

Introduction

This document is a conclusion of analysis conducted by the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) Appropriations Committee (hereafter referred to as “Committee”), as mandated under the GPSA Byline Allocation Procedures in Article VIII of the GPSA Charter and amended by GPSA Resolution 8 of 2021. Contained herein is the Committee’s formal recommendation (hereafter referred to as “Recommendation”) for byline funding and, consequently, the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee (GPSAF).

Applications

Applications were developed with the Office of Assemblies and the Student Assembly. Final applications inquired about funding requests, mission, governing documents, a summary of officers and events for the past two academic years, and detailed financial statements and budgeting documents. Funding amounts were requested as a dollar amount per student. In some cases, application materials or subsequent dialogue with applying organizations revealed a lump sum annual request. This lump sum request was used to develop a funding recommendation in these cases.

Application Process

Internal staffing shortages in the GPSA and Appropriations Committee initially delayed the solicitation and review of funding applications. To accommodate this delay, the Committee Chair initiated outreach efforts immediately upon being elected, engaged in substantial dialogue with all interested organizations, and provided applying organizations with substantial leeway regarding the application timeline.

Review Process

After substantial outreach and repeated efforts by the Committee Chair and Office of the Assemblies Staff, the full slate of applications was completed by November 11th. The Committee Chair conducted the initial review in consultation with both Committee members and the Executive Committee. Due to the truncated application and review timeline, a substantial amount of dialogue regarding specific organization’s applications has also been conducted via email between the Committee Chair and organizational leaders and representatives. Draft recommendations were then sent to organizational leaders and representatives for review and to solicit feedback. Public meetings to discuss these recommendations and solicit feedback from organizations were held the week of November 5th, and a final set of recommendations was then crafted and submitted to the GPSA for review before a meeting on November 13th. Organizations applying for funding were also invited to fill out a survey.

Special Notes

Byline funding for the previous cycle was based on a projected student enrollment of 9,200. The projected enrollment for the 2024-2026 funding cycle is 10,425. The organizations discussed in these Recommendations have experienced substantial disruptions over the past two years. The Committee wishes to express our sincere gratitude for their resilience in the face of the global pandemic.

A. Athletics and Physical Education Byline

Group Profile

Cornell Athletics offers all graduate students access to a wide array of sporting events on campus. Through the Big Red Sports Pass (part of the Cornell Student ID card), graduate and professional students and their immediate families gain free admission to all home athletic events, except for men’s ice hockey games and postseason contests. Funding through the GPSAF allows graduate and professional students to sign up for the Big Red Sports Pass for free, along with access to a host of other benefits.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$7.00	\$7.00	0%

Analysis

The Committee recognizes that while Cornell Athletics is a valuable asset for graduate and professional students, the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a reassessment of financial needs. During the campus closure, which included the suspension of all in-person events, the anticipated benefits of GPSAF support for Cornell Athletics were not realized by graduate and professional students. Considering this, the Committee has carefully considered the implications of continuing the previous level of financial support.

Given that the student body did not receive the expected benefits from the GPSAF support during the pandemic and considering the need for prudent financial stewardship, the Committee proposes a reassessment of the byline funding allocation. The intent is to align the funding more closely with the actual usage of services and benefits received. This recommendation aims to prevent any unnecessary financial strain on the GPSAF by avoiding additional funding that may not be warranted based on recent trends.

Furthermore, the Committee acknowledges the importance of reaching a mutual agreement with Cornell Athletics concerning the return of a portion of the previously allocated funds. This decision, taken in good faith, is based on the submitted application materials and the expectation that both parties will engage in discussions throughout the Fall 2025 semester to determine the most appropriate course of action regarding future funding cycles.

B. Big Red Barn Byline

Group Profile

The Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center (BRB) is the only centrally located gathering place for graduate and professional students at Cornell University. The Big Red Barn staff are tasked with providing programming aimed at increasing social, cultural, and intellectual exchange among students. The weekly “Tell Grads It’s Friday” (TGIF) and other events are traditionally well attended and have resumed after an all-remote programming academic year. After a year remote, BRB is re-establishing itself as the hub for graduate life on campus by increasing internal programming and continuing to offer free BRB reservations to students and student organizations on campus. Additionally,

BRB continues to offer beer, refreshments, and food at a reduced cost for graduate events held at the BRB upon request.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$15.00	\$15.80	5.3%

Analysis

The Committee has long recognized the exceptional contributions of the Big Red Barn to the graduate and professional student community. However, it is important to note that we are still awaiting a response to the survey sent to BRB. Our efforts to reach out for further clarification on their financial situation are ongoing, as we understand their budget was quite constrained last year based on our conversations with them.

Currently, BRB is experiencing a period of leadership transition, which inherently brings about a degree of uncertainty regarding future direction and financial planning. The decision regarding funding levels for the upcoming cycle has been significantly informed by discussions held with BRB's team last year. Given these factors, and in anticipation of a clearer financial picture post-leadership change, we suggest a cautious approach to funding.

This cautious stance is reflected in our recommendation, which is a proposed increase of 5.3%. With this increased funding, we hope to maintain valued programs and services without extending beyond what is necessary until BRB's new leadership has had the opportunity to establish its fiscal strategy in the next cycle.

Notes on the last funding cycle

GPSAF funding is BRB's primary means of financial support, and the Committee is grateful that funding from the last byline cycle was able to off-set shortfalls in programmatic funding and enable BRB to continue remote operations while also ensuring that all employees continued in their positions throughout the pandemic.

C. Cornell Cinema

Group Profile

Cornell Cinema (CC) offers educational and popular film programming for the Cornell and Ithaca communities. Cornell Cinema's primary mission is educational in scope, providing access to a wide array of films not typically available – such as international, independent, classic, or documentary films. Mainstream films are also offered at prices substantially below other local venues. In addition to screenings, the Cinema organizes introductions by film scholars, panels with faculty and other experts from the field, and filmmakers to engage in post-screening discussions and an array of special events, including movies on the Willard Straight Terrace.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$7.00	\$7.46	6.6%

Analysis

The Committee has reviewed the financial documents and acknowledges that Cornell Cinema (CC) experienced a \$5,792 shortfall in the last fiscal year. Considering this, we recommend an adjustment in funding to address this deficit specifically. This action is taken to ensure the stability and continued operation of CC, which is a cornerstone in enriching the cultural fabric of the university and providing unique benefits to the graduate and professional community.

D. Concert Commission

The Cornell Concert Commission (CCC) seeks to “provide the student body with popular and diverse musical entertainment.” To do so, the CCC selects and produces several large, on-campus performances each academic year. CCC programming continued throughout the pandemic through remote and in-person performances, and graduate students continued to benefit from free or subsidized tickets for these events. CCC aims to host one free concert annually and dedicate 3-5% of its total operating budget to co-sponsoring musical events with other student organizations.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$5.76	\$6.21	7.7%

Analysis

The Cornell Concert Commission (CCC) has consistently provided exceptional musical events to the Cornell community, often featuring acts that offer unique experiences to students. Recognizing the value of these performances and CCC’s efforts to organize at least one free show annually and to collaborate with student organizations, the Committee has assessed their financial request with these contributions in mind.

Despite the shortfall encountered by CCC in the previous year, the Committee must balance the available funds with the needs of all student organizations. While we acknowledge the shortfall, it is not feasible to cover the entire amount due to budgetary constraints. After careful consideration, we have decided to allocate an additional 7.7% increase to CCC’s funding, which translates to an increase of \$4,600. This amount is the maximum that can be provided within the current budgetary framework, and it is given with the intention of supporting CCC's continued delivery of quality programming to graduate students.

This increase in funding is made in recognition of the importance of CCC's role in enhancing campus life and with the expectation that the organization will continue to manage its budget efficiently. The Committee believes that this increase will help mitigate the shortfall while also ensuring that funds are utilized in a manner that benefits the graduate and professional student body as a whole.

E. Cornell University Emergency Service

The Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) is a certified, student-run EMS agency. Its mission is to provide the entire Cornell community with professional, efficient, and effective Basic Life Support care. CUEMS responds to medical emergencies on Cornell University Campus and surrounding university-owned properties. It also provides stand-by service for university events. It provides CPR, First Aid, and other training seminars to the Cornell community, as well as providing services completely free of charge to patients.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$2.35	\$2.45	4.3%

Analysis

Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) performs critical, life-saving work that is indispensable to the Cornell community. The organization not only offers essential emergency services but also contributes to campus safety by training new members in vital life-saving techniques every semester.

While CUEMS indicated that a per-student funding rate of \$2.35 would be sufficient, the Committee has opted to provide a modest increase. This decision for a slight funding bump of 10 cents, which constitutes a 4.3% increase, adds up to an additional \$1,042.50 in funding. This increase is provided with the foresight that, although \$2.35 is just adequate under the assumption of a constant student population of 10,425, there is a possibility of a decrease in student numbers. By granting this additional funding, the Committee aims to ensure that CUEMS has a small but crucial financial buffer to continue its vital services without disruption, particularly as the organization navigates the post-pandemic recovery phase and adjusts its budgetary allocations.

F. Cornell University Programming Board

The CUPB student organization organizes major lecture and entertainment events for the Cornell and Ithaca communities. These events draw large crowds and allow community members to participate in many events that would likely not be available otherwise. Despite the pandemic, CUPB has done an excellent job of fulfilling its mission of enriching and inspiring Cornellians' lives by bringing virtual and in-person events to campus that have recently included Spike Lee, Michael Che, and Carli Lloyd. They offer advanced ticket sales to the Cornell community for their events and aim to allocate 5% of their yearly budget to co-sponsoring events with other Campus Groups. Graduate and professional students can purchase tickets at least one day prior to the public and pay reduced prices.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$3.00	\$3.18	6%

Analysis

The Committee has great respect for the resilience shown by the Cornell University Program Board (CUPB) and their unwavering dedication to their mission, which greatly enhances the graduate and professional community experience. We acknowledge that CUPB has faced a budgetary shortfall. While the ideal scenario would be to cover the entire deficit to support their valuable programming fully, budget constraints necessitate a more measured approach.

Therefore, after thorough consideration, we have determined the most substantial contribution that can be made within our financial limitations. We are providing an increase of 6% in the funding to CUPB. This increment, while not fully remedying the shortfall, is the maximum feasible support we can offer at this time and is given with the hope that it will help CUPB maintain its level of service and quality of events.

This decision is also made with an eye toward the future, expecting that CUPB will continue to work with the GPSA to find a sustainable path forward, including the potential return of unused funds from the previous academic year. The Committee's recommendation, therefore, is made in good faith, reflecting our confidence in CUPB's ability to manage these funds effectively and continue to be a cornerstone of student life at Cornell.

G. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA)

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly represents all graduate and professional students on Cornell University's Ithaca, New York, and Geneva campuses through the shared governance system. This body aims to advocate for the graduate and professional student community by offering policy recommendations to and requesting audiences with the Cornell University administration. The GPSA also maintains the authority to recommend and allocate the Student Activity Fee to be distributed among the Byline organizations that enrich the graduate and professional student experience at Cornell University.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$4.90	\$6.12	24.9%

Analysis

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) has a commendable history of conservative financial practices, often using their budget judiciously and only as needed. Despite this, recent developments within the organization have highlighted the need for additional financial resources to create a more resilient and agile GPSA. This includes plans to compensate the executive board, which necessitates an increase in funding to ensure that leaders are supported for their time and efforts.

Additionally, GPSA has taken on the vital responsibilities previously held by the International Student Union, emphasizing the need to ensure that international graduate students have access to adequate resources. This new role brings with it additional financial burdens that were not accounted for in past budgets.

Therefore, an increase in funding has become essential to cover these new expenditures. The GPSA is committed to maintaining its fiscally responsible ethos while also recognizing that to continue providing high-quality services and support, particularly to international students, an increment in the budget is required. This adjustment will position the GPSA to serve the diverse needs of its constituents better and enhance the overall graduate and professional student experience at Cornell.

H. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Funding Committee (GPSAFC)

Group Profile

The Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Funding Committee (GPSAFC) serves as the primary funding source for graduate and professional student organizations at Cornell University. It is a registered student organization that functions under the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) and is in charge of funding over 200 registered graduate and professional student organizations on the Cornell campus.

The GPSAFC manages the allocation of the activity fee collected from students, with the aim of using this fee to support fun and inclusive events organized by student-run organizations. For organizations interested in receiving funding, the GPSAFC has established guidelines and a process for budget submission through CampusGroups, which are reviewed by both the Student Organization Business Office (SOBO) and the GPSAFC.

Students or organizations seeking funding can refer to the GPSAFC's quick-start guide and detailed funding guidelines to understand the application process, deadlines, tier assignments for funding levels, and other related information. The GPSAFC's system is designed to ensure that the activity fees are used effectively to benefit the student community.

For detailed guidelines and more information on how to apply for funding, graduate and professional student organizations can visit the GPSAFC website and the Cornell Assemblies page

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$30.12	\$51.53	71.1%

Analysis

The increase in the activity fee at Cornell from \$30.12 to \$51.53 appears to be a response to the growing number of graduate and professional student groups, which have expanded to include around 100 new organizations. This fee adjustment is an investment in student engagement and belonging within the Cornell graduate community. The additional funds raised by this increase are intended to support the activities of these groups, which contribute to a more vibrant and participatory community life at the university.

The growth in the number of student organizations necessitates additional funding not only to accommodate the new groups but also to ensure the continued support of existing ones. The GPSAFC, as the primary funding source for these organizations, plays a critical role in fostering an environment where student participation is valued and encouraged.

Moreover, the increase in GPSAFC tier funding aims to counter the effects of inflation, ensuring that the financial support provided remains adequate and effective in maintaining the quality and

diversity of student events and activities. These financial adjustments are vital for sustaining the dynamic ecosystem of student organizations that enrich the graduate and professional student experience at Cornell.

I. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Programming Board (GPSAPB)

Group Profile

The mission of the Graduate and Student Assembly Programming Board (GPSAPB) is to improve the quality of social and wellness-oriented programming for graduate and professional students at Cornell University. Historically, Their events included the annual Grad Ball, Grads’ Nights Out, mixers, speakers, and other wellness-oriented events.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$2.75	\$2.75	0%

Analysis

The GPSPB has historically been the only programming board on campus that directly targets graduate and professional students for their events. Before the pandemic, the GPSPB has taken effective steps towards increased publicity and more diverse attendance at events. Still, unfortunately, the pandemic and recent leadership changes have derailed the organization. However, new leadership and more direct support from GPSA leadership have produced a recent return to events planning and a proactive approach to outreach and communications. As such, the Committee recommendation provides the requested lump sum payment with the expectation that the GPSPB will quickly regain its footing under new leadership and will once again provide substantial value to the graduate and professional student community.

J. International Students Union

Group Profile

The International Students Union (ISU) promotes cultural exchange within and among the Cornell community and provides support and representation to the international community on campus in a variety of ways. As a programming, funding, advisory, and advocacy board, the ISU works with all Cornell students as well as the administration and represents the interests of the international students who make up at least 47% of the graduate and professional student community.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$1.62	\$1.00	-38.3%

Analysis

The International Student Union (ISU) has been a pivotal presence for the international student community at Cornell, especially noted during the challenging times of the pandemic. The Committee has

taken into consideration the ISU's commendable work, including their efforts to engage more graduate and professional students, as well as their extensive event programming, resource provision, and advocacy.

Despite the valuable contributions of the ISU, the Committee has observed that the organization has accumulated a surplus from the previous funding cycle. In alignment with the GPSA's commitment to fiscal responsibility and effective resource allocation, we have decided to reduce the funding for ISU. The surplus identified will be directed towards supporting the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly's internal DISC, which is poised to serve the international student community's needs.

This reallocation is consistent with the GPSA's strategic objectives to optimize the use of student fees and to ensure that funds are being utilized to their maximum potential. The decision is made with the expectation that ISU will work in collaboration with the GPSA to reconcile any accounting irregularities from the last year and to come to an agreement concerning the surplus funds. It is the Committee's belief that this approach will maintain the ISU's capacity to support international students effectively while also enhancing the role of the DISC within the GPSA structure.

K. Risk Management Club Insurance

Profile and Analysis

The student club insurance policy covers all independent registered graduate and undergraduate student clubs. This policy is, therefore, essential to the functioning of these clubs, which in turn provide innumerable benefits to the graduate and professional community. While this Committee believes that the policy should be funded by the University rather than by the Assemblies, we are comfortable recommending that the full request be granted.

Recommendation of Funding

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$5.50	\$5.50	0%

L. GPSA AIF

Profile

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Appropriation Committee's Initiative Fund (GPSA AIF) is an initiative that provides financial support to affinity and graduate groups at Cornell University. The fund is specifically designed to distribute \$200 to each eligible group that is actively engaged in initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility and promoting inclusion among graduate and professional students within the Cornell community. The primary goal of GPSA AIF is to empower these groups to develop and lead efforts that foster a more inclusive environment, thereby ensuring that all members have equitable access to the resources and opportunities available on campus.

2022-2024 Funding	2024-2026 Funding	Percentage Change
\$0	\$1.00	--%

GPSA Student Activity Fee

Analysis

The GPSA AIF administered by the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA) has been allocated funding with the intention of supporting a broad range of initiatives within the graduate and professional student community at Cornell. With an estimation that approximately 40 graduate and professional groups will be recipients of the AIF, the GPSA has granted the fund a total of \$10,450. This amount is calculated on the premise that each group will receive an allotment of \$200 to aid in their endeavors toward increasing accessibility and inclusion on campus.

The decision to grant this specific amount considers the significant role that these affinity groups play in enriching the campus culture and enhancing the educational experience of graduate and professional students through diversity and inclusivity efforts. The GPSA believes that this investment is a step towards creating a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

Moreover, the allocation of \$1 to the AIF represents a symbolic commitment to each group, reinforcing the value the GPSA places on their initiatives. This gesture underlines the importance of every single effort made toward fostering an inclusive community and acknowledges that even small amounts can be a catalyst for meaningful change.

By providing these funds, the GPSA AIF is not only facilitating ongoing projects but is also investing in the potential for new ideas and programs that can emerge from these groups, further contributing to a cohesive and supportive graduate and professional community at Cornell.

L. Summary

Organizations	Current Activity Fee		New Activity Fee		Δ
Athletics	\$ 7.00	\$ 72,975.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 72,975.00	0.0%
BRB	\$ 15.00	\$ 156,375.00	\$ 15.80	\$ 164,715.00	5.3%
CCConcerts	\$ 5.76	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 6.21	\$ 64,693.38	7.7%
CCcinema	\$ 7.00	\$ 72,975.00	\$ 7.46	\$ 77,770.50	6.6%
CUPB	\$ 3.00	\$ 31,275.00	\$ 3.18	\$ 33,151.50	6.0%
EMS	\$ 2.35	\$ 24,498.75	\$2.45	\$ 25,541.25	4.3%
Club Insurance	\$ 5.50	\$ 57,337.50	\$ 5.50	\$ 57,337.50	0.0%
GPSA	\$ 4.90	\$ 51,082.50	\$ 6.12	\$ 63,801.00	24.9%
GPSAFC	\$ 30.12	\$ 314,001.00	\$ 51.53	\$ 537,235.70	71.1%
GPSAPB	\$ 2.75	\$ 28,668.75	\$ 2.75	\$ 28,668.75	0.0%
ISU	\$ 1.62	\$ 16,888.50	\$ 1.00	\$ 10,425.00	-38.3%
GPSA AIF			\$ 1.00	\$ 10,425.00	
Total	\$ 85.00	\$ 886,125.00	\$ 110.00	\$1,146,739.58	29.4%