

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Resolution 12: Implementing Special Grants Committee Funding Recommendations on Grants Addressing Student Lounges

Abstract: This resolution directs the GPSA Appropriations Committee to distribute \$37,595 across five (5) organizations **proposing the creation, renovation, or enhancement of graduate and professional student lounge spaces** under the *Student Lounges* category, as specified in the Special Grants Committee funding recommendations.

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Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 02/04/2026

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

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39 **Whereas**, multiple Special Grant grants identified a lack of accessible, welcoming, and
40 functional lounge spaces for graduate and professional students, particularly within department-
41 based, off-campus, or research-intensive academic units.

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43 **Whereas**, applicants demonstrated that the absence of dedicated student lounges limits
44 opportunities for informal collaboration, peer support, wellness, and community-building, often
45 resulting in students using laboratories, offices, or non-ideal spaces for meals, meetings, and rest.

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47 **Whereas**, proposed lounge projects address documented student needs through modest
48 renovations, furnishing, and appliance installation that enable year-round use, accessibility, and
49 multipurpose functionality.

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51 **Whereas**, funded student lounge projects are designed to serve as shared, cross-departmental
52 “third spaces” that support academic productivity, professional development, and social
53 connection for current and future cohorts of graduate and professional students.

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55 **Whereas**, grants included clear implementation plans, designated student leadership and
56 departmental oversight, itemized budgets, and sustainability strategies to ensure responsible use
57 of funds and long-term impact.

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59 **Whereas**, investment in student lounge infrastructure represents a one-time funding opportunity
60 with multi-year benefits that advance graduate and professional student well-being across
61 Cornell University.

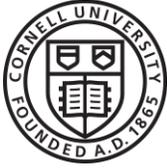
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63 **Whereas**, the Special Grants Committee completed its charge on January 26th 2026 by
64 presenting a final recommendation of reviewed grants to fund, either partially or in-full, to the
65 GPSA.

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67 **Be it therefore resolved**, the GPSA Appropriations Committee earmarked \$37,595 from the
68 GPSAFC reserve account for the purpose of supporting grants #3, #7, #18, #21, and #23.

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70 **Be it further resolved**, that the GPSA Appropriations Committee distribute \$37,595 across five
71 (5) organizations under the *Student Lounges* category as specified in the Special Grants
72 Committee funding recommendations as follows:

73 1) \$18,645.00 dollars be distributed to the **Student Association of the Geneva Experiment**
74 **Station (SAGES)**, grant #3, for the purpose of “Fund winterization and refurbishing of
75 Sawdust Cafe at Cornell's AgriTech campus” under the conditions:

- 76 a. Funds shall be used solely for approved heating and cooling upgrades, insulation,
77 electrical upgrades, appliances, and furnishings.
- 78 b. Renovation work must be completed in coordination with Cornell AgriTech
79 Buildings and Properties staff.
- 80 c. The space must remain accessible to graduate and professional students across
81 departments.

82 2) \$12,500.00 dollars be distributed to the **Animal Science Graduate Student Association**
83 **(ASGSA)**, grant #23, for the purpose of “Fund furniture, seating, kitchenette and usage
84 monitoring for the student lounge” under the conditions:

- 85 a. Do not fund space renovations.
- 86 b. The space must remain accessible to graduate and professional students across
87 departments.
- 88 c. \$4,500 may be used to fund a temporary partition as an exception to condition a)
89 preventing space renovations.

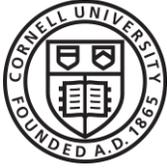
90 3) \$4,500.00 dollars be distributed to the **Astronomy Graduate Network (AGN)**, grant
91 #18, for the purpose of “Fund furniture (\$3,000.00) and some electronics (\$1,500.00) for
92 the student lounge” under the conditions:

- 93 a. Fund furniture and small electronics for the student lounge, consistent with the
94 approved budget.
- 95 b. All purchases must support shared graduate and professional student use.

96 4) \$1,700.00 dollars be distributed to the **Field of Global Development Graduate**
97 **Collective (GDEV)**, grant #7, for the purpose of “Fund furnishings, plants and
98 kitchenware for basement office space in Mann Library” under the conditions:

- 99 a. Funds are intended for furnishings, plants, and kitchenware consistent with the
100 approved funding purpose and shall not be used for structural renovations or large
101 appliances such as \$800.00 coffee machine
- 102 b. The space must remain accessible to graduate and professional students across
103 departments.

104 5) \$250.00 dollars be distributed to the **Genetics, Genomics, and Development Graduate**
105 **Student Association (GGD GSA)**, grant #21, for the purpose of “Fund coffee bar
106 supplies for lounge space” under the conditions:



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- 107 a. The space must be made available for cross-field graduate student use.
108 b. Ongoing consumable costs must be supported through non-Special Grant funds
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110 **Be it further resolved** that all grants funded herein must additionally comply with the following
111 conditions:

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

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

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133 Respectfully Submitted,

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135 Anafernanda Cardenas
136 *Executive Vice President*

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138 Jason Chobirko
139 *Faculty Advising, Teaching, and Mentorship Awards Committee Chair*