

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

January 23rd, 2009

Fees Request for 2009-2010 Academic Year

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Address

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Phone Fax Email

“We acknowledge that the fees committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the fees committee.”

Kristi Kremers, President

Xiao Jin, V.P. for Finance

Is your organization an IRS 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit? Yes X No _____
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c) (3) status.

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support X Start-Up Costs _____ Capital _____
Project / Program Support X Technical Assistance _____ Other (List) _____

Budget

Dollar Amount Requested	<u>\$ 375,403.48</u>
Total Annual Organization Budget	<u>\$ 411,818.00</u>
Total Project Budget (Apart from General Operating)	<u>\$ 309,518.00</u>

Narrative

“We must also allow our successes in undergraduate student experience to ‘trickle up’ to upper division learners; our Graduate and Professional students are nearly 40 percent of the students we serve at the University, and our attention to the student experience must expand to include them.”

Inaugural Address, February 28, 2003

Robert H. Bruininks, President, University of Minnesota

▪ ***Brief summary of organization history, including date of establishment***

In 1990, a non-profit confederation of independent college councils was formed with the goal of representing all Graduate and Professional students at the University of Minnesota to the Board of Regents, the President of the University, the University Senate, and the University community at large (including neighboring communities). Dubbed the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA), the organization has since grown steadily to represent over 23,000 students, or approximately 40% of the University of Minnesota campus community during the 2008-2009 school year.

GAPSA is more than just a governing organization. It is a multilateral organization that acts as a resource for its member Councils, a central contact for University administrators, and a crucial nexus of interdisciplinary communication among students.

The Assembly is comprised of council representatives from each graduate or professional school. Monthly meetings act as a forum of ideas and discussion on ways to improve the graduate and professional student experience. The following groups are served by GAPSA:

- Carlson School of Management
- School of Dentistry
- Graduate School
- Law School
- Twin Cities and Duluth Medical Schools
- School of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- School of Public Health
- College of Veterinary Medicine; and
- College of Education and Human Development (GradSEHD)

GAPSA seeks to maximize student participation in University decisions. By identifying and communicating Graduate and Professional student issues to all University stakeholders, including University faculty, staff, and administration, city, state, and national government, community members, and peers at other institutions, GAPSA continues to serve the best interests of the Graduate and Professional student body. GAPSA and its officers are constantly developing novel, appropriate, and well-supported positions and initiatives supporting Graduate and Professional students, and by association the University community as a whole.

- *Organization mission / vision statements, inclusive of organizational goals*

Mission:

**Providing leadership in academic excellence, advocacy,
community building, and services for all
Graduate and Professional students**

Goals:

Academic Excellence

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is deeply committed to the support and continuation of academic excellence across all disciplines. GAPSA fulfills this goal through academic grants, educational programming, and various recognition initiatives.

Advocacy

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is the primary advocate for the interests of all Graduate and Professional students. GAPSA fulfills this two-part goal by soliciting the opinions and concerns of Graduate and Professional students and, in turn, communicating those interests to University Administration, elected local and federal officials, and community members. GAPSA also fulfills an internal advocacy role among member Councils by facilitating communication between students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

Community

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is an indispensable source of interdisciplinary community among its constituents. Graduate and Professional students are traditionally segregated into their respective disciplines both academically and socially. GAPSA fosters a global sense of community among all Graduate and Professional students by hosting various events, which are specifically designed to appeal to their interests.

Services

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly provide unique services to enhance the Graduate and Professional experience. In addition to grants, events

and advocacy, GAPSA intends to continually expand its services and maintain its roles as an essential part of the entire University community.

▪ *Describe your organization's relationship with organizations of like mission*

The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly has long-standing positive relationships with various other student organizations, including the College Councils, cultural centers, the Minnesota Student Association, the University Senate, and individually registered student groups.

Because GAPSA and the other Graduate and Professional College Councils share constituencies, the College Councils are an integral part of GAPSA. GAPSA serves as the overarching umbrella organization for the College Councils. GAPSA's role is to help coordinate efforts on topics such as: graduate/professional advocacy, academic/social coordination and finances.

GAPSA also has formed relationships with other departments and organizations to enhance the Graduate and Professional student experience. For example, GAPSA has co-sponsored events with the Center for Health Interdisciplinary Studies (CHIP). CHIP, which located in the Academic Health Center, serves specifically graduate/professional students in the health sciences. GAPSA maintains open lines of communication with the CHIP Director to continue building this relationship.

GAPSA also works closely with its undergraduate counterpart, the Minnesota Student Association (MSA). GAPSA and MSA leadership have recognized the existence of unique collaborative opportunities that benefit the entire student population. This continual collaboration is exemplified by the semi-annual joint meetings between the GAPSA Assembly and the MSA Forum.

Finally, GAPSA has also appointed representatives to a number of committees and advisory groups throughout the campus such as: the Student Health Advisory Committee, the Student Conflict Resolution Center, Aurora Center, and the University Student Legal Service.

▪ *Illustrate the need for your organization within the University community, inclusive of how your organization meets this need*

There is no other organization that can provide the package of services and benefits GAPSA provides. GAPSA fills more than just the role of student government for Graduate and Professional students. In fact, GAPSA fill the void of Graduate and Professional student events programming created by the Minnesota Programs and Activities Council's understandable focus on undergraduate activities. GAPSA provides the essential Graduate and Professional student services that the University is either ill-equipped or unable to provide. GAPSA is confident that the participation rates presented in this

document support our conclusion that GAPSA meets this need for Graduate and Professional student enrichment.

- *Detail the student benefit derived from your organization, whether or not students utilize services*

All students who pay our fee are beneficiaries of our services by virtue of our advocacy role in the official University governing structure. (*Note: the GAPSA fee is assessed specifically to Graduate and Professional students only.*) Also, with our funding aid to College Councils and grant programs, our impact reaches every Graduate and Professional student on multiple fronts.

Another reality of Graduate and Professional education is the difficulty of matching GAPSA sponsored events with our students' schedules. Therefore, GAPSA strives to create various programs and services to provide accessibility to students who may otherwise not be able to attend due to schedule conflicts or accessibility to location. A historic example is the local business discount card that was issued during Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation week - valid for one month. This was successful among Graduate and Professional students because of the usability and flexibility among GAPSA constituents.

- *Describe student involvement within your organization*

As described earlier, GAPSA's Assembly meeting membership is comprised of representation from member College Councils, Graduate and Professional student Senators, University Senate Committee members, and University-wide student development committees (*e.g.*, Twin Cities Student Unions Board of Governors). All GAPSA officers, Assembly members, representatives, and employees are registered students at the University of Minnesota. Similarly, only students are eligible for GAPSA's staff positions.

GAPSA's budget is subject to approval by the full Assembly, representing every Graduate and Professional College, School, or Department at the University. Monthly reports of financial transactions in each budgeted category are presented by the Vice President for Finance. Any adjustments thereof are made by the entire Assembly. In addition, the Assembly must approve all capital expenditures. These are open discussions with appropriate opportunities for student input. Assembly members are the ones who set expenditure category guidelines.

- *State the total amount of your student services fees request. Indicate whether this amount is a decrease from last year, an increase from last year, or if this is a first-time request.*

GAPSA is requesting **\$375,403.48** in student service fees this year. This request for 2009-2010 is the essentially the same amount requested during 2008-2009 fees application, a **0.5%** decrease.

This amount reflects our best estimation of demand for GAPSA's programs and services beyond its current capacity. Attendance at our socials, for example, has been beyond venue capacity all year.

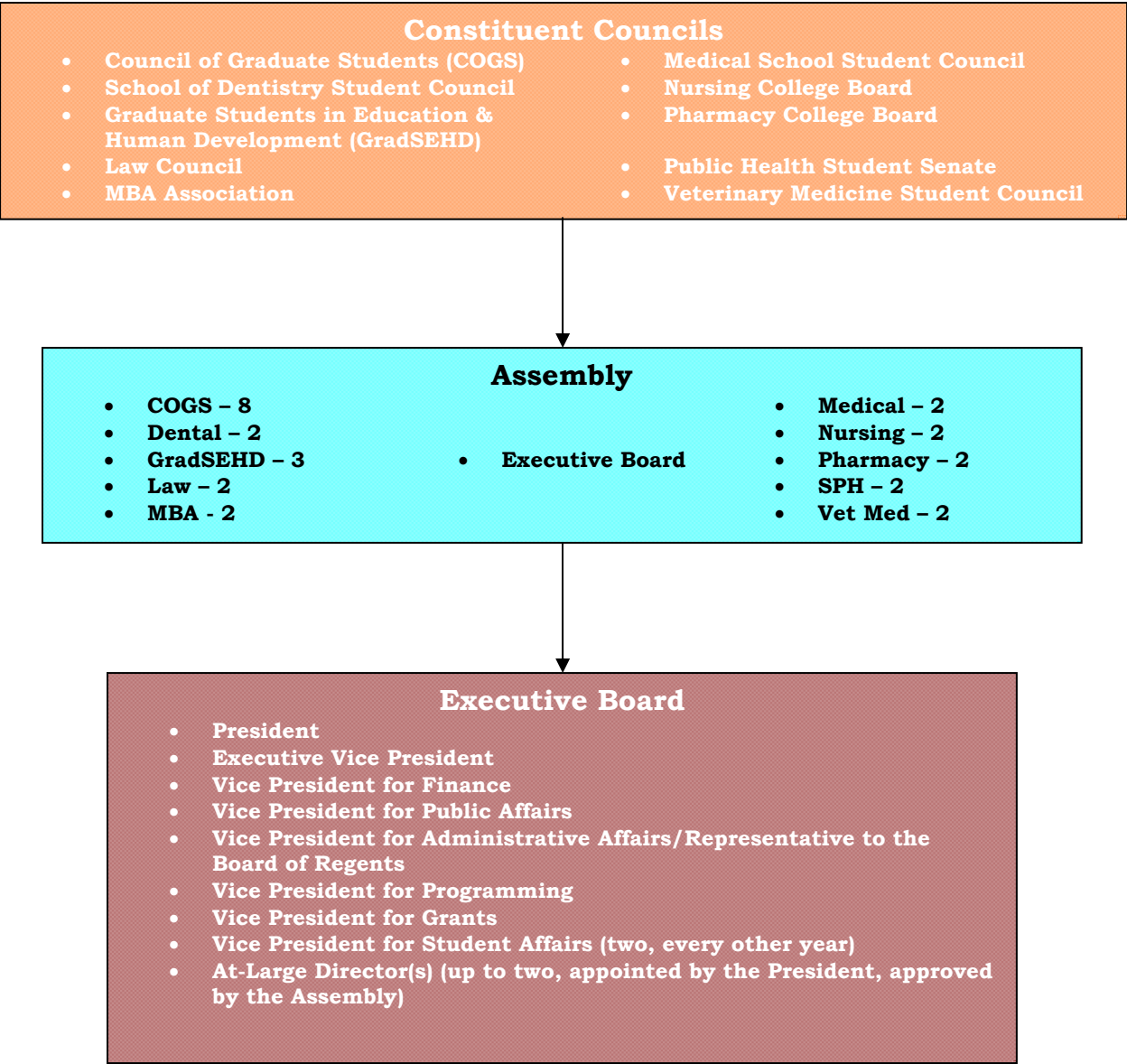
▪ *Indicate at what percentage your organization will operate in the summer of 2008*

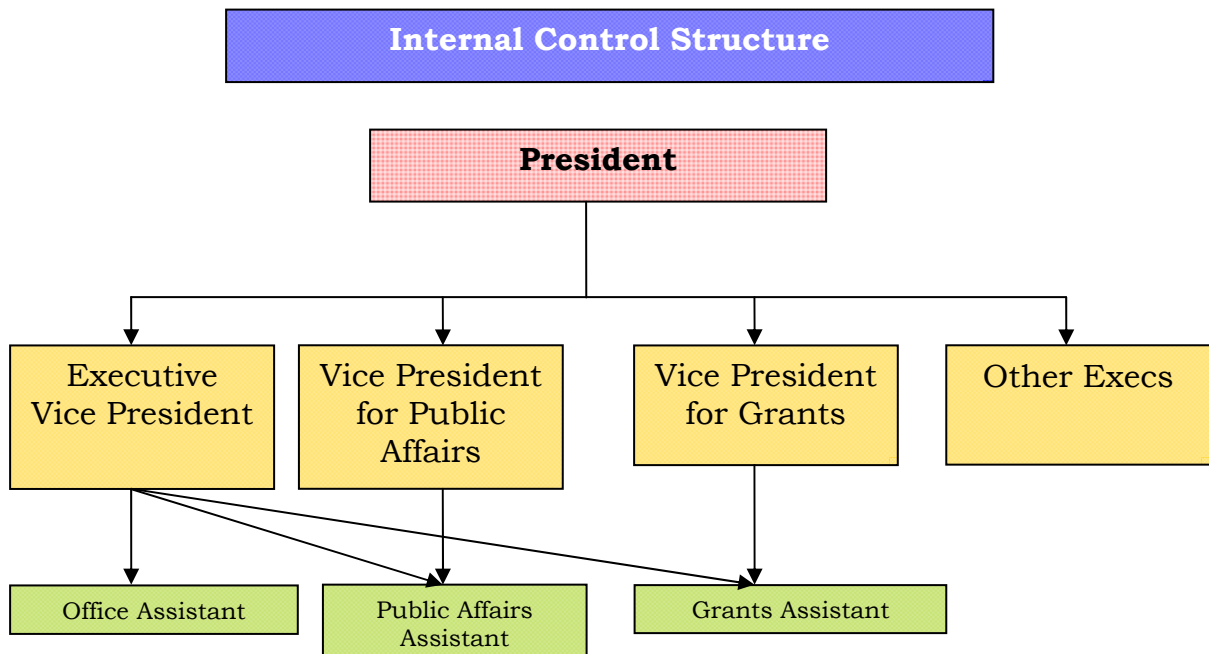
GAPSA operates at near full capacity during the summer with the exception of Assembly meetings. The nature of Graduate and Professional education is such that students are, among other things, on campus conducting research, interning, and teaching throughout the summer. Thus, GAPSA must continue to provide the same services in the summer as it does during the main academic session.

The summer is also a critical time of preparation for the entrance and hopefully engagement of incoming students. There is no single orientation session for all Graduate and Professional students. This requires coordination of GAPSA representatives at more than 10 different orientation programs (one for each college). In order to cover those students who prefer to attend departmental orientations over the main session, GAPSA also makes an effort to identify as many departmental orientations as possible.

Organizational Chart

GAPSA Structure 2007-2008





Performance Report

	<i>Actual 2007-08</i>	<i>Estimated 2008-09</i>	<i>Estimated 2009-10</i>
Attendance at Assembly Meetings	280	400	400
Hours Lounge Used	400	500	600
<i>Participation in Events:</i>			
Socials	2,143	2,500	2,000
Family Bowling Night	424	450	450
President’s Reception ¹	434	533	600
GAPSA Open House	236	1000	1000
Appreciation Week Events:			
Drawing Entries	1,000+	1,500	1,500
Recognition Items Distributed	5,000	5,000	5,000
Email Newsletters Sent	30	30	30
<i>GAPSA Grant Programs:</i>			
Dollars Requested	\$157,823	\$180,000	\$200,000
Dollars Awarded	\$67,000	\$73,500	\$83,200
Number of Attendees at Grant Events (approx.)	8,000	8,000	8,000

- ***Describe your criteria for success. What does your organization hope to accomplish as a result of its activities? Please describe goals for short-term and long-term success.***

The first criterion, is the number of people attending GAPSA various events and meetings. The second criterion is that these events bring together a mix of returning and new participants. The third criterion is that GAPSA caters to a diverse group of students. Finally, the fourth criterion is that there are efficiency gains in terms of reducing costs and/or improving the quality of the service

GAPSA’s objective is to design programs and services that support our goals of “Providing leadership in academic excellence, advocacy, community building, and services for all Graduate and Professional students.” In the short term, that means having a diversity of programs that are easily accessible by students and fulfill their current needs. Long term, it means having a strong mix of ongoing

¹ The maximum capacity for this venue has been reached. This has resulted in our turning down 300 RSVPs.

“traditional” programs and an ability to respond to the changing service needs in an appropriate and timely manner.

▪ ***How will your organization determine whether or not its goals have been met?***

Generally, for those areas measured above we use this same format (attendance, mix, diversity, efficiency) to determine success. Additionally, we will conduct occasional evaluations and surveys.

We also engage our constituents and leadership in ongoing discussions regarding the events and services throughout the year. Also, we do ask some of the participants in these events for an oral “on the spot” feedback. This usually helps us get a rough first estimate of the success of these events.

▪ ***Who will be involved in evaluating your organization?***

The events and activities organized by GAPSA are evaluated by three separate entities in our organization – the *Programming Committee*, the *Executive Board*, and the *General Assembly*. The number of attendees at any event is the most obvious measure of its success. Therefore, we collect data on the number of attendees at each event. The Vice President for Programming is responsible for coordinating this data collection.

In terms of our grant programs, all academic and social grants are usually disbursed in two installments. The first half of the allocated grants is given to organizations before the event date and the second half of the grants is disbursed after the organization has filled out a detailed “Evaluation Form” within 30 days after the event has taken place. Travel grants are disbursed after students have filled out an “Evaluation Form” describing the level of success of their travel. The Grants Assistant collects and analyzes these evaluations.

Finally, in intervals of three to four years, GAPSA undertakes major initiatives to address the demands for the services offered by GAPSA and evaluate their effectiveness through a survey of a random sample of Graduate and Professional students.

▪ ***What will be done with any collected evaluation results?***

The collected evaluations are analyzed; the results and recommendations are reported by three different entities in GAPSA. GAPSA has an active *Programming Committee* that meets regularly to evaluate the success of each event on the basis of cost-benefit analysis. The members of this committee are responsible for coming up with recommendations on how to ensure greater participation of the Graduate and Professional students at our events and how to maximize the amount allocated by the fees committee for each of these events. The *Executive Board* of GAPSA considers these recommendations and after

extensive discussions, decides on the changes suggested by the members of the Programming Committee. Finally, the *General Assembly* of GAPSA is regularly updated on our events and activities. The members of the Assembly eventually decide the direction and future of our programming activities.

Impact of a 10% Reduction

To account for a 10% reduction we will significantly cut our grant programs; that is, reduce academic, social, and travel grants considerably.

The immediate effect of this will be a reduction in the capacity of Graduate and Professional student organizations to develop programs and events that would otherwise receive funding from GAPSA grant programs. And while our grants support programs among Graduate and Professional students, further reduction will greatly impact funding opportunities that are important in the academic and social progress of Graduate and Professional students.

Please note that the GAPSA leadership is constantly trying to find new ways of cutting our costs without significantly reducing our impact in the campus community and the necessary services it provides to the Graduate and Professional students at the University of Minnesota. In the last couple of years, we have undergone significant reorganization and reevaluation of our programs and activities. We have been able to decrease our costs and expenses through significant changes, such as staffing and programming cost reductions. The budget we are presenting includes these cost-savings and the leadership in GAPSA strongly believes that our request is an appropriate and true representation of our needs.

Budget

	2007-2008 Actual	2008-2009 Budgeted	2009-2010 Requested
Income			
Corporate Sponsorship	\$2,000.00 ²	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
In-kind Sponsorship	\$800.00 ³	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Grants	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00 ⁴	\$1,000.00
Interest Income	\$2119.97 ⁵	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Student Service Fees	\$412,747.58	\$346,652.56 ⁶	\$375,403.48
Student Services Fees (Duluth)	\$4,000.00 ⁷	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Previous Balance	\$27,654.68	\$83,279.96	\$25,914.52
Total Income	\$450,322.23	\$440,432.52	\$411,818.00

² We received a grant of that amount from TCF Bank as a sponsorship for “President’s Reception for Incoming Graduate and Professional Students” held in September of 2008, which was used to pay part of the expenses for the event.

³ We received a travel voucher from STA Travel towards a raffle as part of our Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week activities. In addition, we received four gift cards from the University Bookstore, which were used in a raffle.

⁴ Due to a significant decrease in available funding to GAPSA - both on and off campus - we are extremely challenged with securing more funding. Furthermore, the fact that GAPSA received student services fees funding seems to have decreased our chances of securing grants from other on-campus organizations. However, we will continue to work towards securing grants.

⁵ We keep our cash holdings in various accounts in Bremer Bank – Checking, Savings and Certificates of Deposits. The interest income reflects the total interests received from those sources. However, note that \$1,000.00 of the total interest amount \$3119.97 is an accrued balance and will not be received by GAPSA until the end of the terms of our certificates of deposits – the earliest of which will be in October 2008.

⁶ Note that this amount is what is allocated to GAPSA by the Fees Committee. However, after considering our Fall 2008 fees check, we expect to receive about \$8,000.00 less than this amount.

⁷ In Fall 2005, pharmacy and medical students in the Duluth campus decided to join the Twin Cities GAPSA for representation for the next three years. As part of the deal, they have agreed to pay the fees decided in the Twin Cities.

Student Services Fees Request for 2009-2010
 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) – University of Minnesota

Expenses			
Advertising ⁸	\$335.10	\$400.00	\$400.00
Audit Expenses ⁹	\$4,525.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Bank Service Charges	\$38.97	\$50.00	\$50.00
Computer Hardware	\$1,140.32	\$500.00	\$500.00
Computer Software	\$205.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Conference Airfare	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Contract Labor	\$1,330.57	\$500.00 ¹⁰	\$500.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$2,266.33	\$1,300.00 ¹¹	\$1,300.00
Equipment	\$2,097.87	\$1,500.00	\$15,000.00
Furniture	\$0.00	\$200.00 ¹²	\$200.00
<i>Grant Funds</i>			
Academic Grant	\$15,132.65	\$20,000.00 ¹³	\$18,000.00
Small Events Fund	\$1,965.66	\$2,200.00 ¹⁴	\$2,200.00
Social Grant	\$10,627.84	\$15,750.00 ¹⁵	\$15,000.00
Scholarly Travel Grants	\$34,814.36	\$36,000.00 ¹⁶	\$36,000.00
Professional Travel Grants	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00 ¹⁷
Pass-through Funds	\$41664.20	\$42,568.00 ¹⁸	\$42,568.00

⁸ GAPSA used to use the Minnesota Daily to advertise available employee positions, events, and programs. In the academic year 2007-2008, we did not advertise in the Daily at all due to the fact that we received a large number of applications when we published our job openings on the University of Minnesota Gold Pass website and sent a mass email to all Graduate and Professional students. We are continuing this trend.

⁹ Since GAPSA's total income exceeds the \$350,000.00 threshold, we have to hire an outside CPA to verify and file our accounting reports and tax forms to the State and the Internal Revenue Services.

¹⁰ The Contract Labor portion of our expenses in 2008-2009 was utilized to maintain our networks and server. We were able to lower our expected costs by hosting our website through the University, thus virtually eliminating the need for expensive on-site server maintenance. We may need services for our computers, printers, copier, and fax machine, however.

¹¹ We subscribe to a number of magazines for our Lounge, which include Time, Newsweek, National Geographic, Chronicle of Higher Education, Forbes, and Business Week. We expect to maintain the same level of magazine subscription. This item also includes membership expenses, such as Campus Club Dues (since we hold our Socials there, it is a pre-requisite) and Student Activities Office Registration Fees.

¹² This item refers to expenses related to buying furniture and storage items for our office. For example, we purchased a small coffee table for our office in Fall of 2005. Furthermore, we are currently in the process of remodeling our office to maximize the space available for storage, workspace for employees, and the meeting space available to Graduate and Professional students in our Lounge.

¹³ For detailed description of this grant program, please refer to the Project Breakdown analysis.

¹⁴ For detailed description of this grant program, please refer to the Project Breakdown analysis.

¹⁵ For detailed description of this grant program, please refer to the Project Breakdown analysis.

¹⁶ This grants program has received significant demand and has had the most direct impact on Graduate and Professional students.

¹⁷ We are requesting an increase in our professional travel grants due to higher demands for this grants. These grants programs directly benefit Graduate and Professional students. The GAPSA Grants Committee allocates these funds.

¹⁸ This portion of our budget is disbursed directly to GAPSA's ten constituent College Councils on the basis of per student enrollment. This number has been calculated on the basis of \$2.60 per student enrolled in the colleges. Although it is not possible to predict the number of students who will attend each college next year, we believe this amount is a reasonable approximation (with significant downward bias).

Student Services Fees Request for 2009-2010
 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) – University of Minnesota

GCDF I	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00 ¹⁹	\$50,000.00
GCDF II	\$30,033.04	\$38,000.00 ²⁰	\$38,000.00
<i>Programming Expenses</i>			
Entertainment	\$2,191.77 ²¹	\$2,000.00	\$4,500.00
Equipment Rental	\$170.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00
Food/Refreshments	\$38,969.22	\$40,000.00 ²²	\$40,000.00
In-Kind Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Licenses and Permits	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Room Rental/Reservation ²³	\$14,999.08	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Other	\$2,796.60	\$2,500	\$2,500
Gifts	\$1668.05	\$250.00	\$250.00
Institutional Development/Training ²⁴	\$542.80	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Insurance	\$812.82	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Lodging	\$0.00 ²⁵	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Mary A. McEvoy Award	\$2,305.98	\$2,200.00 ²⁶	\$2,200.00
Meeting Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Office Supplies	\$3,777.23	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Officer Stipends	\$35,452.40	\$34,000.00 ²⁷	\$34,000.00
Parking Reimbursement	\$1,646.14	\$1,500.00 ²⁸	\$1,000.00
Payroll Services ²⁹	\$1,830.04	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00

¹⁹ This portion of our budget is disbursed directly to GAPSA's ten constituent College Councils at a rate of \$5,000.00 per college per year.

²⁰ This fund is a matching fund that may be requested by any of Graduate and Professionals student college councils. Funding request is contingent on a dollar-for-dollar matching donation by their Dean's Office or comparable administrative office. Maximum allowed funding request from Type II GCDF is \$5,000.00. The matching donation need not be for the same activity.

²¹ This item refers to a portion of our expenses for Family Bowling Nights (for a description of the events, please refer to the project breakdown).

²² GAPSA is trying constantly to find new ways to reduce our food budget, including holding events off-campus. In the past, we have decreased the number of socials. We have also imposed strict limit on the amount spent in our meetings. Just for comparison, in 2003-2004 academic year, we spent about \$60,000.00 towards food and refreshments in our events.

²³ Due to higher cost of rentals and new events that GAPSA is planning this and coming year, the cost of room rental has gone up which is reflected in increase budget.

²⁴ We are budgeting for Executive Board member leadership development and employee training expenses.

²⁵ We sent Graduate and Professional student representatives to Washington, D.C. to lobby for Higher Education Act.

²⁶ Each year GAPSA awards one Graduate and one Professional student \$1,000 each to recognize their dedication and work in the area of public engagement and leadership. We also present each winner with plaques to showcase their achievements.

²⁷ For the sixth year, there will not be any increase in this stipend for our executive committee members.

²⁸ GAPSA provides parking expense reimbursements for the President of GAPSA. Executive Board members can take advantage of this if they can show that it was only for official GAPSA business and that they have followed the strict guidelines in our fiscal policies. We are requesting the same amount as last year.

²⁹ We are using the ADP system to pay our staff which allows GAPSA to have a secure and thorough payroll system.

Student Services Fees Request for 2009-2010
 Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) – University of Minnesota

Postage and Delivery	\$127.55 ³⁰	\$500.00	\$250.00
Printing and Reproduction	\$2741.46	\$10,000.00 ³¹	\$3,000.00
Promotional Expense	\$7,738.84	\$5,500.00 ³²	\$7,500.00
Public Affairs	\$12,135.96	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Reserves Contribution ³³	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Student Payroll Expenses	\$27,751.80	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
Telephone	\$3,115.22	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Duluth Expenses	\$1,940.74	\$2,000.00 ³⁴	\$2,000.00
GAPSA Conference	\$0.00	\$5,000	\$5,000 ³⁵
Total Expenses	\$369,783.73	\$414,518.00	\$411,818.00
Profit/Loss (Difference)	\$80,538.50	\$25,914.52	\$0.00

³⁰ We are currently taking advantage of electronic systems (for example, emails and website postings) to reach our Graduate and Professional students. This has significantly lowered our need to use the U.S. Postal Services.

³¹ This amount is used to print our brochures, invitations, meeting materials, and leaflets.

³² We use this money to purchase items such as GAPSA pens, magnets, and other such materials to distribute to new students during orientation and all students during our events and programs.

³³ Since we are requesting about the same amount as the last year's request, we will not need to contribute to our reserve.

³⁴ The money for this category comes directly from the fees collected from the Duluth students and should not affect the budget request from the Twin Cities Student Services Fees Committee.

³⁵ The GAPSA Conference was a success last year and will be added as a permanent event in GAPSA programming.

Reserves

Reserves: \$31,500.00

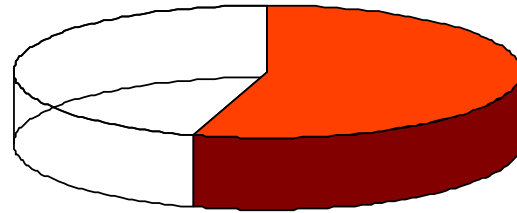
How Managed: We maintain an amount equal to 10% of our operating budget in long term Certificates of Deposits. In determining that number we do not include the GCDF funds as part of the operating budget. All reserves are maintained in Certificates of Deposit with five-year terms. Due to the length of this term we are able to collect a higher interest rate. The interest on these CDs will be compounded annually and added to the principle of the CDs for the remainder of the term. Therefore, these interest incomes will not have any effect on our income until the CDs mature.

Project Breakdown:

Grants

Grants	\$ 213,768.00
Meeting Expense	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 400.00
Printing	\$ 800.00
Telephone	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 215,968.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

The various grant funds administered by GAPSA are by far some of the most effective and appreciated programs we engage in. It is through these funds that we are able to have a positive impact on the University experience of almost every Graduate and Professional student at the University of Minnesota. In fact, this one program area represents 55% of our total budget for next year!

For this coming year we are proposing seven types of grant funds:

GAPSA Academic Initiative Grants

GAPSA Academic Initiative Grants offers funds for the enhancement of the Graduate and Professional student experience at the University of Minnesota. The primary purposes are to provide funding for events, programs, and services that have the direct involvement of and impact on Graduate and Professional students; and to expand and enhance academic programs and research opportunities on campus that contribute to the overall academic development of Graduate and Professional students.

GAPSA Social Event Funds

GAPSA Social Event Funds offers funding opportunities in support of social events that will enhance the professional and personal development of Graduate and Professional students. This funding opportunity offers partial funding for event expenses such as honorarium, food and beverages, and rentals.

Guidelines for GAPSA Academic and Social Grants

1. Grants will be awarded only to programs to which all University of Minnesota Graduate and Professional students have equal access without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.
2. Grants will be awarded only to registered student groups with a *bona fide* connection to the University of Minnesota.
3. Grants will not be awarded to support the full funding of any event or activity. The student group must demonstrate efforts to secure funding beyond this grant program in their applications.
4. Academic Initiative Grants are available for multiple proposals for up to \$2,500 each organization, per academic year. Social Events grants are available for multiple proposals for up to \$1,500 per academic year for each eligible organization.
5. Fundraisers or profit-generating events will not be funded.
6. All funded events may be advertised through the GAPSA newsletter and the University Events Calendar on the University of Minnesota website.
7. To be considered for funding, the applications must provide honest, complete, and detailed information about the program or event for which the funding is being sought. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding.
8. All applicants will be required to appear before the grants committee to present their requests for funding. You will receive an email notification as to the time and location for your short presentation. If you do not attend that meeting, your request will not be considered.
9. GAPSA will not fund events retroactively.
10. If an entrance/registration fee is charged, the event/program must be available to all University of Minnesota Graduate and Professional students at a reduced rate. GAPSA may assist with and advertise selling of tickets.
11. If GAPSA has funded a previous event/program, the organizations must have completed the “Grant Evaluation Form.” Organizations

who failed to file an evaluation for a previous grant will be required to include a statement to explain why the evaluation form was not submitted. The Grant Evaluation Form must be submitted within 30 days following the event.

12. Any grant money received must be used for the event or program for which it is awarded. Unused portions of the grant must be refunded to GAPSA.
13. Publicity regarding the event program must be made on all Twin Cities Campuses and must state that funds were received from GAPSA.
14. Grants will be awarded only to those Academic events that are open advertised to all Graduate and Professional students. [This is a new requirement aimed at providing funding for academic initiatives that will provide benefit to the entire Graduate and Professional body. This is to encourage more open academic events. Social events may still be 'closed' to a certain group of students because the Social grants have a broader goal of having student socialize outside of the smaller labs and classes they are typically confined to.]

Scholarly Travel Grants

GAPSA has implemented this grants program for the last several years. Students have indicated their strong support and appreciation for this program and express great enthusiasm for such a fund.

GAPSA Travel Grants are intended to help support necessary professional or academic travel for current Graduate and Professional students of the University of Minnesota. Eligible travel expenses include airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and conference/meeting/registration fees. Ground transportation and lodging within the Twin Cities metro area and alcohol are not eligible expenses. Due to limited funding, GAPSA Travel Grants are available only to students who present their research or findings at conferences or professional meetings.

Eligibility

The GAPSA Travel Grants are available only to current Graduate or Professional students of the University of Minnesota who pay the “Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Student Services Fee.” You must provide proof of payment of this fee (a print-out of the University account statement will suffice). Grants are intended to offer

partial support of travel for an individual or group of students traveling together.

Guidelines for GAPSA Travel Grants

1. Grants will be awarded to Graduate and Professional students without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.
2. Grants will be awarded only to current Graduate or Professional students (enrolled for classes or thesis credits or a letter from your advisor stating that you are active in your program is required) of the University of Minnesota.
3. Grants will not be awarded to support full funding for the travel. The student must demonstrate efforts to secure funding beyond this grant program in their applications. GAPSA is not able to give advances for travel. Awards will be given in full after the travel expense have occurred and the grantee submits appropriate receipts and documentation as requested in the final evaluation.
4. A Graduate or Professional student may apply for one grant per academic year for up to \$400 for international travel and up to \$300 for travel within the U.S. Students requesting support for summer travel may do so during the spring grant period.
5. To be considered for funding, the applications must provide honest, complete, and detailed information about the travel for which the funding is being sought. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding. In addition to your completed application, you might consider including some or all of the following documents to help support your request:
 - a. A copy of the conference/meeting program
 - b. A confirmation letter confirming that you are presenting
 - c. A letter from your adviser discussing the professional importance of attending the conference/meeting
 - d. A copy of your research paper
 - e. A copy of your registration confirmation
 - f. A copy of your travel itinerary
6. GAPSA will not fund travels retroactively.
7. If GAPSA has funded a previous travel grant, you must have completed the “Grant Evaluation Form” including receipts.

Professional Travel Grants

GAPSA Travel Grants are intended to help support necessary professional or academic travel for current professional students of the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. Eligible travel expenses include airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and conference/meeting registration fee. Ground transportation and lodging within the Twin Cities Metro area and alcohol are not eligible expenses.

▪ *Eligibility:*

The GAPSA Professional Travel Grants are available only to current Professional students of the University of Minnesota who pay the “Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) Student Services Fee.” You must provide proof of payment of this fee (a print-out of the University account statement will suffice). Grants are intended to offer partial support of travel for an individual. Qualified applicant will receive this grant only once during their degree program at University of Minnesota.

Applications for grants must be submitted electronically to gapsaga@umn.edu. To minimize possible problems, please use the U's Webmail program when sending attachments. See the [GAPSA Grants Deadlines](#).

○ *Guidelines for GAPSA Professional Travel Grants*

1. Grants will be awarded to graduate and professional students without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.
2. Grants will be awarded only to current professional students of the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and Duluth who pay the GAPSA Fee. Any professional student who is not charged the GAPSA fee directly by the administration may choose to take advantage of GAPSA services by paying the fee within 15 business days from the start of the semester.
3. Grants will not be awarded to support full funding for the travel. The applicant must demonstrate efforts to secure funding beyond this grant program in their application. GAPSA is not able to give advances for travel. Awards will be given in full after the travel expenses have occurred and the grantee submits appropriate receipts and documentation as requested in the final evaluation.
4. Each month four awards will be given to most qualified professional students. The award will be to an individual student. (No group application like travel grants)
5. The award will be granted only once to each student during their

degree program.

6. GAPSA will not fund travels retroactively. Your travel should take place after the next GAPSA General Assembly meeting from the date you submit the application (Please check the [GAPSA General Assembly meeting dates](#) before submitting your application).

○ *Travel Grants Application Procedures*

• Submit the following four items:

1. A completed Professional Travel Grant Application form (submitted electronically as a .doc file NOT a .docx file). The essay portion of the application will be evaluated on the following points:

- Why the applicant needs to attend a particular conference.
- How attending this conference will benefit the applicant.
- How the applicant attending the conference will help other GAPSA members.
- Short-term and long-term benefits of attending the conference.
- In the applicant's opinion, what does professional development mean and how this conference will help with professional development?
- How will they acknowledge GAPSA award?
- How attending the conference enhances the overall academic experience at the University of Minnesota.

1. A completed and signed [Faculty Adviser Consent Form](#). This may be submitted in person, by mail, by fax or electronically (the form sent from your adviser's University email address can serve as an electronic signature.)

- Your professional Resume.
- Proof of payment of the GAPSA fee. This must be proven by submitting a copy of your student account detailing charges and credits for the semester in which you are applying. In most cases, ALL tuition and fees need to be paid in full in order for us to consider your GAPSA fee as paid.
- Applications for grants must be submitted ELECTRONICALLY to gapsaga@umn.edu using the GAPSA Travel Grant Application form before 12:00 NOON on the day of the grant deadline. Only complete applications will be considered.
- Supporting documentation (conference flier, program, letters of support, itinerary, airline ticket, etc.) must be received in the GAPSA office by the application deadline. There are no exceptions.
- Applicants may be required to appear before the grants committee to present their requests for funding. You will receive an email notification as to the time and location for your short presentation if it is necessary. If you do not attend that meeting, your request will not be considered.
- Recommendations to award funds will be made by the GAPSA Grants committee. The committee recommendations are not finalized until ratified by the GAPSA General Assembly.
- The [GAPSA Travel Grant Evaluation Form](#), including proof of

conference attendance and copies of receipts (no less than the total grant amount) must be submitted within 30 days following the travel.

Small Events Fund

As part of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly's initiative for inclusion and engagement, we introduced the Small Events Program. To encourage Graduate and Professional students to become involved and to work towards the betterment of the U of M Graduate and Professional student and wider community, the Small Events Program will provide these students with up to \$50 for small events that bring together Graduate and Professional students.

GAPSA Council Development and Pass-through Funds

Our Graduate and Professional Student Councils are, when appropriately funded, the lifeblood of their schools. They oversee and fund dozens upon dozens of student organizations within their college, and put on a number of important programs. They are not merely mechanisms for student development, but are critical for Graduate and Professional degrees and career development. Their need for more funding is predominantly due to a want for more programming.

Additionally, an inherent inequity exists in the pass-through funding mechanism. Because pass-through funding is based on a per-student basis, colleges with smaller populations, such as the School of Public Health, must suffer with small budgets dictated by the relative activity or inactivity of the largest college (*i.e.*, the request of the largest College Council intrinsically sets the per student pass-through rate for all the remaining colleges). Yet many of these organizations have the same number of officers and similar, if not greater enthusiasm to improve the programmatic aspect of their Council. Thus GCDF is not only important for improving campus life, but for aiding small Councils as well.

The GAPSA Council Development Fund (GCDF) is composed of two funding categories, labeled Type I funds and Type II funds, which are aimed at improving the resource level of our constituent College Councils. Many of our College Councils have been reeling from budget cuts and an overdependence on administrative funds which compromised some Councils' ability to independently represent their students. Type I funds have been created to enhance the general resource base for activities overseen by each College Council. Type II funds have been created to encourage the Dean's offices of each college to invest in their respective

College Council's activities. GAPSA has devised a worksheet, used for collecting both financial and involvement information, which will then be used for sending proposals for these funds directly to the Student Service Fees Committee. The official description of GCDF policy is listed on the worksheet and is duplicated below.

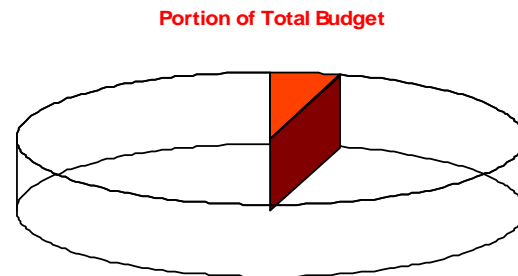
- Type I GAPSA Council Development Funds (GCDF) may be requested by any student council who currently receives less than \$5000 in total funds from all sources, or who is eligible for at least \$2,500 in type II funds. Maximum allowed funding request from Type I GCDF = \$5,000.
- Type II GAPSA Council Development Funds (GCDF) may be requested by any student council. Funding request is contingent on a dollar-for-dollar matching donation by the Council's Dean's Office. Maximum allowed funding request from Type II GCDF = \$5,000. The matching donation need not be for the same activity.
- Neither pass-through funds nor GDCF monies may be used for academic activities required by the school's academic accreditation board, or which otherwise make that school's accreditation possible.

Pass-through funds will remain relatively untouched. These funds have historically been funneled through GAPSA to our constituent College Councils to assist with paying for rudimentary operating costs. It will give each Council an independent and stable source of funding. In this fees request, committee members may note that the total amount of pass-through funding has increased. This is largely due an increase in the size of the student population on campus, and should not affect the penny fee per se. As GAPSA pass-through funds are awarded on a per-student basis that works out to roughly \$2.60 per student per year.

Project Breakdown:

General Operations

Advertising	\$ 400.00
Audit	\$ 5,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 1300.00
Equipment	\$ 1,500.00
Insurance	\$ 1,000.00
License and Permits	\$ 100.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
Printing	\$ 2,000.00
Telephone/Network	\$ 3,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 16,800.00



Narrative:

GAPSA is the official representative body for Graduate and Professional students at the University of Minnesota. The Assembly consists of the following: University Senators from each Constituent Council, an additional representative from each Council, Senate committee members, GAPSA appointees to other University committees, and GAPSA Executive officers.

The Assembly meets at least six times each year, usually on a monthly basis. A typical agenda will feature reports from the Executive officers, a featured speaker, final approval of grant recommendations, and discussion of resolutions brought forth by Assembly members. At the April meeting of the Assembly, the Executive Board for the next year is elected, with those officers taking office on June 1st.

Several years ago GAPSA changed the format of these Assembly meetings to include a half-hour of social time before the formal meeting. This time has been invaluable to our Council leaders and other Assembly members in networking and connecting with their colleagues in other parts of the University. As a result, attendance at these meetings is much higher than before this social time was added.

Additional governmental operations of GAPSA include appointing students to various advisory and working committees such as the All Campus Elections Commission, Aurora Center, Student Health Advisory Committee, Student Emergency Loan Fund, and various ad hoc committees.

GAPSA also responds to developing issues and research policy implications of issues affecting Graduate and Professional students. An example of this is our

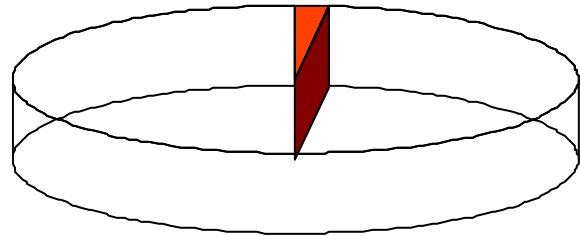
response to a student who discovered that part of her tuition reimbursement benefits (for an administrative fellowship) was being taxed as additional income. After researching it we discovered that it was not a mistake. However, we immediately initiated discussions with the University Administration to ensure that all fellowships were appropriately classified, the taxation rule does not apply to teaching or research assistants, and that for those students for whom it did apply the University was informing them of this at the beginning of their fellowships and assisting them with planning to prepare for the additional taxes at the end of the year. In fact, we are now working on setting up a general tax workshop for Graduate and Professional students that will explore some of these unique taxation issues that they face.

Project Breakdown:

Graduate and Professional Student Lounge

Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 400.00
Entertainment	\$ 500.00
Equipment	\$ 1,000.00
Food	\$ 2,000.00
Furniture	\$ 200.00
Office Supplies	\$ 2,600.00
Printing	\$ 830.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,530.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

GAPSA has been facilitating Lounge space dedicated to Graduate and Professional students in Coffman Memorial Union. Comments from the students as well as attendance and utilization of our Lounge show that this is a very high-demand service by the Graduate and Professional students.

The Lounge features comfortable seating, cable TV, DVDs, a phone, internet access, magazines and journals, a refrigerator, microwave, water, tea, coffee, and other hot beverages, and a running supply of popcorn. It is also a place for Graduate and Professional students to get information about resources at the University. Additionally, the Lounge is used by small groups of Graduate and Professional students for meetings and small events.

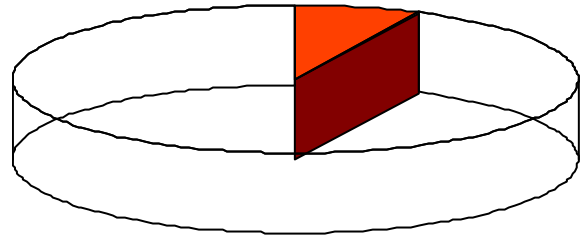
In the years that we have been operating the Coffman Union Lounge it has become an active and vibrant part of GAPSA's goal of connecting Graduate and Professional students across departmental and collegiate lines. Patrons range from people seeking a quiet place to study alone to study groups from classes using the space. In the first week it was opened we had students who met in the Lounge and later went to a conference together. Our Lounge is directly utilized by our own Graduate and Professional students who are paying the GAPSA fee.

Project Breakdown:

Graduate and Professional Student Socials

Entertainment	\$ 2,800.00
Food	\$ 21,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,200.00
Printing	\$ 1,100.00
Promotional Items	\$ 2,500.00
Room Rental	\$ 5,200.00
TOTAL	\$ 33,800.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

The social events that the GAPSA Programming Committee plans each year are amongst the most popular events for Graduate and Professional Students. These events have continued to see stable attendance throughout the years. This year the Programming Committee has been using survey data from 2007-2008 to plan new and exciting socials. This fall the committee planned a theater event with the University's Theater Department and promoted an event at a Gopher Women's soccer game. The Programming Committee decided to continue with the 2nd annual St. Paul Saints game social and sold out of tickets right away. This spring the Programming Committee is planning the first annual GAPSA Gala and speed dating socials. There will not be a social during Appreciation Week as the GAPSA conference is being held that week which includes a social event. Therefore, by not having to fund the Appreciation Week social the committee is using those funds to go towards the Gala. The Programming Committee has seen the price of catering/food increase dramatically in the past year and is searching for ways to cut back in other areas to maintain the same amount of food as previous years have seen. GAPSA is aware of the fact the food draws the crowd for many events it holds.

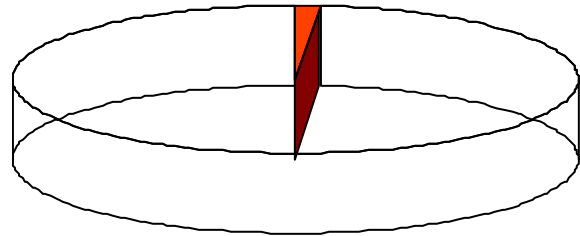
The GAPSA socials provide an opportunity to tell Graduate and Professional students about GAPSA and how it serves them. Many students have come to a social event with no prior knowledge of GAPSA and left with information about applying for grants, spoke to a GAPSA executive member about an issue or problem they are experiencing in their program, learned about how to lobby for issues important to them, and much more. The primary purpose of GAPSA socials, though, is to provide opportunities for networking among fellow Graduate and Professional Students.

Project Breakdown:

Family Bowling Nights

Entertainment	\$ 600.00
Equipment Rental	\$ 0.00
Food	\$ 2,300.00
Office Supplies	\$ 600.00
Promotional Items	\$ 1,000.00
Room Rental	\$ 2,100.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,600.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

This program was first initiated by GAPSA in 2003. Last year the GAPSA Programming Committee decided to hold these events concurrently on both campuses. (Goldy’s Gameroom and The Gopher Spot). The attendance at Family Bowling Nights increase as well as attendees satisfaction with the events after this was implemented. In previous years attendees were not guaranteed a chance to bowl, as there was limited space. Now by using both locations attendees that would like to bowl have been able to and there is more space to socialize. The events are held once each semester and are attended by Graduate and Professional students with or without children. Unlike the socials, this is a “game” event, where the attendees bowl, play pool, use the board games GAPSA provides, or just relax and hang out. As always the highlight of the event is Goldy Gopher’s appearance. Adults and children alike line up to get a picture with Goldy. Since the median age of Graduate and Professional students is higher than that of undergraduate students, many have children. Often these students are unable to attend other GAPSA events, such as socials, in part because they are not designed to be “kid-friendly”. The Family Bowling Night is GAPSA’s answer to providing services to these Graduate and Professional students.

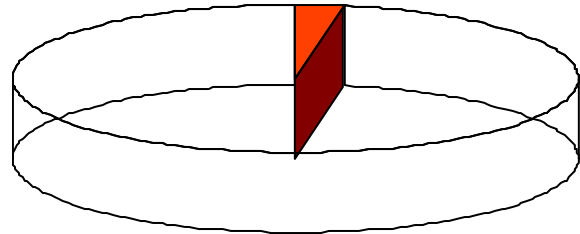
GAPSA plans to continue these events each semester. For each Family Bowling Night attendees have the option of using bumper lanes, which are popular among young children. Free beverages, pizza and cake are available and prizes are bought and raffled off for the children in attendance. While these events are targeted towards Graduate and Professional students with children, all Graduate and Professional students are encouraged to attend.

Project Breakdown:

President's Reception for Incoming Students

Entertainment	\$0.00
Food	\$10,000.00
Office Supplies	\$450.00
Promotional Items	\$1000.00
Room Rental	\$4,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 15,450.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

This event is less than 10 years old, but has found a place in the GAPSA history books. This event is designed to be the official Graduate and Professional student welcome to the University of Minnesota. It is a chance for new students to meet President Bruininks and other University administrators as well as connect with their new colleagues at the University. This event has been held at the Loring Pasta Bar, just north of the Minneapolis East Bank campus in Dinkytown. The GAPSA Programming Committee is looking into alternative venues for next year as each year the capacity for the venue is met with many being turned away. The event is an RSVP-only event. The long RSVP lists each year demonstrate the popularity of this event.

The cost of food has impacted this event as well and the Programming Committee has found ways to decrease costs (for example not having entertainment) in other areas to make sure that food quality is maintained and all that attend are able to eat. This past fall GAPSA saw the largest number of attendees ever to this event.

For the event food and beverages are available and the highlight is a welcoming address by President Bruininks. The GAPSA President also speaks at this event. There is a drawing held after the speeches for items donated by the event sponsors. GAPSA has continued to receive sponsorship from corporations for this event.

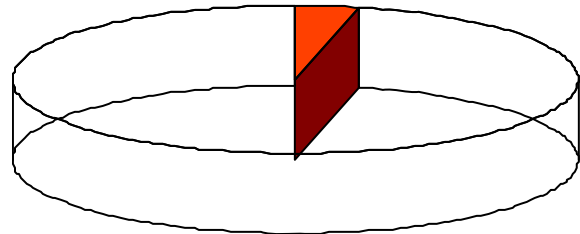
This event was originally conceived as the Graduate and Professional student version of New Student Convocation for the undergraduate students. It is important to note that the budget for the undergraduate event is through the University and not through any student service fees-receiving groups. This is an example of where GAPSA provides services to Graduate and Professional students that are provided to undergraduate students by the administration. The GAPSA Programming Committee is in conversation with University entities to help fund this event in the future.

Project Breakdown:

Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week

Room Rental	\$ 8,500.00
Food	\$ 1,500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 350.00
Postage	\$ 500.00
Printing	\$1,000.00
Promotional Items	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,350.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

Each year the Governor of Minnesota proclaims a week in April as Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. GAPSA serves as the central coordinating body for this week of activities celebrating Graduate and Professional students.

This year there will not be a large social hosted by GAPSA at the end of Appreciation Week as the GAPSA conference is held that week and will be hosting a social event. As mentioned in the Social section GAPSA will be hosting the first annual GAPSA Gala in place of an Appreciation Week social which will take place in late February.

The week will include events planned by each GAPSA council and overseen by the Programming Committee. GAPSA will print fliers with the week's events and has in the past bought space in the Minnesota Daily newspaper to advertise this event.

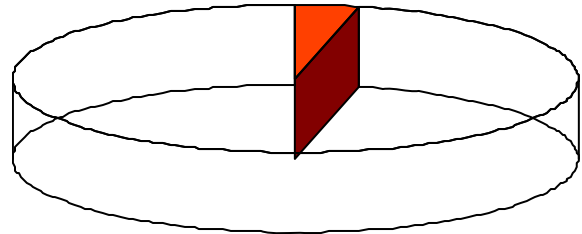
GAPSA will also host an open house event during Appreciation Week (listed under the Open House project breakdown) that will include a prize drawing. The highlights this year will consist of council events, the GAPSA conference and possible Twins event. (Last year the Twins event was a huge success with 700 tickets being sold and many more students wanting tickets, but left out).

Project Breakdown:

GAPSA Open House

Food	\$ 1,700.00
Entertainment	\$ 800.00
Printing	\$500.00
Promotional Items	\$ 1000.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,000.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

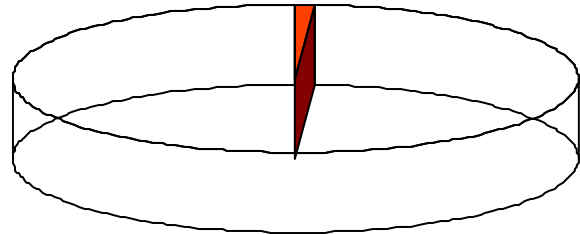
This year the GAPSA Programming Committee decided to host open house events twice each semester on each campus for a total of eight open house events for the academic year. This event has become increasingly popular and attendance has more than doubled from previous open houses hosted by GAPSA. The response from students especially those based on the St. Paul Campus have been very positive this year. The students in St. Paul have been especially appreciative, as they do not make it to the GAPSA office very often (if ever). As in past years promotional items are bought to giveaway at these events and it is great to see these items in use around campus. Examples of these items are hot beverage mugs, lunch coolers, key chains, etc. GAPSA also buys prizes that attendees can sign up to win in a drawing. The sign-up sheets are a great way to find out what programs event attendees are from and if this is their first GAPSA event. This way the Programming Committee can use the data to target programs that seem to lack attendance from their students and more outreach can be done.

Project Breakdown:

McEvoy Award for Public Engagement & Leadership

Award	\$ 2,000.00
Food	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 400.00
Printing	\$ 900.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,800.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

In the spring of 2002, it was confirmed that Graduate and Professional Students are not eligible for either the Alumni Association or the Zander Student Leadership Awards. In order to address this inequity, GAPSA leaders began working with University Administrators to create a high prestige award directed solely to Graduate and Professional students. It was decided that this award would focus on students whose academic and leadership work contained a strong element of public engagement, who can demonstrate an effective transfer of their academic and leadership work to areas that benefit the broader community, beyond the University.

On October 25, 2002, Mary McEvoy, a professor of Educational Psychology and faculty affiliate of the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), was killed in a plane crash. Professor McEvoy came to the University in 1990. Her work promoted the integration of children with disabilities into regular classrooms, social skills training for children with autism, and research on cocaine's effects on unborn children. As stated by University President Bruininks, "(Mary) was clearly committed to the idea of using knowledge to make our lives better. Indeed, everything she did was connected to one central question, 'What do we know, and how can we apply it, to make life much better for our fellow human beings?'"

For example, one of the award winners in the past was Traci LaLiberte, a Graduate student in the College of Human Ecology pursuing a Doctorate in Social Work with a focus on disability policy and child welfare. Before coming to the University, Traci was a practicing social worker in Connecticut where she not only developed policies but worked in the field investigating reports of neglect and abuse. She has applied her current research through the development of

disability curriculum requirements in programs across the country. In her work she is able to provide a perspective of both the academic and the people in the field.

We partner with the Student Activities Office to solicit nominations for the McEvoy award in conjunction with the President's Student Leadership Awards. Those Graduate and Professional students who receive the President's Award are then forwarded to the McEvoy Award Committee. The award is officially presented at the Student Leadership Awards ceremony, usually in May.

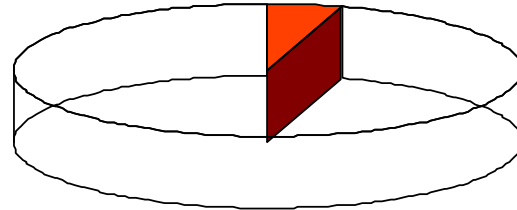
GAPSA is working with the Minnesota Foundation to raise the funds for an endowment that will, in the future, accrue enough interest to fund the awards every year. However, that is still a few years away and so until that time we are budgeting for the award to be funded directly from GAPSA (All fundraising activities for the endowment will be done through the Foundation so you do not see that expense in the GAPSA budget.).

Project Breakdown:

Public Affairs

Printing	\$1,000.00
Travel	\$1,000.00
Mail	\$1,100.00
Room Rental	\$1,000.00
Entertainment	\$300.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00
Staff	\$4,900.00
Food	\$1,700.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,000.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

Flowing from the restructuring of the Student Legislative Coalition, GAPSA has been working to build an effective public affairs and public engagement arm into the traditional GAPSA mission. We have been working in collaboration with Minnesota Student Association on the Student Public Affairs Coalition (SPAC), which was formed to partner with the undergraduate student body on issues that most concern the University of Minnesota. Public Affairs also works with University Relations, University administration, and national graduate and professional student associations to address state and national concerns. Most important among these concerns in 2009-2010 is graduate and professional student indebtedness.

Past Accomplishments

Lobby Efforts

The main focus of public affairs in GAPSA is to lobby on behalf of the University's graduate and professional students. The public affairs team does so at all three levels of government: national, state and local.

First, GAPSA tackles national issues by working with The National Graduate and Professional Student Association, and meeting with nationally elected officials in Washington, DC at least once a year. In Spring of 2008, GAPSA had a successful "lobby day" at the nation's Capitol. The public affairs team met with the entire Minnesota delegation and the higher education committee. We discussed issues that most impact graduate and professional students at the University of

Minnesota. Among these issues were the University's desire to be a top research institution, international student visas, and student indebtedness.

Second, GAPSA addresses State issues by working with MSA and University Relations. The most important event of the year for State lobbying is Support the U Day. At Support the U Day, students, faculty and staff from all U campuses come to the Capitol to share their school spirit and, more important, to show their legislators personally how the U delivers great academic, cultural and economic value to our state.

Third, furthering GAPSA's mission of community building, the Public Affairs Committee has been addressing students' needs within the community. GAPSA proactively works with the Minneapolis City Council to alter potentially harmful ordinances regarding "loud or unruly properties." We have also partnered with the Office of Community Relations and various neighborhood coalitions (Southeast Como, Marcy-Holmes, and Seward, to name a few) in order to increase awareness of GAPSA, while, at the same time, improving relationships with our surrounding community. For example, this year, the public affairs assistant is a member of the Neighborhood Coalition established by the University of Minnesota, and the Vice President for Public Affairs ensures that the voice of Graduate and Professional students is heard by attending neighborhood association meetings when necessary.

Election Season Events

In Fall of 2008, GAPSA co-sponsored a series of candidate forums with the Humphrey Institute. The forums fostered informed and substantive discussions on important matters of public policy. The forums created an opportunity for the candidates to rise above the talking points and fractious back-and-forth of the campaign to address the important policy challenges facing Minnesota and the country. It also created a forum for students and citizens to listen and raise questions with the candidates. We successfully co-sponsored forums with the following candidates: Ashwin Madia, Erik Paulsen, David Dillion, Al Franken and Norm Coleman.

Finally, GAPSA organized an election results watching party. On election night, over 100 graduate and professional students joined GAPSA at GameWorks for food, fun and games while the results for the 2008 presidential election rolled in.

Plans for 2009-2010

In Spring of 2010, the public affairs committee will once again go to Washington, DC to lobby on the national level. GAPSA's main focus for 2009-2010 is addressing concerns of student indebtedness. The Public Affairs Committee hopes to increase elected officials awareness about student indebtedness, and encourage them to work with GAPSA and national student organizations to pass

legislation that minimizes indebtedness among students who choose to work in public interest.

GAPSA Public Affairs will team up with the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) and University Relations to organize Support the U Day. This year's main focus is the appropriations bill. Considering the US economy and the State's deficit, the University's budget will most likely be cut. GAPSA's goal is to limit the impact of these cuts on graduate and professional students.

Finally, GAPSA will continue to work with the local community and surrounding neighborhood associations to address housing, safety and other community-based issues.

Student Involvement

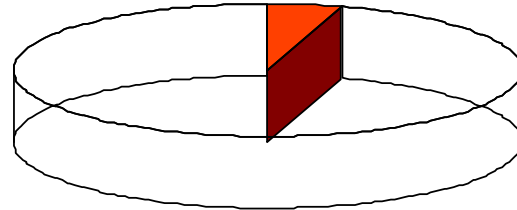
Considering the impact and success of the 2008 candidate forums, GAPSA hopes to organize more activities and events that encourage/create student involvement. In 2009-2010, for example, GAPSA hopes to organize a series of speakers to come to the University and discuss issues that impact graduate and professional students.

Project Breakdown:

GAPSA Annual Conference

Printing	\$1,000.00
Room Rental	\$1,000.00
Entertainment	\$1500.00
Advertising	\$500.00
Council Grants	\$3,000.00
Food	\$3,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 10,000.00

Portion of Total Budget



Narrative:

After a very successful first conference in 2008, GAPSA has will again be holding the event. GAPSA intends to serve approximately 200-250 students during this one-day event.

- *Pre-Conference Workshops*

The pre-conference workshops are held during the morning, allowing councils to offer sessions focused on needs specific to the students within their respective college. All councils are invited to prepare a pre-conference session. Councils can apply for a grant offered by GAPSA to help address the monetary needs of the pre-conference workshops.

- *Conference Sessions*

Any graduate or professional student can register for the conference. They do not have to attend the pre-conference workshop offered by their college. Topics in the following areas are discussed in rotating continual sessions during the afternoon:

- Career Development
- Student Life
- Financial Planning
- Grant Writing and Academic Writing

- *Research Presentations and Closing Event*

In the evening, as a conclusion of the days activities, GAPSA holds a research symposium and social event. The event provides student time to interact with students from other councils, and to present their research.