FY 2011-2012 Initial Recommendations

Student Organizations Committee
Student Services Fees Committee
University of Minnesota

March 1, 2010
**African Student Association**

**Request:** $16000  
**Allotment:** $13,000  
**Vote:** 8-0-1

The fees committee voted to approve funding for the African Student Association in the amount of $13,000. The fees committee found the vast majority of the group’s programming to be soundly beneficial, but was not comfortable with the group’s African Night being completely free to students. As a premium event, the fees committee felt that students should have some individual financial responsibility in attending the event. Additionally, the fees committee was not able to justify funding the African Student Association’s allotment of $1500 to donate to other groups.
All Campus Elections Commission

Request: $8,460  
Allotment: $8,460  
Vote: 8-0-1

The majority of the Student Service Fee Committee finds that the All-Campus Elections Committee should be funded in full amount because the organization have tried to take into account the recommendation from last committee that expressed concerns on excessive food budget for Get Out the Vote Rallies which turned out ineffective with reduced budget. Therefore, the Committee agrees that the organization deserve to full amount they request for year of 2010-11.
Al-Medinah Cultural Center

Request: $55,000  
Allotment: $41,500  
Vote: 9-0

Al-Medinah has a consistently high carryover every year in addition to their $8000 operating reserve. The operating reserve is too high, as the reserve is designed to be 10% of the operating budget. Removing the reserve from the operating expenses indicates that a proper reserve should be less than $1000. The committee is asking Al-Medinah to spend the money it has before making such a large request. Operational and programming should not be inhibited.
Amnesty International

Request: $3,900  
Allotment: $3,900  
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee has recommended that Amnesty International receive their full requested amount of $3,900 for the 2010-2011 academic year. They showed excellent fiscal responsibility by taking into account self-imposing cuts into their budget. The group further illustrated its fiscal accountability by presenting accountability checks to ensure student money was being used properly and efficiently.
American Indian Student Cultural Center

Request: $30,000  
Allotment: $20,000  
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee felt that the population increase in attendance did not correlate with the food increases and room rental costs. Be mindful of excessive food in these times. If growth is still seen, more equal disbursement throughout various other programming initiatives is advised.
Asian-American Student Union

Request: $106,705
Allotment: $65,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee felt it was appropriate to award a larger number than the previous year based on the addition of two groups to the Union. However the committee felt as if the large requested was not justified; many other groups putting on similar conferences fundraised a great deal of the costs required to host such a large event. The committee also felt as though ASU did not address concerns of the previous years committee asking that they reduce their dependence on SSF. The committee recommends ASU spend the excess in their operational reserve, as only about $1300 is required to fulfill the 10% operational reserve rule. The committee also strongly recommends that the ASU limit year to year carryover, and that they seek external grants to supplement SSF funding.
Biology Withold Borders

Request: $10,000
Allotment: $4,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee is happy to fund the World AIDS Day and World Malaria Day as these are events that impact the University of Minnesota student body. The committee decided it is fair to reward $2,000 for each event so the total award will be $4,000. The committee felt that students should not pay for the events held off campus as these events do not impact the student body at large. The committee hopes the group will provide evidence of large numbers at these events to show student impact and hopes the group will form partnerships to help fund events off campus.
BGAPSA

Request: $10,000
Allotment: $6,800
Vote: 8-0-1

After discussion, the Student Service Fees committee has decided to grant the full request of $6,800. The committee feels as though the presentation and budget outline of BGAPSA were very well planned and carried out. The details provided in your programming breakdown show exactly where and how the granted student fees will fund each program. Along with that, your programming and is both beneficial and much needed by the university community. We enjoyed seeing that you have two programs out of the seven listed, that do not cost your organization any money. This is both uplifting and responsible. However, we suggest that you look into fundraising to support your income in the future.
Black Motivated Women

Request: $8,655  
Allotment: $6,450  
Vote: 8-0-1

The Fee Committee voted to approve an award for $6,450. This organization is providing programs that serve to educate and inform students. With this funding the committee hopes to see an increase in activities and see this group expand. The committee is impressed that the organization is seeking outside and internal grants to fund activities, but the award is less than requested because of an expected large carry-over for the next year. It is the feeling that this money should first be used to fund programs before the group requests for additional money. The committee also feels that the organization could cut some of its decoration costs without affecting the effectiveness of the events. For the following year the committee requests that the organization create a more thorough budget sheet which would include an operational reserve as well as a smaller carry over from the previous year.
Black Student Union

Request: $65,000
Allotment: $60,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends the Black Student Union receive funding of $60,000. The committee praises this organization's fundraising and demonstrated comprehension of giving back to the campus community. However, the committee feels a decrease in the requested amount is justified due to a high projected carryover; it is suggested that the carryover be a minimal amount.
Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists

Request: $8,000  
Allotment: $6,500  
Vote: 7-0-2

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists receive funding in the amount of $6,500. The Committee feels this group proved its benefit and need on campus. The Committee feels $6,500 would be appropriate because it would reduce the amount of operation reserves and thus decrease the amount of difference between income and expenses. The Committee also recommends Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists to demonstrate the donations more clearly. If donations are made, they need to be listed in the budget. The Committee frowns on using Student Services Fees money for donations or to offset donations.
Campus People Watchers

    Request: $2,739.89
    Allotment: $0
    Vote: 7-0-2

The Fees Committee feels that, while Campus People Watchers is a group with a defined interest and goal, the group fails to provide a distinct service or benefit to the broader University community. While activities such as the website are interesting, the Committee did not see how CPW creates impact beyond its members into the broader student body. While we hope the group can develop this wider service in the future, its current absence leads us to award $0.
Colleges Against Cancer

Request: $12,495.19  
Allotment: $12,495  
Vote: 8-0-1

The Committee voted to award Colleges Against Cancer $12,495. The Committee appreciated the mission and sense of volunteerism of the group and understood their desire to foster a sense of their group identity separate from the Relay for Life event. It was also noted that the group is growing in size and increasing its impact to students on campus. The Committee further expressed appreciation that the group clearly separated the uses of money from the SSF and the money for Relay for Life, however in the future the Committee requests that Colleges Against Cancer include expected donations for Relay for Life in their budget and also requests that these donations be separated from other donations the group receives to cover other programming or operational expenses.
Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow

**Request:** $120,000  
**Allotment:** $103,800  
**Vote:** 8-0-1

The fees committee voted to approve funding for CFABC in the amount of $103,800. The fees committee found that CFABC was in violation of Resolution #1 (02-03) Monies to Pay Staff, and adjusted CFABC’s funding request into compliance. Additionally, the committee noted CFABC’s high operational expenses and encourages CFABC to ensure that student service fees are going to student-benefiting programming.
Community Child Care Center

Request: $75,000
Allotment: $75,000
Vote: 8-0-1

It is the decision of the committee to award Community CCC in full amount requested since the organization clearly demonstrated a need and benefit on campus.
Como Community Child Care

Request: $70,000
Allotment: $70,000
Vote: 8-0-1

It is the decision of the committee to award Como CCC in full amount requested since the organization clearly demonstrated a need and benefit on campus.
Compassionate Action for Animals

Request: $25,000
Allotment: $0
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee feels that this group should receive $0 in Student Services Fees for the 2010-2011 academic year. The SSFC found many problems with this group’s budget as it became hard to decipher at times. The Operational Reserves is much higher than the 10% that should be accounted for. Also, one of the requirements for an organization to receive funding from SSF is that line item labeled salaries, wages, and stipends should not exceed 30% of the total operating budget, this group’s budget violates this rule. The committee feels that if both of these problems are fixed to be in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the committee handbook, Compassionate Action for Animals will have enough money in their budget to fund their programming needs.
Council of College Boards

**Request:** $70,493.25  
**Allotment:** $65,500  
**Vote:** 8-0-1

The committee felt that this was a reasonable request, provided a great program breakdown with the cost to student analysis, and also addressed the committee’s previous concerns. Operational reserves were decreased and programming expenses were modestly increased. The committee was most concerned with the carry-over of nearly $10,000, so that would mean that less fees money is needed.
Campus Crusade for Christ

**Request:** $15,910  
**Allotment:** $11,000  
**Vote:** 8-0-1

The committee felt that the requested amount was too high given the large carryover. The Committee also felt that increased fundraising measures could help to offset a reduction in the Fees Request.
Disabled Student Cultural Center

Request: $15,000
Allotment: $15,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee felt that this group is much needed and provides great value to the University and has decided to award the full amount requested of $15,000. The committee did, however, feel that the speaker is expensive and hopes the group will look to cosponsor the event to assist with funding.
Engineers Without Borders

Request: $15,000
Allotment: $15,000
Vote: 8-0-1

Regarding the request of Engineers Without Borders, the committee had several views on why funding should be less than requested. We determined that we were given a poor application and little reasoning for funding. Although the committee supports what you are doing as an organization, as a committee in charge of a fee that all students at the University of Minnesota will be paying, it is our responsibility to fund things that will come back to benefit those students and the university community as a whole. We need to know what we are funding and exactly where student fees are going. There is not enough suggested local programming for next year that justifies asking for more than a $20,000 increase from last year’s request. A breakdown of local programming is requested, along with a breakdown of where each dollar is going on each trip (what supplies, how many travelers, etc). For these reasons, the committee agrees on $13,400 for funding from student service fees pending a more completed breakdown. This figure supports the costs of events, conferences, supplies, and printing.

Regarding next year’s application, please have operational reserves in your budget. This should be 10% of your operational expenses. Also, be wary of carry-over from year to year as it should not be a very large number.
Ethiopian Student Association

Request: $5,000  
Allotment: $3,300  
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee has voted to award the Ethiopian Student Association $3,300. This student organization has provided valuable services to the school and students previous years without funding, and with additional funding the committee feels that this group will continue to expand programming and reach more students. The committee also commends the Association for its cooperation and teamwork with other organizations within the university. The fee committee did reduce funding in relation to the camping trips that were planned to which the committee does not feel student services fees should be spent towards. For the following year it would be helpful to have a better program breakdown including an operational reserve.
Experimental College

Request: $10,000
Allotment: $0
Vote: 9-0

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends the Experimental College receive no funding. The committee feels that this group does not demonstrate a direct benefit to the University of Minnesota campus community as a whole. For future reference, the committee would like this organization to provide concrete numbers on the number of U of M students that are involved or benefiting. It seems as though the community is the targeted beneficiary of this organization so the committee suggests EXCO look into community organizations, libraries, and recreation centers for additional funding.
Habitat for Humanity

Request: $4,000  
Allotment: $4,000  
Vote: 9-0

The Student Service Fees Committee voted to approve the full amount of $4,000. The Committee feels that this organization clearly demonstrated its educational benefits. The Committee sees Habitat For Humanity’s expansion on campus and its educational benefits on campus. The Committee hopes it expands to benefit more students. Thus, The Student Service Fees Committee granted it the full amount of funding.
The Fees Committee commends the Hillel group on being a prime example of a fiscally responsible group with a wide University outreach. The ability to sustain the same dollar amount request year over year, while expanding services and membership, is something the Committee appreciates. In addition, the valuable activities Hillel provides and the breadth of their reach within the University makes the group a prime example of what a student group should seek to do. We approve Hillel for the full $31,250.
Hmong Minnesota Student Association

Request: $20,000
Allotment: $10,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The Committee voted to award the Hmong Minnesota Student Association $10,000. The Committee noted that there was a large expected carry-over from the previous year and directs the HMSA to use this money in programming and operational expenses. The Committee also felt that the cost of the planned retreat was too high.

Furthermore, the Committee encourages the HMSA to engage in more fundraising to support their many activities and operations, and reminds the HMSA that it is a requirement to maintain a 10% operational reserve to receive SSF. This is to be incorporated next year and into any subsequent budgets.
Impact Movement

Request: $6,000  
Allotment: $0  
Vote: 8-0-1

The fees committee unanimously voted to approve funding for Impact Movement in the amount of $0. The fees committee found significant budget inconsistencies that prevented full funding of the group. In future fees applications, the committee requests that Impact Movement exhibit strong financial responsibility. Additionally, the fees committee was not able to support Impacts two retreats. Although the fees committee does believe that these programs enrich attending members experiences in the group, the committee does not believe that they provide a significant impact for students and the campus community.
La Raza

Request: $46,000
Allotment: $35,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The Fees Committee voted to approve an award of $35,000. This is a reduction from the organization’s request. The Fees Committee noted a lack of outside sources of funding and a heavy reliance on student services fees which was addressed as a concern from the committee last year. The Fees Committee supports the organization’s mission, but once again requests the organization to demonstrate more financial responsibility by bringing outside funds or providing the committee any form of effort the group has made to receive outside funding whether or not the attempt did not work out.
Lutheran Student Movement

Request: $7,000
Allotment: $5,500
Vote: 8-0-1

The Fees Committee noted numerous formatting issues that has prevented full funding. Some costs are documented, but not $7,000 worth.
Mindfulness for Students

Request: $9,376.63  
Allotment: $6,600  
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee feels that this group should receive $6,600 for the 2010-2011 academic year. While the group took into account the recommendations from the previous years committee to reduce the food expenses in their budget, this committee finds that the carry over from year to year is much too high. This is money that should not be carried over but should be used on programming for University students. The group also stressed the importance of the retreat planned for its members, the committee believes that it would be wise for the group to implement its own fundraising efforts to fund this retreat.
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group

Request: $130,000
Allotment: $98,300
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee felt that the increase were not justified for election year programming when 08-09 was a much more publicized election and was programmed with three times less money. Increases for printing and copying, as well as postage and delivery are also not justified. The reasons for such increases were underwhelming. Your group should still be able to do more or at least the same with less. The committee was also concerned with high salary costs, and as the group is not exempt from the 30% rule, salaries and wages and benefits were reduced to a proportioned amount. This group is not a stand-alone non-profit group, like the Red Cross, and cannot expect to spend nearly 70% on salary. This group is almost fully subsidized by students at the University of Minnesota.
Minnesota Student Association

Request: $140,103
Allotment: $83,600
Vote: 7-1-1

The Committee recommends $83,600. The Committee was not fully satisfied that the groups financial statements accurately reflected the exact totals year to year, and that some money was largely unaccounted for. The committee reduced the fee request by the amount of money that was considered unaccounted for. For at least the third year in a row, MSA has presented a budget to the committee that does not add up. This is unacceptable for a group requesting so much money.

Minority Rationale: The minority supports the excellent work of the Minnesota Students Association. However, since the Student Services Fees Committee has declined to hear the appeal of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) despite numerous attempts to explain their situation, in the interest of full equity for all students on campus, the minority supports awarding the MSA $0.

The minority wishes to note that the campus community is composed of an eclectic mix of students, including undergraduates, graduates, and professional students over 25,000 of them by the University’s own estimate. The SSFC does not adequately reflect this, in the minority’s opinion. The decision to deny a hearing to GAPSA and two other effected student groups places too many graduate and professional students at severe disadvantage. These are the same students who serve as TAs, writing instructors, and mentors. The SSFC chose to strictly enforce its rules rather than exercise true authority and power in the suspension of those rules; the minority hopes the other members of the SSFC remembers this when they too are denied mercy from their TAs. It would be a gross inequity for undergraduates to have access to this body of resources while the graduate and professional students do not. The minority sincerely hopes that the senseless stand-off between the SSFC and GAPSA can come to a favorable resolution and GAPSA can present its budget to the Committee. Student governance will be better for it.
National Society of Black Engineers

Request: $11,000
Allotment: $5,350
Vote: 8-0-1

The committee was unanimous in deciding to award the group $5,350 for the 2010-2011 academic year. While the committee sees the value in this group’s services on campus, the carryover from last year was very large at $5,640 and the group’s reserves were more than 10%. The reserve should be only around $1,200 approximately. Reducing the carryover and the reserves should even out with the award of $5,350.
It is the committee’s view that Pi Sigma Epsilon, although important in some aspects, does not benefit the community, but only the members of this organization. The organization has a professional focus which excludes a large portion of the university community. Because of this, the student service fees committee will fund zero dollars to Pi Sigma Epsilon. If funding is necessary, fundraising or outside grants should be pursued.
Queer Student Cultural Center

Request: $50,000  
Allotment: $43,000  
Vote: 8-0-1

The approval of $43,000 by the fee committee was decided upon based on the committees approval of the multitude and good planning that the organization presented for its programs. The organization reaches out to many students and has high turnout rates for activities which the committee feels is a good indicator of how well the club is doing. The Queer Student Cultural Center provides valuable services throughout its programs and office. The committee appreciates the groups attempts to increase fundraising. There is a problem with the large carry forward each year, and hope is that the organization will use this money toward programming before asking for additional fees the following year.
Student Services Fees Event Grant

Request: $75,000
Allotment: $75,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends the Student Service Fees Grant be awarded their full request of $75,000. There is an apparent benefit to the campus community, and the committee feels like the post-event meetings is both very responsible and evident of good funding practices. The Committee feels, however, that organizations must be open and transparent to receive student funding. Currently, these expectations are not being met, so it is suggested that meetings be open to the public, recorded, or have minutes publicly posted.
Students for Human Life

Request: $48,000
Allotment: $32,450
Vote: 7-1-1

The Student Service Fees Committee voted to approve the award of $32,450. The Committee feels that this organization proved its benefit and need among students on campus, however the Committee did not feel comfortable allocating such a large amount of money to the Dilly Bars event and individual speakers. The Committee also feels that this group mainly represent minority group, so the Committee has questions about this groups attendance.

Minority Rationale: Although the minority appreciates the logic of the majority in arriving at their suggested award, the minority is skeptical that SHL has enough value for students to warrant an over 100% increase in their budget.

Though the minority finds itself at odds with SHLs mission, it is important to provide a venue for opposing viewpoints. In a democratic society, it is crucial for all informed sides of a debate to be heard. This does not mean, however, that an arbitrary allocation of funds to balance opinion is the proper way of protecting fundamental freedom of speech, and the figures presented by SHL seem nothing if not arbitrary. Impact on the quality of student life must be taken into consideration.

The minority takes umbrage at the characterization of Boynton Health Services as a pro-choice organization on campus. Boynton is a medical service provider, not an advocacy organization, and as such its activities are dictated by accepted medical practice rather than a political agenda. That SHL dislikes that Boynton provides contraceptives for students is not enough to convince the minority that Boynton is promoting an agenda other than positive sexual health among students. Further, the minority notes that SHL is primarily an advocacy organization, but one with a rather small core membership (22). Although it was noted that SHL had a list-serv of some 800 people, this still does not convince the minority that the activities of the group have a
substantial impact on student life.

Therefore, the minority suggests that SHL be funded along the lines of smaller and newer organizations, such as Biology Without Borders. Recognizing that SHL has a larger core membership than BWB or similar groups and plans to grow, the minority suggests an award of $25,000.
Student National Medical Association

Request: $1,500
Allotment: $1,250
Vote: 8-0-1

The Fees Committee believes that the SNMA is providing valuable services to both undergraduates and disadvantaged groups through their mentorship program and lecture. However, the committee is unable to attain a complete picture of these activities without the programming expense breakdown for each event/program put on. Therefore, the Committee awards $1,250 to SNMA pending a further detailed breakdown of their programming. Also, while the Committee is sympathetic to the loss of grant funding from the medical school, we would like to see SNMA apply for other University grants available.
Student Veterans Association

Request: $24,225
Allotment: $20,000
Vote: 7-1-1

The Committee voted to award the Student Veteran Association $20,000. The Committee noted that the SVA provides a valuable and much-needed service to student veterans on campus in addition to the resources available through the University and supports its mission to provide support and fellowship for this community.

The Committee felt that the cost of the proposed ski trip was too high and therefore eliminated it from our consideration. Additionally, while the value of attending the national conference is high, the Committee award money with the assumption that the group will either make private contributions or find foundational support to cover the full cost of attendance.

Minority Rationale: The minority rationale felt that this group should be awarded the entire amount requested. While the committee often does not feel it is appropriate to use student fees for morale-building trips (such as the ski trip request), the minority feels believes that this group is fundamentally different from other student groups as it provides a much needed services to student veterans. Although the skip trip was expensive, the minority felt that these costs were justified because the purpose of this group exists to increase morale and have bonding experiences among group members.
**Students for a Conservative Voice**

**Request:** $65,000  
**Allotment:** $59,300  
**Vote:** 6-2-1

The fees committee unanimously voted to approve funding for Students For a Conservative Voice in the amount of $59,300. The fees committee was very concerned with the groups very high operational expenses, especially the high cost of office space. The fees committee also found Collegians For a Constructive Tomorrows speaker costs to be very high, and was unable to justify funding such a large event without a track record of solid attendance numbers. The fees committee encourages Students For a Constructive Tomorrow to provide stronger attendance numbers backed with a description of collection practices in future fees applications.

**Minority Rationale:** The minority especially appreciates that Students for a Conservative Voice actively sought partnerships on and off campus, even if those partnerships were not successful. The minority also understands that SCV need funding to grow and improve their website, and an allocation for Coffman office space. However, the minority cannot endorse spending $15,000, in partnership with other conservative organizations on campus, to bring in a keynote speaker. The Committee has been generally even-handed in encouraging groups to seek the most cost effective speakers, and in some instances has funded only one of several proposed speakers. In this case, it seems highly unlikely to the minority that a speaker commanding fees of $20,000 - $30,000 would provide substantial benefit to the student body. The minority recommends funding in the amount of $49,300 to reflect a cut in the speaker fees.
Voices Merging

Request: $31,671  
Allotment: $17,000  
Vote: 8-0-1

The fees committee was concerned about this group’s programming breakdown containing an excessive amount of travel. Additionally, the group has been having substantial carryovers for multiple years without having significant operational expenses. Reducing the fees request to $17,000 corrects for these issues.
Women’s Student Activist Collective

Request: $30,000  
Allotment: $30,000  
Vote: 8-0-1

Although this group’s presentation was sound along with the consistency of its yearly request, the committee found that it was concerning that the previous years’ actual budget numbers were rounded to even numbers. This raises questions as to the legitimacy of the figures and is an issue for further investigation. The committee recommends that they produce a better and more accurate budget in following years. Also, the previous years committee suggested that this group seek external grants and funding to help ease the SSF request. This year’s committee repeats this recommendation and looks to see improvement in this category in following years.
University YMCA

Request: $31,000
Allotment: $31,000
Vote: 8-0-1

The Student Service Fees Committee recommends funding YMCA in the full amount requested since they clearly demonstrated a need and benefit for University community. The Committee at first expressed a concern about high amount paid in salaries, wages, and stipends but acknowledged later that the amount is paid separately by Minneapolis YMCA.