



Organization	Senior Days
2016-2018 Allocation	\$4.85
2018-2020 Request	\$4.85
Appropriations Recommendation	<b>\$4.85</b>

### Rationale of the Committee

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The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Senior Days at \$4.85 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. The Committee would like to commend Senior Days on having one of the most informative, well-prepared presentations that we have yet seen and we were truly impressed by the incredible level of thought and analysis that Senior Day’s officers demonstrated to the Committee. Their knowledge of their organization’s strengths and weaknesses, ability to identify room for improvement, and their articulation of the value to the campus community both quantitatively and qualitatively were exhibited during their funding hearing and in the presentation of their application.

The Committee has only a few recommendations for ways that Senior Days can improve their efficiency, such as by tracking income from the activity fee versus earned income so that we can more clearly see which transactions are entered into the activity fee account versus income earned from ticket sales. This simple accounting/reporting change would allow the Committee and Senior Days to better assess how much subsidy goes to each event. Secondly, the Committee recommends prioritizing activity fee income specifically to reduce the price of less costly events so that they can become accessible for lower-SES students.<sup>1</sup>

Importantly, the Committee was extremely disappointed that Senior Days apparently ran a nearly \$33,000 deficit. However, when we pressed this issue during the hearing, we found that the deficit was actually billed to their account by other entities within the University without the consent of their organization. Neither the current officers nor current advisor for Senior Days were sure of how Senior Days ran the deficit, but we confirmed that at least some of the deficit is essentially an invoice for costs incurred by Convocation Committee. This is unacceptable to the Committee because it is unfair to the student leaders who work hard to keep costs down and also to the students participating in Senior Days activities that are now being asked to undergo “austerity measures” to make up costs that neither the Committee nor Senior Days authorized. We *fully* expect to follow up with Cornell’s Business Service Center and other relevant stakeholders to inquire further about how this deficit materialized and how it will be paid back. We thank Senior Days, its

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<sup>1</sup> Subsidizing an event that would have cost \$85 at \$5 per ticket so that it only costs \$80 is, the way the Committee sees it, less utilitarian than subsidizing an event that costs \$5 per head and making it free, so that students for whom even \$5 is a burden can enjoy Senior Week activities. Rather than subsidizing expensive events so that they become slightly less expensive, we would rather see moderately priced events receive larger percentage subsidies.

officers, and its new advisor for being rigorously forthcoming about this manifestly concerning issue that we fully recognize is no fault of their own.

Overall, the Committee strongly commends the excellent work Senior Days has put into improving their organization's operating efficiency and budgetary priorities, and we hope that their officers interpret our maintenance of their full funding allocation as a thorough endorsement of the direction in which they have taken the organization. We look forward to working with Senior Days in the near future to help actualize some of our recommendations and we hope the Assembly joins us in this pursuit.

### Vote Totals

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The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

Amount	Vote
\$4.85	8-0-1

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gabe Kaufman**

*Vice President for Finance*