African Student Association

Request: $15,000

Recommended: $12,406

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $15,000 from the student organization, African Student Association. Our recommendation is to award $12,406.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. Following deduction has been made to remain in compliance for the proper use of student services fees:

$300.00 Scholarship for Mr. & Miss America

$2,294.36 Excessive carry over
All-Campus Elections Commission

Request: $12,650
Recommended: $12,650
Vote: 6-4-0

The Committee voted to approve All-Campus Elections Commission for the full request of $12,650, although concerns over the efficacy of the group’s Get Out the Vote rallies and other events persist. The Committee strongly recommends that ACEC use its allotment for 2011-2012 to improve communication and interaction with the campus electorate and to demonstrate its value to the student body overall. If ACEC makes a funding request next year, it would be wise to include some context along with your voting figures. There was a great deal of discussion within the committee about the voting figures that were provided, and some information about how the youth demographic typically votes would have been very helpful in this instance.

Minority

The Minority is concerned with the past failures of the All Campus Commission. The fact that voter turnout was approximately 14% last year and candidate recruitment has been subpar indicates the failure of the ACEC to live up to its very mission. Therefore, the minority would suggest eliminating funding for the “Get out the vote” portion of the budget, therefore leaving the ACEC to manage the elections, while allowing the candidates in the elections to bring supporters to the polls resulting in a higher turnout.
Al-Madinah Cultural Center

Requested: $69,000
Recommended: $55,980
Vote: 8-0-2

The Committee recommended that Al-Madinah receive $55,980 in funding for the next fiscal year. The reductions came from The Committee, following precedent, not supporting events or programs that do not benefit the campus community as a whole. We look to allocate SSF funds to events that a student outside of Al-Madinah can attend. The Committee stresses the importance of fiscal responsibility for this group. The Committee found that actual numbers for the previous year (2009-2010) were rounded. This is concerning and may speak to accounting problems in the group this is something next year’s committee with look into. This lack of fiscal responsibility has resulted in a 10% cut in fees funding in addition to the deductions listed above for the next fiscal year. The Committee has also decided that it will not decrease funding because of low fundraising measures but maintains that this should be looked at by the organization as a way build income.
American Indian Student Cultural Center

Requested: $30,000

Recommended: $29,150

Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee is cutting funding for the “American Indian Culture House Film Series” until the AISCC can provide proof that they have obtained or are obtaining a “permission to show” permit as it is required to show any film on the University of Minnesota campus. This is to ensure that copyrights are not infringed.
American Institute of Architecture Students

Requested: $6,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee feels that the events that AIAS participates in do not provide an opportunity for the general campus community to benefit. We cannot allocate fees that every student pays to be used by a small group of people. In the future, the Committee would like to see how AIAS relates back to the campus community by implementing events or programs on the campus of the University of Minnesota.
American Society of Civil Engineers

Requested: $10,000

Recommended: $7,700

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee feels that the University of Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers has demonstrated its value to University of Minnesota students, especially through the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge teams and brown bag lunch workshops. These unique, extracurricular activities offer many students opportunities to build their resumes and showcase their talents to employers or graduate schools, representing the U of M’s science and engineering programs in a positive light. After taking into consideration the decreases in funding from the Civil Engineering Department and the chapter’s planned hosting of the Steel Bridge competition, as well as the part of its programming that does not merit student fees (scholarships and certain social events), the Committee has allotted the University of Minnesota Chapter of ASCE $7,700. We also suggest that on future applications, large hosted events such as the Steel Bridge competition be detailed in programming breakdown as opposed to operational expenses.
Amnesty International

Requested: $3,700

Recommended: $3,400

Vote: 9-0-1

The Committee feels that the University of Minnesota chapter of Amnesty International provides a valuable service to the University and the global community on a small budget. The application and presentation were very clear and easy to understand. The committee is of the opinion that members of this student organization who attend the national conference should contribute half the cost of their travel expenses. The fees committee voted to reduce the amount of money awarded by $300. The Committee recommended that Amnesty International receive $3400.
Asian American Student Union

Requested: $85,000

Recommended: $78,020

Vote: 7-0-3

The Committee voted to approve funding for the Asian-American Student Union in the amount of $78,020. Based on the budget provided by ASU, at the close of the 2010-11 year there will be a carry forward of $13,615. The full amount of this carry forward is not accounted for in ASU’s request for 2011-12. Therefore the committee reduced their fees support by $6980 (i.e., the difference between the 2010-11 income less expenses or carry forward and the amount noted as the 2011-12 carry forward ($6,635)). The committee also could not justify supporting the group to maintain such a high operational reserve. A reserve of approximately ten percent of operational expenses is more reasonable.
The Ayn Rand Study Group

Requested: $89,905

Recommended: $39,285

Vote: 5-0-4

The majority of the Fees Committee is very pleased with the driven and ambitious request from the Ayn Rand Study Group. The final recommendation is much lower than the original recommendation; on further reflection and using additional information, the Committee decided to deduct the following expenses from the initial request: (1) $12,000.00 for rent and utilities expenses deemed speculative and unnecessary, (2) $14,700.00 for salaries, wages, and stipends expenses deemed excessive for the size of the group and not precedential in inclination, (3) $9,000.00 in consultant and professional fees which are not needed immediately, (4) $2,500.00 in equipment expenses which still leaves $2,000.00 for the group to purchase a computer and printer, (5) $2,900.00 in supplies expenses which still leaves $600.00 for a threefold increase, (6) $3,500.00 for excessive advertising expense with projected growth, (7) $1,700.00 for food and half of travel expenses for the “2 day conference on laissez-faire capitalism” using conference reduction precedence, and (8) $2,520.00 for the “objectivist conference in 2012 in San Diego” using (7) reasoning. We believe the final recommendation of $39,285.00 will considerably help the group expand its operations and provide a greater impact to the student community. This will represent a nearly eightfold increase in the group’s revenues, with which the Committee hopes to see a substantial program and service offering.
BGAPSA

Requested: $8,661

Recommended: $8,661

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $8,661.00 from the student organization, BGAPSA. Our recommendation is to award $8,661.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. No deduction has been made to this request as all expenses listed remain in compliance with the proper use of student services fees in serving all University of Minnesota students.
Black Motivated Women

Requested: $11,117.65

Recommended: $8,678

Vote: 9-0-1

The Fees Committee was impressed with the expanded planning efforts of the Black Motivated Women group. We recommend $8,678, following from these points: (1) Expenses other than food and only half of travel expenses will be covered for retreats and conferences that are exclusive. As such, the “Board Retreat” program should not be funded using student services fees, except for the $30 in supplies required for the event. (2) We have reduced the awarded amount by $1,000 due to the projected $1,755 difference (income less expenses) $755 of which we feel is prudent and historically acceptable for this group. (3) $1,100 has been deducted from the request since it is the opinion of the Committee that goodies and prizes should not be covered by student services fees, as are listed in the “Fashion Show” program breakdown. (4) The Committee would like to applaud BMW for correctly listing carryover for each year in the budget, a feat many groups did not accomplish, but would also like to remind BMW that operational reserves accounted for in expenses should also be listed in the income operational reserves row. (5) The $300 in T-shirts listed was deducted from the request.
Black Student Union

Requested: $65,000
Recommended: $0
Vote: 6-5-0

The Committee has determined that the Black Student Union (BSU) has not complied with the minimum requirements for applying for Student Fees as laid out in the Student Services Fees Request Handbook for Student Organizations. Specifically, the organization failed to meet requirements 5, 7, and 8 as follows. Requirement 5 states that “Groups receiving funds from the student services fees shall demonstrate expenditures in general compliance with their submitted budgets.” However, according to the audit prepared on the organization by Deloitte and Touche, LLP, all of the major line items for the BSU’s 2009-2010 Actual report differ from its 2009-2010 Budget by several thousand dollars. Requirement 7 states that “All groups currently receiving funds from student services fees must be audited by the designated independent auditing firm contracted to perform audits of fee receiving organizations. Copies of audits will be attached to the standardized request form submitted to the Student Services Fees Committee. All financial records must be submitted in a timely manner.” Yet the BSU failed to produce records for multiple transactions, including five ‘Consumable and Communication’ expenditures totaling $5,838, one ‘Travel’ expenditure totaling $30, and an expenditure from the group’s reserve account for an unspecified amount, in addition to the beginning bank statement for the aforementioned reserve account. Finally, requirement 8 states that “Demonstrated procedures must be in place to ensure accountability (programmatic, service, financial, constituency) including responses to recommendations from the management audits.” As per the organization’s audit, they have not demonstrated that such procedures are in place. In addition to the transactions listed above for which the BSU could not provide financial records, they provided documentation for three more ‘Consumable and Communication’ expenditures, only one of which was agreed. Of the other two, $10,000 was recorded for room rental which, according to an invoice, totaled only $7,500, and $550 was recorded for food purchases which in fact totaled $1,622. Within the group’s ‘Travel’ expenditures, the group overstated another $134 dollars, when compared with statements for a trip to the Big XII conference.

The many discrepancies revealed in the audit of the Black Student Union are signs of financial misconduct or inability to maintain proper records on the part of the BSU. The Committee has determined that either of these reasons are signs of irresponsibility on the part of the organization to a point where it would be unfair to the student body to entrust their money to use by the group. Therefore, the Committee has deemed it appropriate to recommend $0 to the Black Student Union. The BSU can feel free to make use of the appeals process, for which the Committee recommends that they gather and provide documentation to clear up the budget gaps listed above.
BSU Minority

The minority on the Fees Committee would like to express its distaste with the majority’s opinion regarding the final recommendation of $0. To award a group with a consistently large impact on the campus community such a large reduction is simply egregious. It is the opinion of the minority that punitive reductions are necessary due to the “audit failure” and poorly constructed budget submitted by the BSU to the Committee, but not a reduction as large as that advocated by the majority. The minority does not feel it is appropriate for the Committee to punish groups with yearly-exchanging boards so excessively. It is disappointing that the majority feels undue punishment of current and future BSU members is warranted for the actions of past BSU members. This type of retribution is not constructive or conducive to supporting groups which have measurable impacts.

It is the opinion of the committee’s minority that some level of funding reduction may be warranted given the outcome of BSU’s audit process. We, however, disagree with the majority opinion that a total elimination of the BSU’s fees request is a satisfactory resolution. We also recognize both the significant role that this student group plays on campus for students of African descent and the larger University community. Further, we acknowledge the challenges associated with annual volunteer student board turnover. Therefore, instead of implementing harsh fiscally punitive mandates, we would prefer to see student groups to have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and be guided to make improvements to their budgetary practices.
Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists

Requested: $8,000

Recommended: $6,420

Vote: 9-0-1

The committee felt that CASH fully demonstrated that they provide a valuable service to the University community. Their programs are wide reaching and valuable to the University. In addition, the committee thanks CASH for its responsiveness to the committee’s questions and requests. The committee voted to cut $700 of fees for club t-shirts, as the committee feels that student services fees should not be used to subsidize clothing for individual students. The committee also chose to eliminate funding for the members-only Pasta Dinner ($300) and Year-end picnic ($180) as these events are not available to all students. Lastly, the committee cut $400 of travel costs for the Secular Student Alliance National Conference, which is consistent with the committee’s funding of travel to conferences for student groups. The committee believes that students should be contributing half of their travel costs. After subtracting fees for the t-shirts, half of the travel costs for the conference, and the two members-only events, the committee came to a final recommendation of $6,420.
Campus People Watchers

Requested: $1,000,000,000,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee felt that though the Campus People Watchers demonstrated both a growth in group participation and an increase in programming, the committee recommended that CPW would be awarded $0 due to their intentionally falsified budget. The fees committee cannot make a recommendation based on a budget that includes programs that the student group admittedly does not plan to hold. In this case, the proposed programming costs totaled nearly one trillion dollars, while the operational costs made up the difference. CPW wanted to make a point, and their voice was heard. Unfortunately, because the point was made using an intentionally falsified budget, the committee is unable to award any fees at this time.

The Concurrence recognizes that on a campus as large as the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, it is difficult for individuals and small groups such as the Campus People Watchers to have the opportunity to express their discontent in an effective and meaningful way. It therefore recognizes the Campus People Watchers’ unusual request as a matter of free speech and a legitimate means of making a statement about a situation with which they are not satisfied. However, it agrees with the Majority that without the submission of an accurate budget request, it is outside this Committee’s purview to determine what amount is necessary for the operation of the group.
Colleges Against Cancer

Requested: $14,291.44

Recommended: $14,291

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee felt that the University of Minnesota Chapter of Colleges Against Cancer has a solid track record of putting on events to raise awareness about the impact of cancer. Creative offerings such as dodgeball tournaments and 5K runs present the double-edged benefit of both education on a serious topic, as well as opportunities to bring different groups together around a common cause. The Committee was especially impressed with the positive feedback on Colleges Against Cancer’s hosting of Relay for Life. The Committee has decided to allot CAC $14,291 We recommend in future applications that the group does not include money raised during Relay for Life that is donated to the American Cancer Society, since it is not part of CAC’s operating budget or programming expenses. Money raised for the group’s services, however, should be included in fundraising.
Collegians For A Constructive Tomorrow

Requested: $288,200
Recommended: $282,450
Vote: 6-2-1

The Committee was impressed by the wealth of programming CFACT has planned for the 2011-2012 academic year, but would like to request that next year, CFACT focus on their own group during the fees presentation. Some concerns were raised about graduate student participation. The fees committee recommends that CFACT make an effort to include graduate students in their events. Because CFACT receives a large amount of fees, it is important that all types of students be sought out to participate in the events. The committee is of the opinion that students attending programs with heavy travel budgets should contribute all of their own food costs as well as half the cost of their travel. This rationale was used to deduct money fairly from each group with travel costs. This includes the Eco Summit and The Environment of Catastrophe. The fees committee gave an final recommendation of $282,450.

Minority

The minority is concerned with the legitimacy of such a significant portion of the group’s funding request being allocated to a campus visit by former President George W. Bush.
Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative

Requested: $35,400

Recommended: $0

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee felt that this group does not benefit the whole campus, and therefore was not applicable to the fees process. It seemed as though the “programming” was more a request for money to maintain and revamp portions of the living complex. Student services fees should not be used for the subsidization of building maintenance, so the Committee recommended $0.
Community Child Care Center

Requested: $80,000

Recommended: $80,000

Vote: 10-0-0

The contributions of the Community Child Care Center are less visible than many other groups. This is because the CCCC incurs no programming expenses, only those relevant to its day-to-day operation. Nevertheless, the benefit derived from this organization is present in the contributions made by University members who utilize its services. The center offers discounted child care that allows faculty, staff, and students to dedicate more of their time to their University-related pursuits.

The application of the CCCC was exceptionally professional, with reasons readily provided when asked how the amount of the request was determined. The application and presentation also included top-notch bookkeeping, complete with justification for expenses related to maintaining accreditation standards and explanations for unique income and expenses (tuition loss, tuition debt recovered, Head Start funding, etc.). Therefore, the Committee has allotted the Community Child Care Center $80,000.
Como Early Learning Center

Requested: $75,000

Recommended: $75,000

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee found it both clear and evident that the Como Early Learning Center plays an important role and provides a vitally needed service to University students. As such, the Committee has decided to award Como Early Learning Center their entire fees request of $75,000. However, the Committee would like to see tuition rates increasing at a much smaller rate than is expected for next year, a 2.5% increase.
Compassionate Action for Animals

Requested: $20,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 10-0-0

The Majority has concluded that the organization Compassionate Action for Animals (CAA) has failed to demonstrate need for funding through Student Fees. The organization has projected a large carry-over from the 2010-2011 to the 2011-2012 school year, totaling $49,396.67. While this fact in and of itself would not have prevented the Committee from recommending funding, group has not indicated that it plans to make use of the surplus, which more than doubles to groups request of $20,000, in the 2011-2012 school year. In fact, the proposed budget increases the carry-over after the 2011-2012 school year to $55,836.67. When questioned about the need for such a large carry-over, CAA was not able to provide adequate reason, stating only that they wanted a large reserve. Further, with the CAA having maintained such an excess surplus in years past, the 2010-2011 Fees Committee voted not to fund the organization, with instructions to spend down their surplus. However, the group did little to follow these instructions, spending down only a few thousand dollars. Therefore, the Committee has decided not to recommend funding for Compassionate Action for Animals, with instructions to spend down the group’s surplus.
Council of College Boards

Requested: $75,430

Recommended: $65,204

Vote: 9-0-1

The Committee has recommended an allotment of $65,204 for the 2011-2012 year, representing the requested amount, less the carryover from last year. The Committee also felt that although CCB had planned many worthwhile events and functions for the coming year, the budget request that was submitted for review was simply too complicated to properly interpret in real terms. Without any direct way of assessing the ways in which the increased fees requests would be processed and disbursed internally by CCB, the Committee felt that it would be prudent to set a final recommendation at $65,204, which would safely allow the Council to maintain its current levels of programming. In the future, the Committee would like to see CCB function on a smaller scale, serving strictly as an intercollegiate student group, with each of the individual colleges receiving independent funding through student fees in order to host the level of programming that CCB currently facilitates.
CRU

Requested: $20,501

Recommended: $20,501

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $20,501.00 from the student organization, CRU. Our recommendation is to award $20,501.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. No deduction has been made to this request as all expenses listed remain in compliance with the proper use of student services fees in serving all University of Minnesota students.
Disabled Student Cultural Center

Requested: $22,000

Recommended: $21,900 (Initial)

TBD (Final)

Vote: 7-0-0 (Initial)

TBD (Final)

(Initial Rationale)

The Committee felt that the DSCC had a very clear breakdown of programming and operational expenses for the year 2011-2012. In accordance with other group deductions for retreat and food expenses at dinners and banquets, $100 was deducted for the End of the Year Good-bye dinner and Summer Planning Retreat. After this, the Committee recommends $21,900.

Final rationale and funding recommendations are pending, as the SSFC has not been able to meet and provide this information.
Emergency Medicine Interest Group

Requested: $25,360
Recommended: $15,916
Vote: 6-1-2

The majority of the Committee was concerned with the fact that the groups seemed to only benefit people in a certain major on campus. However, the Basic Life Support Instruction is available to all members of campus. Therefore, our recommendation is based on funding the programming applicable to all of campus and not funding the programming that only benefits a segment of the University population. The majority recommends 15,916.

Minority

It is the minority opinion that due to the relatively narrow target audience reached by Emergency Medicine Interest Group’s on-campus activities, the group simply does not provide adequate benefit to the overall campus community to be deserving of student services fees, and should receive $0.
Engineers Without Borders

Requested: $15,090
Recommended: $15,090
Vote: 6-0-4

After examining Engineers Without Borders’ amended request, which answered the questions of the Committee, we have decided to award EWB its full request of $15,090, as opposed to its initial recommendation of $12,390.
EPIC

Requested: $10,000

Recommended: $0 (Initial)

TBD (Final)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Initial)

TBD (Final)

(Initial Rationale)

The Fees Committee would like to explain its initial recommendation of $0 in the following three points:
(1) Student Services Fees will not be expensed to student groups that do not hold events on campus or directly impact the campus community in a measurable or evident way. While it is true that EPIC does have meetings and partners with CRU, the expenses for those on-campus programs are easily covered by grants, fund raising, and donations. (2) Conferences will not be funded for groups that do not show a direct impact on the community. Conferences are only funded because indirect benefits are shared among the community. For example, a group sending students to a leadership conference funded by fees later brings back what they learned and shares it with the student body at the events they host for the campus community. In this way, conferences are reasonably funded. (3) Therefore, meetings alone are not enough to show a direct impact on campus, and groups wishing to receive fees should plan campus events that benefit the community, which is what the Student Services Fee was designed for.

Final rationale and funding recommendations are pending, as the SSFC has not been able to meet and provide this information.
Ethiopian Student Association

Requested: $7,000

Recommended: $3,450

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee was concerned about the Carry Over From Previous Year line item; the amount of $3,000 is not consistent with the Income Less Expenses line item, which has a balance of 203.45. The committee is requesting an explanation of where the extra $2,796.55 is coming from for next year. The other reductions are due to the Committee, following precedent: not funding food for conferences or events off of campus and half of the travel expense, as these events are not open the campus community. However, the Committee recommends that ESA seek grants to fund these expenses, as we understand that they are important to ESA, but should not be supported through the fees of students.
GO FIRST

Requested: $85,955
Recommended: $81,515
Vote: 6-1-3

The Committee felt that Go First gave an informational presentation and emphasized their usefulness to the University and the surrounding community through its volunteering and competing at regional and national competitions. The committee decided that student fees should not be paying for the two $500 awards to incoming freshman, so we voted to reduce the awarded amount by $1,000. Also, attendance of the World Championship should be paid for partly by the students. The committee voted to reduce the amount of fees awarded by $3,440, which equates to half of the travel cost and all of the food for the trip. The committee voted to finally recommend that Go First receive $81,515 from Student Services Fees.

Minority

The minority finds that although much of the programming included in GO FIRST’s budget request does indeed merit student services fees funding, the value of that programming to the campus community may have been improperly assessed by the majority. The minority recommends that future committees more thoroughly evaluate the needs of the group with respect to salaries, stipends, and equipment costs.
Initial subtractions were removed from GAPSA’s request totaling $5550, which includes $2000 for personal awards and $3550 for half of the amount requested for conference/retreat travel. In examining the submitted budget, there were many inconsistencies found, both between years and within the 2011-12 request. After much time spent trying to reconcile the numbers, as well as multiple requests that the group submit new budgets clarifying the points in question (which were provided in a timely manner but did not fully answer the questions), the Committee was not able to determine the source of the discrepancies and adjust the recommendation appropriately. Therefore, an additional reduction of 10% was made after having subtracted the above items. The Committee recommends that the group attempt to reconcile these issues in future budgets. We understand that it may be difficult to fit individual budget’s within the provided template, but in reviewing the budgets of a large number of student groups, it is much easier for the Committee to locate and understand necessary information when the template is followed.
Habitat for Humanity

Requested: $8,000

Recommended: $8,000

Vote: 9-0-1

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $8,000.00 from the student organization, Habitat for Humanity. Our recommendation is to award $8,000.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. No deduction has been made to this request as all expenses listed remain in compliance with the proper use of student services fees in serving all University of Minnesota students.
Hillel

Requested: $28,017.38

Recommended: $28,017

Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee appreciated that Hillel had a very thorough and well-done presentation, as well as budget and programming breakdown. The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $28,017 from the student organization, Hillel. Our recommendation is to award $28,017. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. No deduction has been made to this request as all expenses listed remain in compliance with the proper use of student services fees in serving all University of Minnesota students.
Hmong MN Student Association

Requested: $16,000

Recommended: $13,840

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee voted to approve funding for the Hmong Student Association in the amount of $13,840. The committee could not justify providing food for the group's three retreats. The committee also determined that student services fees can only be use to support half of the travel expenses incurred by student groups. In addition, the committee suggested that the group use existing funds for the costs associated with their two fundraising events.
Impact Movement

Requested: $6,000

Recommended: $5,250

Vote: 9-0-0

The Majority has determined that the organization Impact Movement has a strong record of financial responsibility and group success. They have demonstrated that great efforts have been made to procure additional funding from sources other than Student Fees, as well as to reduce costs and generally improve the group. The Committee has therefore deemed it appropriate to recommend most of the budget request submitted by Impact Movement, with a couple exceptions. First, due to the poor attendance of the Men’s Time and Women’s Time events (which average 1-2 attendees), the Committee has decided to cut the funding for food at both events, in the amount of $150 and $100, respectively. Second, the Committee has not recommended funding for a total of $500 included in the budget request for food during 2 conferences the group will attend. As these events are not intended for increasing attendance within the University community, and those who attend the conferences would be responsible for their own food expenses were they not attending the conference, the Committee deemed it appropriate that either the students be responsible for their own food expenditures during the trip or secure funding from another source. As for the travel expenses, which as general guideline this Committee has determined not to funding for over 50% for any group, the Impact Movement expressly stated that the travel expenses included in their budget request are being funded by outside sources; therefore the Committee found it unnecessary to cut the overall recommendation by the excess amount.
Innovative Engineers

Requested: $5,000

Recommended: $5,000

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee has recommended full funding for Innovative Engineers. The Committee feels that Innovative Engineers has proven itself a worthy organization which provides opportunities for students of all backgrounds and interests to contribute to global human development, engage in cultural exchange, and augment their classroom knowledge with valuable field experience.
La Raza Student Cultural Center

Requested: $45,000

Recommended: $44,820

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee is cutting funding for the “Movie Nights” until La Raza can provide proof that they have obtained or are obtaining a “permission to show” permit as it is required to show any film on the University of Minnesota campus. This is to ensure that copyrights are not infringed.
**Lutheran Student Movement**

Requested: $16,500

Recommended: $10,972

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee recommends a final allotment of $10,972. In keeping with a standard applied to all applicants, half of travel and food costs were deducted from the total request for 2011-2012. The Committee believes that students attending conferences, retreats, or other comparable events off-campus should be required to raise at least 50% of the necessary funds. The Committee hopes that these guidelines will promote accountability and resourcefulness among student groups wishing to send students to such large events.
Minnesota International Student Association

Requested: $80,765
Recommended: $78,358
Vote: 10-0-0

The fees committee voted to approve funding for the Minnesota International Student Association in the amount of $78,358. The committee will not support funding for several events included in MISA’s request that were also included in other student group budget requests (e.g., Asian American Student Union and Ethiopian Student Association events). We also could not support events that include viewing of films without clear documentation that MISA had considered costs associated with obtaining viewing rights for these films. The committee further recommends that MISA consider efforts to minimize costs associated with decorations for their events by utilizing a competitive bidding process for decoration vendors or investing in permanent decorations. It is noted that MISA reported estimates or whole numbers in the 2009-2010 operational expenses portion of their budget. All previous expenditures should be reported as actual dollars amounts spent. Future budget reports and all other communications with the Fees Committee should be factual and maintain a high level of professionalism.
Minnesota Public-Interest Research Group

Requested: $110,398.34
Recommended: $109,548
Vote: 9-0-1

The Committee applauds MPIRG’s continued dedication to fiscal accountability, and is pleased to award MPIRG almost every dollar requested for 2011-2012. Small cuts were made to travel and food costs, keeping with the Committee’s desire to have students contribute at least 50% to their food and travel costs for off-campus events. An additional $400 reduction was made in order to account for the T-shirts outlined in MPIRG’s budget request. The Committee does not feel that group expenditures on items of personal apparel should be funded in any part by student services fees.
Minnesota Student Association

Requested: $140,565
Recommended: $130,165
Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee appreciated the supporting documents and updated budget sheets provided by MSA, but would like to urge the group to work on budget issues that have plagued them for years. As for cuts made from the requested amount, the committee felt that the operational reserves were $9,000 too high. While 10-15% is just a guideline, MSA’s was nearly twice that much. The last deduction was made from room rental, because the price justification of using Great Hall for the year’s last meeting was a price overestimate by $1400. Additionally, the use of a 5 year CD for operational reserves seems to be an irresponsible option for MSA. It is irresponsible because Student Services Fees money is supposed to go to the students. Placing fees money away into an account that cannot be touched for five years without penalty is not liquid and cannot be used in case of cost overruns. Exploration of other, more liquid options such as savings accounts may be in order.
National Society of Black Engineers

Requested: $13,000
Recommended: $7,450
Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $13,000 from the student organization, National Society of Black Engineers. Our recommendation is to award $7,450.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. Following deduction has been made to remain in compliance for the proper use of student services fees:

$1,500.00 Travel expense for BRIDGE (50%)

$550.00 Paintball

$3,500.00 Travel expense for Convention (50%)
Persian Student Organization

Requested: $35,430

Recommended: $0

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee felt that this group should not use Student Services Fees to entirely fund an event of $33,100, with a limited number of attendees and limited tickets available to students. Events using the fees should be open to many, if not all, students, with lower limitations. After this amount was taken off, the carryover at the end of 2011-2012 was too high, so lowering that down from $8,000 to $3,500 eliminates all need for Student Services Fees and still leaves enough money to fund the event for Shabe Yalda.
Pre-Med AMSA

Requested: $25,000
Recommended: $12,400
Vote: 5-1-4

The Committee recognizes the importance of the bridge that the Pre-Med AMSA chapter has built between undergraduates pursuing medical careers and resources within the medical school. We are also encouraged by the attendance of the Pre-Med AMSA chapter’s attendance numbers at monthly meetings and bi-weekly volunteer opportunities.

At the same time, the Committee has decided that the carry-over for the group’s 2011-12 request is too large given the lack of planned events that could see an unforeseen use of reserves. While the Committee is comfortable providing food to meetings on a monthly basis given the attendance numbers in the past, we would like to see these attendance numbers sustained on a weekly basis before promising a food budget on the order of the requested amount. Considering the potential offerings of Pre-Med AMSA’s UMTC Chapter and its past performance, the Committee has allotted this student group $12,400.

Minority

The minority on the Fees Committee agrees with all the reasoning provided by the majority with the exception that it believes the operational food expenses are being funded too fully. Pre-Med AMSA explained that it wished to quadruple its meetings and that it expects its member base to increase. Because Pre-Med AMSA in the past has spent $1,200.00 on food, it would be expected that this expense would increase only fourfold. Therefore, $4,800.00 should be funded, not the $6,000.00 that is affirmed by the majority. A counter-argument to this position is that membership is expected to increase to possibly double current numbers. While membership could increase at such a rate next year, it is unlikely that Pre-Med AMSA will quadruple the meetings (once per week, as was suggested instead of once per month) that it has now. Due to holiday observances and breaks, some weeks throughout the year will not be available for meetings. Therefore, the money saved from meetings forgone will likely cover a reasonable increase in membership. The minority therefore proposes a further reduction of $1,200.00 from the final recommendation to the amount of $11,200.00.
**Saint Paul’s Outreach**

Requested: $82,949  
Recommended: $35,000  
Vote: 5-3-2

The majority of the Fees Committee is sympathetic to the position SPO expects to be in next year due to a loss of funding from an external source. Because the Committee believes that St. Paul’s Outreach has a measurable benefit on the community at the University, it is pleased to provide the group with funding. While St. Paul’s Outreach originally requested $82,949.85, only $35,000.00 is recommended. Due to the paid staff position for the group, $35,000.00 was needed for the group to keep its staffer and continue providing programming to the campus community. While St. Paul’s Outreach was very ambitious in its request and programming plans for next year, the Committee feels at this time that the $35,000.00 allotment is prudent to allow the group to continue to grow and flourish on campus. The Committee recommends that some programs utilize grant options internal and external to the University as well as group fund raising to expand before additional funds are allotted. Seeing no such revenue listed in the group’s budget in the past, the Committee stresses the importance that groups not just work hard to provide quality programming to students, but also work hard to pay for the programs they truly wish to provide. Additionally, an ancillary concern the Committee holds is the capacity for the staffer to handle a nearly-doubled programming lineup. While the Committee is supporting the group’s staffer position with fees now, it does encourage students to attempt to host programs and events without the help of full- or part-time staff. Planning, organizing, and hosting events is an educational experience student leadership should definitely be a part of and have considerable stake in.

**Minority**

The minority felt that the $35,000 that was awarded make up for the external funding that the group won’t be receiving next school year was based on the fact that St. Paul’s Outreach hasn’t received Student Services fees funding in the past, and this year asked to make up the lost revenue, plus additional funding to expand programming. The minority believes that St. Paul’s Outreach provided strong justification of their staff and projects for next year, and the fact that they didn’t receive student fees funding and last year and lost external funding for next year, should not be a reason to cut their funding. The minority recommends the final recommendation of $78,724.84.
Solar Vehicle Project

Requested: $9,325

Recommended: $7,725

Vote: 5-0-5

Recognizing the history of success displayed by the Solar Vehicle Project in its past programming, the Committee has recommended most of the funding requested for the group’s 2011-2012 budget request. However, $1600 was removed for t-shirts, as the Committee deemed personal apparel inappropriate for funding through Student Fees. The Majority was especially appreciative of the efforts made by the Solar Vehicle Project to include students of all academic backgrounds in the organization, their pursuit of funding from sources external to student fees, and the good name they bring to the University in events throughout the state of Minnesota and the nation. Further, the Committee deemed the organization’s request to be quite modest for the amount of positive exposure and publicity they create.
Somali Student Association

Requested: $23,000

Recommended: $23,000

Vote: 6-0-4

The Fees Committee would like to note the following points regarding the fees request for the Somali Student Association: (1) Actual values for the 2009-2010 should represent exact values for income and all expenses, not rounded ones. (2) We are funding the entire program expenses for the “Somali Collegiate Leadership Conference” because it is located at the University of Minnesota and directly benefits the community at large. (3) We remind all groups that they should have positive difference (income less expenses) totals at the end of each year, showing the committee that the leadership of the organization is both responsible and knowledgeable in the management of assets provided by student services fees. (4) The max amount in grants internal to the University should be considered for the 2011 to 2012 fees request. Grants are a good way to supplement income from the student services fee. (5) It does not impress upon the Committee to present a poorly constructed budget missing carryover values.
St. Paul Board of Colleges

Requested: $18,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 10-0-0

The majority believes that the groups who would seek funding from the St. Paul Board of Colleges could receive funding from other sources, such as MSA, GAPSA, and Student Services Fees Grants. We are also concerned about the fact that the St. Paul Board of College was a larger group but ‘fizzled’ out in recent years, and are concerned therefore, about its viability to stay an active group. The majority recommends no funding.
Student National Medical Association

Requested: $14,770
Recommended: $10,420
Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $14,770.00 from the student organization, Student National Medical Association. Our recommendation is to award $10,420.00. This figure has been reached after a careful review of all projected expenses expected to be incurred by this organization for 2011-2012 school year. Following deduction has been made to remain in compliance for the proper use of student services fees:

$1,200.00 The Gathering
$800.00 Food - Conference 1
$750.00 Travel for conference (50%)
$400.00 Food - Conference 2
$750.00 Travel for conference (50%)
$200.00 Food - Retreat
$50.00 Travel for Retreat (50%)
$200.00 White Coat Dinner
SSF Event Grant

Requested: $75,000

Recommended: $75,000

Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee felt that the SSF Event Grant was a great opportunity for groups to do events and programming when they may not qualify for Student Services Fees. The Committee especially appreciated the thorough nature of the process, evaluating the amount of support given to an event after it has taken place and adjusting the amount if it was unsuccessful. The committee recommends that SSF Event Grants receive full funding.
Student Veterans Association

Requested: $20,000
Recommended: $18,331
Vote: 10-0-0

The Committee was impressed by the succinct presentation by SVA. The group provides a vital service to the University’s veterans as well as the rest of the students at the University. The fees committee reduced the amount of fees rewarded by $919 because this school year’s carryover was not accounted for in next year’s proposed budget. In addition, it is the opinion of the fees committee that the students who attend the Ski Trip should contribute to their room rentals. We reduced the funding by $750 more. The committee gives an initial recommendation of $18,331.
**Students for a Conservative Voice**

Requested: $149,500

Recommended: $147,900

Vote: 7-1-1

The Committee was impressed with the initiative made to increase readership and create higher quality publications in the coming year, as well as the collaboration with other student groups to hold events that will add to the intellectual diversity of campus. In accordance with other groups’ deductions, food for the CPAC conference ($1,600) was taken off to arrive at the initial recommendation of $147,900.

**Minority**

The minority is concerned with the legitimacy of such a significant portion of the group’s funding request being allocated to a campus visit by former President George W. Bush.
Students for Human Life

Requested: $34,486.78

Recommended: $34,487

Vote: 10-0-0

The majority believes that the request for the 2011-2012 school year to be justified, especially noting that the group is reducing food costs, and increasing ‘entertainment’ costs. This shows a diligence of ensuring that student’s money gets the best possible value, and the majority recognizes and appreciates this. The majority recommends full funding.
The Committee was thoroughly satisfied with the application and presentation of the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry. However, the Committee has decided that the grants process is the way by which this group should apply for funding from the University, and not the fees process. This is based on the small-scale request of the group, as well as the fact that nearly all of its 2011-2012 requested expenses fall under programming.

The Committee has decided to set a precedent on requests that could just as thoroughly be fulfilled by the grants process, so we have allotted $0 to TAPPI. However, we strongly encourage TAPPI to apply for University Activities Grants, which may be accessed via the Student Unions and Activities website (www.sua.umn.edu) and can potentially provide $1500 per grant.
U-YMCA

Requested: $40,000

Recommended: $34,125

Vote: 8-0-0

The Fees Committee is pleased with the community service initiatives provided by the University YMCA on campus and in the Twin Cities community. The following points should be noted about the initial recommendation: (1) A reduction of $5,875 was assessed on the $40,000 request for 2011-2012 in accordance with standards set within the Committee for this year relating to conferences and retreats and their funding. (2) The Committee will not fund food expenses and will only fund half of travel expenses for conferences and retreats. This standard, applied to the “Student Board” program breakdown, results, in total, as the reduction noted previously. (3) The Committee would like to remind all groups that program breakdown narratives should clearly and briefly state who is involved in each event, who benefits, what the event entails, and where the event will be held, so as to fit all important aspects of the program within the narrative space provided.
Voices Merging

Requested: $45,000

Recommended: $26,761

Vote: 9-1-0

The majority on the Fees Committee would like to commend Voices Merging for the extensive and impressive programming provided to the University campus. The final recommendation of $26,751.00 was arrived at following these points: (1) The SSFC will not fund separate scholarships or accolades of any kind to groups; therefore, the $40.00 scholarship fund was deducted from the request. The SSFC does wish to state that it believes scholarships are a good way to recognize deserving students but that such scholarship fund should be raised by the group, not provided by the Student Services Fee. (2) The “team building” program’s food and half of travel will not be funded in accordance with precedence established for conferences, retreats, and trips. The committee encourages groups to fund raise or apply for grants to cover these expenses. (3) T-shirts and other apparel are not covered by the Student Services Fee and should be paid for using fund raising measures or member contributions. (4) Operational travel costs listed in programming expenses were deducted since they were counted in the budget twice, once under operational expenses and another time under programming expenses. (5) Half of “external development” travel expense is deducted based on similar reasoning to (2). (6) The “development” program was deducted due to its exclusive nature. Events covered by the Student Services Fee must be open to all students, not just those within the group. (7) The “end of year banquet” was deducted due to its exclusive and non-student-community-related nature. (8) The “Clarksdale Mississippi” program was deducted from the request since it does not meet guidelines for Student Services Fee use, specifically that it occurs off campus and does not promote campus community or supplement academic learning. However, the Committee does hope that Voices Merging continues to outreach to the Twin Cities community and emphasizes that alternative funding should be found.
The Wake Student Magazine

Requested: $65,000
Recommended: $55,000
Vote: 7-2-1

While the majority appreciated The Wake’s effort to ensure their group would not lose non-profit status, or miss out on student services fee funding in future years by hiring a business manager, the majority is concerned with the desire of The Wake to print $10,000 worth of additional issues next year when they indicated at their presentation that not all issues were taken by the time they distributed the next issue. If not all issues are currently taken, adding more issues next year to the distribution will waste student money, not help the group reach a wider audience. Therefore, the majority proposed $10,000 in cuts to ensure that before additional issues were printed, all issues that are paid to have printed are taken first. The majority recommends $55,000.

Minority

The Wake student magazine student magazine student magazine exemplified how integral its website is to its readership. In 2008, its website received 2.15 million page views, or nearly 6,000 per day. The Wake has since revamped its site and is closely tracking its performance.

The same cannot be said for the presentation of the print version of The Wake. Given that The Wake did not track its actual copies picked up and indicated that it had reduced its printing output to 1,240 copies per issue (on the “fortnightly student magazine”), this minority has a difficult time justifying the printing expense listed in its request, as well as any salaries that involve the printing process.

The majority and the minority agree on not granting The Wake’s full request. We simply disagree on how much should be allotted, given the requested printing budget and estimated decrease in advertising revenue. This minority believes it should be $35,000.
Women’s Student Activist Collective

Requested: $30,000
Recommended: $29,522
Vote: 10-0-0

The fees committee voted to approve funding for the Women’s Student Activist Collective in the amount of $29,522. WSAC provided supplemental information to the committee, which sufficiently addressed the committee’s questions pertaining to a perceived budget discrepancy noted in the group’s audit. Based on the information provided, the fees committee still reduced the fees allocation $478 from WSAC’s student services fees request. This amount reflects the persisting budgetary discrepancy.