Organization Name: African Student Association
Amount Requested: $14,000.00  Amount Suggested: $10,000.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC agreed that this group is worthy of student service fees. However, a reduction from the request is appropriate to bring the organizations reserves down to 10% of their budget. At the end of next year they are planning a rather large carry over. Door fees for certain events that ASA holds were also discussed. It was determined that if ASA continues to charge door fees for their events in accordance with SSF guidelines, that our proposal to cut their request to bring them to a 10% carryover for the 2009-1010 fiscal year was appropriate. Therefore, the committee recommendation is $10,000 for ASA.
Organization Name: All Campus Elections Committee
Amount Requested: $13,000.00  Amount Suggested: $6,500.00
Committee Vote:  8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The majority of the Student Service Fee Committee finds that the All-Campus Elections Committee should be funded in the amount of $10,000, $3,000 less than requested. The majority rationale for this decision pinpoints excessive stipends within the group's commission structure and an excessive food budget for Get Out the Vote Rallies as reasons for decreasing the level of funding. Additionally, the committee majority recommends that the group highlight their connection to academics on campus in future applications, as it was not clearly apparent in the narrative of their application.

Minority Rationale:

The minority feels that the "Get Out The Vote" is its biggest event, therefore its fair to allocate $3,000 in food costs. The minority also feels there has been a rise in voters in the ACEC elections, from 4,333 students in 2007 to 5,108 people in 2008, a 775-student jump within a year. This shows ACEC is making an impact on campus. Therefore, the minority feels ACEC should receive higher funding for its programming events.
Organization Name: Al-Madina Cultural Center
Amount Requested: $63,000.00  Amount Suggested: $60,000.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve the award of $60,000. The committee felt that this organization showed continued success in outreach to other groups on campus, held numerous events, and increased attendance. The student organization demonstrated compliance with budget requirements by maintaining a 10% reserve. The committee recommended a reduction in the cost of printing, copying, and in the amount of supplies this organization utilizes, hence the $3,000 dollar reduction.
Organization Name: Al-Madina Cultural Center
Amount Requested: $63,000.00  Amount Suggested: $60,000.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve the award of $60,000. The committee felt that this organization showed continued success in outreach to other groups on campus, held numerous events, and increased attendance. The student organization demonstrated compliance with budget requirements by maintaining a 10% reserve. The committee recommended a reduction in the cost of printing, copying, and in the amount of supplies this organization utilizes, hence the $3,000 dollar reduction.
Organization Name: Amnesty International
Amount Requested: $4,800.00  Amount Suggested: $4,800.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

This group gave a model presentation in length, structure, and content. Their self-imposed 8% funding cut shows great fiscal responsibility and conscientious financial self-analysis. Their organization is well organized and executes a variety of events. Some felt greater participation numbers would make the group even more successful. Therefore, the committee voted to fully approve their request of $4800.
Organization Name: Asian American Student Union
Amount Requested: $75,155.00  Amount Suggested: $60,000.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The fees committee feels that the Asian-American Student Union serve a wide variety of students. However, the organization appears to be hold a over $20,000 in reserves for the 2008-2009 school year and prepares to hold $25,000 for the 2009-2010 year. We feel this difference is not justified in their proposal in which nearly 50% of the proposed funding is allocated to food and room rental. We also feel the organization doesn't truly understand the accounting process projected as the request equals the requested expenses, yet they still have additional income and carryover. Overall, the committee feels the proposed increase in funding could be remedied by more innovative external fundraising and fiscal transparency needs to be shown on behalf of each entity within the Asian-American Student Union and how their process is divvied up.
Organization Name: Black Student Union
Amount Requested: $60,000.00  Amount Suggested: $55,000.00
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC recommended the Black Student Union receive funding at $55,000. The Committee feels that this organization clearly demonstrated a need and benefit on campus, however was uncertain that the speakers mentioned justify such an increase. The Committee commends this group on their actions and would like to see this group continue to put on programming and to grow. Therefore the Committee feels an increase from the previous year’s funding, but a decrease from the total request is appropriate.
Organization Name: Campus Atheists, Skeptics, & Humanists
Amount Requested: $8,000.00  Amount Suggested: $8,000.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The committee approved their full $8000 request as this group proved to be valuable to the entire university, was very organized, and its collaboration with other student groups was excellent.
Organization Name:  Campus Crusade for Christ  
Amount Requested: $13,400.00  Amount Suggested: $10,000.00  
Committee Vote:  8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC recommended funding CRU in the amount of $10,000. The Committee felt this group clearly demonstrated a need and benefit on campus. The Committee reduced funding from the original request however due to a deficit in previous years and a large carryover in this year and future years. The group explained these to the Committee, however we felt greater financial responsibility was needed.

General Recommendations:

In the future, it would be best if you set aside a certain amount of money in your budget to maintain your house. If something arises you have the money to fix it, if nothing arises then you would not need to request as much in the following year.
Organization Name: Colleges Against Cancer
Amount Requested: $21,000.00  Amount Suggested: $6,000.00
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC would first of all like to point out that the merit of CAC is not being questioned. However, the SSFC agrees that we would be setting a precedent for any fundraising group by contributing SSF funds to offset CAC's operational costs. We also agree that if students want to donate to CAC and their events that they should do that of their own free will and not be forced to by paying for it in their SSF. The committee does agree that we can justify funding events other than the Relay for Life. Therefore we approved a funding of $6,000.
Organization Name:  Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow  
Amount Requested: $100,000.00  Amount Suggested: $90,000.00  
Committee Vote:  8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining  

Majority Rationale: 
The SSFC recommends CFACT receive funding in the amount of $90,000. The Committee feels this group proved its need and benefit on campus and clearly demonstrated that they add to the marketplace of ideas. The Committee feels a 10% reduction in funding would be appropriate due to uncertainties regarding the Internship Program. It seems that quite a significant portion of this organization's budget goes to funding the Internship program but the Committee does not see this program as inclusive and beneficial to the University community as a whole. In addition, and as with other groups, the Committee is not convinced that expensive speaking events are the most effective use of student service fees funding. 

Minority Rationale: 
A minority opinion was raised due to not understanding the funding aspects of the stipends that are given out by this group. 

General Recommendations: 
In future years CFACT needs to demonstrate how the internship program benefits the community using tangible results. In addition, the Committee suggests cutting back on speakers in order to clearly demonstrate their effectiveness and then ask for increased funding for speakers when their benefit has been more clearly demonstrated.
Organization Name: Community Child Care Center
Amount Requested: $75,000.00  Amount Suggested: $75,000.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC feels that the Community Child Care Center is a highly qualified use of student fees as they serve not only the students with children, but also the University community as a whole. The organization appears to be quite lean in its finances and processes including student volunteers and mandatory parent involvement at the child care center every semester. In terms of tuition, 83% of the center's budget is based off of tuition with an income based sliding fee scale for student parents.
Organization Name: Colleges Against Cancer
Amount Requested: $21,000.00  Amount Suggested: $6,000.00
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC would first of all like to point out that the merit of CAC is not being questioned. However, the SSFC agrees that we would be setting a precedent for any fundraising group by contributing SSF funds to offset CAC's operational costs. We also agree that if students want to donate to CAC and their events that they should do that of their own free will and not be forced to by paying for it in their SSF. The committee does agree that we can justify funding events other than the Relay for Life. Therefore we approved a funding of $6,000.
Organization Name: Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow
Amount Requested: $100,000.00  Amount Suggested: $90,000.00
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC recommends CFACT receive funding in the amount of $90,000. The Committee feels this group proved its need and benefit on campus and clearly demonstrated that they add to the marketplace of ideas. The Committee feels a 10% reduction in funding would be appropriate due to uncertainties regarding the Internship Program. It seems that quite a significant portion of this organization's budget goes to funding the Internship program but the Committee does not see this program as inclusive and beneficial to the University community as a whole. In addition, and as with other groups, the Committee is not convinced that expensive speaking events are the most effective use of student service fees funding.

Minority Rationale:

A minority opinion was raised due to not understanding the funding aspects of the stipends that are given out by this group.

General Recommendations:

In future years CFACT needs to demonstrate how the internship program benefits the community using tangible results. In addition, the Committee suggests cutting back on speakers in order to clearly demonstrate their effectiveness and then ask for increased funding for speakers when their benefit has been more clearly demonstrated.
Organization Name:  Community Child Care Center
Amount Requested: $75,000.00  Amount Suggested: $75,000.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC feels that the Community Child Care Center is a highly qualified use of student fees as they serve not only the students with children, but also the University community as a whole. The organization appears to be quite lean in its finances and processes including student volunteers and mandatory parent involvement at the child care center every semester. In terms of tuition, 83% of the center's budget is based off of tuition with an income based sliding fee scale for student parents.
Organization Name: Como Community Child Care
Amount Requested: $70,000.00  Amount Suggested: $70,000.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC finds that Como Community Childcare Center provides an excellent service to the University, shown through their thorough application and well-organized presentation. Reflecting these items, the sub-committee recommends that Como Community Childcare Center be funded fully in the amount of $70,000.
Organization Name: Compassionate Action for Animals
Amount Requested: $35,000    Amount Suggested: $15,000.00
Committee Vote: 7 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted in favor of a $20,000 cut from Compassionate Action for Animals original request. Whereas: the projected Salaries, Wages, and stipends (09-10) are 36.2% of entire budget, and 62.5% of Operating Budget. Of that projected $35,500 [for stipends, wages, salaries], the professional staff-who are non-University of Minnesota students- are compensated. Therefore, the Committee recommends funding in the amount of $15,000.

General Recommendations:

Stay on campus. SSF money is for students since they pay this money
During these economic quandaries, the SSFC suggests more modest advertising
Organization Name: Council of College Boards
Amount Requested: $71,655.00  Amount Suggested: $34,000.00
Committee Vote:  3 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC approved an award of $34,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Fees Committee supports the mission and services provided by CCB and the represented College Boards. However, the Fees Committee strongly feels that the Student Organization Student Service Fees process is the wrong venue for CCB to obtain funding.

Throughout the fee allocation process, the Fees Committee has encouraged organizations to make events accessible to the entire campus community. The Fees Committee believes that all interested students should have access to events that are funded by Student Service Fees. While considering fees requests, The Fees Committee consistently declines to fund events and programs that are exclusive to a specific subset of students.

The Fees Committee could not reconcile the Council of College Boards' request with the standards applied to other student organizations. Several of the events and programs funded through CCB did not appear to be universally accessible to all students.

The Committee met with CCB representatives and the CCB faculty advisor to clarify the purpose and structure of CCB. The Fees Committee also inquired about the accessibility of specific high cost events and programs.

The Fees Committee is not convinced that events such as: college-specific mentoring programs, board retreats, Dean's receptions, commencements, awards banquets, and $1,200-per-person trips to national conferences should be funded by Student Service Fees.

The Fees Committee believes that these are vital services to certain niches of students, but the Committee cannot justify funding these events under the current criteria applied to other organizations who submitted Student Service Fees requests.

The Fees Committee is also concerned with the lack of oversight CCB has over its funding. The CCB representatives acknowledged this lack of oversight during CCB's initial presentation.

The Fees Committee also noted the disparity of program funding between colleges. The CCB funds a $6100 CDes mentoring program, and a $2000 CSOM mentoring program, but there is no such program itemized for the College of Liberal Arts. The Fees Committee believes that it is unfair to force students to pay for mentoring programs that they do not have access to.

When calculating the award of $34,000, the Fees Committee deducted funding for programming that did not appear accessible to the entire fee-paying student body. This is consistent with the criteria the Committee has applied to all applicants.
The Fees Committee strongly recommends that individual colleges provide funding for school-specific activities such as deans receptions, mentoring programs, and awards banquets. Students should fund these exclusive programs through a school-specific fee. The Fees Committee is concerned that the current funding structure allows certain schools to fund lavish, exclusive programs at the expense of the entire student body. These costs should be imposed on the group of students benefitting from the program.

If school-specific fees program is infeasible, the Committee recommends that the CCB apply to the Administrative Fees Committee next year. As noted previously, the allocation of Student Organization Student Services Fees to discrete, exclusive groups of students is inconsistent with the award criteria applied to all other fee requests.

Minority Rationale:

The minority of the Student Service Fees Committee felt that the Council of College Boards provides a worthy and necessary service to the students of the University of Minnesota, and that it was worthy of a large portion of it's fees request. However, due to the extensive level of spending and what the entire committee felt to be somewhat extravagant use of resources in areas such as the several mentor programs, food budgets, and other programs that may have under-served students or exhibited a very high cost per student, the committee felt that a reduction in funding was in order. The minority felt that rather than funding Council of College Boards at the 2009-2010 requested level, the organization should be funded at the $65,000 level in order to allow the organization to grow its programming base, but force it to seriously evaluate its usage of student fees money. While the majority of the committee felt that the Council of College Boards may need to undergo restructuring or begin applying for student service fees as a student support service through the SSF administrative unit, the minority felt that the Council of College Boards sufficiently fit the criteria to apply to the student groups subset of the SSF committee and should continue to apply for fees through this avenue.
Organization Name: Disabled Student Cultural Center  
Amount Requested: $15,000.00  Amount Suggested: $10,000.00  
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining  

Majority Rationale:

It is the decision of the SSFC to award DSCC $10,000. DSCC has proved they are truly an asset to the student body but it is the concern of the committee that the group has been carrying too many funds from year to year. For this reason, the committee has decided to cut funding in order to reduce the large amount of carry-over.

Minority Rationale:

The DSCC was cut $5,000 due to their surplus of $14,655.00-bringing them down to having a surplus of $9,655.00. After subtracting the $2,000 (Operational Reserves) and $1,000 (Corporations) and $4,000 (External/Internal Grants), the group is still left with $2,655—which is unaccounted for. The minority feels the DSCC should only be awarded $7,345, instead of $10,000 due to the surplus.
Organization Name:  Engineers Without Borders
Amount Requested: $38,615.00  Amount Suggested: $25,000.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends that Engineers Without Borders receive $25,000. While the committee is impressed with this organization's mission, we feel that the majority of their benefit rests with communities outside the University of Minnesota. The Committee can see the academic benefit through on campus programming and as a result has decided it would be most appropriate to provide funding for those on campus programs with some room to grow. The Committee commends this organization on their outstanding fundraising capabilities.
Organization Name: Experimental College (Exco)
Amount Requested: $8,500.00  Amount Suggested: $0
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC recommends the Experimental College receive no funding. This group did not demonstrate a clear need or benefit to University of Minnesota students. The Committee does not feel that University of Minnesota students are the main beneficiary or even the targeted audience of Experimental College and therefore does not feel it would be appropriate for University of Minnesota students to pay for such an organization.
Organization Name:  Graduate and Professional Student Assembly  
Amount Requested:  $375,403.00  Amount Suggested:  $375,403.00  
Committee Vote:  8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining  

Majority Rationale:

Due to this group's thorough application and presentation, along with their clear demonstration of fiscal responsibility, the subcommittee feels this group should be awarded their full request. However, the committee strongly recommends that GAPSA follow the budget sheet/template provided by SSFC. Also, concerns were raised that external funding should sought out in accordance with guidelines set for all other groups.
Organization Name: Hmong Minnesota Student Association
Amount Requested: $45,000.00  Amount Suggested: $10,000.00
Committee Vote:  7 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve the amount of $10,000.00. This was the first time that this group had applied for fees, and they did a good job demonstrating their mission and connection with students. The committee feels that they were rather thorough in their application and presentation. The committee also highly recommended their good efforts in fundraising. However, the committee was not fully convinced about their large carryover listed on the budget, which they explained to be prepared for the potential guest speakers. Furthermore, the committee felt that the request amount was an arbitrary number. Therefore, the committee decided to award funds that would partly cover their operational and programming expenses. The committee recommends thorough budget planning for future program proposals if HMSA hopes to expand.
Organization Name: Impact Movement
Amount Requested: $7,000.00  Amount Suggested: $4,000.00
Committee Vote:  5 in favor, 2 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve funding for this organization at the $4,000 level. The committee like this group's strong association with Campus Crusade for Christ, but was still concerned about the exclusivity of the group and asked that they continue to seek opportunities to form bonds with other University of Minnesota student groups. As well as to continue to seek additional outside funding to help cover the remaining costs related to obtaining a coach bus for an annual national retreat in Florida.

Minority Rationale:

The minority felt that this student organization is very insular and failed to demonstrate any significant attempts to reach beyond their niche. The minority felt that while Impact Movement provided a serious and tangible benefit to the campus committee, it didn't provide sufficient evidence that several events (such as their annual retreat) brought value to the campus community. Additionally, the minority felt that some of the group's other events were somewhat exclusive, and that the group should be encouraged to strive to bring an increased interest in their group and mission from the campus community in each event they plan. The minority of the Fees Committee supported funding Impact most of their request, feeling that this would encourage the group to partner with other like-minded or related groups in order to achieve richer, more diverse programming.
Organization Name: La Raza Student Cultural Center
Amount Requested: $42,000.00  Amount Suggested: $40,000.00
Committee Vote: 7 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve the amount of $40,000.00. The committee felt that they did a good job in demonstrating their efforts to decrease the Programming Expenses and to benefit the whole student body with these funds. Also their explanation about the significant increase in the Operational Expense due to their adding new facilities and services was reasonable. Based on their previous records, the committee wanted them to keep seeking for external funding. However, the committee would like to point out that the reserves of this group were noted in the "Other" category of the Operational Expense section.
Organization Name: Middle Eastern Student Association
Amount Requested: $5,600  Amount Suggested: $2,500.00
Committee Vote: 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority:

The SSFC voted to award the Middle Eastern Student Association $2500, citing concerns in the group's financial accountability in its decision. In last year's committee recommendations, the committee requested that MESA strive for an increased accountability in their financial documents. MESA's financial documents for the current year lacked a line item for operational reserves. Additionally, MESA's application lacked any statement or estimation of outside funding, though the group's representatives did state that they were applying for outside funding upon questioning. The Fees Committee believes that MESA's current programming provides value to the campus, but feels that the group may need to consider a wider variety of programming in order to attract a larger portion of the student population. Additionally, in future applications the Fees Committee encourages the Middle Eastern Student Association to clearly define their affect on campus academics. Due to the above reasons, the Student Service Fee Committee does not feel that MESA can be funded at the level of it's request, but feels that funding at the $2500 level represents a fair and equitable solution.
Organization Name:  Mindfulness for Students  
Amount Requested: $9,800  Amount Suggested: $8,800.00  
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining  

Majority Rationale:  

It is the unanimous decision of the committee to award the Mindfulness for Students $8,800. This is $1,000 less than requested. The committee recommends that Mindfulness for Students be mindful of the food they are purchasing and carefully evaluate its need. We encourage Mindfulness for Students to seek speakers that are from the University of Minnesota in order to eliminate the cost of travel and to utilize the great faculty the U has. Additionally, the committee encourages the notion of charging non-students a nominal fee to participate in programs in order to create a revenue.
Organization Name: Minnesota International Student Association
Amount Requested: $67,000.00  Amount Suggested: $67,000.00
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

Due to this group's thorough application and presentation, along with their clear demonstration of fiscal responsibility, the committee feels this group should be awarded their full request. The committee found the guidebooks program to be quite promising.
Organization Name: MPRIG
Amount Requested: $130,000.00  Amount Suggested: $103,200.00
Committee Vote:  7 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

MPIRG is viewed as a publically valued organization on campus; however, the committee feels that the organization needs to cut back on spending. One of the main presented organizational goals for the group was to provide real life opportunities for students to impact the greater Minnesota region; however, the committee struggled to justify the proposed salaries of $45,337.97 when a great deal of that money goes to professional staff. The group also struggled to support funding projects aimed at the non-university community with student fees. The committee voted to approve MPIRG's funding at the same level as last year, allowing the group to continue operations as usual while encouraging the organization to seek external sources of funding in order to expand as they broaden their goals outside of university bounds.

Minority Rationale:

MPIRG submitted a well crafted application outlining their history, mission, purpose and activities. We are impressed with their work and impact within the community. As you are aware, the university, along with numerous public and private institutions, is becoming more stringent/conservative in its giving/gifting as a result of our current economic conditions. Unfortunately, in light of these facts, we are not comfortable supporting full funding for MPRIG. We would like to suggest that MPRIG closely examine their salaries, wages, and stipends for budget-trimming options.

General Recommendations:

We feel as though MPRIG should seek external funding from outside sources, such as coalitions and foundations working on the same projects in line with the same mission as MPIRG. Also, we believe external funding should be sought to pay for professional staffing if the organization deems it necessary to provide on-campus opportunities for students.
Organization Name:  Minnesota Student Association  
Amount Requested: $140,103.00  Amount Suggested: $140,103.00  
Committee Vote:  5 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining  

Majority Rationale:  

Minnesota Student Association had a presentation that clearly showed the positive impact it has on campus. Its relationship with other student groups have grown and strengthened, its programming events have increased in number and attendance, and the SSFC felt MSA has done a great job of following its goals and mission statement. The events and partnerships have helped to create a stronger campus community, therefore the SSFC approved full funding for 2009-2010. The SSFC would like to recommend spending more time on the budget proposal in future years. There were many questions regarding the $60k carryover and reserve. Although MSA was fast to respond to the questions, it could have been avoided if all the information were presented correctly the first time.  

Minority Rationale:  

Minnesota Student Association makes a valid case for their expenditures. The sticking point in arriving at an allotment amount comes from MSA retaining what were essentially two operation reserves. One of these reserves was originally disclosed to the committee, while the other "was discovered" (MSA's words) in the form of a Certificate of Deposit after MSA submitted their budget and prior to the initial committee deliberations. The MSA president was in attendance at the initial committee deliberations, and was asked to comment on what was an abnormally large carryover. Having no explanation for the large carryover on the budget, the MSA president was notified that the committee had received word of an undisclosed reserve held in a CD. Only upon public confrontation did MSA reveal that they had additional funds that were undisclosed.  

Since MSA had a surplus, then clearly somewhere along the line, MSA significantly over-requested fees from students. Apparently, this went unnoticed for some time. Upon realizing their error, MSA did not disclose the errors in their budget and instead chose to let the committee do the investigation. When asked to submit a revised budget by the committee, MSA provided a revised budget demonstrating a smaller carryover but fully disclosing the double reserve.  

At this point, the responsible thing for MSA to have done would have been to revise their fees request by subtracting their second reserve from the nominal request amount, and using that difference as the revised request (an amount equal to $123,467.13).  

MSA showed no such fiscal discipline, instead choosing to have their cake and eat it, too: they proposed keeping their second reserve and requested the exact same amount of money from the fees committee as they did the in the first budget.  

In light of the unchanged request, the decision of whether or not to adjust the request fell to the committee. The committee had explicit justification for subtracting the excess reserve from the request. The Student Services Fees Request Handbook for Student Organizations explains:  

"Any organization holding reserves dedicated for those uses outlined above must present appropriate
documentation to the committee as a part of its fees request. Organizations holding amounts in excess of those guidelines specified above may be directed by the committee to use that excess to meet part of the organization's fees request." (emphasis by this author)

With explicit justification to act, the fees committee chose to allot the full request on the basis that MSA's intended use for the money (unbudgeted spending) was meritorious. Meritorious or not, it ignored this fact:

A sure sign of a group that has received too much money is misplacing almost $17,000 in investments while still maintaining the requisite reserve and meeting all operational and programmatic obligations.

Students in previous years have been compelled by the University to pay student service fees to the Minnesota Student Association. Undoubtedly, MSA, like virtually every other group applying for fees, has argued that reductions in the fees request would result in a significant loss of either vital programmatic or vital operational capability.

In this case, by allotting the reduced amount proposed in this opinion, MSA would have lost out on none of their proposed programmatic or operational capability, and the fees committee would have corrected the previous over-allocation of funds to MSA. Moreover, for at least the second consecutive year, MSA has run into trouble managing their reserve CD and disclosing it to the committee.
Organization Name: Paintball Club  
Amount Requested: $31,842.00  
Amount Suggested: 0  
Committee Vote: 8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

It is the decision of the committee to award the Paintball Club $0.00. The Paintball Club does not benefit the entire student body. Furthermore the requested amount would be going to a small number of participants, about $2,100 per participant. The committee recommends that the Paintball Club meets with other University club sports teams (Volleyball, Hockey) that also do not receive student funds but manage to fully fund the club via fundraising and dues.

Minority Rationale:

A Minority opinion was expressed that the University Athletic Department or Recreational Sports department should be involved with this organization to help fund them. Because the Paintball Club could not secure this support it was thought by the Minority that the Fee's Committee should extend some needed funding. The group meets the criteria of having an academic component by teaching any and all students the sport; it is inclusive for anyone (male or female) that is interested. Funding is also needed to offset the start up and up-front prohibitive costs of any individual interested in the sport. The group is not a club given the stated goal to both represent the University of Minnesota and the willingness to take on new members. Also this group has obtained outside funding as is strongly recommended by the Student Fees Committee. For these reasons the Minority opinion is that this group should be funded in some capacity.
Organization Name: Queer Student Cultural Center
Amount Requested: $47,000.00  Amount Suggested: $42,185.00
Committee Vote:  7 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The committee felt their organization had great programming events and is reaching out to the student body. We questioned their past deficits, and reduced their funding to the previous year's level in order to encourage better fiscal responsibility going forward.
Organization Name: Student Service Fees Event Grant
Amount Requested: $75,000.00  Amount Suggested: $75,000.00
Committee Vote: 7 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC voted to approve the full amount of $10,000.00. They successfully and thoroughly demonstrated the benefit for the entire student body. Meanwhile, they were cutting down their budget for 2009-2010 academic year. Although they did not show a ten percent carryover, the committee felt that it was reasonable since they benefited the student groups in grants with their entire budget.
Organization Name:  Student Veterans Association
Amount Requested: $17,265.00  Amount Suggested: $17,265.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC recommends full funding for this group because of their clear demonstration of student need on campus and the likelihood of an increase in student veterans on campus. The veteran population expected to return to the USA in 2009-2010 will require unique support of the kind that the Student Veterans Association plans to provide.
Organization Name: Students for a Conservative Voice
Amount Requested: $86,000.00  Amount Suggested: $20,000.00
Committee Vote: 6 in favor, 3 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

Students for a Conservative Voice's collaboration has been strong in co-sponsoring events. However, based on the quality of content of the paper and the uncertain readership numbers, the committee cannot grant funding to double the number of issues published. The committee felt the publication could be produced more efficiently with more content put online and hope the group will continue to co-sponsor events. Therefore, we awarded $20,000 to the group with strong recommendations.

Minority Rationale:

The Minority would award no funding to this organization for the academic year 2009-2010. This organization failed to demonstrate significant efforts to address the concerns of the previous year's Fees Committee.

Last year's Fees Committee noted the lack of effort to secure outside funding, including advertising. The organization did not present any convincing reasons why there was still no outside funding or paid advertisements.

Organization members were unable to provide accurate readership numbers because half of the 2000-copy printings are consistently stolen. The Fees Committee also noted a poor effort of the editors to find alternative distribution spots on campus. The publication currently only reaches a handful of dormitories.

The Minority is concerned by the lack fiscal responsibility displayed by this organization. Specifically, the exorbitant commissions paid to students and the absence of any guidelines for determining pay rates. The Fee Committee is also concerned by the amount paid for graphic work and web development. In short, this organization appears to be indiscriminately divvying out money.

Students for a Conservative Voice has displayed an underwhelming effort in expanding outreach to the university community, collaborating with other campus organizations, improving the quality of the publication, and finding sources of income.

Students for a Conservative Voice claims to be the sole representative of "conservative voice" on campus. The near total mismanagement of this organization and its publication ensures that the conservative voice is one that is not currently heard or professionally represented. The Minority cannot justify allocating any Student Service Fees to this organization due to its underwhelming efforts and financial irresponsibility.

General Recommendations:

The committee has strong recommendations for Students for a Conservative Voice. Failure to comply with these recommendations will affect the outcome of future funding requests. The committee
recommends that Students for a Conservative Voice attempt to find external funding in the form or grants or paid advertisements and document these efforts whether granted or denied for future funding requests. Instead of making the paper bimonthly, we recommend the current number of issues but with a more professional and uniform format. The committee felt more content could be present in each current issue if the editing was done more efficiently (smaller font will fit more articles). We would like the range of stipends for authors to be listed with qualifications for each stipend amount given (i.e. 200 words gets $50, 500 words gets $75) and we encourage a more structured stipend system for the editors (each editor receives a flat amount or is paid a certain wage hourly). For the future, we expect to see great improvement in the quality of the paper and online versions and would like to see documentation of readership of both the paper and website (how many papers are left on the racks even if they were stolen, the number of hits for articles, etc).
Organization Name: Students for Human Life
Amount Requested: $50,000.00  Amount Suggested: $20,000.00
Committee Vote:  7 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The SSFC feels that Students for Human Life demonstrated need and benefit among students on campus, however did not feel that funding the full $50,000 would be appropriate. The committee did not feel comfortable allocating such a large amount of money to individual speakers as there was not a clear demonstration as to how these speakers – which seem to be the majority of this group's budget – would benefit campus as a whole.

Minority Rationale:

The minority does not agree with the amount suggested by the majority because the minority feels the cut should be itemized.

Recommendations:

In the future, the committee suggests hosting few speakers as larger events. Clearly track attendance and show the committee that these events are beneficial. In addition, the committee was confused regarding the $8,872.00 that is displayed as a deficit in the previous year. The committee understood after seeking clarification, but be more transparent in future years.
Organization Name: The Wake
Amount Requested: $101,000.00  Amount Suggested: $65,000.00
Committee Vote: 5 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The majority of the SSFC voted to fund The Wake through student service fees, citing the group's dutiful allegiance to its mission statement and production of a quality product which was utilized by the student body. However, the majority felt that The Wake did not attempt to secure enough advertising in order to offset the massive costs incurred in designing, producing, and managing a periodical competing with The Minnesota Daily. While the committee did understand The Wake staff's aversion to advertising as part of making a quality product, the Student Service Fees Committee found it difficult to expect the students of the University of Minnesota to be almost the sole source of funding for this publication. The committee encourages The Wake to solve issues related to the securing of an increased number of outside funding sources so that in future applications the Fees Committee can consider The Wake's expansion plans. Aside from issues with advertising, the committee would like to commend The Wake for the development of an on-line alternative to their magazine. The committee was pleased with this impressive use of resources and felt that it demonstrated a great deal of foresight by The Wake staff. Finally, the majority of the Fees Committee would like to encourage The Wake to submit future budget forms in the recommended, typed format.

Minority Rationale:

The Minority would award no funding to this organization for the academic year 2009-2010. This organization failed to demonstrate significant efforts to address the concerns of the previous year's Fees Committee.

One major reason the no funding vote of the Minority opinion steams from this group's continued disregard towards outside funding sources. The Wake student group told the Student Fees Subcommittee that they presented in front of that they were not really inclined to do any outside fundraising or advertising even though they are a magazine publication. And claimed they had none, although they're current publication clearly had ads on the back of it and this revenue was not reflected in the groups balance sheet presented before the Student Fees Committee. The leadership of the group also maintained that if they applied for grants from organizations like Coca-Cola, their employees would no longer work for them.

The editors did not explain how The Wake provided students with meaningful journalistic experience while the publication completely ignored an important facet of print and online media: advertising. The minority feels that it would do the student body and members of this organization a disservice by continuing to fund a publication that rejects any efforts towards financial independence.

In addition, there seemed to be a general lack of understanding or proper care regarding the layout of the magazine, and utilizing all of the potential space. There was also a question raised about how many publications were actually reaching University Students or the general public. A question was asked as to how many racks the organization had and they did not know the answer. This group has been in existence since 2001, and is requesting $101,000 with the last two previous allocations exceeding
The Student Fees Committee raised numerous questions about the groups effectiveness and if they had been utilizing student money properly. The Student Fees Committee also deliberated about the Wake’s presence on the World-Wide-Web, which over the past year had garnered over 2 million hits; but despite this success the student group in question claimed to have no ad revenue or cash-flow generated on this website.
Organization Name: The Wake
Amount Requested: $101,000.00  Amount Suggested: $65,000.00
Committee Vote: 5 in favor, 3 against, 1 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The majority of the SSFC voted to fund The Wake through student service fees, citing the group's dutiful allegiance to its mission statement and production of a quality product which was utilized by the student body. However, the majority felt that The Wake did not attempt to secure enough advertising in order to offset the massive costs incurred in designing, producing, and managing a periodical competing with The Minnesota Daily. While the committee did understand The Wake staff's aversion to advertising as part of making a quality product, the Student Service Fees Committee found it difficult to expect the students of the University of Minnesota to be almost the sole source of funding for this publication. The committee encourages The Wake to solve issues related to the securing of an increased number of outside funding sources so that in future applications the Fees Committee can consider The Wake's expansion plans. Aside from issues with advertising, the committee would like to commend The Wake for the development of an on-line alternative to their magazine. The committee was pleased with this impressive use of resources and felt that it demonstrated a great deal of foresight by The Wake staff. Finally, the majority of the Fees Committee would like to encourage The Wake to submit future budget forms in the recommended, typed format.

Minority Rationale:

The Minority would award no funding to this organization for the academic year 2009-2010. This organization failed to demonstrate significant efforts to address the concerns of the previous year's Fees Committee.

One major reason the no funding vote of the Minority opinion steams from this groups continued disregard towards outside funding sources. The Wake student group told the Student Fees Subcommittee that they presented in front of that they were not really inclined to do any outside fundraising or advertising even though they are a magazine publication. And claimed they had none, although they're current publication clearly had ads on the back of it and this revenue was not reflected in the groups balance sheet presented before the Student Fees Committee. The leadership of the group also maintained that if they applied for grants from organizations like Coca-Cola, their employees would no longer work for them.

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In addition, there seemed to be a general lack of understanding or proper care regarding the layout of the magazine, and utilizing all of the potential space. There was also a question raised about how many publications were actually reaching University Students or the general public. A question was asked as to how many racks the organization had and they did not know the answer. This group has been in existence since 2001, and is requesting $101,000 with the last two previous allocations exceeding
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Organization Name:  **Women Student Activist Collective**
Amount Requested: $30,000.00  Amount Suggested: $30,000.00
Committee Vote:  9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining

**Majority Rationale:**

Due to this group's thorough application and presentation, along with their clear demonstration of fiscal responsibility, the subcommittee feels this group should be awarded their full request. However, SSFC does recommend that they seek more sources of external funding.
Organization Name: University YMCA

Amount Requested: $30,550.00  Amount Suggested: $17,500.00
Committee Vote:  8 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining

Majority Rationale:

The Student Fees Committee voted to approve the award of $17,500. The committee felt this organization showed a great commitment to wards campus outreach, training of students in leadership roles through the programs it runs, and was impressed by the organizations providing for 170 work-study or stipend positions. The committee was told first hand by University of Minnesota students about the organizations commitment to student retention, and the correlation of service learning to student engagement.

Minority Rationale:

The minority feels the University YMCA provides great opportunities and outreach across campus, and believes this organization should receive higher funding than what the majority voted on.

General Recommendations:

The Student Fees Committee found it hard to follow the budget submitted by this organization, and strongly recommends more detail about where student fee money is actually being used in future years. In addition concerns were raised by committee members about the expenditures on food, room rental, advertising, entertainment and travel.