African Student Association

Request: $15,000
Recommended: $11,730.64
Vote: 8-1-0

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $15,000 from the African Student Association. Our recommendation is to award $11,730.64. 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
$275.00 Farewell barbecue
$400.00 Closure Dinner
$2,294.36 Excessive carry over

Minority Opinion

The Minority is of the opinion that the cutting of the funding for the Farewell Party and Closure Dinner is not consistent with the recommendations made for other groups with similar events. Though it should be a goal of the Committee to reduce the amount of food for student groups funded through the Student Fees in general, once it has been agreed upon by the Committee to recommend funding for similar events for some groups, the Committee must remain consistent with these recommendations for all groups.
All-Campus Elections Commission

Request: $12,650
Recommended: $12,650
Vote: 7-3-0

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.

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: $52,200

Vote: 8-1-0

The Committee recommended that Al-Madinah receive $52,200 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 recommends that Al-Madinah look to event or Coke grants to support these closed events as they are still an important part of the organization but should not be funded via SSF. 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.

Minority

The minority was concerned about the rounded numbers in the budget that happened to perfectly match last year’s request. The minority would propose ruling the application incomplete, as the nature of the actual dollars spend in 2009-2010 school year arouse suspicion as to their accuracy, which would put the group in violation of the Minimum Requirements to receive Student Services Fees. The group could appeal to prove that the numbers are indeed accurate, but until the concern of falsified numbers is addressed, it would show a lack of accountability on behalf of the Student Services Fees Committee members to ensure that the students’ money is spent wisely.
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: 9-0-0

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: 8-0-0

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: 6-0-3

The Committee voted to approve funding for the Asian-American Student Union in the amount of $78,020. Based on the budget provide 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: $81,885

Vote: 8-0-0

The Committee felt that having two of some technology equipment pieces, such as computers, was unnecessary. For this, they cut $2,000 of the $4,500 projected expenses. In addition, the Committee felt that the increase in advertising from $1,500 to $8,000 was not strongly justified and deducted $3,500. Lastly, in keeping with the cutting for other groups, the travel expenses to the conference were cut in half and all food from the conference was deducted, resulting in an overall $2,520 cut.
BGAPSA

Requested: $8,661

Recommended: $8,661

Vote: 9-0-0

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: $8,977.65

Vote: 7-1-1

The Committee initially recommended $8,977.65, following from these points: (1) Expenses other than food and only half of travel expenses will be covered for retreats and conferences that are inclusive. 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 also like to remind BMW that operational reserves accounted for in expenses should also be listed in the income operational reserves row.

Minority

The Minority is in concurrence with the Majority opinion on the recommendations for the funding of the organization Black Motivated Women on all points except the funding of the group’s t-shirts. It is not the responsibility of Student Service Fees to fund personal attire for any student, unless such attire is required, by an authority external to the group itself, to be worn during events held outside the University community, during which time the group is acting as a representative of the University of Minnesota.
**Black Student Union**

Requested: $65,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 5-4-0

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.

**Minority**

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 an infinite 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.
Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists

Requested: $8,000

Recommended: $1,706

Vote: 8-0-1

The Committee noticed that there was $2,000 listed under operational travel that was never explained, as well as an unnecessarily high carryover of $4,794. The fees committee recommends that CASH leave approximately $500 as carryover for the 2011-2012 school year. After subtracting the unexplained operational travel expenses and the excessive carryover, the committee came to an initial recommendation of $1,706.
Campus People Watchers

Requested: $1,000,000,000

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 admitted 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: $14,291.44

Vote: 9-0-0

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 $14,291.44. 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: 6-0-3

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 please focus on their own group during the fees presentation. 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 initial recommendation of $282,450.
Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative

Requested: $35,400

Recommended: $0

Vote: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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 CCC 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: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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: $65,203.87

Vote: 7-1-1

The Committee has recommended an allotment of $65,203.87 for the 2011-2012 year, matching the allotment granted for the current academic year. The Committee 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 an initial recommendation at $65,203.87, 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 kinds of programming that CCB currently facilitates.

Minority

While the Minority is in favor of all funding recommended by the Majority for events directly hosted by the Council of College Boards, it questions whether Student Service Fees is the most appropriate source of funding for the activities of the individual college advisory boards. Because these advisory boards are more intended to serve specific sub-groups within the University community, namely each of their respective colleges, it should be considered whether the advisory boards might be better to pursue funding through the individual college fees, which are assessed only on the students who stand to benefit directly from the activity of the advisory boards. However, this alternative would only be appropriate if, in fact, a portion of the college fees are provided for the advisory boards’ use. Therefore, the Minority would like to seek more information regarding how college fees are used and distributed before a decision is made regarding the recommended funding for the Council of College Boards.
CRU

Requested: $20,501
Recommended: $20,501
Vote: 8-0-1

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

Vote: 7-0-0

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.
Emergency Medicine Interest Group

Requested: $25,360
Recommended: $15,916.36
Vote: 7-0-2

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 15,916.36.
The Committee applauds the efforts of the Engineers without Borders group at the University. It is impressed with the growing impact the group has on the world and the recognition the group brings to the University and its community of scholars. The $12,390 initially recommended amount is explained by the following points: (1) The “Request from Student Services Fees” was very much appreciated by the Committee. All items listed on the report are supported in full with the exception of the “Conferences and Workshops” category. (2) The $100 food and $2,600 (half of) travel expenses were deducted from the request in accordance with standards set within the Committee for funding conference events. (3) The Committee also reminds EWB that the operational reserves listed in income should match the operational reserves listed in expenses. (4) It would also like to remind EWB that lines can be added to the budget sheet to reflect long range planning reserves, making the difference (income less expenses) more conceivable to the Committee. (5) Lastly, the Committee is impressed with the philanthropic efforts expended by the officers of EWB. Despite having one of the largest budgets of any student group on campus, stipends are not given out, which is honorable.
EPIC

Requested: $10,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: N/A

Due to a clerical error, the Committee was not aware that EPIC had applied on time for Student Services Fees. As a result, the Committee was unable to find a time that was mutually agreeable where the committee had quorum and the group was available. This $0 is no way a reflection of the group's budget, but rather an amount pending a presentation with the committee.
Ethiopian Student Association

Requested: $7,000

Recommended: $3,450

Vote: 9-0-0

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: 8-0-1

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 initially recommend that Go First receive $81,515 from Student Services Fees.
GAPSA

Requested: $373,000

Recommended: $373,000

Vote: 8-0-1

Though there was much initial confusion regarding GAPSA’s funding request as laid out in the budget provided to the Committee, the organization did a thorough job of responding to the Committee’s concerns and providing correct documentation. The group has also demonstrated that great strides have been taken, as well as procedures put into place, to improve their bookkeeping practices and organizational efforts. The Committee greatly appreciated these efforts and determined that they were indicative of financial responsibility on the part of the organization’s leadership. This, combined with the breadth and quality of the programs and services provided by GAPSA, led to a recommendation for the full amount requested by the organization. However, the Committee would like to encourage GAPSA to be more attentive to accuracy in the compiling of future budget requests in order to avoid the confusion that presented itself at the beginning of the process this year.
**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: $28,017.38

Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee appreciated that Hillel had a very thorough and well-done presentation. The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $28,017.38 from the student organization, Habitat for Humanity. Our recommendation is to award $28,017.38. 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: $13,839.82

Vote: 8-0-1

The Committee voted to approve funding for the Hmong Student Association in the amount of $13,839.82. The committee could not justify providing food for the group’s three retreats. The committee also determined that student services fees can only be used 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: 9-0-0

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: 8-0-1

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: $10,971.62

Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee recommends an initial allotment of $10,971.62. 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: $77,358
Vote: 9-0-0

The Committee voted to approve funding for the Minnesota International Student Association in the amount of $77,358. 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, Persian Student Organization of Minnesota, and Ethiopian Student Association events). We also could not support events that include viewing of films without clear documentation that MISA has obtained 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: $109,948

Vote: 7-1-1

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.

Minority

The Minority is in concurrence with the Majority opinion on the recommendations for the funding of the organization MPIRG on all points except the funding of the group’s t-shirts. It is not the responsibility of Student Service Fees to fund personal attire for any student, unless such attire is required, by an authority external to the group itself, to be worn during events held outside the University community, during which time the group is acting as a representative of the University of Minnesota.
Minnesota Student Association

Requested: $140,565

Recommended: $79,165

Vote: 9-0-1

The Committee felt that while MSA has some impactful programming on campus, there were some serious fiscal issues found in the budget and audit report from Deloitte and Touche, LLP. In section 3 of this audit report, it states that they obtained the MSA detail of revenue and expenditures and noted the detail provided form the general ledger of $186,201 and $110,825, respectively, agreed to the 2009-2010 Actual Usage report. However, on the budget provided to the Committee, rather than a nearly $76,000 carry-over, was a mere $17,000 listed. For the current year 2010-2011, only $34,000 was listed combined between the line item “carryover from previous year” and “operations reserves.” After this $34,000 is accounted for, there is still nearly $42,000 that MSA has no knowledge of, which was of grave concern to the committee. In addition to this, $10,000 was listed and unjustified in the “other” operational expenses. Another deduction was off of the operational reserves, which 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. The Committee strongly recommends that MSA find their missing $42,000 and use it towards their programming planned for next year.
National Society of Black Engineers

Requested: $13,000

Recommended: $7,450

Vote: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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: 8-0-1

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.
Saint Paul’s Outreach

Requested: $82,949
Recommended: $78,724.84
Vote: 6-3-0

The Committee felt that Saint Paul’s Outreach was making good efforts to become financially independent and proposed impactful programming with Student Services Fees. As with precedent in other groups, retreat kickoffs were deducted. It was the feeling of the majority of the committee that events and programming that limit the number of students and are not open to non-members should not be funded with fees money. This resulted in the allocation of $78,724.84.

Minority

The Minority is in concurrence with the Majority opinion on the recommendations for the funding of the organization St. Paul’s Outreach on all points except the funding of the group’s t-shirts. It is not the responsibility of Student Service Fees to fund personal attire for any student, unless such attire is required, by an authority external to the group itself, to be worn during events held outside the University community, during which time the group is acting as a representative of the University of Minnesota.

The Fee Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $82,949 from the student organization, St. Paul’s Outreach. Our initial recommendation is to award $78,724.84 at this time. 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. One of the voting members of the Committee would like to further review this figure as he believes this amount to be a large burden on the student fees that has increased significantly in comparison to programs offered to the student body. This is the first request for student services fees from this organization and it appears that they were privately funded in the past. St. Paul’s Outreach is no longer receiving this private funding and has requested this amount to come from the student services fees. Almost half of the funding is being used to provide salaries, wages and/or stipends but at the time of voting, I was not able to understand the value of this spending in comparison to the value gained by the student body of University of Minnesota.
Solar Vehicle Project

Requested: $9,325

Recommended: $9,325

Vote: 8-0-1

Recognizing the history of success displayed by the Solar Vehicle Project in its past programming, the Committee has recommended full funding for the group’s 2011-2012 budget request. 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: $20,000
Vote: 6-4-0

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 will directly benefit 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) The $3000 extra possible grant income was deducted from the total request of $23,000. (6) It does not impress upon the Committee to present a poorly constructed budget missing carryover values.

Minority

This minority opinion is focused on the minority’s desire to encourage better accounting by way of allotment. The SSA’s application was one of the first reviewed by the Committee, and in it, we noticed some things that had not been well-explained in the budget, such as how a negative income less expenses affected the next year’s budget (carry-over from the previous year can be negative). We looked at previous years’ recommendations to other groups (not specifically the SSA, who received $5,000 last year despite a late application) that were not followed through on. It was during the review of the SSA’s application that members of the minority wanted to implement a policy going forward on all future applications. The proposal was to allot 10% less than the agreed-upon initial recommendation to groups that had significant accounting errors or suspicious figures or practices. The 10% figure was chosen because the application asked every group how it would respond to a 10% reduction in fees, which implied that groups could handle such a reduction.

It was eventually decided that the minority’s proposal was arbitrary, made in the middle of the process, and lacked a clear definition of what is “significant” or “suspicious”, so it was not implemented on the SSA’s application or any others throughout the process. While the above may be true about the proposal, the minority still believes that the principle of holding groups accountable for accurate bookkeeping by means of a fees reduction is justified. After seeing recommendations ignored by enough groups, we felt it was time to penalize groups monetarily for such infractions. We recommend that future committees put in place a monetary penalty for accounting errors to be described in the 2012-13 Fees Handbook. Had the “10% penalty” been imposed on the SSA, the Committee would have allotted the Somali Student Association $18,000.
St. Paul Board of Colleges

Requested: $18,000

Recommended: $0

Vote: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

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.
Students for Human Life

Requested: $34,486.78

Recommended: $34,486.78

Vote: 9-0-0

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.
TAPPI

Requested: $250
Recommended: $0
Vote: 9-0-0

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: 9-0-0

The Fees Committee is pleased with the community service initiatives provided by the University YMCA on campus and in the Twin Cities community. The follow 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: $22,000

Vote: 4-3-2

The Committee reviewed the budget and programming breakdown of Voices Merging carefully, with the requested amount of $45,000. While there were two budgets submitted, neither one included correct line item dollar amounts for “Difference” and “Carry over from Previous year,” which should match. The first budget had a carry over of $20,040.00, while the second had exactly $0, with programming numbers for the current and future year changed. The Committee is also concerned about the “round” numbers in the “Actual 2009-2010” column, and the numbers that appeared in the actual column in the second budget. Until proper documentation of what the actual numbers are and a clear budget are presented to the Committee, the initial recommendation is in accordance with what the group was able to program with last year: $22,000.

Minority

The Committee has reviewed the requested amount of $45,000 from the student organization, Voices Merging. Our initial recommendation is to award $22,000 at this time. 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. Some members of the Committee would like to further reduce this figure until the following justification can be provided:

- Additional documentation to justify remaining difference in funding
- Receipts for various expenses incurred
- Explanation for the discrepancy between previously submitted budget sheet and newly submitted budget sheet as the Committee is unable to substantiate the change without further documentation
The Wake Student Magazine

Requested: $65,000

Recommended: $55,000

Vote: 6-2-1

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 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: $24,644

Vote: 10-0-0

The fees committee voted to approve funding for the Women’s Student Activist Collective in the amount of $24,644. After reviewing WSAC’s 2009-10 audit, the committee noted that the student group did not account for $5,454 in unspent revenue (i.e., $40,109 in revenue and $34,655 in expenditures) during ‘09-‘10. Such unused funds should have been carried over into the following year’s budget. The fees committee reduced the amount of funding allocated to the WSAC this year by the amount of this notable discrepancy less the reported carry forward indicated on the 2010-11 budget (i.e., $98). The fees committee suggests that WSAC strive to achieve more accurate accounting practices in future budgeting and documentation efforts.