

# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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## Resolution 10: Implementing Special Grants Committee Funding Recommendations on Grants Addressing Community Building

**Abstract:** This resolution directs the GPSA Appropriations Committee to distribute \$75,431.96 across fourteen organizations under the *Community Building* category as specified in the Special Grants Committee funding recommendations.

**Sponsored by:** Anurag Koyyada, Jason Chobirko

**Reviewed by:** Executive Committee, 04/02/2026 (8-0-0)

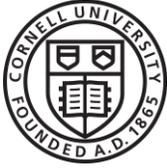
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**Whereas,** the GPSA created the Special Grants Committee by passing [Resolution 9: Special Committee for the Disbursement of Special Grant Funding](#) in FY2024, whose charge was to solicit, review, and recommend funding for grants aimed towards 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?



# 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.

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38 **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as the **Graduate Arab League** (GAL; grant #54)  
39 would help address the critical issues facing Arab graduate students at Cornell, including deep  
40 grief, fear, and isolation while navigating a uniquely difficult academic climate through the  
41 creation of a culturally grounded, non-activist, psychologically safe space for joy, community,  
42 and belonging.

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44 **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as **JUGATAE** (grant #28) would establish an  
45 inclusive outdoor space for graduate and professional students to participate in academic  
46 collaboration, social connection, and community-building through the purchase and installation  
47 of picnic tables in the Biology Quad with the support of the Cornell Grounds Department.

48

49 **Whereas**, grants from organizations such as the **Society for Advancement of**  
50 **Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science** (SACNAS; grant #47) would directly  
51 uplift graduate and professional students by creating spaces where they can find community,  
52 develop as scientists, and build professional networks both within and beyond Cornell through  
53 the hosting of professional workshops and monthly wellness socials.

54

55 **Whereas**, all other grant funding recommendations under the *Community Building* category  
56 from the Special Grants Committee provide opportunities to establish, maintain, and grow a  
57 sense of community and would improve the well-being of graduate and professional students  
58 across Cornell.

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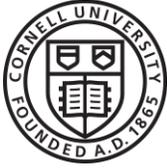
60 **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee completed its charge on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 by  
61 presenting a final recommendation of reviewed grants to fund, either partially or in-full, to the  
62 GPSA.

63

64 **Be it therefore resolved**, the GPSA Appropriations Committee earmark \$75,431.96 from the  
65 GPSAFC reserve account for the purpose of supporting grants #4, #12, #13, #19, #25, #27, #28,  
66 #34, #39, #44, #47, #49, #54, and #58.

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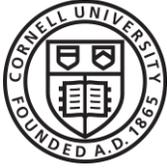
68 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA Appropriations Committee distribute \$75,431.96 across  
69 fourteen organizations under the *Community Building* category as specified in the Special Grants  
70 Committee funding recommendations as follows:



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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- 71 1) \$15,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Graduate Arab League (GAL)**, grant #54, for  
72 the purpose of “Fund proposed cultural programming and community events, continuity  
73 programming, alumni engagement and childcare and accessibility” under the conditions:
- 74 a. Do not fund grants, research, speaker honoraria for alumni engagement event or  
75 other costs
- 76 2) \$11,500.00 dollars be distributed to **JUGATAE**, grant #28, for the purpose of “Fund the  
77 installation of eight picnic tables plus umbrellas, landscaping and labor in the Biology  
78 Quad to ensure accessibility”
- 79 3) \$9,940.00 dollars be distributed to **Cornell Team and Leadership Center (CTLC)**,  
80 grant #4, for the purpose of “Fund all 16 proposed community building events and  
81 outdoor experiences”
- 82 4) \$6,712.00 dollars be distributed to the **Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics  
83 and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)**, grant #47, for the purpose of “Fund six  
84 professional workshops and monthly wellness activities / socials” under the conditions:
- 85 a. Do not fund speaker honoraria for professional workshops
- 86 5) \$6,300.00 dollars be distributed to the **Africana Graduate Student Association (AGSA)  
87 and English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO)**, grant #44, for the purpose of  
88 “Fund food for proposed speaker series/workshops, food for monthly coworking sessions  
89 and refreshments/audio equipment for open mic events” under the conditions:
- 90 a. Do not fund speaker travel, lodging or honorarium
- 91 6) \$5,393.00 dollars be distributed to **Chavurah**, grant #25, for the purpose of “Fund the  
92 Freedom Seder”
- 93 7) \$5,000.00 dollars be distributed to **Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA)**,  
94 grant #13, for the purpose of “Fund paint & sip night and winter formal”
- 95 8) \$5,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Black Graduate & Professional Student  
96 Association (BGPSA)**, grant #58, for the purpose of “Fund venue rental fees and \$4.5k  
97 worth of food”
- 98 9) \$3,010.00 dollars be distributed to the **Student National Association of Black  
99 Veterinarians (sNABV)**, grant #34, for the purpose of “Fund the permanent installation  
100 of `Walking the Legacy: Celebrating CVM's Black Alumni` and Cornell CVM Alumni-  
101 Faculty-Student Mixer in April 2026” under the conditions:
- 102 a. Do not fund externships, conference support, NAVLE preparatory resources,  
103 Mailchimp subscription, or alumni dinner at Taverna Banfi
- 104 10) \$2,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Graduate Students in Public Health (GraPH)**,  
105 grant #27, for the purpose of “Fund professional events (\$1,000) and emotional and  
106 mental health support events” under the conditions:
- 107 a. Do not fund \$2,200 honorarium for professional event



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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- 108 11) \$2,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **School of Integrative Plant Science (SIPS)**, grant  
109 #39, for the purpose of “Fund beginning and end of year picnic for students in SIPS”  
110 12) \$2,000.00 dollars be distributed to the **Iranian Graduate Students Organization (IGS)**,  
111 grant #19, for the purpose of “Fund food (\$2k) for Nowruz celebration”  
112 13) \$1,076.96 dollars be distributed to the **Food Science Community Outreach Committee**  
113 **(COC)**, grant #49, for the purpose of “Fund proposed events during the 2026-2027  
114 academic year”  
115 14) \$500.00 dollars be distributed to the **Chemists for Outreach and Graduate Inclusion**  
116 **(COrgI)**, grant #12, for the purpose of “Fund upkeep of the Department of Chemistry  
117 and Chemical Biology's mental health room through Fall 2026”  
118

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

- 121 1) All promotional / advertisement / event materials, printed and digital, must bear the  
122 “Supported by GPSA” seal visibly.  
123 2) For each year of funding offered, a budget for planned activities must be submitted for  
124 review and approval by the GPSA Appropriations Committee in advance of  
125 disbursement.  
126 3) For each year of funding offered, an Impact and Visibility Report must be compiled and  
127 submitted to the GPSA Appropriations Committee detailing the use of Special Grant  
128 funding, the benefits conferred to the graduate student community (including photo  
129 documentation of the event / renovation / installation), and (if applicable) the feasibility  
130 of event implementation in future years under funding continuation. Reports must also  
131 contain all relevant receipts, detailed attendance at event(s) and any additional  
132 information requested by the GPSA Appropriations Committee. It is required that this  
133 report be submitted by the deadline set by the Appropriations Committee before any  
134 subsequent year(s) of funding may be offered. Designation of requirements for Impact  
135 and Visibility Reports and Report approval is charged to the GPSA Appropriations  
136 Committee.

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

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142 Respectfully Submitted,

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144 Anurag Koyyada



# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

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145 *Finance Commission Chairperson*

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147 Jason Chobirko

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