



GPSA Appropriations Committee Initiative Fund (AIF) Initiative Statement

1 **Section I: Introduction**

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

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11 This initiative's core objective is to promote diversity and establish an inclusive campus
12 atmosphere for all students. This is achieved by actively supporting student organizations that
13 resonate with these principles and actively promoting diversity in thought, race, gender
14 expression, and other facets.
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16 **Section III: Initiative Details**

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18 GPSA AIF will allocate an additional \$200 in funding to those that meet specific criteria. These
19 criteria emphasize both diversity in leadership and a demonstrated commitment to diverse
20 initiatives:
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22 **1. Support for Diverse Initiatives:**

- 23 a. Clear evidence of the organization’s commitment to promoting diversity and
24 inclusion.
- 25 b. A track record of events, projects, or activities that support and celebrate
26 various perspectives, including race, gender expression, cultural backgrounds,
27 thought, and more.

28 **2. Willingness to Bridge Gaps:**

- 29 a. Efforts to encourage collaboration and understanding among diverse student
30 organizations.
- 31 b. A proactive approach to creating spaces for dialogue, cooperation, and idea
32 exchange among varied student groups.

33 **3. Affiliation with Graduate or Professional School:**

- 34 a. The organization must be affiliated with a graduate or professional school
35 within Cornell University.
- 36 b. The Student Organization must also receive GPSAFC Tier funding and
37 register with Cornell Campus Activities.



38 **Section IV: Application Process**

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

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44 **1. Introduction and Purpose of the Organization:**

45 a. Provide an overview of the organization, its mission, and how it contributes to
46 diversity and inclusion within the graduate or professional school community.

47 **2. Initiatives Supporting Diversity:**

48 a. Describe specific initiatives and events the organization organizes that
49 promote diversity in thought, race, gender expression, etc.

50 **3. Community Engagement and Collaboration:**

51 a. Detailed efforts were made to create community spaces and foster
52 collaboration among diverse student groups.

53 **4. Leadership Diversity:**

54 a. Highlight the organization's commitment to diversity in leadership positions,
55 including information on current leadership roles and their diversity regarding
56 thought, race, gender expression, etc.

57 **Section V: Evaluation and Selection**

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

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63 **Section VI: Recipient Expectations**

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

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70 **Section VII: Conclusion**

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