

# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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## Resolution 9: Implementing Special Grants Committee Funding Recommendations on Grants Addressing Symposia

**Abstract:** This resolution directs the GPSA Appropriations Committee to distribute \$60,938.30 across eight (8) organizations under the Symposia category as specified in the Special Grants Committee funding recommendations.

**Sponsored by:** Irene Gatimi, Jason Chobirko

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

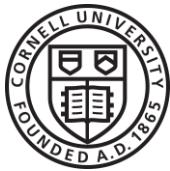
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**Whereas**, the GPSA created the Special Grants Committee by passing [Resolution 9: Special Committee for the Disbursement of Special Grant Funding](#) in FY2024, whose charge was to solicit, review, and recommend funding for grants aimed towards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

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

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

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



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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.

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38 **Whereas**, academic and professional symposia provide graduate and professional students with  
39 structured spaces to present research, exchange interdisciplinary ideas, build scholarly and  
40 professional networks, and engage in collective learning that enhances their academic  
41 development, professional preparedness, and sense of intellectual community at Cornell  
42 University.

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

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48 **Be it therefore resolved**, the GPSA Appropriations Committee earmark \$60,938.30 from the  
49 GPSAFC reserve account for the purpose of supporting grants #9, #32, #33, #36, #43, #46, #51,  
50 #55.

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52 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA Appropriations Committee distribute \$60,938.30 across  
53 eight (8) organizations under the Symposia category as specified in the Special Grants  
54 Committee funding recommendations as follows:

55 1) \$22,500.00 dollars be distributed to the **Organization of Cornell Planners**, grant #51,  
56 for the purpose of “Fund food annually (\$7.5k) for up to three years of planningpalooza  
57 events” under the conditions:

58 a. Funding for consecutive years (years 2 and 3) is dependent on successful event  
59 organizing and providing all necessary receipts and statistics on attendance

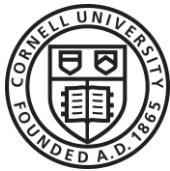
60 2) \$10,230.00 dollars be distributed to the **Climate Advocacy Planning Committee**, grant  
61 #32, for the purpose of “Fund food for climate advocacy symposium for two years  
62 (\$5,115/year)” under the conditions:

63 a. Do not fund \$2k afternoon snacks line item

64 3) \$7,500.00 dollars be distributed to the **African Graduate Students Association  
(AfriGA)**, grant #46, for the purpose of “Fund symposium to support African graduate  
65 and professional students” under the conditions:

66 a. Allocate \$5.5k to catering and allocate remaining \$2k for venue support needs

67 4) \$7,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Cornell Music Graduate Association (MGA)**,  
68 grant #55, for the purpose of “Fund food (\$4.6k) and reservation of venue space (\$2.4k)”



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70 5) \$5,125.00 dollars be distributed to the **Art+Tech Collective**, grant #36, for the purpose  
71 of “Fund Cornell Tech summit in March 2026”

72 6) \$4,458.30 dollars be distributed to the **Field of Microbiology Students (FoMS)**, grant  
73 #9, for the purpose of “Fund the 2026 Microbiology Symposium” under the conditions:  
74 a. Do not fund speaker travel, lodging, or honoraria. Only fund food costs plus  
75 updated 10% contingency

76 7) \$2,125.00 dollars be distributed to the **Black in Public Policy (BIPP), formerly known**  
77 **as Black in Brooks (BiB)**, grant #43, for the purpose of “Fund catering, promotional  
78 materials) and event decor for Black History Month program” under the conditions:  
79 a. Do not fund speaker honoraria, travel or lodging

80 8) \$2,000.00 dollars be distributed to **Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate**  
81 **Student Association (CEE GSA)**, grant #33, for the purpose of “Fund the CEE Graduate  
82 Research Symposium in Spring 2026” under the conditions:  
83 a. Only fund lunch, breakfast and printing costs

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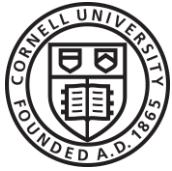
85 **Be it further resolved** that all grants funded herein must additionally comply with the following  
86 conditions:

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

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

92 3) For each year of funding offered, an Impact and Visibility Report must be compiled and  
93 submitted to the GPSA Appropriations Committee detailing the use of Special Grant  
94 funding, the benefits conferred to the graduate student community (including photo  
95 documentation of the event / renovation / installation), and (if applicable) the feasibility  
96 of event implementation in future years under funding continuation. Reports must also  
97 contain all relevant receipts, detailed attendance at event(s) and any additional  
98 information requested by the GPSA Appropriations Committee. It is required that this  
99 report be submitted by the deadline set by the Appropriations Committee before any  
100 subsequent year(s) of funding may be offered. Designation of requirements for Impact  
101 and Visibility Reports and Report approval is charged to the GPSA Appropriations  
102 Committee.

103  
104 **Be it finally resolved**, that funding is contingent on each grant applicant following the specified  
105 purpose and conditions laid out in this resolution as well as annual submission of the Impact and  
106 Visibility Report.



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108 Respectfully Submitted,

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110 Irene Gatimi

111 *Student Advocacy Committee Chair*

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113 Jason Chobirko

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