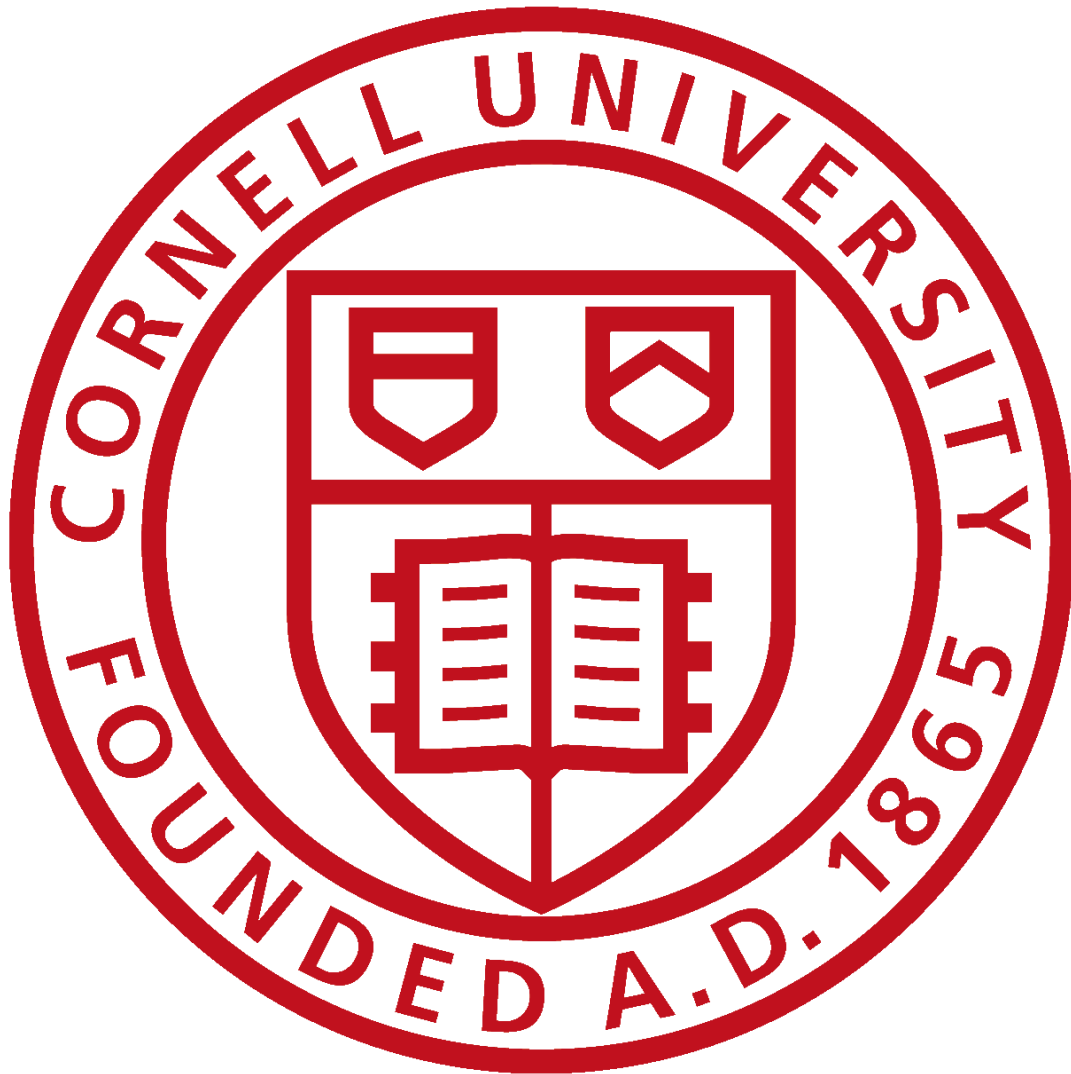


**Graduate and Professional Student  
Activity Fee (GPSAF) Recommendation  
for 2020-2022**



**Graduate & Professional Student Assembly  
Appropriations Committee**

## **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. Contained herein includes 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 in conjunction with the Office of Assemblies and the Student Assembly. Initial applications were meant to give the Appropriations Committee an estimate of how much each organization anticipated requesting the following fall. Final applications inquired about funding request (see next section), mission, governing documents, summary of officers and events for the past two academic years, and detailed financial statements for the past and projected future.

## **Funding Request Format**

Funding amounts were requested as a dollar amount per student, which includes all matriculated graduate and professional students (excluding master's students enrolled at programs at Cornell Tech - see Appendix). For some organizations their application material, or through dialogue with organization representatives, revealed a lump sum annual request. In these cases this lump sum request was used to develop a funding recommendation over the stated funding amount per student included in an application.

According to Cornell University Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) statistics, graduate and professional student population at the beginning of fall 2019 is an estimate of 8,984. This is up significantly from fall 2017, which was 8,109. Cornell Tech entering fall 2019 is 418, whereas in fall 2017 they had 261 students enter.

Due to the historical trend of significant increase in enrollment year after year, especially in recent years regarding graduate and professional students, this should provide all organizations with sufficient funds to operate for the two years of the following cycle.

## **Application Review Process**

Preliminary applications for byline funding were collected in spring 2019. Dialogue was also established with representatives from the applying organizations during this period.

In fall 2019 final applications for byline funding were collected. The committee had the responsibility to familiarize and critique individual organizations by-line funding applications. Applications and supplemental material were made available electronically and physically (if needed) to provide additional opportunities for inquiry and assist with determining an appropriate amount of funding.

## **Athletics and Physical Education**

### **Group Profile**

Cornell Athletics offers access for all graduate students 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. The by-line funding arrangement provides for graduate and professional students to sign up for the Big Red Sports Pass for free, 250 hockey tickets reserved, and will not increase the cost of tickets.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$7.72</b>	<b>\$7.72</b>	<b>\$7.72</b>

### **Analysis**

The committee believes in the services Athletics provides to the graduate student body, and our members did not find any objections to their request for similar financial support on that basis. Taking into account the increase in student body population of the last few years, and likely the expected increase to come, increasing in per student funding is not needed, but the extra income will help assist both in providing services to students and allowing the graduate and professional community to become more involved.

Notes from the last cycle when a slight increase was provided:

The committee expressed reservations that Athletics has never provided the committee with graduate student attendance data, they responded that they have new software that will allow them to accumulate and distribute the information the committee requested as early as the coming year, and certainly by next funding cycle. This will allow the committee to see how many reserved hockey tickets are purchased and used, the number of family members attending events with graduate/professional students, etc.

However, the committee also learned from their application that the amount requested was based on a graduate student projected population of 6,500 students. Budgetary information was not provided in-depth by this group due to the expansive network of activities this group takes on, but a breakdown of past GPSAF expenses was illustrated. Given that the population is actually slightly more than 7,200 graduate students, and based on the GPSAF illustration provided by Athletics the committee adjusted the fee in order to provide the group with the total dollar amount they requested while more accurately accounting for the cost per student.

## **Big Red Barn (BRB)**

### **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 (comprised of an 11-month professional Manager, two graduate student Assistant Managers, 20-22 graduate student staff and five BRB Fellows) are tasked with providing programming aimed to increase social, cultural, and intellectual exchange among students. The weekly "Tell Grads It's Friday" (TGIF) is an extremely well-attended event by the graduate and professional student population. Other events have included various dance parties, trivia night, special event nights, and family-orientated programming. The BRB serves as the hub for graduate student life on campus. In addition to TGIF events, which are historically very well-attended, the BRB hosts regular trivia nights, student mixers, coffee hours, write-ins, and other events specifically geared toward graduate and professional students. Other organizations around campus and those outside of the Cornell Community can send in a request to rent BRB at a cost.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$11.58</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$13.28</b>

### **Analysis**

The BRB has consistently surpassed obligations set forth by the Committee and demonstrates a clear commitment to serving the graduate and professional student community. The committee believes the BRB provides a tremendous value to the graduate/professional community.

Recently, many equipment updates over the last few years have been taken up by BRB, including a new sound system, a new wood pellet stove, and a new kegerator. Over the summer, with the help of GPSA, they obtained brand new outdoor tables to increase the space for entertainment when the weather is appropriate.

The large increase in the requested amount is mostly due to increasing the hourly wage of workers gradually to \$15 as mandated by New York state law, as well as increased staff and training needed. This is still a significant jump from last cycle. Last cycle, they were provided about an 11% increase. This cycle, we are confident a 15% increase, in addition with the increase in student population, will provide the BRB with plenty of financial support to continue to grow and serve the graduate and professional community.

## **Cornell Cinema (CC)**

### **Group Profile**

Cornell Cinema offers educational and popular film programming for a diverse student audience on the Cornell campus. Cornell Cinema's primary mission is educational in scope, providing access both to a wide array of films not typically available to the Cornell and local communities—such as international, independent, classic, or documentary film—and to popular films in a more affordable way than 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. Other popular special events include movies on the Willard Straight Terrace in the summer, student film showcases, children's film festival, and live musical events (e.g., accompanying silent films screening). The Cinema often partners with student groups or courses to cosponsor showings. Cornell Cinema has a Student Advisory Board that works with the staff to set the programmatic goals of the organization, plan events and coordinate outreach. There are several graduate and professional students involved on this board, including one appointed by the GPSA.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$11.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>

### **Analysis**

Cornell Cinema (CC) serves a diverse graduate and professional student population while promoting cultural awareness. communication with the AC.

After the last cycle, CC and GPSA have established a sustainable decrease plan where CC receives \$2.00 less each cycle until they are off the GPSAF by-line. Thus, this cycle they will get \$9.00.

## **Cornell Concert Commission (CCC)**

### **Group Profile**

The Cornell Concert Commission seeks to “provide the student body with popular and diverse musical entertainment”. To do so, the CCC selects and produces a number of large, on-campus performances each academic year. Past performers have included Modest Mouse, Janelle Monae, Bob Dylan, and a number of other popular and eminent artists. Graduate and professional students benefit from subsidized ticket prices and the ability to purchase tickets at least one day prior to the general public. To increase the number of students that benefit from their programming, the CCC aims to host one free concert per year, although historically this has not always been possible. Additionally, the CCC aims to dedicate 3-5% of its total operating budget to co-sponsoring musical events with other student organizations.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$5.76</b>	<b>\$5.76</b>	<b>\$5.76</b>

### **Analysis**

The CCC has a long history of providing high quality musical entertainment to the Cornell campus and Ithaca community. Performers often include acts which many students would not otherwise have the opportunity to see, both due to limited performances and ticket prices. CCC also makes an effort to host one free show per year, and supports student organizations by co-sponsoring events. Additionally, graduate and professional students need to attend only one show every 1-2 years to recoup their fee in ticket price savings. It is the opinion of the Committee that graduate and professional students receive excellent value for their investment in the CCC. Receiving the same funding per student is justified and with the increase in student population, they will receive more financial support moving forward.

## **Cornell University Emergency Medical Services (CUEMS)**

### **Group Profile**

The Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) is a certified, student-run Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Its mission is to provide professional, efficient, and effective First Response Basic Life Support care to the entire Cornell community. The Cornell University Undergraduate Student Assembly and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly partially fund CUEMS. The squad provides emergency response to medical emergencies on Cornell University campus and surrounding university-owned properties. It also provides stand-by service for university events and provides CPR, First Aid and other training seminars to the Cornell community, as well as providing services completely free of charge to patients. For medical emergencies, CUEMS is dispatched via radio by the University Police Department.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$1.80</b>	<b>\$2.20</b>	<b>\$2.20</b>

### **Analysis**

CUEMS does important, life-saving work, which makes Cornell a better place to study, work, and live. The group accepts new members each semester to be trained weekly in life-saving techniques for shift work as EMTs or paramedics. The services provided by this group are available to all members of the Cornell community, and the graduate and professional community's support through the GPSAF sustains this work.

The CUEMS administrators have been open and detailed with the committee about their building renovations, the level of staffing they require, and their training and readiness activities. The committee is impressed with the number of additional Cornell events CUEMS has been able to send at least one full service crew to without additional cost in addition to normal services. The committee is also impressed with CUEMS's push to expand their public outreach programs, such as first aid and bystander training, alcohol awareness events, and public health campaigns.

## **Cornell University Programming Board (CUPB)**

### **Group Profile**

The Cornell University Programming Board sponsors and organizes approximately six major shows per year, highlighting famous comedians, lecturers, and other non-musical acts. 2018-2019 included Ronny Chieng, Eric Andre, Max Greenfield, Jonathan Van Ness, Amanda Seales, and Michelle Wolf.

Graduate and professional students have the opportunity to purchase tickets at least one day prior to the general public, and pay reduced ticket prices. Additionally, CUPB aims to dedicate approximately 5% of its budget toward co-sponsored events with other student organizations.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$4.40</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>

### **Analysis**

The CUPB offers graduate and professional students the ability to see high caliber talent that they may never have had the opportunity to see otherwise. CUPB has a strong history of quality programming and solid ticket sales. However, events are still not as well-advertised to the graduate and professional student community as they could be.

We want CUPB to continue to provide amazing programming to Cornell University, and want the graduate and professional community to grow in participation. A modest increase in good faith should assist with this, in addition to the significant rollover funds that CUPB financial statements show year after year, as well as the increase in graduate and professional student population which will provide lots of financial support.

In the future, we ask the GPSA to keep an eye on CUPB events in getting graduate and professional participation, and review what this group should provide on the by line in future cycles.



## **Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)**

### **Group Profile**

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 Cornell University administration. The GPSA also maintains the power to set and collect a Student Activity Fee to be distributed among organizations that enrich the graduate and professional student community at Cornell University.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$4.90</b>	<b>\$4.90</b>	<b>\$4.90</b>

### **Analysis**

Beginning in spring 2017 the GPSA transferred its first year of support (\$20,000) to Anabel's Grocery, the student-run grocery store on Ithaca's campus. This relationship was determined by a previous GPSA membership to entail up to \$80,000 in funds over four years, distributed evenly between the organization's subsidy fund and capital depreciation, and subject to reevaluation every fall semester. This is still continuing.

Internally the GPSA has been able to sustain a solid flow of cash and committees have shown to use their money adequately. To continue the current level of funding to each of the GPSA's committees into the future, the GPSA portion of its GPSAF allocation staying the same, as requested, is adequate. The additional student population will bolster their financial support as well.

## **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Programming Board (GPSPB)**

### **Group Profile**

The mission of the GPSPB is to improve the quality of social and wellness-oriented programming for graduate and professional students at Cornell University. Their events have included the annual Grad Ball, Grads' Nights Out, mixers, speakers, and wellness-related.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$2.22</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>

### **Analysis**

The GPSPB is the only programming board on campus that directly targets the graduate and professional students for their events. It hosts both large well-attended events such as Grad Ball, but has also experimented with new kinds of events to draw in more students. Their internal programming is complemented by co-sponsorships with other groups on campus, such as "From Cell to Cell", a conference about Prison, Performance, and Television, Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Renaissance Ball, and several social functions throughout the year.

Since the last cycle, GPSPB has increased its publicity, especially in regards to reaching out to professional schools which previously lacked significant participation in their events. Moving forward, we want to see this continue, and believe the increase in funding will assist with this. After all, funding the GPSAPB from graduate and professional students will likely yield the most visible results to students, and provides for a more cohesive graduate and professional student community, which is one of our goals.

It is the opinion of the committee to support the direction of the group, ensure they have access to financial information, and consider funding increases for the following cycle.

## International Student Union (ISU)

### Group Profile

The International Students Union (ISU) promotes cultural exchange and dialogue by hosting and funding international events. This is done through co-sponsorship of events and activities organized by student organizations within the Cornell community as well as ISU hosted and organized events. Recently, ISU has also taken on the role of advocate for Cornell international students in matters pertaining to the Cornell administration and student life. This includes peer mentorship programs for international students and the peer-to-peer storage service Ezra's Box.

### Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.46	\$1.98	\$1.62

### Committee Analysis

The committee believes that ISU plays an important role in facilitating international exchange and awareness at Cornell, particularly for undergraduate students. The committee's concerns lie, as they have over the last few years with the belief that ISU has not adequately targeted its funding or membership towards GPS:

- The contributions of the GPSAF are being used to subsidize events primarily attended by undergraduate students. This is especially the case for events co-sponsored by ISU. In several conversations it became apparent that many GPS organizations were unaware that they could seek co-sponsorship and funding from ISU.
- The funding role of ISU far outweighs its role as an advocate for GPS in spite of past requests by previous appropriations committees to limit the funding function.

The ISU has a potential to play a large role in the graduate community. Though their request for a significant increase (comparably to what they were getting) is a lot, a slight increase to their former funding from the previous cycle feels adequate and is made in good faith that the organization continues to grow towards being more inclusive of graduate and professional students. They provide many events that are open to all graduate and professional students, and have shown that they are increasing this participation somewhat.

If the organization fails to do so, future cycles should look to once again decrease their funding.

## Orientation Graduate School

### Group Profile

The Graduate School holds an orientation for all incoming graduate students during the fall and spring semesters. These events are developed, augmented, and shaped by graduate student feedback and input to the Steering Committee in the form of a survey and small group discussions with incoming students. Historically the GPSA has played some role in the program's events.

### Request and Recommendation

Current Funding	Request	Recommendation
\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

### Analysis

The program does not seek to be in the by line this cycle. However, here are the previous cycle's conclusions and notes:

The committee applauds the quality of orientation events, and emphasis on orientation as a continuous process rather than a single event to build an inclusive campus.

To the best of its knowledge the Steering Committee for orientation, the GPSA began funding Orientation as a by-line organization at least as early as 2007. From 2013-2015 breakfast was provided to students to meet with current members of the GPSA. In 2016 the venue was changed and breakfast was replaced with the GPSA being incorporated as part of the formal program.

- Orientation events are mandatory, in practice, for all educational institutions. It is unheard of by the Steering Committee or Appropriations Committee members for graduate and professional students to subsidize their own orientation events at our sister institutions. The committee believes this is the institution's responsibility.
- In 2016 the Graduate School delegated responsibilities for professional student orientation events to the professional schools. As a result the professional students were subsidizing an event intended exclusively for graduate students.
- It was suggested by the group that it was not financially stressed, and any decrease in funding could be made up from within the Graduate School.
- The committee was told that a reduction in funding would not harm the relationship between GPSA and the Graduate School.
- The organization explicitly asked for more feedback from students, and indicated this was highly valued by the Steering Committee.

## **Risk Management Club Insurance**

### **Group Profile**

All independent registered graduate and undergraduate student clubs are covered by the student club insurance policy, which is purchased via a nominal portion of the Student Activity fee. The program:

- protects club officers from lawsuits (and enables students to pursue leadership positions without worrying about personal liability as a result);
- enables clubs to use off-campus facilities;
- allows clubs a more liberal use of the Cornell name;
- allows clubs to avoid filing for their own insurance policies which would usually be not as strong;
- lowers the cost per student, and obviates insurance on a per-club basis;
- meets national league organization requirements for insurance coverage;
- provides host liquor legal liability coverage for graduate student events that follow guidelines for responsible use of alcohol.

The program is currently made of two insurance policies. The current program provides \$1,000,000 of general liability coverage, \$1,000,000 of catastrophic medical coverage and \$3,000,000 catastrophic injury cash.

### **Request and Recommendation**

<b>Current Funding</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>\$5.50</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>

### **Analysis**

Club Insurance is essential to the functioning of most independent clubs on campus. Therefore, it would be unwise to eliminate or decrease funding for Club Insurance. This program allows all independent clubs on campus to run without having to purchase their own insurance plans and provides personal liability protection to the individual leaders of clubs. Due to the necessity of this service for independent clubs, the Committee recommends approving Club Insurance at the requested rate.

### **Cornell Tech Campus Funding**

In accordance with Resolution 18 (*A Resolution Concerning the Setting and Allocation of the Graduate and Professional Student Activity Fee for Cornell Tech Students - See Appendix Below*) of the GPSA (Spring 2013), the activity fee set by the Appropriations Committee via this resolution will be applicable to all the students at the Cornell Tech students. The activity fee (GPSAF) appropriately deducted for the contributions to the GPSA & Risk Management will be returned to a registered and officially recognized organization at the Tech campus in NYC.

It is to be noted that all Ithaca-based students shall be eligible to attend events organized at Cornell Tech and similarly Cornell Tech-based students shall be able to attend events organized at the Ithaca campus at the same subsidized rate as all other students of appropriate/equivalent standing.

The Cornell Tech organization formed will have to satisfy these conditions:

1. Register with the SLECA office via the OrgSync platform (or equivalent registration system needed for every student organization at Cornell University).
2. Have a university account number associated with this organization to which the total amount can be transferred.
3. Submit a detailed report to the appropriations committee every two years in the activity fee setting year outlining all their expenses similar to every byline funded organization.
4. Subject to all Cornell regulations as enforced by the GPSA and the Office of Assemblies
5. Review and update their bylaws & funding guidelines every two years. It is recommended that this be performed in the spring semester of the activity fee setting year.
6. Follow all the regulations required for a byline funding organization.

### Summary

Group	2018-2020 Funding	2020-2022 Request	2020-2022 Recommendation	Change from 2018-2020**
Athletics & Physical Education	7.72	7.72	7.72	0%
Big Red Barn	11.58	15.00	13.28	+14.7%
Cornell Cinema	11.00	9.00	9.00	-18.1%
Cornell Concert Commission	5.76	5.76	5.76	0%
CU Emergency Medical Service	1.80	2.20	2.20	+22.2%
CU Programming Board	2.50	4.40	3.00	+20.0%
GPSA	4.90*	4.90*	4.90*	0%
GPSA Programming Board	2.22	3.00	3.00	0%
International Students Union	1.46	1.98	1.62	+11.0%
Orientation – Graduate School	1.00	0.00	0.00	-100%
Risk Management: Club Insurance	5.50	5.50	5.50	0%
<b>Byline Funding Total</b>	<b>54.44</b>	<b>59.46</b>	<b>55.98</b>	<b>+2.8%</b>
<b>GPSAFC (&gt;35%)</b>	<b>29.56</b>	<b>32.54</b>	<b>30.02</b>	<b>+1.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.00</b>	<b>92.00</b>	<b>86.00</b>	<b>+2.4%</b>

\* Includes funding to the grocery store in Anabel Taylor Hall

Amounts reported are per student per year