Vehicle Reserve account, and \$15,528.99 in its Gift account. During the 2022-2023 academic year beginning balances were the same as the ending year balances of the 2021-2022 AY. During the 2022-2023 AY, the SAF allocation was \$70,128.43. During the 2022-2023 AY ending balances, CUEMS had \$15,572.34 in its Capital Equipment account, \$21,388.98 in its Vehicle Reserve account, and \$19,562.83 in its Gift account.

One of the key financial components of CUEMS is that, to provide the 24/7 services, they offer to the community, they need the vehicles to do so. For about a decade, CUEMS has been operating with three vehicles in service at a given time, with 2 primary response vehicles and 1 utility vehicle. Vehicles are purchased on a 4-year timeline and retired from primary response vehicle status every eight years. Despite this timeline, because of a previous stipulation in the SA Charter (that has now been removed), CUEMS could only save \$15,000 per year to their vehicle reserve account. Given the recent macroeconomic events of unprecedented inflation, supply chain disruptions, and chip shortages, CUEMS missed its 4-year purchase goal of a new vehicle, which should have been bought and outfitted at the end of Spring 2023. To fund this transaction, CUEMS could not afford the vehicle purchase and outfitting until the FY24 \$15,000 truck allocation was received. This new vehicle was purchased and outfitted over the 2023 summer.

CUEMS Truck Timeline (2015 - 2026)	Current								Projected			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Primary Response Vehicle #1	2441 (yrs 1-4 of 12)				2442 (yrs 1-5 of 12)				New Truck (yrs 1-3 of 12+)			
Primary Response Vehicle #2	2443 (yrs 5-8 of 12)				2441 (yrs 5-9 of 12)				2442 (yrs 6-8 of 12+)			
Utility Vehicle	2009 Chevy (yrs 9-12 of 12)				2443 (yrs 9-13 of 12)				2441 (yrs 10-12 of 12+)			

With the timeline of a vehicle purchase in mind, in the 23-24 AY, CUEMS expects the ending balance of the accounts to be \$10,000 in its Capital Equipment account, \$15,000 in its Vehicle Reserve account, and \$19,562.83 in its Gift account. In the end, an increase in the SAF

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allocation to \$5.15, will result in a new annual allocation of approximately \$76,795.10 for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY.

Considering all the factors of CUEMS, and the fact that the SAF increase is primarily a result of them getting back on their regular 4-year vehicle purchase schedule, and increased cost of operating materials (Ex. Uniforms, supplies, equipment) due to inflation, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$5.15 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$5.15	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Minds Matter at Cornell
2022-2024 Allocation	\$1.63
2024-2026 Request	\$1.63
Appropriations Recommendation	\$0.50*

* Due to the \$0.50 funding of Minds Matter at Cornell (CMM) for them to maintain their byline status, and stipulation with the Student Assembly to transfer those funds to the Student Assembly for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, the effective request of the Student Assembly is \$4.50 per student per year. With the stipulation of the \$0.50 transfer from Minds Matter at Cornell (CMM) the Student Assembly effectively will receive \$4.25 per student per year for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AYs.

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Minds Matter at Cornell (CMM) at \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Cornell Minds Matter (CMM) promotes mental health awareness and emotional well-being for all Cornell students. CMM works to reduce the stigma of mental illness by holding educational events and creating safe spaces to foster a healthy, balanced lifestyle. CMM acts as a liaison between students, faculty, staff, and administration to advocate for the student perspective on mental health resources and campus policies. Through the projects of our Teams and G-Body members, CMM continues to provide accessible resources that serve the needs of our diverse living-learning community. Whether your interests stem from personal experiences, academic goals, a desire for social action, or curiosity, CMM welcomes you to join them on their mission. We all have mental health- spend your time at Cornell prioritizing yours!

The organization hosts events to help students destress and allow them to discuss stigmatized topics.

On the scheduled hearing for 11/12/2023 at 1:30-2:30PM in Upson Hall (Room 146), CMM did not show up for their own hearing, so the Appropriations Committee based the SAF allocation decision based on the prior financial documents submitted.

In reviewing the specific additional requirements submitted to the Appropriations Committee, during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 AYs, CMM spent on average \$16,952.37 annually. When further analyzing the department budget statement submitted to the Appropriations Committee, the charge for “Gifts of Cash” of \$655 in the 2022-2023 AY was concerning, but we are unsure what that actually funded.

During the pandemic time period, CMM struggled to host their events due to restrictions at that time. In the 2021-2022 AY, CMM had a beginning-of-the-year rollover balance that was approximately equal to 104.46% of their annual allocation from that year. The organization continued to struggle to spend its allocation during that year and its expenses were significantly lower than its annual allocation, so the organization entered the 2022-2023 AY with a rollover beginning balance approximately equal to 233.60% of its annual allocation from that year. Just like the prior year, the organization struggled to spend its allocation throughout the 2022-2023 AY, leaving it with a beginning-of-the-year rollover balance that was approximately equal to 265.72% of its 2023-2024 AY allocation.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle, the organization projects to nearly double their historic annual expense for this year and the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AYs. CMM had originally officially requested to remain the same with their allocation of \$1.63 per student per year, however, since the beginning of the year 2023-2024 rollover balance will only decrease

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by 21.75% by the end of the 2025-2026 AY, it was decided that CMM would not receive an allocation of \$1.63 per student per year for the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle.

After more discussion with the Appropriations Committee, an effective allocation of \$0.00 (\$0.50 on paper) for the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle was explored. Under this model, similar to how Alternative Breaks was allocated \$0.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the Student Assembly would find a way to take back the total dollar amount of a \$0.50 allocation from the CMM organization in the 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 AYs, and the Student Assembly 2024-2026 requested SAF allocation would subsequently decrease by \$0.50. This would allow CMM to maintain its byline status, meaning they would not have to recollect 1,500 undergraduate signatures to reapply in the 2026-2028 SAF allocation cycle, and would still leave the organization with a 2025-2026 end-of-year balance of approximately around \$1,500. This would allow the CMM organization to effectively spend down their rollover balance over the upcoming years and allow them to focus more on the internal operations of their organization.

Considering all the factors of CMM, and the impactful work they do for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$0.50 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. In the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years, CMM will only spend down their current reserve account balance and not spend this \$0.50 annual allocation. This \$0.50 annual allocation will be transferred in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years to one of the Student Assembly accounts so that it can be utilized by that organization.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$1.63	0-13-0
\$1.50	0-13-0
\$1.40	0-13-0
\$1.30	0-13-0
\$1.20	0-13-0
\$1.10	0-13-0
\$1.00	0-13-0
\$0.90	0-13-0
\$0.80	0-13-0
\$0.70	0-13-0
\$0.60	0-13-0
\$0.50	13-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Tatkon Center for New Students
2022-2024 Allocation	\$11.00
2024-2026 Request	\$14.20
Appropriations Recommendation	\$13.86*

* In conjunction with Resolution 37: Adjusting the 2024-2026 Student Activity Fee Allocations for the Cornell University Program Board and the Tatkon Center for New Students, the initial Appropriations Committee recommendation of \$12.25 had \$1.61 added to it, and \$1.61 reduced from the \$17.00 recommendation of CUPB

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Tatkon Center for New Students (Orientation) at \$12.25 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Tatkon Center for New Students is committed to the care, connection, and confidence of new students. Through intentional collaboration with university and college partners, they strive to support students as they create community, develop a sense of belonging, and transition to life at Cornell. They empower new students to explore their diverse identities and encourage them to take ownership of their college journey. Their passionate professional and student staff serve as an intellectual bridge for students navigating their academic and co-curricular success. They provide robust programs designed to inspire students and guide them through a transformational college experience.

Our most significant impact is that Orientation has a unique opportunity to interact with (ideally) every single new student who matriculates to Cornell. Through our Orientation program, we begin communicating with new students in June and continue through the summer. This communication and connection continue through New Student Orientation week through required and optional programming, interactions with the Orientation Team, and connection to university and campus resources. From there, we believe Orientation is ongoing and continues through our First Year Experience programs and support offerings in our office. It is our hope and mission to provide students with the support they need to thrive at Cornell, not just survive.

Operationally, Orientation is primarily run by the staff within the Tatkon Center for New Students and has a student-led component that is comprised of 12 student employees of the Tatkon Center for New Students. These students are paid from a separate account that is not the account the SAF funds go into. These student employees lay the groundwork for Orientation and do most of the high-level planning for that year's Orientation in the late Fall and early Spring semesters. Moreover, for each orientation cycle, the Tatkon Center for New Students solicits applications and selects Orientation Leaders (OLs), who lead smaller groups of students through discussions throughout the week.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, planning for the next Fall semester Orientation begins in the late Fall of the AY before. Although this year, there will be no Spring semester Orientation because there are no new transfer students, this Orientation usually takes place at the beginning of the Spring semester and is on a smaller scale than Fall Orientations. Throughout the Spring semester and Summer, the Tatkon Center for New Students does most of the logistical planning to execute Fall semester Orientation.

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In terms of the finances of Orientation, one notable element that recently occurred was the transition of funding from the former Orientation Steering Committee, an all-student-led organization, to the Tatkon Center for New Students, which is technically a Cornell Department. This switch occurred because, during the pandemic period, many of the students involved in the OSC graduated, so the formation of a new executive board and general body to execute orientation was too difficult to accomplish. During the pandemic restrictions period, going into the 2021-2022 AY, the OSC amassed a large rollover balance, approximately equal to 62.09% of their annual allocation from that time, because many of the Orientation events were virtual in the 2020-2021 AY. Going into the 2022-2023 AY, Orientation had a rollover balance that was 45.39% of their annual allocation for that year, but with the formal switch from the OSC to the Tatkon Center for New Students, had a rollover balance going into the 2023-2024 AY approximately equal to 57.08% of their annual allocation.

In the 2023-2024 AY, with the Tatkon Center for New Students organizing nearly all the planning aspects of Orientation, the overall experience during the week was enhanced, but increased expenditures came with it. The organization projects to spend about 130.16% of its annual allocation throughout this AY, leaving it with a projected 2024-2025 AY rollover balance of 26.93% of its 2023-2024 annual SAF allocation.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the increase in giveaways, interactive events during the week, and larger programming led the Tatkon Center for New Students to project annual expenditures of \$220,000 for the next AYs. Comparatively to expenses in the 2022-2023 AY, this is nearly a 50% increase in costs of the organization. When digging into these cost increases further, large drivers are due to renting more inflatables, more giveaway items, and a significant increase in the number of staff/ student meals being purchased. When asked about these food cost increases, it should be noted that the organization cited the fact that they needed to incentivize OLs to register by providing meals, as well as that some students who do not live on campus may not have access to food during the week until their dining plans begin.

Notably, one of the projected costs for the following AY is a \$30,000 contribution to CUPB for their collaboration speaker event, which is set to occur during the Fall 2024 Orientation week. Since CUPB has already met with the Appropriations Committee, and their allocation recommendation has been voted on, the VP of Finance was able to compare their cost breakdown and compare it for the 2024-2025 AY. During this process, the Tatkon Center for New Students noted that they had decided upon the \$30,000 amount because they wanted to contribute half of the cost of the CUPB collaboration event, making the total cost of the expected event to be \$60,000. After researching more about this event within the CUPB financial workbook, this Orientation week event had a projected cost of \$50,000 that the Appropriations Committee incorporated into its CUPB recommended allocation decision. This meant that, if the Appropriations Committee decided to incorporate the \$30,000 amount into the Tatkon Center for New Students recommended allocation, the sum of money would be “double-counted”, meaning that the actual sum of money requested by the Tatkon Center for New Students would now be \$190,000. Under the assumption that the average student enrollment paying the fee in the next two AYs will be 15,500 undergraduates, a SAF allocation of \$12.25 per student per year would amount to \$189,875 for the Tatkon Center for New Students.

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Considering all the factors of the Tatkon Center for New Students, and how important Orientation is for the Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the Tatkon Center for New Students allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the “double counting” of funds for this planned CUPB collaboration event, this increase in SAF funding is less than what Orientation has requested but is proportional to the aggregate amount of money they are now projected to spend.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$14.20	0-13-0
\$14.00	0-13-0
\$13.75	0-13-0
\$13.50	0-13-0
\$13.25	0-13-0
\$13.00	0-13-0
\$12.75	0-13-0
\$12.50	3-10-0
\$12.25	7-6-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

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Organization	Outdoor Odyssey
2022-2024 Allocation	\$2.00
2024-2026 Request	\$4.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$2.90*

* The initial Appropriations Committee recommendation of \$2.00 was overturned in favor of an allocation of \$2.90

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Outdoor Odyssey (OO) at \$2.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Outdoor Odyssey is a completely student-run organization designed to help incoming Cornell freshmen and transfer students adjust to a new college experience. The program offers a variety of outdoor preorientation programs, led by specially trained upperclassmen guides, each August. Odyssey strives to maintain inclusivity and welcomes participants from all levels of outdoor experience. Pre-orientation trips for incoming freshmen and transfer students help ease the transition to Cornell while also offering opportunities for personal growth on an outdoor adventure. Guides are trained on technical outdoor skills in addition to leadership skills, and guides form a strong, inclusive community.

Regarding the timeline of OO, in the fall semester, OO focuses on recruiting new guides and team-building exercises within the organization. In the spring semester, OO focuses on training the new guides, through having returning guides lead trainings for the new guide class. In this semester, the technical skills training the guides need to complete are knots, tarps, route planning, food planning, bear bagging, water filtration, and lighting drills. Additionally, a third-party certified training service, Wilderness Medicine, is brought in to teach Wilderness First Aid and Wilderness First Responder to guides. OO partners with EARS and ConsentEd to teach other “soft skills” necessary for guiding an Odyssey trip. In April and May, OO completes training backpacking trips led by returning guides in preparation for the summer pre-orientation trips.

Operationally, the current composition of the OO executive board is 16 members who are distributed across the 2024, 2025, and 2026 class years. The OO g-body is comprised of 47 members, and OO has 2 additional student coordinators to help with the overall annual operations.

Before diving into the finances, it is important to frame the Outdoor Odyssey organization as a business, run by students, which the Student Assembly helps to subsidize. Additionally, due to the timeline of fiscal years, academic years, and when the organization spends most of the money, the trips technically begin after the start of a new FY, but before the AY begins. (Ex. The Summer 2023 trips occurred in FY24, encompassing the 2023-2024 AY, and is primarily funded by the revenue gained in the 2022-2023 AY)

Regarding the revenues of OO, they can be broken down into four categories: Ticket Revenue Fees, Gifts, Endowments, and SAF Contributions. In the 2022-2023 AY (Summer 2022 trip), OO obtained \$68,095 in ticket fees, \$11,180 in gifts, \$3,391.32 in endowment, and \$29,841.88 from the SAF allocation. In terms of expenses, OO incurred \$24,125 due to the official training and certifications guides needed to obtain. Notably, since a bulk of their revenue is comprised of ticket fees, and they do not actually know the final number of students attending the trips, there are many trip-related expenses that end up becoming sunk costs for the organization, such as buses, permits, van rentals, and some equipment, which they agree to in the

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winter prior to a summer trip. Once the number of students attending is determined, OO has some control over equipment and food variable expenses, but not enough to make OO break even if they miss their student ticket revenue target. In the end, the total expenses of OO in the 2022-2023 AY amounted to \$106,609.03, leaving them with \$5,899.17 in their reserve account.

In terms of the OO 2024-2026 SAF request, the organization wants an increase in their allocation from \$2.00 to \$4.00. As explained during the Appropriations Committee hearing, this increase is to account for the loss incurred during the 2023-2024 AY (Summer 2023) due to a drop in students attending from 225 in Summer 2022 to 150 in Summer 2023. In addition to this aspect, OO stated that they will no longer be receiving the annual gift donation of around \$10,000 from an alumnus.

When reviewing the previous expenses of OO, one extremely concerning element of the **organization is that it currently pays its two student coordinators an annual salary, amounting to around \$15,000 annually as part of their expenses.** Pursuant to lines 671 and 672 of the Student Assembly Charter, it clearly stipulates that this use of SAF funding is specifically prohibited.

***“Prohibition on Compensation:** No Advisor, President, Treasurer, staff member, other officer, or member of an organization may be compensated from an organization’s SAF account or SAF earned income account.”*

As it currently stands, since OO did not have multiple accounts to pull money from, all revenue sources, including the SAF allocation, are pooled in one account, and expenses are taken out of that account. In this model, once the money is put in the account, we do not know what money source the student coordinator salaries are being pulled out from, meaning that the default assumption is that SAF funds are being used to pay students. Since OO is a “*completely student-run organization*” this creates an inherent conflict of interest when it comes to paying yourselves with SAF funds. Through Appropriations Committee discussions, the decision to require students to pay back these funds will not be pursued at this current, but this does not mean it cannot happen in the future.

Since this issue has been brought to OO's attention, they have created a separate account where ticket revenue and either gifts or endowment money will be transferred. This account will be used to pay the student coordinators and associated training sessions required for OO guides. OO will also operate a primary account where SAF funds will be transferred and operational expenses will be drawn out.

Another concerning element of OO is that, when looking at the official FY23 breakdown, the organization started with no money in their beginning and ending account balances, meaning that money is being moved to a separate account between each FY. As a side note, no student organization technically can go into a negative account balance because the department they are tied to will fill in the gaps to allow them to break even. In comparison to the financial breakdown provided by OO, which projects a balance of – \$25,000 (loss), OO **stated that part of the reasoning for an increase is to pay back previous money the Cornell Outdoor Education (COE) department** has given them to ensure they do not end the year with a negative balance. OO stated that they were instructed to do this by the department. In discussion with the Appropriations Committee, SAF funds will not be used to pay previous debts of the OO organization, and COE can explore another route to recoup the money they have generously

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gifted to OO in the past. Respectively, Cornell University, and its affiliated departments, can keep its hand out of “*a completely student-run organization*”.

After multiple emails between the leadership of OO and the VP of Finance, a meeting between the OO leadership, Student Assembly President, and Student Assembly VP of Finance was held. At this meeting, there was a discussion about all the elements listed above about the organization and the role of the Student Assembly. It was determined that, regardless of all other prior issues that were resolved, OO would need to focus on driving growth in the total aggregate number of trippers via marketing initiatives and getting the name of the organization out there during the AY. Due to the cash flow of OO, many of the large costs that go into a trip are sunk in the fiscal year before that summer trip, meaning that there is little control over decreasing costs if the trip person quota is not met.

Nearing the end of this discussion, it was determined that as part of their appeal, OO would need to focus on putting on more programming during the AY to meet the criteria for byline status that their events need to be open to all undergraduate students if. The offer that was made by the Student Assembly representatives was that if OO could brainstorm events to hold during the AY, host at least 3 events per semester from the list of brainstormed events, their allocation would be increased from the \$2.00 Appropriations Committee recommendation to an amount of \$2.90 per student per year. OO was given 10 days to come up with this list and begin planning the events they would want to host this semester. The following email correspondence highlights their brainstormed events:

Date: Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 1:44 PM
From: Outdoor Odyssey <coe.odyssey@gmail.com>
To: grd43@cornell.edu

Hi Rocco,

We had a brainstorming session for ways Odyssey could cater more to current Cornell students after our conversation last week, and here is what we came up with:

- Backcountry cooking day hike
 - and other day hikes
- **Service day (estimated 30 students)**
 - **Saturday, November 11, pending confirmation from Treman State Park**
- **Movie Night (estimated 100 students)**
 - Indigenous homelands discussion
 - **North of the Sun**
 - **Friday, November 17th, 7pm**
 - **Physical Science Building 120 or Gates Hall G01, pending 25live confirmation**
- Tofu khan cooking contest
- WFA/WFR Clinic with Red Cross Club, as we did last year
- Self care collab with Cornell PT (focus on back and core care) Stoves and S'mores on the Arts Quad
- Safe interactions with wildlife talk - [Paul Curtis](#)
- Slacklining / frisbee / field games on campus

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- Disabilities in the Outdoors Talk (with outing club/disability orgs on campus) Odyssey Climb at Lindseth Climbing Center
- XC skiing outing, gear provided by COE outfitting

The items in bold are the ones we are planning to make happen before the end of the semester, and we are planning to advertise via the Campus Activities email. All events will be posted on our campus groups page as well. We were wondering if you have any suggestions or other ideas as well as if there's anything else you would like to see from us in addition to this?

Best,

Bella Threlkeld (she/her/hers) and Bridget Neely (she/her/hers)
2023 Outdoor Odyssey Coordinators

Considering all the factors of OO, including the decreased demand to attend trips, prior misuse of SAF funds through paying student coordinators, and the COE department seeking repayment of previous donations to OO the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$2.00 is fair for the organization to operate, as well as reassess their current operations and byline status. The Appropriations Committee recommends that OO focus on the marketing of the program to new students and analyze the elasticity of price increases for the trips as an incremental source of revenue.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$4.00	0-8-2
\$3.50	0-9-1
\$3.00	0-9-1
\$2.50	0-9-1
\$2.00	9-0-1

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Student Assembly
2022-2024 Allocation	\$1.50
2024-2026 Request	\$4.50*
Appropriations Recommendation	\$2.75**

* Due to the \$0.50 funding of Alternative Breaks, Minds Matter at Cornell and Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS) for them to maintain their byline status, and agreement with the Student Assembly to transfer those funds to the Student Assembly for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, the effective request of the Student Assembly is \$4.50 per student per year.

** With the stipulation of the \$0.50 transfer from Alternative Breaks, Minds Matter at Cornell, and Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (EARS) the Appropriations Committee has decided to allocate an effective allocation of \$4.25 to the Student Assembly for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AYs. This means that the effective recommendation of the Appropriations Committee is \$2.75.

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Student Assembly at \$3.75 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Student Assembly is charged with examining matters of interest to the undergraduate student community and making proposals to the appropriate officers or decision-making bodies of the University. The SA represents the undergraduate student population with an elected body of thirty members and deals with quality-of-life issues relating to undergraduate students, making sure that student issues are heard and addressed. The assembly has legislative authority over the policies of the Office of the Dean of Students and the Department of Campus Life and establishes the undergraduate Student Activity Fee and guidelines for its distribution. Meetings are open to the public. Attend in person or join via Zoom.

The most significant impact of the Student Assembly is the platform it gives to participate in the system of shared governance at Cornell. By giving students a voice in the decisions made that affect them, we can create a better overall Cornell community.

Operationally, the Student Assembly has an executive board of 6 members and a total membership of 35+ individual representatives. Additionally, the Student Assembly has 9 committees: Academic Policy Committee, Appropriations Committee, City and Local Affairs Committee, Communications Committee, Dining Services Committee, Diversity Committee, Elections Committee, Environmental Committee, and Executive Cabinet.

In terms of the finances of the Student Assembly, during the pandemic time period, the organization received a \$4.00 allocation for the 2020-2022 AY, but did not receive an allocation in Fall 2020, received a \$2.00 allocation in Spring 2021, and received the full \$4.00 allocation in the 2021-2022 AY. Based on the initiatives of the organization, the decision was made to pursue a \$4.00 allocation for the 2022-2024 AY, however, this was decreased to a \$1.50 SAF allocation for the 2022-2024 AY.

The organization has three main accounts they utilize to fund annual operations. The first of these accounts is the Reserve Account, which holds all the rollover funds that accumulate over time. The next account is the Investment/ Disbursement account, which is used to receive and distribute funds to initiatives. The last account is the Admin account, which receives the SAF annual allocation and is used as the expense account for all the annual operations of the assembly. Any money that is put into the Admin account and not used in a given fiscal year is then transferred to the Reserve account for future years to use.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 AY, the Reserve account had a balance of \$127,267.87, the Admin account had a balance of \$22,647.32, and the Investment/ Disbursement

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account had a balance of \$19,541.47. Notably, the Investment/ Disbursement account is the account used to annually fund the \$25,000 contribution to the Summer Experience Grant (SEG), so in order to do that this year, \$5,458.53 will need to be transferred from the Reserve account. Additionally, the Student Assembly projects to spend \$36,750 on operational expenses this year, so \$14,102.68 will need to be transferred from the Reserve account to fund this year's operations.

Given that the projected 2023-2024 AY end-of-year balance of the Reserve account is projected to be \$107,706.66, and there are no more funds in the Investment/ Disbursement account, the Student Assembly is seeking an increase in their annual allocation from \$1.50 to \$4.50. Note that the Student Assembly has already worked out a deal with Alternative Breaks to take their \$0.50 allocation for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, so the effective amount of money requested by the Student Assembly is \$4.00.

As stated by the Student Assembly representative in the Appropriations Committee hearing, the Student Assembly is a very important organization on this campus. It is the only organization that focuses on the collective well-being of students and the oversight organization of all SAF organizations. To accomplish this mission the Assembly needs the operational capability to perform significant amounts of outreach. Over the years since COVID-19 there has been a significant loss of institutional knowledge due to online learning and a transition of staff in the office of assemblies. This is the first year that there has been an increase in engagement with the Assembly with nearly 50% of Freshman students voting in the most recent election. This year the assembly has seen multiple tabling events that have highlighted the assembly's willingness to engage with the Student Body.

The Student Assembly representative stated in the hearing that the SAF allocation increase is justified because of the goals the Student Assembly must perform significantly more constituency outreach events in the 2023 academic year, increase elections engagement, and to have a seamless transition to a new administration to continue the institutional building that has been outlined in the 2023 academic year.

Considering all the factors of the Student Assembly, and how important sports are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in its SAF allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the broadness of the plans outlined for future Assemblies, this increase in SAF funding is less than what The Student Assembly has requested.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$4.00	4-5-4
\$3.75	8-1-4

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Student Club Insurance
2022-2024 Allocation	\$5.50
2024-2026 Request	\$5.50
Appropriations Recommendation	\$5.50

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Club Insurance at \$5.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle. The Committee wants to thank Club Insurance and the Office of Risk Management and Insurance for their work in helping to provide security and insurance for every organization on campus.

In the 2022-2024 SAF Allocation cycle, the Appropriations Committee originally voted to fully defund Club Insurance, however, this was overturned later in the Fall 2021 semester when it was realized that without Club Insurance, no club organizations would be able to operate at Cornell.

Since insurance policies are purchased at a fixed rate for a given year, the Club Insurance allocation from the undergraduate SAF funds a significant majority of the coverage, and the remaining discrepancy is made up by other funding sources here at the University.

For the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle, the Office of Risk Management and Insurance neglected to turn in the application on time, and when granted an extension to complete it, still neglected to complete the application. As a result, the VP of Finance contacted a member of the Office of Risk Management and Insurance to figure out the amount of money needed to cover the insurance policy. Although the office member did not know the specific amount, to keep the byline hearing schedule on track, it was agreed upon that Club Insurance would request the same amount of money for the 2024-2026 SAF cycle that they requested for the 2022-2024 SAF cycle. Since this \$5.50 request was not officially approved by the office, it was also agreed upon that should the Club Insurance policy have *significantly* increased since the last academic year, the Office of Risk Management and Insurance would be allowed to appeal their allocation until November 16th, 2023 when the total SAF fee is presented to the Student Assembly.

Considering all the factors of Club Insurance, and the necessity for it, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$5.50 is necessary for the required insurance policy.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$5.50	6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Students Helping Students
2022-2024 Allocation	\$5.00
2024-2026 Request	\$4.60
Appropriations Recommendation	\$4.60

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Students Helping Students (SHS) at \$4.60 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Students Helping Students supports the SHS fund which is managed by the Financial Aid Review Committee (FARC), which also manages the Summer Experience Grant (SEG), which is partially funded by the Student Assembly's byline allocation. The committee recognizes the important work that FARC does by distributing SHS funds which help students by funding emergency expenses including travel expenses relating to extenuating circumstances (such as the sudden death of a relative), extra basic living expenses needed due to fire, destruction, or natural disaster, and emergency medical or dental expenses that are otherwise not covered by insurance.

Regarding the finances, it is important to clarify how the timeline of funding works with SHS. For revenues, SHS receives their SAF Allocation (\$75,655 in 22-23 AY), Student Assembly contribution to SEG (\$25,000 annually), endowment funds (\$27,254 in 22-23 AY), and rollover from the previous year (\$80,199.66 transferred from end of FY21 to beginning of FY22). The total revenues of SHS in the 22-23 AY were \$208,109.06.

For the expenses of SHS, the official *Students Helping Students Award* is available for students to apply to throughout the year. This grant provides up to \$1,000 in emergency funding for the reasons listed above. FARC votes on these requests, and if they vote in favor of granting the money, it is sent to the student in need. In the 22-23 AY, only 9 students applied for this grant, with only \$3,978.00 being disbursed. Since the Financial Aid Department has a goal of keeping between \$20,000 to \$30,000 in the rollover balance, in order to account for a mass emergency event, they subtract between \$20,000 to \$30,000 from the remaining money left in the account to calculate how much they can disburse through the SEG. In addition, the number of students applying for the SEG plays a factor in their decision which how much total money to disburse. The total amount of money a single student can get from the SEG is \$5,000. In the 22-23 AY, \$136,284.00 was calculated as the money that could be disbursed for SEG grants. This left the SHS account with an ending FY22 (22-23 AY) balance of \$54,955.03.

In the projected financial model for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, if we make the assumption that the (1) FY23 rollover to FY24 is \$49,329.59, (2) SEG allocation from the SA remains constant at \$25,000 per year, (3) the additional endowment SHS receives is an average of the last two years, (4) the projected expenses total to \$140,000 annually, and (5) projected enrollment increases to 15,400 and 15,600 in AY24-25 and AY25-26 respectively, we can calculate the breakeven 24-26 SAF allocation such that SHS ends the 25-26 AY with approximately \$20,000 in their ending balance. When completing the model, the 24-26 SAF allocation is \$4.60 per student per year.

Considering all the factors of SHS, and the necessity for it, the Appropriations Committee feels that an allocation of \$4.60 is necessary for the SHS byline.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$5.00	0-5-4
\$4.90	0-5-4
\$4.80	0-5-4
\$4.70	0-5-4
\$4.60	5-0-4

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Club Sports Council
2022-2024 Allocation	\$22.00
2024-2026 Request	\$30.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$29.00

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Club Sports Council at \$29.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle. Club Sports Council has done many things this past academic year so that all club sports have an uncomplicated year with their funding and budget. In order to keep every club running smoothly each finance commissioner holds weekly office hours for any club treasurer to attend to and receive guidance. In addition to this, all CSC members meet biweekly to review and approve budgets that had been submitted via Campus Groups. There, CSC would also discuss any pressing issues that some clubs were facing (i.e. renting space, needing extra funding, etc.) and brainstorm how to resolve them. This year CSC held three finance trainings to help previous and new treasurers navigate Campus Groups. This training served as CSC’s orientation to introduce ourselves along with our new finance commissioners. These new commissioners were onboarded during the summer and have already held office hours and outreach to their assigned club sports.

For context, before the 2022-2024 SAF Allocation Cycle, all club sports teams were housed and received funding from SAFC. In the 2020-2022 SAF Allocation cycle, SAFC was allocated \$137.91/ student/ year. Additionally, the maximum funding tier an organization, including Club Sports teams could receive from SAFC at the time was \$15,000 per year. Moreover, a majority of the Club Sports teams that have high costs associated with them, were at the \$15,000 maximum cap in this former model.

When the switch was made in the 2022-2024 SAF Allocation Cycle to make CSC its own byline, their allocation was \$22.00/ student/ year, and the allocation SAFC requested was reduced proportionately. However, as the 4-year SAFC reforms began to take shape, which aimed to limit the amount of “locked-up” funds in undergraduate organizations accounts, the Primary Funding Boards (SAFC, Interfaith Council, and Club Sports Council) became aligned by instituting a maximum tier cap for any undergraduate organization to \$6,000 per year. In all Primary Funding Boards, there was also a mechanism to unlock an additional \$4,000 in funding if the organization could verify that it was necessary, so for CSC, this was the *Tournament Fund*. Despite this effort to ensure Club Sports teams could have the necessary financial resources to operate and compete when this switch from SAFC to CSC occurred, most clubs received a 30% reduction in their overall budget.

Since CSC does not put on programming events, its primary role is allocating funds to Club Sports organizations, so the expenses of the clubs themselves are what drive the allocation tiers. Notably, with the diversity of Club Sports organizations under CSC, each cost structure is somewhat different based on the specific sport it is based around. However, for a majority of the clubs, these costs can be broken down into space rentals, travel expenses, equipment/ jerseys, and tournament/ league entry fees. With the highest caliber club teams all maxed out at the \$6,000 tier, the only feasible way to finance these expenses is through fundraisers or out-of-pocket costs that the players bear. While these out-of-pocket costs per player range significantly, in a study of 53 teams conducted by CSC, the average cost per player was \$285.81 and the

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median cost per player was \$150. This data played a large role in the Committee's decision to grant a 36.36% increase to CSC.

Despite all the justifications for allocating the request of \$30/student/ year to hit CSC's stated goal to increase the maximum tier cap to \$8,000 per year, thereby decreasing player's out-of-pocket costs, the Appropriations Committee offers caution against relying solely on this method. Holding all other club sports organizations constant, with an increase from \$6,000 to \$8,000 only, CSC will allocate an additional \$50,000 of funding per year. During this process, as specific criteria for moving up funding tiers change, it is likely the case there will be more organizations (currently below the \$6,000 tier) that will be moving up, meaning that more of the 2024-2026 increase will be needed to cover that. In the end, this will not affect the tournament fee, travel, and space rental cost drivers. As inflation and profit-seeking firms continue to drive up the cost of everything, throwing more money at the issue will only be a short-term solution. For long-term success, the Appropriations Committee recommends that CSC work with the Cornell Athletics and Cornell Recreation departments to lower the cost of space rentals on and around campus. Additionally, the Committee recommends that more money be allocated to the unlockable tournament funds and that a strict set of criteria be followed for allocating such additional funding. Lastly, due to previous frivolous spending of club sports teams, if they end up receiving more money, the Appropriations Committee advocates for CSC to implement a stronger auditing system, making the budget such that it can only be used for necessities.

Considering all the factors of Club Sports Council, and how important sports are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in Club Sports Council is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the plan to address the current funding issues and the different effects they may have on the spending patterns of club sports organizations, this increase in SAF funding is less than what Club Sports Council has requested.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$30.00	4-4-0
\$29.00	6-2-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Interfaith Council at Cornell
2022-2024 Allocation	\$7.00
2024-2026 Request	\$7.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$6.50

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Interfaith Council at Cornell (ICC) at \$6.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

ICC supports around 21 student organizations and is the liaison between spiritual/religious organizations, Campus Activities, The Office of Spirituality and Meaning Making, and the university. ICC seeks to promote interfaith dialogue and support spiritual life on campus, encouraging shared understanding and celebrating our differences.

ICC was created in 2015, and during the Fall 2019 semester, the Appropriations Committee voted to approve the organization for byline funding starting in the Fall of 2020. Before this time, all religious/ faith-based organizations were funded under SAFC, but as a part of the 4-year SAFC reforms, ICC was put in charge of this funding due to their knowledge of the topic. When this change occurred, ICC funded 8 umbrella organizations underneath them.

Operationally, ICC is comprised of a 5-person executive board that is dispersed across class years. Additionally, ICC has a g-body of 7-8 people and intends to recruit more people soon. ICC meets one time per week as an executive board to discuss the funding requests they have received and the strategic mission of the organization. Moreover, ICC frequently hosts townhall style events where a representative from each of their umbrella organizations can attend to discuss new topics.

ICC is considered a Primary Funding Board, which means umbrella organizations that receive money from ICC cannot also be funded by SAFC or Club Sports Council (CSC). Up until now, ICC has used the same funding tier structure as SAFC (\$250-500, \$1000, \$1500, \$2000, \$4000, \$8000). During the past few years, organizations have not been able to adjust their funding tiers. Additionally, ICC has a feature called *Flex Funds*, which are funds an umbrella organization can apply to in addition to their annual tier. Unlike other Primary Funding Boards, there is no maximum to how much *Flex Fund* an umbrella organization could receive. Up until now, out of all the money ICC allocated to umbrella organizations, approximately two-thirds of that money was dedicated to the annual tiers and one-third has been allocated to the *Flex Fund*.

Since ICC started to get SAF funding and the tiers have been locked, with some organizations growing/ shrinking, the discrepancy between an umbrella organization's annual funding tier and *Flex Fund* allocation has grown. Notably, there is one ICC umbrella organization that receives *Flex Funds* amounting to 19x what their annual tier allocation is. To address this problem, starting this academic year, ICC has started allowing organizations to change their annual funding tier. Moreover, ICC is changing the ratio of annual tier allocations to *Flex Funds*, which is now split 90% to 10% respectively. According to ICC, this move was decided because it was targeted to stop “locked-up” funds within their umbrella organizations. Lastly, ICC intends to also use their current rollover (76% of their current annual allocation) to fund the *Flex Fund* requests they get from umbrella organizations.

In discussion with other members of the Appropriations Committee, ICC possesses a few concerning factors that were noted during the hearing.

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The first of these factors pertains to **the recent change in the ratio split between the annual allocation tiers and *Flex Fund* money**. Just like other Primary Funding Boards, ICC has faced the issue of annual tier money being “locked-up” within umbrella organizations. Although the decision to move from a 66/33 split to a 90/10 split was intended to target this issue, it is much more likely to do the opposite, further exacerbating this issue and contributing to unnecessary umbrella organization spending. Additionally, because ICC does not have a cap on the amount of money an umbrella organization can receive from its *Flex Fund* account and intends to use its current large rollover to replenish this account, this will simply contribute to the issue of unnecessary spending.

Even though ICC now has 5 additional umbrella organizations underneath them (making the new total 26 organizations), another notable factor is that even **accounting for these additional organizations, under ICC’s new structure, they have overestimated future annual expenses**, which were then used to justify the requested amount. With the conservative assumption that these new organizations will be at the \$4,000 tier, with the new recommended SAF allocation (\$6.50), by the end of the 2025-2026 academic year, ICC will still have a rollover account balance that is 29.68% of their new annual SAF allocation.

The last notable factor is that **some of ICC’s actions over previous academic years have not been aligned with its mission statement as an organization**. As a Primary Funding Board, ICC has a responsibility to allocate all the money it receives to the umbrella organizations underneath it. However, during the previous academic year, 5.76% of the money ICC expensed was used to fund a bus trip to a rally in Washington DC. Additionally, without an umbrella organization auditing procedures in place, and off-the-record stories about some organizations using SAF money to purchase alcohol, ICC is currently not in alignment with University Funding Guidelines. With the stated goal, “*ICC seeks to promote interfaith dialogue and support spiritual life on campus*”, ICC is encouraged to adhere to its mission in upcoming years.

Considering all the factors of ICC, and how important religious/ faith-based organizations are for undergraduate students, the Appropriations Committee feels that a small decrease in ICC’s allocation is necessary for the successful, long-term growth of the organization. The Appropriations Committee also recommends ICC re-evaluate its new annual tier/*Flex Fund* ratio, as well as use its substantial rollover to fund any new umbrella organization tier adjustments. Furthermore, the Committee recommends ICC minimize the operational expenses of the organization and only fund events on the actual campus. Finally, the Committee recommends that ICC adopt a robust auditing system to decrease future misuse of SAF funds.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$7.00	0-10-0
\$6.90	0-10-0
\$6.80	0-10-0
\$6.70	0-10-0
\$6.60	0-10-0
\$6.50	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Student Activities Funding Commission
2022-2024 Allocation	\$113.28
2024-2026 Request	\$132.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$148.53*

* According to the Student Assembly Charter, SAFC will receive at least 35% of the total SAF and the SAF must be an even dollar amount. Since the original Appropriations Committee recommendation was \$132.00, this amount will be increased to \$148.53 to meet the requirement.

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Student Activities Funding Commission at \$132.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

SAFC allocates funds to nearly 900 potential undergraduate student organizations. Their mission is to support undergraduate organizations in their ability to foster community and belonging at Cornell through funding opportunities.

SAFC enables undergraduate students to maximize their potential through extracurricular opportunities by providing funding for public events, organization’s operational expenses, and much more. This financial support for organizations allows every student to find their niche on campus and make the most of their undergraduate opportunities. Additionally, SAFC strives to efficiently and continue to streamline funding processes (this means to continue collaborating with CSC, ICC, and GPSAFC).

Beginning about 4-years ago, SAFC embarked on a multi-year reform that would institute new policies to prevent the incentive of organizations to spend their allocation to receive tier increases in the following years. This reform would introduce a new set of requirements, focusing on internal operations and community engagement, for organizations to hit to move up tier caps. Additionally, during these reforms, the creation of a new byline organization occurred, the Club Sports Council, which would be responsible for funding club sports teams because of their enhanced knowledge in that area.

Other changes that occurred with these reforms were that, during the COVID AYs and when the reforms were being finalized, undergraduate organizations tier caps were “frozen” so they could not increase or decrease their annual allocations. Next, SAFC introduced the Public Events Fund (PEF) where organizations could receive up to \$5,000 per semester to host an event that any student at Cornell could attend. Additionally, SAFC worked with Campus Activities on an overhaul of their funding guidelines (previously 7 pages) to create a new set of universal funding guidelines that were shortened to 2 pages long. Finally, SAFC updated the payment request system to become more streamlined. Under the previous model, organizations' budgets would be controlled by SAFC, and the organization would need to submit a payment request at a specified time for each charge they wanted to rack up, however under the updated model, organizations would be granted their budgets at the start of the AY and would now submit payment requests on a rolling basis to be approved.

Operationally, SAFC has an executive board of 6 members, with 5 juniors and 1 sophomore. Additionally, they have the equivalent of a g-body with 40 SAFC consultants, who are each assigned 15 organizations to oversee and help assist them in maximizing their funding. Every week, SAFC has an e-board meeting, and the SAFC consultants work on their own time

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via email/ Zoom to help assist their assigned clubs. The SAFC co-presidents host office hours frequently where the SAFC consultants can go to ask pertinent questions they may have to help address their assigned organizations' issues. Lastly, SAFC reviews PEF applications 4 times a semester where they decide if they want to allocate the funding for that organization's event.

In terms of the funding tier system, SAFC has the following annual tiers for undergraduate organizations to obtain: \$500, \$1000, \$2,000, \$4,000, \$6,000, and \$8,000.

Regarding the finances of SAFC, during the pandemic restrictions period, which overlapped with the SAFC reforms, going into the 2021-2022 AY, SAFC amassed a significant rollover account balance of 61.11% of their annual allocation from that time. Throughout the 2021-2022 AY, SAFC made significant progress at whittling down the rollover balance, such that at the beginning of the 2022-2023 AY, SAFC had a rollover balance of 33.01% of that year's annual SAFC allocation. Despite this, throughout the 2022-2023 AY, with all the changes resulting from the 4-year reforms, SAFC's annual expenses significantly lagged behind their annual allocation, resulting in an ending year balance that was 80.59% of the 2022-2023 AY allocation.

In the case of SAFC, the elephant in the room is this massive rollover balance going into the 2023-2024 AY, which when accounting for the formal separation of Club Sports Council, was technically 116.97% of their 2023-2024 AY allocation. During the hearing, SAFC highlighted the aspects that caused this situation and the steps they will be taking to address it in the coming AYs. Originally, the start of the rollover issue primarily began during the pandemic period because of the restricted spending criteria organizations needed to follow at that time. Furthermore, groups needed to re-organize themselves internally as the return from COVID occurred, so many organizations focused on recruitment of membership in the 2022-2023 AY. Additionally, the process of obtaining funds was tedious, there was a short window for obtaining funds (requiring organizations to plan well ahead of time), the funding guidelines were not user-friendly, allocation tiers were frozen for a long time, and some groups didn't even know they qualified for SAFC funding.

To address these issues, SAFC removed the previous \$300 spending limit on recruitment which allowed new organizations to develop faster, they updated the payment request system to ensure organizations had an easier time spending their budgets, SAFC removed the previous budget cycles, they created an environment where clubs would not need to plan their expenses far out in advance, SAFC introduced the PEF as a rolling application, SAFC shortened the organization spending guidelines, SAFC is unfreezing funding tiers beginning in AY25, and SAFC shifted the "commissioner" model into the "consultant" model to form better partnerships with funded organizations.

Notably, during the 2023 summer, in a review of the ending balances of the byline organizations, the VP for Finance noted the extremely large rollover balance within the SAFC account before going into the 2023-2024 AY. When discussing the rollover with SAFC and wanting to spread out financial resources to the organization that needed it the most, the Slope Day Programming Board, the Student Assembly, and SAFC agreed to transfer \$400,000 of SAFC rollover to the SDPB for this AY. In this agreement, SAFC also agreed to allow the Student Assembly to access up to an additional \$600,000 throughout this AY for capital projects or initiatives.

Although a significant amount of the original SAFC rollover still exists and they will likely be getting a SAF increase for the 2024-2026 AY, the organization is heavily reliant on the

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remaining rollover funds to carry them through the upcoming AYs. In a projection model put together by SAFC, it is demonstrated that, once the tiers become unfrozen, many organizations' annual tiers will increase.

Financial Projections

	AY24	AY25	AY26
Total Allocation	\$ 1,966,781	\$ 2,383,009	\$ 2,619,659
Per Student	\$ 128.17	\$ 155.30	\$ 170.72
Allocation From SAF	\$ 113.28	\$ 132.00	\$ 132.00
Covered by SAF Allocation	\$ 1,738,281.60	\$ 2,025,540.00	\$ 2,025,540.00
Covered by Rollover	\$ 228,498.93	\$ 357,468.59	\$ 594,119.45
Total Rollover Used	\$ 1,180,086.97		

Assumptions used in making projections:

- Half of each allocation tier (except \$8,000) moves up a tier in AY25
- Half the remaining groups who did not move up in AY25 will move up in AY26
- Public Events Fund allocation will increase by 30% from AY23 and 10% from AY25 and AY26
- Does not account for new clubs registering
 - Accounted for 719 organizations
 - 68 new organizations in the approval process as of 10/27
- "Per Student" used 15,345 as the number of undergraduates

Considering all the factors of the Student Activities Funding Commission and how important undergraduate organizations are for the Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the SAFC allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, despite the currently large rollover balance, the organization has recently finished its 4-year reform plan and will see a subsequent large increase in funding throughout the coming AYs.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$132.00*	13-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Student Programming Council
2022-2024 Allocation	\$0.00
2024-2026 Request	\$3.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$3.00

In the process of amending the Student Assembly Charter with Resolution 36 of the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the framework of the new Student Programming Council was laid out. The Programming Council is a new byline organization that met the requirement of 1500+ undergraduate signatures to apply for byline status. With the change, the following list of current byline organizations would be merged under the Student Programming Council: Cornell Concert Commission (CCC), Cornell University Class Councils (CC) & Senior Days, Cornell University Program Board (CUPB), Senior Convocation Committee (Convocation), Slope Day Programming Board (SDPB), and Student Union Board (SUB). In addition, the Multicultural Community-Fueled Activities Board (MCFAB), would be pulled out from under ALANA and into the new Programming Council as well.

The mission statement of the Student Programming Council (SPC) is that it shall elevate the student experience through programming and events. The Council provides a space for Cornell's large-scale event planning organizations to connect, share resources, advocate for programmatic needs at Cornell, request funds from a streamlined funding model, create a cohesive events calendar, and serve as a resource for the Cornell community.

The tangible strategic benefits of the SPC are that it will help to increase communication with the Cornell community about events by resharing the marketing graphics created by the organizations within it, as well as allowing for packaged promotional material to be distributed to Cornell students all at one time. Since SPC organizations frequently collaborate on large-scale events, the creation of SPC will enhance the collaborative aspects even more between SPC organizations. Moreover, by housing all these organizations under one roof, a master calendar can be created to ensure that the different programming events do not overlap with other ones. Finally, if an organization is down bad for financial resources, the creation of the SPC will allow for funds to be reallocated amongst the different organizations within the SPC.

Regarding the structure of the SPC, it is comprised of one president and at least one representative from each of the seven organizations under the SPC. Additionally, the SPC is advised by a fantastic advisor of Campus Activities, Kyle Schillace, who will help the organization develop in the coming years.

Operationally, SPC did not function officially in the 2022-2023 academic year. Rather, the SPC held multiple brainstorming/idea-generating meetings throughout the academic year to lay the foundation for the organization, where we focused on getting to know each other as separate organizations, how we can work together, and structure for the SPC itself and how it will run in the 2023-2024 academic year. Representatives from most of the organizations attended the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) conference in the spring with Campus Activities staff and presented their learnings to their peers as an educational way to give back.

Financially, SPC is currently at \$0 as its own entity. SPC is requesting for the first time to operate as our own umbrella organization for programming efforts and collaboration

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opportunities with organizations within and outside of the SPC. Specifically, SPC is requesting a SAF allocation of \$3 per student per year for the 2024-2026 SAF cycle. With this money, approximately 22.22% will be allocated to the professional development of SPC members, 44.44% will be allocated to SPC-specific programming events, and 33.33% will be allocated to a reserve fund to which individual SPC organizations can request access.

Considering all the factors of the SPC, and how important programming events and cross-collaboration are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that a SAF allocation of \$3.00 for the 2024-2026 Academic Years is necessary for the organization to thrive.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$3.00	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Convocation Committee
2022-2024 Allocation	\$18.00
2024-2026 Request	\$22.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$18.00

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Senior Convocation Committee (Convocation) at \$18.00 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Senior Convocation Committee serves to create the final student-led experience for the graduating class each year. The Committee, comprised entirely of seniors, works all academic year to search for student talent and a guest speaker, plan the Convocation event held on the last day of Senior Days, and support other senior-related events throughout the year. The Committee seeks input from the senior class when possible.

The most significant impact of Convocation is planning and executing a memorable final student-led experience for the senior class. Returning from the pandemic, the committee has worked each year to introduce new elements to the event that truly celebrate the Cornell experience. Outside of this event, the Convocation Committee supports Senior Days through collaborative events and giveaways, as well as other senior-specific events like 100 Days to Graduation.

Operationally, Convocation effectively has an executive board of 3 members, one being the overall chair, and the other two individually chairing the speaker selection and events planning committees. Additionally, each of the two sub-committees has 7 additional members, all of whom are seniors. The speaker selection subcommittee does a majority of the work in the Fall semester to compile a list of potential speakers who can headline the event and the events subcommittee does a majority of the work in the Spring semester to coordinate the planning logistics of the event. The speaker selection committee meets weekly in the Fall and bi-weekly in the Spring, and the events subcommittee is the reverse of this format.

Regarding the overall calendar of events, Convocation plans a majority of the ceremony throughout the AY and hosts some other events meant to engage the senior class as we get closer to the end of the Spring semester.

In terms of the finances of Convocation, during the pandemic restrictions period, the organization amassed a large rollover balance account because they could not hold the flagship event in Spring 2020. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 AY, Convocation had a beginning balance approximately equal to 159.62% of their annual allocation before the annual allocation was granted. Convocation was able to hold the event in Spring 2022, however, going into the 2022-2023 AY, Convocation had a rollover balance that was 138.89% of their annual allocation for that year. Furthermore, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 AY, Convocation had a beginning balance before their annual allocation of approximately 107.78% of their annual allocation. Convocation plans to have expenses in the 2023-2024 AY that are slightly less than in previous years, but will still carry a significant rollover balance, nearly equal to their current annual allocation, into the 2024-2025 AY.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the increase in speaker booking fees and the goal of increasing the quality of the speakers coming to campus are the primary drivers behind them seeking an increase from \$18.00 to \$22.00 per student per year. When the

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Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, it was determined that no matter the situation, any large-scale programming organization could justify any increase with the goal of bringing better talent to campus.

For all intents and purposes, Convocation is unlike other large-scale programming organizations in that they currently still hold a significant amount of money in their rollover account balance, and if an allocation of \$22.00 per student per year was granted, this would balloon their 2025-2026 AY ending balance by between \$50,000 – \$81,000 higher than the 2022-2023 AY ending balance.

Considering all the factors of the Senior Convocation Committee, and how important this event is for senior students at Cornell, the Appropriations Committee feels that remaining at the same allocation for the 2024-2026 AY is more than adequate for the organization to continue its operations. The Appropriations Committee would like to see Convocation spend down their rollover account over the next two academic years to ensure an efficient use of SAF funds.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$22.00	2-6-2
\$21.00	2-6-2
\$20.00	2-6-2
\$19.00	4-4-2
\$18.00	8-0-2

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Cornell Concert Commission
2022-2024 Allocation	\$13.50
2024-2026 Request	\$27.42
Appropriations Recommendation	\$22.00

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Cornell Concert Commission (CCC) at \$22.00 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Cornell Concert Commission is an organization of and for Cornell University students, whose purpose is to provide the Cornell community with popular and diverse, contemporary musical entertainment that is both financially sound and responsive to the community's needs and desires. It is the mission of CCC to select, promote, and produce all aspects of popular concerts at Cornell.

Hosting concerts for students has a significant impact on the university's campus life and community. It provides students with valuable opportunities for entertainment, relaxation, and socialization, contributing to a more vibrant and engaging campus environment. This is especially valuable for Cornell in particular, because of how secluded Ithaca is relative to the locations of peer institutions. Additionally, these events foster a sense of belonging and school spirit, enhancing overall student satisfaction and retention rates. Moreover, by featuring diverse musical genres and artists, our organization also promotes cultural diversity and a broader appreciation of the arts among the student body.

Operationally, CCC has an executive board of 6 members with two being juniors and four being seniors. Additionally, CCC has a g-body of approximately 50 members who help with stage building, booking artists, negotiating with agents, artist hospitality, venue management, concert photography, videography, graphic design, coordinating press releases, lighting, and sound tech. Furthermore, CCC has three meetings a week between their g-body, executive board, and advisor.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, CCC hosts six shows a year, with three being in the Fall semester and three being in the Spring semester. In the Fall, CCC hosts their Welcome Back show, Homecoming show, and CAPSU Collaboration show. In the Spring semester, CCC hosts their Welcome Back show, Big Red Icon show, and MCFAB Collaboration show.

In terms of the finances of CCC, a notable element is that in addition to undergraduate SAF funding, CCC also has gotten approximately 20% of its annual allocation from the graduate student SAF. During the pandemic restrictions period, the organization amassed a large rollover balance account because they could not hold their shows. Going into the 2022-2023 AY, CCC had a rollover balance that was 113.44% of their annual allocation for that year. However, with the artist booking fees rapidly increasing, and CCC hosting all six of their planned concerts, the organization spent double their annual undergraduate SAF allocation, leaving them with a dollar amount of about 39% of their annual undergraduate SAF allocation in their reserve account. In the current 2023-2024 AY, CCC plans to decrease its expenses across all six shows such that they do not end with a negative account balance by the end of the year.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the increase in artist booking fees and the goal of maintaining their planned operational capacity of six shows per year are the primary drivers behind them seeking such a large increase from \$13.50 to \$27.42 per student per year. When the Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, it was determined that no

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matter the situation, any large-scale programming organization could justify any increase with the goal of bringing better talent to campus.

A key part of the creation of the Programming Council is to allow for more cross-collaboration between organizations within it. Since CCC does do a partnership with MCFAB, another Programming Council organization, for their April show, and the fact that a long-term goal of the Programming Council is to build up MCFAB to a similar level as other organizations like CCC, the Appropriations Committee decided to decrease the allocation of CCC and subsequently increase the MCFAB allocation proportionally, on top of MCFAB's baseline request. In the end, this move is intended to give MCFAB more control over the planning portion of the April show, and it is expected that CCC will assist in this effort when possible to fulfill the cross-collaboration goal of the Programming Council.

Considering all the factors of the Cornell Concert Commission, and how important large-scale concerts are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the Cornell Concert Commission allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the goal of promoting cross-collaboration between the different organizations of the Programming Council, this increase in SAF funding is less than what CCC has requested but is proportional to the aggregate amount of money that would have been spent on the April show collaboration with MCFAB.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$27.42	0-10-0
\$27.00	0-10-0
\$26.00	0-10-0
\$25.00	1-9-0
\$24.00	0-10-0
\$23.00	1-9-0
\$22.00	8-2-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Class Councils & Senior Days
2022-2024 Allocation	\$7.40
2024-2026 Request	\$16.45
Appropriations Recommendation	\$16.00

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Class Councils & Senior Days (CC) at \$16.00 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Cornell University Class Councils aims to promote community, class pride, and leadership through free university-wide events and other programming. CC is the oldest student organization on campus, and our target audience is the entire student body. CC offers a combination of individual class programs and all-council interclass events. Senior Days is a subcommittee in CC that offers free events over multiple days for the entire senior class.

Class Councils' greatest contribution is the breadth of their mission. CC targets the entire student body focusing on building community, fostering class pride, and developing leadership. CC is one of the foremost organizations that prioritize class pride, planning various significant events such as the Homecoming parade or a Charter Day celebration. CC also focuses on community-building events such as the Carnelian Gala, Fall Fest, and Spring Fest, which allow every person on campus to find and share communities. Finally, CC engages in leadership training by providing opportunities for leadership positions on each internal E-Board. Senior Days is a subcommittee of CC that schedules, prepares, and executes a week's worth of events for the graduating class.

Operationally, CC has an executive board of 5 members, one for each of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, as well as two finance officers. Additionally, CC has a g-body of approximately 35 members who help with the logistical operations of the organization and assist in planning the various events. Furthermore, CC has one main g-body per week, a g-body meeting event week between each of their class years, and an executive board meeting once per week.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, throughout the year CC hosts between 10-20 events total between the different class years, and the Senior Days aspect focuses heavily on programming at the end of the Spring semester. Some of the events put on by this organization throughout the year include Fall Fest, Senior Days, Movie on the Arts Quad, Zinck's Senior Society, Spring Fest, Winter Fest, and the Carnelian Gala

In terms of the finances of CC, it is important to note that approximately 80% of the allocation goes to the Senior Days events and about 20% goes to the Class Councils events throughout the year. As a goal of the organization, Senior Days aims to break even with all of the events they plan and host at the end of the Spring semester. Additionally, these two organizations, Class Councils and Senior Days, used to be separate, but have since merged in recent years. During the pandemic time period, Class Councils amassed somewhat of a rollover balance but have since used that all up as of the start of the 2023-2024 AY.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, one notable aspect that affects this organization is the recent inflation in the cost of goods and services that has been experienced. At many of the events planned by the Class Councils part of the organization, they frequently have small giveaway items, and given the recent macroeconomic events, they are facing

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increased financial pressure to keep the same pace as before if an increase is not given. Furthermore, with the cost of services recently increasing as well, Senior Days has begun to struggle with the attendee capacity of different events offered due to the higher costs. These reasons are the primary drivers behind CC seeking an increase from \$7.40 to \$16.45 per student per year. When the Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, given the financial factors out of the organization's control at play, the Appropriations Committee felt that this request was more than reasonable to ensure that CC continues the tradition of engaging members of different class years at Cornell.

Considering all the factors of Class Councils & Senior Days, and how important these events are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the CC allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the collaborative aspect of the Programming Council, the Appropriations Committee did not fully match the requested amount because of the cost savings that will be seen in future AY's with greater collaboration across organizations.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$16.45	2-8-0
\$16.25	3-7-0
\$16.00	7-3-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Cornell University Program Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$13.56
2024-2026 Request	\$17.74
Appropriations Recommendation	\$17.00

* In conjunction with Resolution 37: Adjusting the 2024-2026 Student Activity Fee Allocations for the Cornell University Program Board and the Tatkon Center for New Students, the initial Appropriations Committee recommendation of \$17.00 had \$1.61 taken away from it, and \$1.61 added to the \$12.25 recommendation of the Tatkon Center for New Students

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Cornell University Program Board (CUPB) at \$17.00 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The mission of CUPB is to inspire and enrich the experience of Cornellians by bringing events that involve, excite, and entertain the Cornell and Ithaca communities. The most significant contribution of CUPB to the Cornell community is putting on events that bring together hundreds and sometimes thousands of people together. Life at Cornell can get pretty stressful and it's easy for students to feel isolated – CUPB aims to get people engaged and among their fellow students and community members. One of our most successful events in recent years was the BJ Novak show, which brought together over 1,000 Cornell community members. The energy and fun generated by that show kept people smiling and talking about it for days afterward. There is no other club on this campus that has the same mission or capability to bring such exciting and unique speakers to this campus consistently.

Operationally, CUPB has an executive board of 6 members with four being juniors and two being sophomores. Additionally, CUPB has a g-body of approximately 15 members who help with the logistical operations of the organization and assist in planning the various events. Furthermore, CUPB has three meetings a week between their g-body, executive board, and advisor.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, CUPB hosts three to four shows a semester, with a split between comedians and speakers coming to campus. Notably, CUPB stated in the hearing that they are planning some events in the 2023-2024 AY geared around this year's theme, “The Indispensable Condition: Freedom of Expression at Cornell.”

In terms of the finances of CCC, during the pandemic restrictions period, the organization amassed somewhat of a rollover balance because they could still host virtual speaker events. This rollover balance carried over to the 2022-2023 AY where it was essentially all used up in addition to their annual SAF allocation from that year, leaving them with a near-zero rollover balance entering the 2023-2024 AY.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the increase in speaker booking fees and the goal of matching the recommendations of speakers that are submitted via surveys to Cornell students are the primary drivers behind them seeking an increase from \$13.56 to \$17.74 per student per year. When the Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, it was determined that no matter the situation, any large-scale programming organization could justify any increase with the goal of bringing better talent to campus.

A key part of the creation of the Programming Council is to allow for more cross-collaboration between organizations within it. Since CUPB has had success with collaborations between different organizations in the past, the Appropriations Committee would like to see this continue in the future AY's.

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Considering all the factors of the Cornell University Program Board, and how important these comedians and speakers are for the undergraduate Cornell community, especially with the theme of this year, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the CUPB allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the goal of promoting cross-collaboration between the different organizations of the Programming Council, this increase in SAF funding is less than what CUPB has requested but is meant to encourage cross-collaboration and contributions from other organizations across campus for future events.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$17.74	0-10-0
\$17.50	0-10-0
\$17.25	0-10-0
\$17.00	6-4-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Multicultural Community-Fueled Activities Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$0.00*
2024-2026 Request	\$15.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$14.75

*Since MCFAB recently moved out from ALANA, they technically did not receive an allocation in previous cycles, however, the money contributed from ALANA would be proportional to \$4.00 per student per year.

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Multicultural Community-Fueled Activities Board (MCFAB) at \$14.75 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

MCFAB is the Multicultural Community Fueled Activities Board. MCFAB is a group funded by Campus activities that strives to bring performers of color to the Cornell campus. MCFAB is built and made for the community, by the community, in order to make minority students feel heard and listened to. MCFAB respects the interests of the Cornell student body and makes it its mission to bring diverse and exciting talents to campus.

The most significant impact of MCFAB on campus has been providing a space for students of color to enjoy live entertainment. Oftentimes, programming at Cornell is not made with minority students and their interests in mind. MCFAB centers the perspectives of interests of these students and has been able to build excitement around artists that are influential to the culture. MCFAB's events and G-Body meetings act as a safe space for students of color to meet one another and have a space in the programming community at Cornell where they feel listened to and loved.

Operationally, MCFAB has an executive board of 6 members with five being seniors and one being a sophomore. Although MCFAB does not have a g-body, they host monthly town halls where students can come in to discuss performers they would like to see in the future at Cornell. Furthermore, when it comes to operating events, MCFAB has a group of about 30 people who help with the logistical operations of these events. Furthermore, MCFAB has weekly executive board meetings where members can update each other on the different specific aspects of the organization.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, MCFAB hosts three events throughout the year, one of them being an entirely MCFAB-planned concert event, another being a small collaboration with another club, and the final being a collaboration with CCC for a show in April.

In terms of the finances of MCFAB, during the pandemic restrictions period, the organization amassed a rollover balance account approximately equal to 41% of the total amount of money they were receiving from ALANA. Going into the 2022-2023 AY, MCFAB had spent nearly exactly the amount of money they were receiving under ALANA, meaning the rollover balance from the 2021-2022 AY had been almost entirely carried over to the beginning of the 2023-2024 AY. In the current 2023-2024 AY, MCFAB plans to increase its expenses in such a way between their three events that they end the year with a rollover balance of near zero.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, with MCFAB now being housed under the Programming Council, the organization is looking to expand its operations as well as get better talent to come to campus. When the budget of projected expenses was submitted with

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their application, the total amount of money MCFAB requested amounted to \$7.10 per student per year based on a projected enrollment of 15,500 undergraduate students. Based on the decision of the Appropriations Committee to reallocate a portion of CCC's allocation to MCFAB for the collaboration of the April show, the new potential MCFAB SAF allocation was calculated to be \$12.52 per student per year. Lastly, since MCFAB is a newly formed byline organization, the Appropriations Committee decided to allocate an additional \$2.23 per student per year to the organization, making the final total \$14.75 per student per year. This result aligned with the new MCFAB request of having at least \$225,000 as their total annual allocation dollar amount.

Considering all the factors of MCFAB, and how important the events this organization plans are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the MCFAB allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the goal of promoting cross-collaboration between the different organizations of the Programming Council, MCFAB is expected to lead the effort with the April show planning and collaborate with CCC in this process.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$15.00	1-9-0
\$14.75	7-3-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Slope Day Programming Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$21.00
2024-2026 Request	\$50.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$50.00

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Slope Day Programming Board (SDPB) at \$50.00 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The SDPB exists to plan and program a Slope Day Music Festival centered on the Cornell community and its celebration of the past year, through working to break down social barriers, build a greater sense of tradition and community, and foster an environment where students, staff, and faculty can come together as one Cornell community. The Slope Day Programming Board works with the Cornell community to plan and promote a Slope Day 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.

Operationally, SDPB has an executive board of 7-8 members with 2-3 being seniors, three being juniors, and two being sophomores. Additionally, while SDPB does have a significant amount of people signed up as part of their g-body, the proportion of those who regularly attend meetings and are committed is very small. Furthermore, the executive board of the organization hosts many meetings where they address current issues and ways to resolve them, such as getting input on the event and reaching out to agencies to get artists' costs.

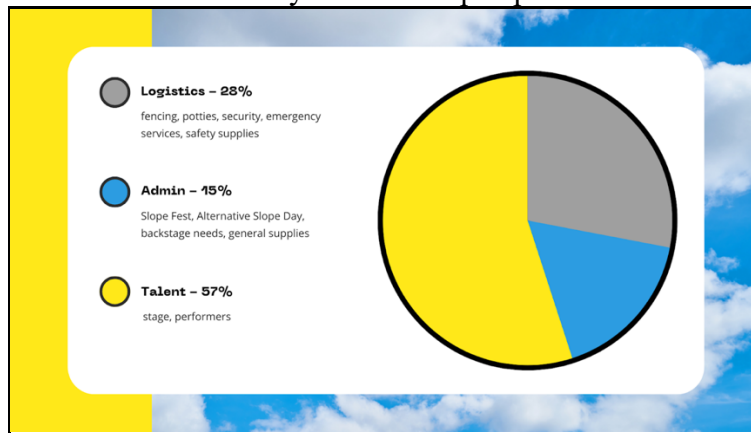
Regarding their overall calendar of events, SDPB does a majority of the planning, artist selection surveys, and logistical framework in the Fall semester, and hosts some events throughout the AY to engage the Cornell community by getting them excited for the main event. The Spring semester is dedicated to the logistical execution of the events, and the SDPB is appreciative of the significant portion of work done by Cornell staff to ensure a safe event.

In terms of the finances of SDPB, a notable element is that in addition to undergraduate SAF funding, SDPB has been able to sell tickets to other Cornell community members and external members of the Cornell community to recoup some additional revenues for the event. During the pandemic restrictions period in Spring 2020 and Spring 2021, the organization still hosted a virtual Slope Day event but still paid the artists a large sum of money to perform on Zoom. Moreover, the organization went into the 2021-2022 AY with a beginning rollover balance approximately equal to 70.37% of its overall allocation at that time. Going into the 2022-2023 AY, the organization had a beginning rollover account balance approximately equal to 29.99% of its annual allocation at that time. Due to unprecedented artist price inflation, and the large sunk cost of putting on the event, SDPB received multiple stimulus packages from other organizations at Cornell to ensure the 2023 Slope Day could occur. Despite this, the Appropriations Committee would like to commend the SDPB executive committee for their efforts to ensure Slope Day could occur in Spring 2023 given the tough financial position they were placed in.

Going into the 2023-2024 AY, SDPB would be faced with a similar issue as to what happened last year with a budget approximately equal to \$21.00 per student per year, except the financial situation would be even tighter because of increased artist prices. To assist in this, the Student Assembly voted to transfer \$400,000 into the SDPB account, making their new budget for the Spring 2024 Slope Day event a total of \$715,000.

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Recently, the Slope Day artist selection survey was released and included the following cost breakdown so the Cornell community could have perspective on the overall event costs.



Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, with the significant fixed cost of planning the event logistics, as well as the continued increase seen in artist booking fees are the primary drivers behind them seeking such a large increase from \$21.00 to \$50.00 per student per year. When the Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, it was determined that, unlike other large-scale programming organizations, SDPB is different in the sense that, when a larger artist is brought to campus, this affects both the increase in artist booking fees and an increase in the planning logistics for safety purposes. Furthermore, given the massive attendance of Slope Day, it is essential for the SDPB to have an inflated budget because of the benefit it provides for the most amount of people, and the risk that unexpected increases in artist prices pose on the organization at large.

Considering all the factors of the Slope Day Programming Board, and how important this annual tradition is for the Cornell community at large, the Appropriations Committee feels that this large increase in the SDPB allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to execute the best event of the year at Cornell. However, given the risk that this exposes to the SDPB in the Programming Council model, the Appropriations Committee would like to add a stipulation that no other organizations can take money from the SDPB account, but if SDPB needs the financial resources, they can be transferred into the SDPB account by other organizations.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$50.00	8-2-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$3.30
2024-2026 Request	\$6.60
Appropriations Recommendation	\$6.60

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the (Willard Straight Hall) Student Union Board (SUB) at \$6.60 within the Programming Council for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board aims to celebrate Willard Straight Hall’s historical responsibility and Cornell’s student culture by hosting events that build social relationships within the Cornell community, welcoming all students back to campus at the start of the Fall and Spring semesters through fun and unique activities, and supporting and recognizing the cultural and social diversity of the student community throughout the school year.

Ever since its foundation in 1925, the Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board has been fundamentally committed to its unofficial motto of “any person, any program”. Run by students and for students, the Student Union Board (henceforth also referred to as SUB) is responsible for organizing and executing events in Willard Straight Hall, with attendance to all SUB programs always being free of charge. One of the greatest impacts of the Student Union Board has been in ameliorating student morale and revitalizing the community of Willard Straight Hall through our monthly themed programs (such as the Harry Potter Night or the Halloween Haunted House) and especially with the long-awaited return of free popcorn served by SUB volunteers every week. Moreover, SUB has pursued its mission beyond the walls of Willard Straight Hall through its responsibility of organizing and hosting Clubfest, which serves as an essential opportunity for students to engage with and become involved in organizations at Cornell, as well as a premier event for building cross-campus connections and friendships within our community.

As an organization, SUB has also strived to be an open environment where any student can join and learn the skills necessary for planning and executing memorable events on campus. This is exemplified through SUB’s open-door policy that enables any student to become a member, our volunteer-based model for running all events, and the fact that the vast majority of SUB programs are planned not by the advisor or the executive committee, but by teams of students who gain the opportunity to bring to life fun and exciting events they want to see on campus. Overall, the Student Union Board fulfills a dual role as an organization which both enables any student to lead an event and any student to attend one.

Willard Straight’s original will set aside the money used to construct WSH "to make Cornell a more human place." Dorothy Whitney says that WSH is "a building devoted to the social and recreational use of students." SUB hopes to honor Willard and Dorothy Straight’s original vision of a Student Union building that could be welcoming to all students and full of joy.

Operationally, SUB has an executive board of 7 members with 1 being a senior, 3 being a junior, and one being a sophomore. Additionally, CUPB has a g-body of approximately 20 members who help with the logistical operations of the organization and assist in planning the

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various events. Furthermore, CUPB has about two meetings a week between their g-body and executive board.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, SUB frequently hosts many events per semester, and in the 2022-2023 AY, put on over 20 different events for the Cornell community to attend.

In terms of the finances of SUB, during the pandemic restrictions period, the organization amassed somewhat of a rollover balance because they could still host some events, but many had to be in a virtual setting. This rollover balance carried over to the 2022-2023 AY where about half of it was utilized throughout the year, giving them some wiggle room as we entered the 2023-2024 AY. In this current AY, SUB plans on hosting many different events, and expects that they will not have a rollover balance by the end of the year.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the increase in the number of events held by SUB, interest from the Cornell community in attending these events, and the planned WSH 100th anniversary in Fall 2025 are the primary drivers behind them seeking an increase from \$3.30 to \$6.60 per student per year. When the Appropriations Committee evaluated this request, given the recent success of SUB at their various events and committed executive board leadership, the Appropriations Committee felt that this request was more than reasonable to ensure that SUB continues the tradition of honoring WSH at Cornell.

Considering all the factors of the (Willard Straight Hall) Student Union Board, and how important these events are for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the SUB allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$6.60	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	ALANA Intercultural Board
2022-2024 Allocation	\$20.00
2024-2026 Request	\$16.00*
Appropriations Recommendation	\$14.00**

* In prior Academic Years to the 2023-2024 AY, the Multicultural Community-Fueled Activities Board (MCFAB) was under ALANA and received \$60,000 (effective allocation of \$4.00). In the 2023-2024 AY, MCFAB was moved under the Programming Council and received a recommended 2024-2026 SAF allocation of \$14.75. This means that ALANA originally requested to “remain the same” as the 2022-2024 SAF allocation cycle, ALANA in actuality requested \$16.00

** During the ALANA 2024-2026 SAF allocation hearing, ALANA formally reduced their requested allocation to \$14.00

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the ALANA Intercultural Board (ALANA) at \$14.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The ALANA Intercultural Board (ALANA) is a supplementary funding board organization that strives to be the locus for racial and ethnic diversity and interculturalism at Cornell University while being cognizant of the intersectional identities its organizations and membership represents through ability, gender, sexuality, first generation, and socioeconomic status. ALANA is committed to building bridges between diverse groups; developing understanding, appreciation, diversity, and coalitions of the members of the University community. Overall, ALANA is committed to developing relationships that foster awareness and communication among the Umbrella organizations through coalition building to address the intersectionality of identities within the multicultural community at Cornell.

Allocate funds to registered student organizations that provide programming that fosters awareness of and appreciation for the diverse student body at Cornell University and cosmopolitan world beyond the university.

Since ALANA is classified as a Supplementary Funding Organization, they have two primary functions: allocate funding to their 100+ affiliated organizations and five umbrella organizations: China Asia Pacific Students Union (CAPSU), Native American and Indigenous Students Association at Cornell (NAISAC), Black Students United (BSU), La Asociación Latina (LAL), and South Asian Council (SAC). In addition to this, as a supplementary funding board, ALANA develops its own programming initiatives where it hosts programming events for their community.

Operationally, ALANA has an executive board of 10 members with four being seniors, two being juniors, two being sophomores, and two being freshmen. The e-board meets weekly to deliberate on the various funding requests they receive. Moreover, the ALANA board frequently reaches out to their umbrella organizations and attends their meetings to provide insight on the various other funding opportunities offered. In terms of the supplementary funding aspect of the organization, at the current time, ALANA does about 90% funding and 10% programming. In future years, ALANA is seeking to get to a point where they have an 80% funding and 20% programming split.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, ALANA organizes programming through collaborations with other organizations they frequently fund throughout the year, such as Dining with Diverse Minds, Rally for Uyghurs, Mock Shaadi, and Asian Night. Notably, ALANA is working to bring back its Culture Fest flagship event in the Spring 2024 semester, as well as in the following AYs.

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In terms of the finances of ALANA, they can be broken down into four main categories: umbrella organization funding, affiliated organization funding, operational expenses, and Culture Fest expenses.

For the funding to umbrella organizations, in the 2022-2023 AY, ALANA funded CAPSU, BSU, LAL, and SAC at \$20,000 each as a baseline allocation, and \$12,000 NAISAC as a baseline allocation. In addition to this, ALANA funded \$60,000 to MCFAB in that year, however, now that MCFAB is under the Programming Council, this will no longer be an expense they will incur.

Regarding the funding provided for affiliated organizations, in the 2022-2023 AY, ALANA funded approximately 48% of their total expenses to these organizations. In terms of the process for applying for this supplementary funding, this funding is primarily for non-umbrella organizations, but umbrella organizations can still apply and receive funding. Normally, organizations applying for funding will email ALANA with their request and details for the expenses related to it. At the next weekly meeting, the ALANA executive board deliberates on the funding request and pays particular attention to the planned publicity for the events they plan on funding. Once a funding decision is reached, the advisor of ALANA has the final approval over the transfer, and if they have questions about more of the event/ funding details, the request will go back to the ALANA e-board for review. In terms of the dollar amount funded, ALANA has a soft cap of around \$500 per request for smaller events and \$2,000 per request for larger requests. However, the technical maximum cap of funding per request is \$5,000 and is traditionally not advertised to ensure that organizations are not unnecessarily overspending on events. While ALANA does not have a cap on the number of times an organization can receive funding per semester or year basis, however, the e-board is reasonable with the requests, and if they notice that an organization submits multiple requests in a semester or asks for a large sum of money, the request will likely be denied. Finally, ALANA has a policy where any requests for club merchandise are usually denied because they believe that the organization should provide the funds for those types of purchases.

The final two expense categories are ALANA's operational and Culture Fest expenses. In the 2022-2023 AY, 13.48% of ALANA's expenses were operational expenses and primarily were spent on collaborative elements for programming with other organizations on campus. In the 2022-2023 AY, ALANA did not host Culture Fest and thus did not incur those expenses.

Regarding the overall finances of ALANA, during the pandemic time period, with restrictions on the number of events that could be held, in the 2021-2022 AY, ALANA had a beginning year rollover balance that was approximately equal to 24.93% of their annual allocation from that year. This delayed climb back to normal operations continued throughout that AY, and even with an increase in ALANA's SAF allocation for the 2022-2023 AY, the organization had a 2022-2023 AY beginning of the year balance that was approximately equal to 35.41% of its allocation from that year. Throughout the 2022-2023 AY, the allocation was approximately 1.56x larger than the expenses, leaving ALANA with a 2023-2024 AY beginning-of-the-year rollover balance that was approximately 69.17% of their annual allocation from this year.

Over the previous AYs, the main bottleneck ALANA has faced in terms of allocating their annual SAF allocation to the organizations applying for funding is the lack of knowledge of some organizations to which ALANA can allocate money. ALANA has been working at addressing this over the previous years through initiatives like attending umbrella organizations'

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weekly meetings and meeting one-on-one with those organizations' treasurers, hosting finance training for organizations to attend, and holding an ALANA umbrella organization retreat in Spring 2022.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF allocation cycle, one of the main concerns of the Appropriations Committee is ALANA's current large rollover balance that is expected to decrease by only 31.52% by the end of the 2025-2026 AY if an allocation of \$16.00 per student per year is recommended. In discussion with the ALANA co-presidents, the Appropriations Committee created a cost and allocation model that would better align with the historic expenses of the organization.

In this model, for the 2023-2024 AY, we used the ALANA planned expenses for Culture Fest (\$36,000), and historic (2022-2023 AY) expenses for affiliated organizations allocations (15% increase from the previous year, around \$116,000), umbrella organizations allocations (\$92,000), and operational expenses (around \$26,000), resulting in a total projected 2023-2024 AY expenses of around \$270,000. For the projected expenses in the 2024-2025 AY, we assume the expenses for Culture Fest and umbrella organizations allocations remain the same as the 2023-2024 AY, and project that the affiliated organization's allocations increase by another 15% (around \$133,000), and operations expenses increase by 5% due to inflation (around \$27,000), resulting in 2024-2025 projected expenses of around \$288,000. For the projected expenses in the 2025-2026 AY, we assume the umbrella organization allocations remain the same as the 2024-2025 AY, and project that the affiliated organization's allocations increase by another 15% (around \$153,000), operations expenses increase by another 5% due to inflation (around \$28,500), and Culture Fest expense increase by 5% due to inflation (around \$37,800) resulting in 2025-2026 projected expenses of around \$311,500.

The ALANA co-presidents approved of these projections, and using a projected 2024-2026 AY SAF allocation of \$14.00, this would leave ALANA with a 2025-2026 AY projected end-of-year balance that is 38.18% of their new (\$14.00) total allocation for those years.

When asked if ALANA would like to formally change its requested 2024-2026 SAF allocation, the co-presidents of ALANA approved this change and appreciated the Appropriations Committee's help in determining the new SAF requested allocation.

Considering all the factors of ALANA, and how important this organization is to build a stronger Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that a \$14.00 ALANA SAF allocation for the 2024-2026 is necessary for the organization to thrive, while at the same time, using the large rollover balance they currently possess.

Vote Totals

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The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$14.00	14-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	CU Tonight Commission
2022-2024 Allocation	\$8.00
2024-2026 Request	\$20.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$12.00

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the CU Tonight Commission at \$12.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle. Especially with the pandemic event restrictions, the Committee appreciates the dedication and resilience of the CU Tonight Commission to fund late-night events for undergraduate students on weekends. By working together with other undergraduate student organizations on campus, CU Tonight can provide the necessary resources so these organizations can put on events specifically geared toward the nighttime.

Since CU Tonight is classified as a Supplementary Funding Organization, they have two primary functions: review/ approve the funding applications submitted by undergraduate organizations and develop their own programming initiatives where they themselves host late-night programming events. In recent years, due to pandemic event restrictions, this split in the functions has not been even because in the 2021-2022 academic year, CU Tonight primarily did funding, and in the 2022-2023 academic year, CU Tonight became more involved in the programmatic aspect. Currently, the breakdown of functions exists as 30% programming/ 70% funding, and it was stated in the hearing that their goal is to get to a 50/50 split.

Concerning the financial components, in the 2020-2021 academic year CU Tonight had a rollover balance that was greater than 50% of what their yearly allocation was at that time. As a result of this, CU Tonight experienced a decrease in their SAF allocation from \$9/ student to \$8/ student when the fee was recalculated in Fall 2021. During the 2021-2022 academic year, despite their best efforts to allocate as much money as possible to organizations, this rollover balance continued to grow.

Coming into the 2022-2023 academic year, in alignment with their stated goal to fund as much money as possible to as many organizations as possible, the CU Tonight executive board made the decision to increase the maximum amount of money an organization could receive for a single event to \$5,000. The thought process behind this decision was that due to their annual allocation and large surplus carried over from the pandemic, they could begin whittling down the rollover, while at the same time starting to engage in programming themselves.

In an unexpected series of events, as applications for funding began to roll in during the Fall 2022 semester, a large majority were granted (so long as they hit the CU Tonight funding criteria), however, by the end of the Fall semester, it was clear that keeping up with this pace of funding would not be sustainable to last the entire academic year. After allocating nearly all their annual SAF allocation in the Fall 2022 semester alone, plus considering the other programming events they were trying to put on themselves, the executive board made the tough decision to alter the funding structure for organizations in the Spring 2023 semester.

Under this new structure, organizations could now only initially apply for a maximum of \$2,500 per event, and an additional ununlockable \$1,000 per event if the organization showed need for it. This change decelerated the amount of money being funded to organizations applying for it, however, with the programming and operational costs being incurred by CU Tonight, they ran out of funds to allocate in the middle of the Spring 2023 semester.

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Currently, in the 2023-2024 academic year, CU Tonight possesses an extremely small rollover (the result of 5% of SAF being withheld until the end of the year) and the same SAF allocation they received last academic year. While CU Tonight has programming plans to spend this money, they also still want to fund as much money as possible to as many organizations as possible. As a result, CU Tonight requested \$20.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

In discussion with other members of the Appropriations Committee, CU Tonight possesses a few concerning factors that were noted during the hearing.

The first of these factors pertain to the **composition of the organization, which is 4 executive board members and only 4 to 5 general body members**. Although all members of CU Tonight vote on funding requests from undergraduate student organizations, with the uptick in applications received, as well as the programmatic side they are trying to build up, it is clear that the organization is stretched thin. In the hearing, CU Tonight did state that they are looking to recruit 4 more general body members this semester to fill in this gap, however, the lack of human capital to accomplish their goals persists.

Another notable factor is the fact that **out of the 4 person executive board, all are currently juniors**, meaning that without interest from the general body to become more involved, CU Tonight will experience a difficult time transitioning roles when the time comes. Additionally, when CU Tonight made the decision to fund applicants up to \$5,000 per event, this was made with the same executive board when they were sophomores. For an allocation request that is 150% greater than what they currently receive, without the transitional infrastructure, this lack of clear succession will likely present issues in the coming years.

The last notable factor is that, for an organization that is trying to fund the most money to the most organizations possible, **CU Tonight currently has no cap on the number of times an organization can apply or be funded in a given academic year**. When analyzing the 72 organizations that were funded last academic year, 15.28% of them were funded more than one time throughout the academic year, and these organizations spent 27% of all the money that was allocated last year. Accounting for the fact that a majority of these “double-dipping” undergraduate organizations also receive funding from other byline organizations, the Appropriations Committee recommended that for the future, CU Tonight implement a semester/academic year cap on the number of times an applying organization can be funded by CU Tonight.

Despite all the concerns, CU Tonight did show some bright spots as a Supplementary Funding Organization.

For many years now, when organizations, CU Tonight, fund one-off programming projects, if special materials are purchased specifically for the event and not used again, issues arise with who can keep these items after the event. In one example provided during the hearing, CU Tonight denied a request for funding when one organization wanted to purchase a Nintendo Switch for a one-time event. As a result of these issues, **CU Tonight recently implemented a policy that they will only fund items that can be rented for late-night programming events and are no longer funding items that could be kept by the applying organization or its members**. Additionally, CU Tonight recently implemented a **policy where they audit receipts provided by the organizations when they are approved for funding by CU Tonight**. Initiatives like these, which target stopping organizations/individual's attempts to embezzle SAF money are a great feature that the Appropriations Committee would like to see more of from other byline organizations.

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Considering all the factors of CU Tonight, and how important late-night programming is for the undergraduate Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in CU Tonight's allocation is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. However, given the current operational capacity of the organization, as well as the issues of undergraduate organizations applying multiple times for funding, this increase in SAF funding is less than what CU Tonight has requested.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$20.00	0-8-0
\$19.00	0-8-0
\$18.00	0-8-0
\$17.00	0-8-0
\$16.00	0-8-0
\$15.00	0-8-0
\$14.00	1-7-0
\$13.00	3-5-0
\$12.00	8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition
2022-2024 Allocation	\$3.45
2024-2026 Request	\$3.45
Appropriations Recommendation	\$3.45 \$3.35

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC) at \$3.45 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC) is a byline-funded student organization committed to justice and advocacy for all genders. GJAC operates out of an intersectional and global lens with a focus on gender-marginalized folks. GJAC aims to encourage meaningful and critical conversations related to the gendered lived experiences of all people. GJAC seeks to foster relationships with campus partners in order to support and amplify the work of Cornell social justice organizations through funding, awareness raising, and advocacy.

As an umbrella organization with heavy ties to the Gender Equity Resource Center (formerly known as the Women’s Resource Center) Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition helps create a strong sense of community among student organizations, Cornell resource centers, and departments focused around gender advocacy, equity, and inclusion. GJAC contributes to the Cornell community by building a strong support network for historically underrepresented and marginalized individuals, groups, and organizations. Additionally, GJAC is most proud of our free menstrual hygiene products initiative across the Cornell Campus. Our initiative supplies all Cornell restrooms with eco-friendly menstrual hygiene products in an inclusive and equitable manner. Menstrual hygiene products are a basic necessity for a large portion of Cornell Students and can be inaccessible due to the price. GJAC is proud of their free menstrual hygiene products initiative because it has had a large impact across Cornell’s community. Many students, faculty, and staff have approached GJAC at Club Fest or events thanking us for the initiative and showing support for more initiatives like this one.

Since GJAC is classified as a Supplementary Funding Organization, they have two primary functions: allocate funding to its sub-organizations and develop its own programming initiatives where it hosts programming events for their community.

Operationally, GJAC has an executive board of 7 members with one being a senior, two being juniors, two being sophomores, and two being freshmen. The e-board meets weekly to give their respective updates and work on tasks that the organization needs to complete.

Regarding its overall calendar of events, GJAC organizes its own programming with its Feminism Food for Thought meetings. These meetings occur a few times throughout the year and attendees discuss related topics while eating at a Cornell dining hall. In addition to this, in the 2022-2023 AY, GJAC funded an ASL interpreter for *Take Back the Night*, hosted a Valentine's event, and organized a Feminist Book Raffle Online and Event. Moreover, with their allocation, GJAC funds Trans Tape, Emergency Contraception/ Plan B, and Pregnancy Tests to give away for free.

In terms of GJAC’s primary expense categories, these can be broken down into their FFFT event, Allocations to sub-organizations, and Internal Expenditures.

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Regarding the allocations to sub-organizations expense category, there existed no maximum cap on the amount of funding an organization could receive in the previous AY's. In the 2022-2023 AY, GJAC funded 7 sub-organizations (Building Ourselves Through Sisterhood and Service, Collective X, Consent Ed, Les Femmes de Substance, Planned Parenthood Generation Action, Women Leaders of Color, Women's Resource Center/Gender Equity Resource Center) at an average amount of \$2,252.29 per organization. Moving forward, and in the current AY, GJAC stated that they are still planning to fund \$25,000 in co-sponsorships, as well as selecting 10 partnership organizations that will receive \$10,000 each.

Although GJAC has previously hosted their FFFT event upwards of 15 times during the AY in the past, in the 2022-2023 AY, GJAC hosted this event 9 times (FFFT) during that year, however, in a review of all their submitted financial data, only expenses for two of these events could be located. Based on their planned expenses for the 2024-2025 and 2025 AY, GJAC intends to host the FFFT event around 18 times per year moving forward.

The final primary category of expenses is GJAC's internal expenditures, which in the 2022-2023 AY, primarily funded the Trans Tape, Emergency Contraception/ Plan B, and Pregnancy Tests that GJAC gives away. In the 2022-2023 AY, this expense category used to fund Trans Tape, Emergency Contraception/ Plan B, and Pregnancy Tests.

During the pandemic restrictions period, GJAC amassed a large rollover balance, and going into the 2021-2022 AY, GJAC had a beginning balance that was approximately equal to 103.05% of their SAF allocation from that year. During this year, using funds from the Student Assembly Infrastructure Committee (transferred in September 2021), GJAC organized an effort to restart the free menstrual products giveaways. Throughout the 2021-2022 AY, GJAC struggled to spend their SAF allocation on other organizational activities, such that, when going into the 2022-2023 AY, the beginning balance of GJAC amounted to 167.35% of their SAF allocation from that AY.

The last major expense GJAC frequently incurs is for their menstrual product giveaway initiative. Notably, these products are purchased in bulk upfront for a given time period, which can last for more or less than a calendar year, and are restocked by a Cornell facilities department when the baskets in restrooms are empty. When the total number of products runs out after a bulk purchase, another bulk purchase occurs and is expensed in the fiscal year in which it occurs.

More will be further explained about the 2022-2023 AY transaction for this program in the addendum to this report, but due to accounting discrepancies across the past FYs, two scenarios could have occurred for the 2022-2023 AY transaction, both leading to large discrepancies in the budget.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, GJAC is seeking for their funding to remain the same as their SAF allocation of \$3.45 from the 2022-2024 AY. GJAC cited the reason for this request was due to the significant rollover balance they have continued to carry from year to year. In the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, GJAC has budgeted their total expenses to be 151.11% greater than their total requested SAF funding, assuming 15,345 students pay the fee and GJAC receives \$3.45 per student per year. Notably, in their budgeted model for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 AY, GJAC incorporated the menstrual products giveaway funding into each year of their annual expenses.

Since the expenses of the menstrual product giveaway compose such a significant proportion of the annual expenses of GJAC, the Appropriations Committee feels a closer analysis of this initiative is warranted.

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For context, this initiative began in the Spring of 2020, and once the University shut down in mid-March 2020, it was not revived until the 2021-2022 AY. Ever since the trial period from January 2020 until mid-March 2020, all data on the number of products to order and the number/ frequency of re-stocks has been based on the trial period, meaning that since GJAC has been using the data for nearly 4-years now, there is a significant likelihood it is outdated.

When GJAC was asked about the tracking being used to measure the efficacy of this initiative, while the organization had attempted using QR code signs above the baskets in the past, this was not effective, and no other tracking data could be presented.

For GJAC, this initiative is cited to be one of their most significant contributions to the Cornell community, however, as will be described in the addendum, clear financial information about the initiative is not known by many involved with operating the program. The Appropriations Committee applauds GJAC for their continued efforts to ensure this initiative continues and wants to see it become even more successful over time. To accomplish this, the Appropriations Committee recommends GJAC closely monitor the finances behind the program to ensure it is properly accounted for in previous/ future budgets. Since these charges are not tied to a calendar year timeline, the Appropriations Committee recommends that GJAC collect relevant data to the program such that it can be used to more accurately predict when another bulk purchase order will be necessary. In this context, this may include collecting updated data on the total addressable market and usage of the products, monitoring restocks to better align with when the most effective times are to restocks, looking for opportunities for cost-saving strategies, and collecting feedback from students using the products to make the initiative even better in the future.

Considering all the factors of the Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC), such as their large rollover balance, the Appropriations Committee feels that remaining at the same allocation level of \$3.45 is adequate for the organization to continue its standard operations.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$3.45	6-6-0
\$3.35	7-5-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

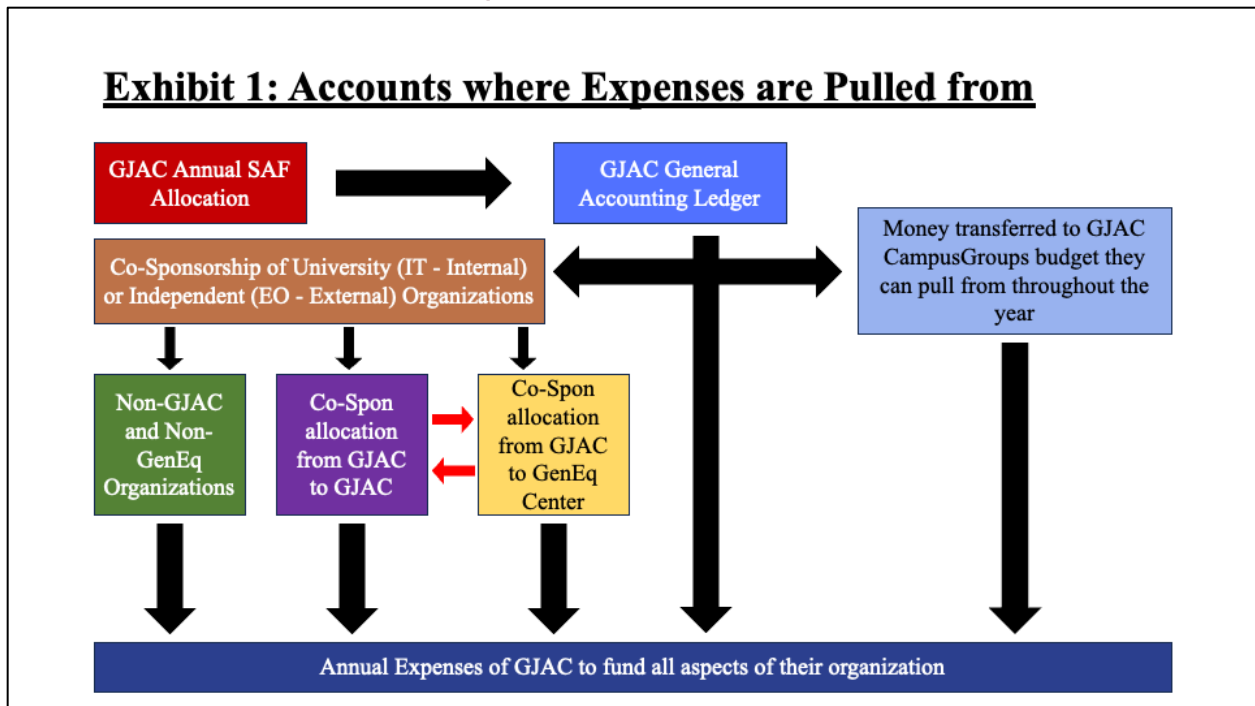
Addendum to the Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC) 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle initial byline hearing report

After the 11/9/23 Student Assembly meeting, the official Cornell tracked general accounting ledger was sent to the VP of Finance for both the 2021-2022 (FY22) and 2022-2023 (FY23) AY. Upon reviewing these budgets, the VP of Finance became aware that the Excel sheets had been edited by the GJAC advisor before sending them over. More specifically, in the 2022-2023 AY (FY23), the “credit” column had been deleted from the Excel workbook. After requesting an unedited version of the 2022-2023 AY (FY23) document, the advisor sent the document to the VP of Finance.

Due to some of the initial accounting discrepancies that were detected upon the initial review of the various Excel workbook, between 11/10/23 to 11/11/23, the VP for Finance spent 12-15 hours reassembling the actual transactions that occurred in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 AYs to determine both the typical patterns of spending and 2023-2024 AY beginning of the year balance. The analysis of findings is outlined below.

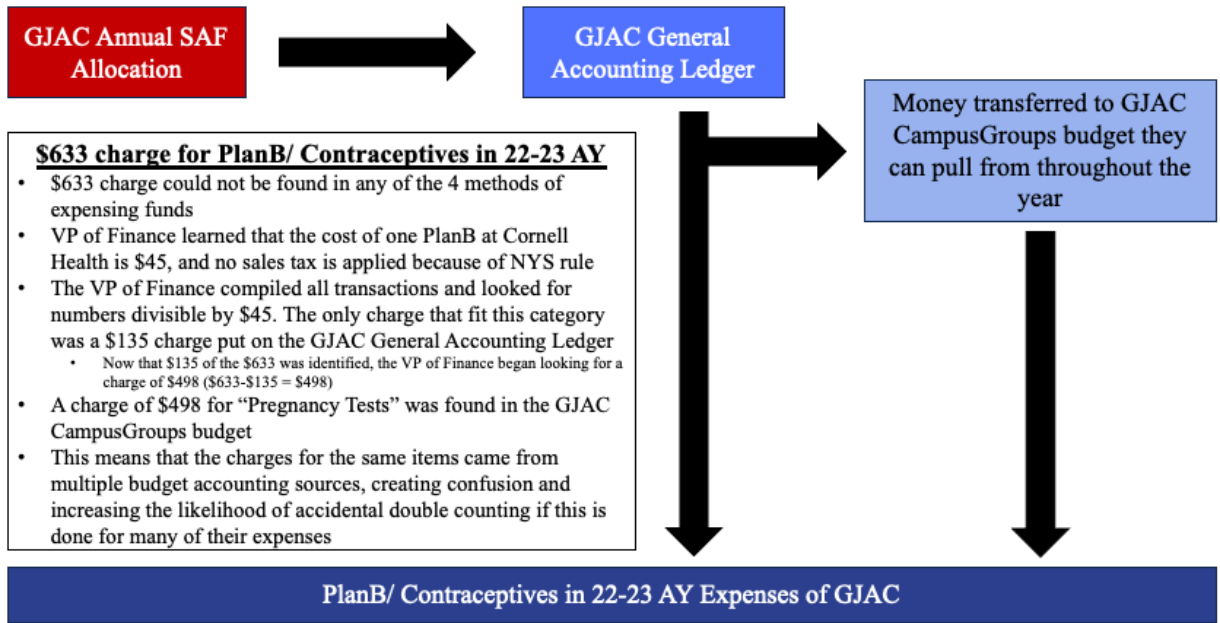
- Analysis of Budgets from 2021-2022 & 2022-2023
 - Generally, when looking through the official transactions and comparing that to what had been sent in prior, one of the key things that came up was that GJAC stated they had \$67,770.48 in their reserve balance at the beginning of the 2023-2024 AY year, compared to the \$57,653.38 the VP of Finance had calculated by backtracking the transactions.
 - One of the primary factors that could have contributed to this discrepancy is that to fund all aspects of the organization, there are various transfers into and out of accounts, with unspent funds being sent back to GJAC at the end of each AY. Broadly speaking, GJAC has four methods to expense the funds of their operations: (1) pulling directly from the general account ledger of the organization, (2) pulling from the Campus Groups GJAC ledger whereby funds are transferred beforehand, (3) pulling from the GJAC allocation that GJAC allocates to itself, and (4) pulling from the allocation GJAC gives to the Gender Equity Center (formerly known as the Women’s Resource Center).

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- The next major factor that could have contributed to the previous accounting discrepancies is, under the current accounting expense model of GJAC, if these numbers are not consistently tracked by the leadership of GJAC, it opens an opportunity for the organization to not know exactly how much money has been spent in a given year, potentially leading to overspending or underbudgeting. For example, if GJAC counted expenses for their Co-Sponsorship allocation to GJAC, and the charged expenses for a programming event came from the CampusGroups budget, but the expenses came from the Co-Sponsorship, as the end of the year, they may double count expenses when accounting for both the Co-Sponsorship allocation to GJAC and CampusGroups budget transaction.
- On top of the complex expense model which makes it difficult to see the actual incurred expenses of GJAC, this also leads to internal confusion about where the funds are being transferred from to fund a specific initiative the organization offers. The example of the 2022-2023 AY PlanB/ Contraceptives expenses is outlined below.

Exhibit 2: Example of Confusing Sources of Expenses



- Finally, for the programming and funding of all the initiatives GJAC does throughout a given year, issues still persist regarding the (1) allocations to non-GJAC and non-Gender Equity Center organizations, (2) allocations to the Gender Equity Center, and (3) Co-Sponsorship of programming between GJAC and the Gender Equity Center.
 - Allocations to non-GJAC and non-Gender Equity Center organizations
 - Previously, in the 2021-2022 AY, GJAC had allocated \$25,802.62 to organizations, however, only \$16,302.62 had gone to other organizations outside of GJAC (\$1,500) themselves and the Gender Equity Center (\$8,000).
 - In addition to this, since some organizations do not spend the full amounts of money, in the official Cornell accounting workbooks, \$1,091.49 was reverted back to GJAC from EO organizations and \$1,942.44 was reverted back to GJAC from IT organizations. (\$3,033.93 in total)
 - This means that the total allocations to organizations for the 2021-2022 AY (including to GJAC and GenEq) amounted to \$22,768.69.
 - In the 2022-2023 AY, GJAC had technically allocated \$60,533.66 to organizations, however, only \$15,333.66 had gone to other organizations outside of GJAC (\$40,000) themselves and the Gender Equity Center (\$5,200).

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- In addition to this, since some organizations do not spend the full amounts of money, or overspent and got money from GJAC via pulling from the official organization account, \$5,102.48 was reverted back to GJAC from all organizations (except for the GJAC).
- The \$40,000 GJAC allocation from this year was sent to Campus Groups, and the organization worked out of that budget for the entire year to fund the trans tape, book raffle, Valentine's Day event, pregnancy tests, Cornell Health purchases, miscellaneous purchases (Aunt Flow, LOLA, Amazon, Top Organic), and the free period product initiative (\$31,440).
- In total, the VP of Finance was only able to account for \$35,956.07 of these expenses, however, the Oracle account book says \$38,723.46 occurred. This means that between \$1276.54 to \$4043.93 was reverted back to GJAC at the end of the 2022-2023 AY.
- Programming/ Co-Sponsorships in the Gender Equity Center
 - General Expenses & Giveaway Items
 - When GJAC funds items to give away, it either comes from the official Oracle budget or the Campus Groups budget, meaning that there were multiple charges across both that were double counted.
 - Events hosted by GJAC vs. the Gender Equity Center
 - As noted above, when GJAC technically allocates both themselves and GenEq a co-sponsorship, it can be very confusing where the money is coming from to fund the event. Additionally, it may not be coming from either of those sources and could be coming from the general expense Oracle ledger instead.
- Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative
 - Spring 2021: GJAC re-started the initiative and was pledged money (\$27,575) from the Student Assembly to help fund it.
 - While it is unclear if the products began appearing in the restrooms by the end of Spring 2021, the actual money transfer from the Student Assembly was not sent over until September of 2021, and these funds primarily funded the initiative through the 2021-2022 AY.
 - In the 2022-2023 AY, there was an expense noted on the workbooks for \$59,063 toward this initiative. This is broken down into three components:
 - \$3,865 used to pay for a prior year's initiative expenses
 - \$27,575 used to fund the initiative for the 2022-2023 AY
 - \$27,575 charged in advance during the 2022-2023 AY to cover funding the initiative for the 2023-2024 AY.
 - However, the validity of the amount of this charge is in question. Initially, during a meeting with the GJAC advisor in September 2023, she confirmed the \$59,063

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charge amount, and this expense was noted in their original GJAC SAF application submitted in September 2023. However, the story about the timing of this expense was reported to have been changed by GJAC, when in their additional material submitted to the VP of Finance last week, it marked it to have only been \$31,440 in the 2022-2023 AY. When asked about this in the second Appropriations Committee hearing, GJAC remained adamant that the \$27,575 charge for the 2023-2024 AY products was not incurred in the 2022-2023 AY, however, the official Cornell accounting books indicate a different narrative.

- Why the amount and timing of the 2022-2023 AY Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative expenses is important.
 - As noted earlier in the report, there was a \$10,117.10 discrepancy between what the VP of Finance had calculated as the total 2022-2023 AY end-of-year balance (\$57,653.38) and the total 2022-2023 AY end-of-year balance recently reported by GJAC (\$67,770.48).
 - Due to this discrepancy, the question of whether the 2022-2023 AY charge was \$31,440 or \$59,575 is relevant because the difference in the 2022-2023 AY end-of-year balance is less than the difference between the annual charge for the Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative. This means that when determining what the 2024-2026 SAF allocation of GJAC should be, GJAC's projected total expenses for the 2023-2024 AY would increase by \$27,575. However, given the difference in the end-of-year 2022-2023 AY balances, we cannot rely on this to determine what occurred.

Regarding where all the new information left the Appropriations Committee in determining the decision, upon all the analyses performed, more questions about the previous and projected expenses have arisen. Aside from knowing specific information about the Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative, there is a clear lack of knowledge regarding the broader elements of the initiative, like the finances behind it.

In the end, the Appropriations Committee has decided to recommend a \$3.45 allocation to GJAC for the 2024-2026 AY. The reasoning for this is two-fold.

Firstly, while it is clear there is a lack of transparent financial information, due to the importance of the initiative for many Cornellians, the Appropriations Committee is giving the benefit of the doubt to GJAC regarding the amount of the 2022-2023 AY expense to ensure the organization does not need to cut back on other elements it offers to fully fund the Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative.

Secondly, there was a sentiment from many members of the Appropriations Committee that they wanted the online attacks to stop when news about the original allocation broke. While the Appropriations Committee appreciates the willingness of the broader community to support GJAC, the subsequent personal attacks on social media, which directly named members of the Appropriations Committee, go against the Student Assemblies' recent Anti-Doxxing Resolution. (Resolution 33-Protecting Freedom of Expression: Anti-Doxxing) Whether or not intended by GJAC, the situation was misconstrued in various ways by different individuals and communities on campus, leading to unacceptable conduct by members of the Cornell community. Aside from the online onslaught, the story was further twisted by the poor journalism practices of staff at the *Cornell Daily Sun* when their story was published. Notably, not once did the *Cornell Daily Sun*

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reach out to Student Assembly leadership to confirm the facts of the story, which would've included the element that fully cutting the Menstrual Product Giveaway initiative was never going to occur. Under the previous recommended amount, if any elements of cutting back on that program were to occur, that would be based on a GJAC leadership decision, or GJAC could have pulled from its \$67,770.48 rollover balance.

All in all, for a process that is based, and has been run for all other organizations, solely on the finances of an organization, when the finances are muddled and altered with every new Excel workbook sent over, the only element left to rely on is the mission of that specific organization. In this case, when the first hearing did not go as planned, steps were taken by Cornell community members to inflate the issue and the local media to twist the story, leading to members of the Cornell community engaging in online attacks. To all parties that contributed to this effect, 'congratulations, you successfully bullied your way into getting what you wanted'.

As part of the updated Appropriations Committee SAF recommendation for GJAC, there are multiple stipulations that the organization needs to meet in the coming year to ensure the successful longevity of the organization.

The first stipulation is that GJAC needs to dedicate significantly more time to the accounting and finances of the organization because of all the issues discovered in the previous analysis. There currently exist various methods in which funding could be comingled between organizations, expenses could be double-counted, and money is being left untraced. Steps to fix this issue include restructuring of the four different expense methods into one streamlined process whereby, the money spent by the GJAC organization is only being pulled from the general account ledger.

Given GJAC's close ties to the Gender Equity Center, as a Supplementary Funding organization, the next stipulation involves making a fundamental decision about the future of the organization. Since Supplementary Funding organizations exist to allocate money to other undergraduate organizations and put on their own programming activities, with GJAC's current structure of sending thousands of dollars per year to a Cornell department to fund expenses they otherwise would fund themselves, GJAC must draw a firm line with what type of organization they want to be: a Department or Supplementary Funding byline organization. If GJAC were to pursue a Department byline structure, they would no longer be able to transfer funds to other undergraduate organizations and could only focus on being supported heavily by the Gender Equity Center and doing their own programming activities. If GJAC wants to remain a Supplementary Funding byline organization, they will need to cease all future allocations to the Gender Equity Center and instead, co-sponsor other undergraduate organizations and focus on their own programming activities. With whatever classification GJAC chooses, this will provide a synergy to the first stipulation and likely help the accounting issues within the organization.

The last stipulation is for GJAC to focus on its core initiative, the Menstrual Products Giveaways, because of the fundamental lack of knowledge and operations of the program. In the initial report, these operational elements were highlighted as only recommendations, however, given the finance-related issues recently uncovered, these are now a requirement. Understanding the operations of restocks, purchases, and timing of bulk orders, as well as the previous/ future finances behind it are essential in ensuring the longevity of the program.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$3.45	8-4-1

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union
2022-2024 Allocation	\$4.40
2024-2026 Request	\$5.40
Appropriations Recommendation	\$5.40

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union (Haven) at \$5.40 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union seeks to enrich Cornell University by supporting its diverse array of sexual and gender identities and expressions. Through education, outreach, and service, Haven promotes understanding and the development of inclusive communities. Haven serves as an administrative umbrella for most of the undergraduate (though generally open to graduate and professional students as well) student organizations involved in the support and outreach to LGBTQ students at Cornell. Haven provides a vehicle for these groups to secure funding, ongoing training, and consultation with professional staff. Haven collaborates with other Cornell groups to address the social support needs of students.

Haven's most significant impact on the Cornell community is our active transformation of Cornell into an inclusive space in which all students can safely express their sexual and gender identities. Haven does this in a few different ways: First, Haven serves as an advocate and liaison for queer students; if there are concerns that the queer community has, it's Haven that communicates those concerns to Student Assembly and the Cornell administration. Haven also hosts frequent outreach events, which cultivate a strong support network for queer students by facilitating friendships and bonds that will last them throughout their time at Cornell. These events range from smaller events such as bouquet-making that allow for more intimate conversations and connections to be had, to larger events such as Pride Prom that bring the entire Cornell community together to celebrate in an event some students are unable to participate in during their high school experience. Finally, Haven acts as an umbrella organization that sponsors multiple LGBT+ affinity sub-organizations and events to allow students to find specialized queer communities on campus. For example, OASIS is an intersectional Haven sub-organization that allows queer Asian students to find their community. In these ways, Haven provides a safe and empowering atmosphere for the LGBTQ+ community at Cornell.

Since Haven is classified as a Supplementary Funding Organization, they have two primary functions: allocate funding to their LGBT+ affinity sub-organizations and develop their own programming initiatives where they host programming events for their community.

Operationally, Haven has an executive board of 6 members with three being sophomores and three being juniors. The e-board meets weekly to give their respective updates and work on tasks that the organization needs to complete. Throughout the week, Haven e-board members contribute programming aspects to the events they are currently planning. Additionally, Haven meets with their advisor weekly to help with the overall club's operations.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, Haven organizes programming for their community throughout the year, such as Cookies with Cliff, It's A Queer Homecoming: Afterparty, Halloween Drag Bingo, Bouquet Making with Haven, Found Family Dinner, Trans Day of Visibility! Donuts & chalk art on Ho Plaza (paid for by LGBTRC), and A Conversation

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with Author Hugh Ryan. Notably, their flagship event which occurs at the end of the year is their Pride Prom which brings the entire Cornell community together to celebrate in an event some students are unable to participate in during their high school experience.

In terms of the finances of Haven, regarding the split between funding and programming of a supplementary funding board, the organization spends its SAF allocation approximately 60% on funding, and 40% on programming events they put on. Additionally, in the 2022-2023 AY, Haven had expenses totaling \$64,400.17 that can be broken down into 5 distinct categories: sub-organization funding, co-sponsorship funding, small-scale events, large-scale events, and operational expenses.

The funding aspect of Haven is unofficially around \$25,000-\$30,000 per year and can be broken down into two categories: sub-organization funding and co-sponsorships. The allocation tier of these sub-organizations is \$600 annually. In the 2022-2023 AY, Haven funded 9 sub-organizations, eight of which received an allocation of \$600 (QStem, Oasis, ACE, Tango, Queer Pre-Health Society, Bi Cons, MOSAIC, and Crunch), and one of which (Queer Magazine) received an allocation of \$3,000. Moreover, Haven distributed an additional \$2,200 to four of these organizations in the form of additional funding that was requested. Since there is no hard cap on the total amount of funding any organization could receive from Haven, this additional funding is left to the discretion of the Haven e-board, and the organization performs sufficient due diligence before deciding to allocate funds to other organizations events.

Regarding the co-sponsorships, this is money that Haven contributes to other organizations to partner on programming events hosted together. In the 2022-2023 AY, Haven allocated \$15,437.87 to 5 organizations for co-sponsorships (Cornell Ballroom and Drag, CU2Nite, BOSS, LGBTRC (Lavender Graduation), and Wildroses Pride Scrimmage).

The programming aspect of Haven can be broken down into two categories: small scale events and their large-scale Pride Prom event. In the 2022-2023 AY, Haven organized 7 events (Cookies with Cliff, It's A Queer Homecoming: Afterparty, Halloween Drag Bingo, Bouquet Making with Haven, Found Family Dinner, Trans Day of Visibility! Donuts & chalk art on Ho Plaza (paid for by LGBTRC), and A Conversation with Author Hugh Ryan) that had an average cost and attendance of \$755.31 and 35.86 people per event respectively. This means that the average cost per attendee at these small-scale events was \$21.06 in the 2022-2023 AY. Regarding their flagship Pride Prom event, this event had an attendance of 170 people and an average cost per attendance of \$118.15.

The final primary category of expenses is Havens' operational expenses, which in the 2022-2023 AY, totaled out to \$8,590.10. Approximately 7.60% of these expenses were used on supplies or services for the organization, and 92.40% of these expenses (12.32% of their total 2022-2023 AY expenses) were spent on Haven swag and merchandise. Although large expenses on merchandise are not specifically prohibited, it still brings attention to this expense, however in Haven's case, the organization recently got a new logo, so this merchandise has the new logo branded on it. Additionally, to save money in the long run, the organization purchased this merchandise in a bulk quantity upfront and intends to give it away to members of Haven and the Cornell community over the coming years.

Despite the pandemic restrictions period on programming events, in the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 AY's, Haven has done a fantastic job of limiting the rollover carried from year to year, showing that they are continually committed to their mission. Across these

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AY's, Haven had an average beginning-of-the-year balance that was approximately 20.77% of their annual allocation from those AY's.

In analyzing the historical patterns of Haven's programming and spending patterns, one notable callout is the lower number of programs held in the 2022-2023 AY in comparison to the 2021-2022 AY. When asked about this discrepancy, Haven cited two factors that contributed to this.

The first of these factors is that the organization does not have the equivalent of a g-body to assist with planning programming or who may be more likely to attend events because they would go to frequent meetings. Although the reported membership of the organization is 354 individuals (during the time of applying), these members primarily only receive communication from Haven about upcoming programming events since there is no formal meeting to bring members together. This is intentional on Haven's part because, under their operating structure, the Haven e-board, sub-organizations, and other funding exist to serve the community through the programming events organized for the g-body of registered members to attend.

The second factor affecting the drop in programming events is the rebuilding of a new e-board during the 2022-2023 AY. Recently, Haven has filled the existing vacancies on their e-board, allowing them to have a higher operational capacity than in the previous year.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, Haven is seeking an increase in their funding from an SAF allocation of \$4.40 to \$5.40. Haven cited that the reasons for this requested increase are (1) the recent macroeconomic inflation that has occurred, (2) the rising costs of their organization's "basket of goods" that have outpaced inflation, (3) their increased operational capacity to spend funds because of a fully staffed e-board, and (4) the increased LGBTQ population in the United States and here at Cornell.

Considering all the factors of Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union, and how important this organization is to build a stronger Cornell community, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the Haven allocation from \$4.40 to \$5.40 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive. The Appropriations Committee appreciates Haven's judicious use of spending over the previous years, despite being faced with internal operational constraints from a small e-board. Given the structure of Haven without a formal g-body and mission to give back to the LGBTQ community on campus, the Appropriations Committee encourages Haven to pursue enhanced marketing for their events in the future to generate increased attendance and ensure even more success at building community at Cornell.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$5.40	8-4-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Organization	International Students Union
2022-2024 Allocation	\$7.00
2024-2026 Request	\$10.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$8.50

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the International Students Union (ISU) at \$8.50 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The International Students Union (ISU) is an organization dedicated to promoting dialogue and international awareness at Cornell University. ISU achieves this by hosting and programming international events, as well as funding and co-sponsoring cultural organizations and internationally oriented activities. ISU also strives to provide a voice for the international community, and to communicate issues faced by international students on campus to the administration and to the rest of Cornell. ISU encourages students to approach the organization with any potential ideas or concerns that are relevant to the Cornell international community. While ISU does not take political stances on issues, the organization strives to defend and support the rights of all international students on campus.

Operationally, ISU is comprised of a 7-person executive board that is dispersed across class years. Additionally, ISU has a g-body of around 50 people and has 5 functional teams: finance, planning, advocacy, publicity, and internal operations. ISU meets one time per week as an executive board to make sure the functional teams are on track to achieve their goals or current projects.

Since ISU is considered a Supplementary Funding Board, they have two primary functions: review/ approve the funding applications submitted by undergraduate organizations for events and develop their own programming initiatives that any undergraduate student can attend. At this current time, there is no cap on the amount of money an undergraduate organization can receive from ISU, however, each undergraduate organization can only apply 3 times per academic year.

Regarding finances, in an analysis of the previous academic year's expenses, approximately 69.4% of it was allocated to 36 different undergraduate organizations, 5.1% of it was spent on internal expenditures, and 25.5% of it was spent on ISU-organized events. Additionally, coming into this academic year, ISU had a rollover account balance which was 71.22% of their annual SAF allocation. Lastly, ISU has projected that their expenses in the 2023-2024 academic year will be approximately 1.4x their current annual allocation.

Breaking down these expense categories, between the 36 organizations that received money from ISU in the past academic year, the average money each of these organizations received was 29.78% larger than the median of these values. Diving deeper into the data, there are 4 to 5 of these organizations that receive double/ triple the amount other organizations receive. Although this may be a function of those organizations having more members since ISU only has a cap on the number of applications an organization can submit and does not have a cap on the amount of money an organization can receive, it is not currently operating like other supplementary funding organizations, such as CU Tonight.

Concerning the internal expenditures of ISU, while a small proportion of this money is spent on digital infrastructure tools and marketing, a significant amount of it is spent on social

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events and annual retreats. When questioned about these large retreat expenses, it was discovered that the retreat consisted of renting a property for the night an hour away, traveling there, and returning the next morning. Additionally, their adult advisor is not present at these retreats and currently has little oversight about what occurs there. During the early portion of the Appropriations Committee hearing, the ISU representative referred to the organization as a “social club”. The VP of Finance reminded the representative that, while ISU members can have fun, the organization is still a Supplementary Funding Board and must operate as such. Furthermore, after totaling these retreat and social event expenses, the amount was nearly double the \$4,000 maximum as stipulated by the Student Assembly Charter.

Regarding the ISU-organized events, in the previous academic year, ISU organized 6 separate events: Global Social, Letters to Home, Casino Night, Fall Fundraiser, Professional Development Workshop, International Gala, and Sports Event. While the Appropriations Committee appreciates the efforts of ISU to balance funding with programming, there are notable callouts with these events. Firstly, any event organized by ISU needs to be able to be attended by any undergraduate student and cannot be restricted to specific populations. Next, while giveaways are okay so long as everyone has an equal opportunity at winning, the Committee wants to highlight that the monetary value of these items should be kept within a reasonable range with respect to the cost of the event. In some cases, giveaway items amounted to nearly half the cost of these ISU-organized events. Finally, in the 2022-2023 academic year, 74.62% of the expenses from the ISU-organized events category were spent on Cornell (Statler) Catering services, and so for future programming, the Appropriations Committee advocates that ISU seek less expensive food alternatives.

Transitioning to the recommendation for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, the Appropriations Committee felt that, despite the pressing financial factors highlighted above, a small increase to \$8.50 would suffice given ISU’s current operational structure. With this recommended amount, the Appropriations Committee feels that ISU should re-evaluate its cost structure to make it work. Firstly, the Committee recommends ISU implement a \$5,000 per academic year cap on the amount of money a single organization can receive from them to mirror the structure of other Supplementary Funding Boards. Next, in future academic years, ISU needs to pay closer attention to its operational expenses and cannot spend more than \$4,000 per year on social events/ retreats. Furthermore, instead of planning to host an ISU-organized concert in future academic years, ISU is encouraged to coordinate with other concert planning organizations to capitalize on the cost synergies they can provide. Lastly, ISU is encouraged to find cost-optimal alternatives to Statler catering for ISU-organized events. If all these steps are followed in the next two years, their current large rollover is spent down, and a \$8.50 SAF allocation is granted, ISU will still finish the 2025-2026 academic year with a rollover account balance that is approximately 13% of their new SAF allocation (\$8.50).

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$10.00	0-10-0
\$9.90	0-10-0
\$9.80	0-10-0
\$9.70	0-10-0
\$9.60	0-10-0
\$9.50	0-10-0
\$9.40	0-10-0
\$9.30	0-10-0
\$9.20	0-10-0
\$9.10	0-10-0
\$9.00	0-10-0
\$8.90	0-10-0
\$8.80	1-9-0
\$8.70	3-7-0
\$8.60	4-6-0
\$8.50	10-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

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Organization	Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council
2022-2024 Allocation	\$1.00
2024-2026 Request	\$2.00
Appropriations Recommendation	\$2.00

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council (MGFC) at \$2.00 for the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation Cycle.

The mission of MGFC is to operate as a united governing body for all organizations. MGFC is dedicated to promoting unity and serving as a support system for all organizations. MGFC serves as a model for the underrepresented student community and operates as a united body to effectively advocate the issues and concerns of their organizations and the entire campus community that they serve.

MGFC's most significant impact at Cornell is creating safe, inclusive spaces for students of color. MGFC hosts diverse events, fosters a sense of belonging, broadens perspectives, and promotes education. MGFC's activities include cultural celebrations and workshops, celebrating their rich cultural tapestry while encouraging dialogue and learning. MGFC believes in using education to break stereotypes and build understanding. By exposing the Cornell community to different dimensions of diversity, MGFC aims to foster empathy, cross-cultural interactions, and challenge preconceptions. MGFC's unwavering commitment ensures all students find support and inclusivity within our organization and the broader Cornell community.

For context, MGFC currently has 15 active chapters, is one of Cornell's three Greek councils (IFC, PHC, MGFC), and has three sub-councils: NPHC (National Pan-Hellenic Council), NAPA (National APIDA Panhellenic Association), and NALFO (National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations).

Operationally, MGFC has an executive board of 9 members with five being seniors, two being juniors, and two being sophomores. Additionally, MGFC hosts a weekly Presidents & Representatives meeting, where each chapter in their council sends a representative to discuss pertinent topics involving their respective communities. Furthermore, MGFC has a weekly e-board meeting and is led by their fantastic advisor, Kyle McGee.

Regarding their overall calendar of events, MGFC hosts trainings for their community throughout the year, the MGFC Gala, partners with sub-councils to host sub-council events, and organizes the Greek Freak/ Yard Show events.

In terms of the finances of MGFC, a notable element is that all the money they receive from their SAF allocation is distributed across the chapters in their council, except for the MGFC allocation (equivalent to what an individual chapter gets), which goes toward overhead and operations. Moreover, MGFC charges each individual member of their council \$25 per semester to finance other aspects of MGFC programming. Lastly, for their big events, like Greek Freak and the Yard Show, the funds needed to put on those events are pulled from the Tri-Council Budget. The Tri-Council budget is operated by the Sorority & Fraternity Life (SFL) Office, and is financed by a portion of IFC, PHC, and MGFC individual member dues collected.

During the pandemic restrictions period, the MGFC amassed a rollover balance going into the 2021-2022 AY that was approximately equal to 145.26% of their annual allocation from

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that year. Going into the 2022-2023 AY, MGFC improved this rollover balance and got it down to 134.99% of their allocation from that year. Although efforts were made to spend down this rollover balance throughout the 2022-2023 AY, MGFC went into the 2023-2024 AY with 139.38% of their annual allocation from that year.

One of the reasons for the rollover issue MGFC dealt with in the past is due to their previous funding model which they are working to resolve. In this model, at the beginning of the year, \$1,000 was placed in the MGFC reserve account for every active organization regardless of their size or historical funds usage, and organizations could only use their reserve funds only if they had finished their operating budget. For the operating budget, the difference between the total reserves and the total sum made up the operating budget that is divided among active organizations. Notably, NAPA organizations and those organizations returning to campus that AY would receive half of an individual's chapter annual allocation, and NALFO & NPHC would only be able to get the full amount if they used their other funds more and zeroed out their allotted amount. At the chapter level, these funds would be used for Educational Programs, Performance Gear/Uniforms/Para, Recruitment Efforts, Chapterversary Banquets, and Scholarship* Pageants/Balls. Note that no SAF allocation has been used to fund the scholarship portion, just the programmatic aspect of the event.

Transitioning to the 2024-2026 SAF Allocation cycle, acknowledging this rollover issue, MGFC has recently adjusted its funding model, such that (1) each chapter receives a cultural programming handbook to have access to the funding as soon as possible, (2) chapter advisors are included in funding communications to encourage its usage and minimize past-due bills, (3) the funding model was altered such that NALFO and NPHC chapters to receive more funding due to their minimal historical rollover, and (4) there has been increased transparency between chapter presidents and MGFC so they can increase their programming.

Other considerations affecting MGFC are that three organizations are projected to return to campus this AY: La Unidad Latina/Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. [Fall 2023], Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity, Inc. [Spring 2024], and Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. [Spring 2024]. This means that there is a demonstrated need for funding to be increased so that these chapters have a chance to grow and succeed on the Cornell campus. Moreover, most of the items purchased with the chapter budgets have been affected by inflation, so without an increase in their chapter budgets, these organizations will struggle to operate in the same capacity they have in the past.

Considering all the factors of the MGFC, and how important the council is in providing the Greek experience to so many students at Cornell, as well as the historical significance of three MGFC organizations being originally founded at Cornell, the Appropriations Committee feels that an increase in the MGFC allocation from \$1.00 to \$2.00 is necessary for the organization to continue to grow and thrive.

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Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$2.00	11-0-1

Respectfully submitted,

George Rocco DeLorenzo

Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly