

# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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## 1 Resolution 11: Implementing Special Grants 2 Committee Funding Recommendations on 3 Grants Addressing Novel Programming

5 **Abstract:** This resolution directs the GPSA Appropriations Committee to distribute \$156,813.29  
6 across fourteen organizations under the *Novel Programming* category as specified in the Special  
7 Grants Committee funding recommendations.

9 **Sponsored by:** Zander Lynch, Jason Chobirko

10 **Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 02/04/2026 (7-0-0)

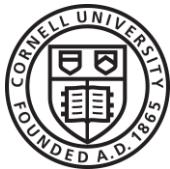
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11 **Whereas**, the GPSA created the Special Grants Committee by passing [Resolution 9: Special](#)  
12 [Committee for the Disbursement of Special Grant Funding](#) in FY2024, whose charge was to  
13 solicit, review, and recommend funding for grants aimed towards advancing graduate and  
14 professional student interests at Cornell University.

15 **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee solicited 58 grant submissions from relevant  
16 stakeholders that serve graduate and professional students, such as University departments,  
17 offices, graduate and professional student organizations, byline-funded organizations and  
18 community groups.

19 **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee, through the collective efforts of its members, scored  
20 and reviewed all 58 received grants using the following criteria:

- 21 1) **Plan:** How detailed is the timeline for implementing the proposed event(s)? Are the  
22 event(s) well-reasoned and supported by grant materials?
- 23 2) **Accountability:** Does the grant clearly state who is responsible for implementing the  
24 proposed event(s)? Did the sponsor detail steps for grant supervision and  
25 implementation?
- 26 3) **Impact:** Will the proposed event(s) meaningfully impact the well-being of graduate and  
27 professional students throughout Cornell?
- 28 4) **Need:** Does the grant highlight a need, lack of support or otherwise unaddressed issues  
29 for graduate and professional students? And will the proposed event(s) address this need?



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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34    **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee, through the majority agreement of its members,  
35    curated a list of reviewed grants which, when funded partially or in-full, would best improve  
36    graduate and professional student well-being at Cornell.

37

38    **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as the **Indigenous Graduate Student Association**  
39    (IGSA; grant #37) would address a critical lack of exposure to Indigenous cultures and the  
40    histories of Indigenous Nations whose lands graduate and professional students live and study on  
41    by hosting the first celebration of Indigenous culture at Cornell in over a decade.

42

43    **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as the **Graduate Student Veterans Association**  
44    (GSVA; grant #6) would recognize and celebrate the often-overlooked contributions of graduate  
45    and professional student parents at Cornell by hosting a distribution of a month's worth of baby  
46    supplies and parenting resources.

47

48    **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as the **Lindseth Climbing Center** (LCC; grant #2)  
49    and **Cornell Outdoor Education** (COE; grant #11) would provide and subsidize graduate and  
50    professional student access to novel programming at the LCC indoor climbing wall and via COE  
51    skill clinics and courses.

52

53    **Whereas**, all other grant funding recommendations under the *Novel Programming* category from  
54    the Special Grants Committee provide novel programming that would improve well-being for  
55    graduate and professional students across Cornell.

56

57    **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee completed its charge on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 by  
58    presenting a final recommendation of reviewed grants to fund, either partially or in-full, to the  
59    GPSA.

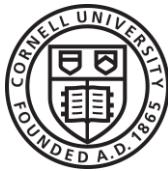
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61    **Be it therefore resolved**, the GPSA Appropriations Committee earmark \$156,813.29 from the  
62    GPSAFC reserve account for the purpose of supporting grants #2, #6, #8, #11, #14, #15, #17,  
63    #26, #31, #37, #50, #52, #56, and #57.

64

65    **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA Appropriations Committee distribute \$156,813.29 across  
66    fourteen organizations under the *Novel Programming* category as specified in the Special Grants  
67    Committee funding recommendations as follows:

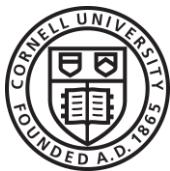
68    1) \$50,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Indigenous Graduate Student Association**  
69    (**IGSA**), grant #37, for the purpose of “Fund the Cornell Pow Wow at Cornell's campus  
70    over three years” under the conditions:



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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- 71        a. Funding will be distributed as \$25k in year 1, \$15k in year 2, and \$10k in year 3,  
72        conditional on continued operations over the next three years
- 73        2) \$17,146.00 dollars be distributed to the **Cornell Negotiation Student Society (CNSS)**,  
74        grant #56, for the purpose of “Fund two annual competitions and an annually hosted  
75        summit for five years as well as fund a two-year negotiation learning hub” under the  
76        conditions:
  - 77            a. Do not fund a videographer / editor for the two-year negotiation learning hub
- 78        3) \$16,300.00 dollars be distributed to **Cornell Outdoor Education (COE)**, grant #11, for  
79        the purpose of “Fund proposed initiatives at the lowest cost plan to support graduate and  
80        professional student access to COE events” under the conditions:
  - 81            a. Do not fund gift certificates for equipment rentals
- 82        4) \$15,200.00 dollars be distributed to the **Graduate Student Veterans Association  
(GSVA)**, grant #6, for the purpose of “Fund organizing a scaled-down event to provide  
83        diapers and wipes for 100 families” under the conditions:
  - 84            a. Fund only diapers and wipes for 100 families
- 85        5) \$14,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Lindseth Climbing Center (LCC)**, grant #2, for  
86        the purpose of “Fund a pilot program of two adaptive climbing courses (\$1.5k total),  
87        membership discounts (\$10k) and climbing class discounts (\$2.5k)” under the conditions:
  - 88            a. Funding provided for membership/class discounts upon receipt of confirmed  
89            graduate/professional student usage
- 90        6) \$13,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Biomedical & Biological Sciences Graduate  
Student Society (BBS GSS)**, grant #17, for the purpose of “Fund yoga/fitness, bi-  
91        monthly ‘tea time’, bi-monthly breakfasts, and cross-field social and professional  
92        recurring events”
- 93        7) \$8,267.00 dollars be distributed to **Anabel's Grocery**, grant #15, for the purpose of  
94        “Fund 1200 free meals to graduate and professional students over the Spring 2026  
95        semester” under the conditions:
  - 96            a. Connect with Cornell offices for low-income students to collaborate on  
97            advertising food availability
- 98        8) \$6,200.00 dollars be distributed to the **Women in Public Policy (WIPP)**, grant #50, for  
99        the purpose of “Fund the monthly power in policy series and food for leadership dinner”  
100       under the conditions:
  - 101            a. Fund three (3) semesters of programming with reuse of decor
  - 102            b. Do not fund conference travel or alumni gift cards
- 103        9) \$5,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Student Neurodiversity Alliance at Cornell  
(SNAC)**, grant #57, for the purpose of “Fund the hire of a neurodiversity consultant at the  
104        Graduate Writing Service over two years”



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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108 10) \$3,887.50 dollars be distributed to the **Master of Public Health Student Advisory**  
109 **Committee (MPH SAC)**, grant #14, for the purpose of “Fund a lunch & learn series,  
110 guest lecture event, poetry pause and curriculum focus group” under the conditions:  
111 a. Do not fund speaker honorarium

112 11) \$3,600.00 dollars be distributed to the **Anthropology Graduate Student Association**  
113 **(AGSA)**, grant #26, for the purpose of “Fund furniture for the graduate lounge, writing  
114 workshop series and movie nights” under the conditions:  
115 a. Additional funding (\$600) has been provided on the condition of prolonging the  
116 writing workshop for an additional semester

117 12) \$2,412.79 dollars be distributed to the **Cryosphere Community at Cornell (CryoCo)**,  
118 grant #52, for the purpose of “Fund educational outreach workshops”

119 13) \$1,300.00 dollars be distributed to the **Graduates for Palestine (G4P)**, grant #31, for the  
120 purpose of “Fund monthly music sessions and a film screening of *Jenin, Jenin*”

121 14) \$500.00 dollars be distributed to the **ILR Graduate Student Association (ILR GSA)**,  
122 grant #8, for the purpose of “Fund the UNITY in ILR event”

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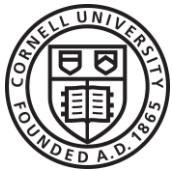
124 **Be it further resolved** that all grants funded herein must additionally comply with the following  
125 conditions:

126 1) All promotional / advertisement / event materials, printed and digital, must bear the  
127 “Supported by GPSA” seal visibly.

128 2) For each year of funding offered, a budget for planned activities must be submitted for  
129 review and approval by the GPSA Appropriations Committee in advance of  
130 disbursement.

131 3) For each year of funding offered, an Impact and Visibility Report must be compiled and  
132 submitted to the GPSA Appropriations Committee detailing the use of Special Grant  
133 funding, the benefits conferred to the graduate student community (including photo  
134 documentation of the event / renovation / installation), and (if applicable) the feasibility  
135 of event implementation in future years under funding continuation. Reports must also  
136 contain all relevant receipts, detailed attendance at event(s) and any additional  
137 information requested by the GPSA Appropriations Committee. It is required that this  
138 report be submitted by the deadline set by the Appropriations Committee before any  
139 subsequent year(s) of funding may be offered. Designation of requirements for Impact  
140 and Visibility Reports and Report approval is charged to the GPSA Appropriations  
141 Committee.

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# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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143 **Be it finally resolved**, that funding is contingent on each grant applicant following the specified  
144 purpose and conditions laid out in this resolution as well as annual submission of the Impact and  
145 Visibility Report.

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147 Respectfully Submitted,

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149 Zander Lynch

150 *Vice President for Operations*

151

152 Jason Chobirko

153 *Faculty Advising, Teaching, and Mentorship Awards Committee Chair*