GPSA Appropriations Committee Initiative Fund (AIF)
Initiative Statement

Section I: Introduction

The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) at Cornell University understands the significance of diversity, equity, and inclusion within our academic community. Through the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, GPSA endeavors to ensure every Cornell Graduate and Professional student finds a university environment where they feel acknowledged and welcomed.

Section II: Initiative

This initiative's core objective is to promote diversity and establish an inclusive campus atmosphere for all students. This is achieved by actively supporting student organizations that resonate with these principles and actively promoting diversity in thought, race, gender expression, and other facets.

Section III: Initiative Details

GPSA AIF will allocate an additional $200 in funding to those that meet specific criteria. These criteria emphasize both diversity in leadership and a demonstrated commitment to diverse initiatives:

1. **Support for Diverse Initiatives:**
   a. Clear evidence of the organization’s commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion.
   b. A track record of events, projects, or activities that support and celebrate various perspectives, including race, gender expression, cultural backgrounds, thought, and more.

2. **Willingness to Bridge Gaps:**
   a. Efforts to encourage collaboration and understanding among diverse student organizations.
   b. A proactive approach to creating spaces for dialogue, cooperation, and idea exchange among varied student groups.

3. **Affiliation with Graduate or Professional School:**
   a. The organization must be affiliated with a graduate or professional school within Cornell University.
   b. The Student Organization must also receive GPSAFC Tier funding and register with Cornell Campus Activities.
Section IV: Application Process

Graduate Student organizations interested in applying for the additional $200 funding under this initiative must submit their application to the AIF chair, which must include the following components:

1. **Introduction and Purpose of the Organization:**
   a. Provide an overview of the organization, its mission, and how it contributes to diversity and inclusion within the graduate or professional school community.

2. **Initiatives Supporting Diversity:**
   a. Describe specific initiatives and events the organization organizes that promote diversity in thought, race, gender expression, etc.

3. **Community Engagement and Collaboration:**
   a. Detailed efforts were made to create community spaces and foster collaboration among diverse student groups.

4. **Leadership Diversity:**
   a. Highlight the organization's commitment to diversity in leadership positions, including information on current leadership roles and their diversity regarding thought, race, gender expression, etc.

Section V: Evaluation and Selection

The AIF Chair will meticulously review all applications based on the abovementioned criteria. Student Organizations that meet these criteria and demonstrate a robust commitment to diversity and inclusion will be granted the additional $200 funding.

Section VI: Recipient Expectations

Student Organizations granted the funds are required to attend monthly AIF meetings. These meetings are a platform for Student Organizations to share their recent initiatives and events related to diversity. They also offer an opportunity for groups to suggest actionable steps that GPSA can undertake to further its mission.

Section VII: Conclusion

GPSA implores all qualifying student organizations to actively participate in the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Through collective effort, we aim to cultivate an enriched academic experience, fostering a sense of belonging and equity within the Cornell graduate and professional student community.