

**Resolution 10: Donation from the GPSA in Support of the Access Fund
to Support Graduate and Professional Students in Need Related to
COVID-19 Pandemic**

Abstract: This resolution approves the transfer of funds from the GPSA reserve account as well as the GPSA Finance Commission to the Student Access Fund to support graduate and professional students' urgent needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsored by: Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gómez, President, GPSA; Alexa Cohn, Executive Vice President, GPSA; Victoria Kasonde, Vice President of Operations; Taylor Tejeda, Vice President of Communications, GPSA; Alex Loiben, Counsel, GPSA; Arielle Johnson, Chair, GPSA Finance Commission

Whereas, the decision to move to virtual instruction throughout Cornell and ask that all undergraduates, and many graduate and professional students, leave campus at the start of spring break and complete the rest of the semester remotely has created unprecedented logistical difficulties, and

Whereas, the graduate and professional students who are leaving campus to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and/or to ensure the safety of themselves and others must quickly find storage spaces for belongings, terminate leases, and/or purchase travel tickets, which creates an unanticipated financial burden, and

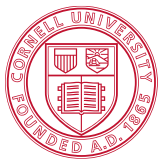
Whereas, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly has a total of \$48,293.48 in its reserve account, and

Whereas, many graduate and professional student organizations had allocated Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Finance Commission (GPSAFC) funds originating from the graduate and professional student activity fee for events that cannot be held due to COVID-19-related event restrictions, and

Whereas, this will result in unspent GPSAFC funds, and when taking the GPSAFC reserve into account the GPSAFC will have approximately \$122,000 in combined unspent and reserve funds, and

Whereas, in advance of an ongoing initiative of creating a Students-Helping-Students fund for graduate and professional students, it would be appropriate to use the funds in these unprecedented times.

Be it therefore resolved, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly shall donate \$50,000, comprised of \$20,000 from its reserve account and \$30,000 from unspent GPSAFC funding, to fund the Student Access Fund in order to support the urgent need of graduate and professional students in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Cornell University
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36 **Be it further resolved,** these funds shall be administered through the Office of the Dean of
37 Students, which manages the Student Access Fund,
38 **Be it further resolved,** in order to ensure that the funds are readily available to graduate and professional
39 students, that the Office of the Dean of Students shall create a separate account for the GPSA donation,
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41 **Be it further resolved,** that these funds be used to provide access to financial support for graduate
42 and professional students in need during the unprecedented crisis,
43 **Be it finally resolved,** that graduate and professional students in need shall be able to access the
44 funds by submitting an application at [https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-](https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-low-income-support/access-fund)
45 [low-income-support/access-fund](https://scl.cornell.edu/identity-resources/first-generation-low-income-support/access-fund), and the approval process shall be expedited so that students can
46 receive grants within a few days of applying.

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48 Respectfully Submitted,

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50 Andy Leonel Barrientos-Gómez
51 President, GPSA

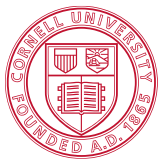
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53 Alexa Cohn
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66 Chair of the GPSA Finance Commission