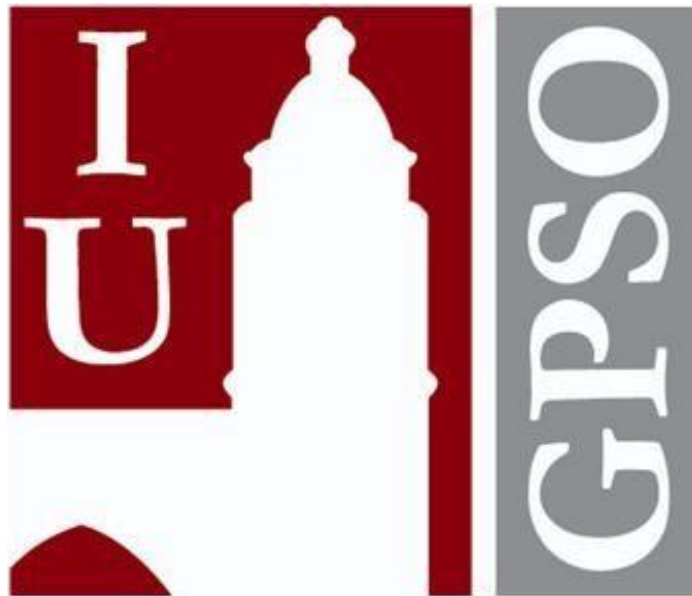


Graduate and Professional Student Organization



Application for FY10 and FY11 Mandatory Student Fees

Committee for Fee Review
Submitted January 20, 2009

Introduction and Overview

The Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO) requests \$100,000 from the Mandatory Student Activity Fee for 2009-2010 and \$105,000 for 2010-2011.¹ While we have sought to trim costs and more efficiently spend our budget over the last two years, the GPSO has expanded to offer new and improved services to the graduate and professional student community at Indiana University. The increase in the 2009-2010 request is primarily to cover the cost of new awards and projects designed to assist the academic and professional development of IU's graduate community. In the following proposal, we review our mission and organizational infrastructure, provide some background on our services and explain our proposed budget increase.

The GPSO Mission

The fundamental mission of the Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO) is to provide services to and represent the interests of graduate and professional students on the Bloomington campus. In 2002, the GPSO was recognized by President Myles Brand as the official student government for the post-baccalaureate population at IUB. The GPSO offers the only campus-wide voice to express the concerns and interests of the graduate and professional student population to the administration, student body, and Bloomington community. We would like to emphasize that all of the approximately 8,000 graduate and professional students at IUB are members of our organization and are encouraged to participate in our many programs, events and services.

In the last six months, the GPSO Executive Committee and Assembly have sought to re-focus the organization. To that end, the GPSO has identified the four principal objectives for serving IU students: (1) providing academic and professional support, (2) building a more vital, interdisciplinary network between IU's graduate and professional students, (3) advocating on behalf of graduate student interests in the campus and Bloomington community and (4) securing resources for graduate education and graduate life at Indiana University.

¹ We have not yet received figures on the actual dollar amount to request from each student to meet our budget request, so we can only provide the full amount being sought from CFR.

The GPSO Organizational Structure

While the GPSO often relies on volunteers to plan and execute community-building events and to fulfill our advocacy initiatives, the organization does require some graduate student employees to maintain daily operations. The GPSO can be broken down into five parts: the professional staff, the Executive Committee, the Assembly, the committee system and the general membership.

The Professional Staff: The GPSO employs two graduate student employees: the Communications Coordinator and the Events Coordinator, both of whom receive a tuition fees remission, health benefits and a salary stipend for living expenses. Each employee is contracted at 20 hours a week, the standard contract for graduate student employees at IU. The GPSO considers both positions vital for establishing contacts within the graduate and professional student community, fulfilling requests for information and assistance from graduate and professional students, planning events to foster community and conducting the daily operations of the GPSO.

Some of the Communications Coordinator's duties include coordinating information for weekly e-mail announcements and distributing those announcements to the GPSO Representatives, the Graduate Secretaries and the wider IU community, developing and distributing press releases about GPSO activities, managing and responding to phone and e-mail inquiries from current and prospective students, faculty, administrators and the public, assisting with special projects, maintaining and regularly updating the GPSO website, overseeing the production and distribution of the monthly GPSO newsletter, working with the Events Coordinator to market GPSO events and managing the GPSO offices.

Some of the Events Coordinator's duties include planning and executing GPSO events (such as the Orientation Week events, the Multi-Cultural Halloween Fair, the Graduate Appreciation Week events and the Survival Week), maintaining the Grad Pad, overseeing the creation and distribution of publicity materials (such as posters, online postings, bus advertisements and billboards), fostering contacts between the GPSO and other student organizations, working with the Communications Coordinator to market events to the graduate community and working on special projects.

The Executive Committee: The Executive Committee consists of five elected leaders, the two graduate student employees and the Ombudsman of the University Graduate School. The Executive Committee meets twice a month to make time-critical decisions, to develop ideas to better represent graduate and professional students and to establish direction for the organization. The GPSO President chairs the Executive Committee and works for the organization as a graduate student employee, with a tuition fees remission, health benefits and a salary stipend for living expenses. This position is contracted at 20 hours a week. The GPSO has found it necessary

to make the President a funded position to ensure accountability for the individual that must represent the organization on numerous committees and meetings across the campus. The other officers of the GPSO include the Assistant President, the Treasurer, the Liaison and the Parliamentarian. Each of these positions receives a small stipend. In serving the GPSO, these individuals devote as much as 10 or more hours a week and generally no less than 5 hours a week; precious time given the stringent demands of their graduate and professional programs.

The Assembly: The GPSO Assembly sets the direction and agenda for the organization and serves as the central point of contact between the GPSO and the graduate student community. The Constitution and By-Laws allocate Assembly seats to voting representatives from each department of the eleven schools at IU. Each department begins with one voting representative and receives an additional seat for every 200 graduate or professional students enrolled in the department. To determine the number of seats, the GPSO Parliamentarian conducts an annual audit of enrollment numbers in the different departments. Of the 90 seats in the GPSO, we currently have 79 appointed representatives with around 40 representatives attending every Assembly meeting. In addition to advising the Executive Committee in Assembly meetings, the representatives serve on different GPSO and IUB committees and disseminate information through e-mail to other students in their departments.

The Committee System: The GPSO conducts some of its work through four standing committees, each consisting of members from the GPSO Assembly and wider graduate and professional student community.

The Awards Committee evaluates applications and recommends the recipients of GPSO awards, such as the GPSO travel grants, the GPSO Faculty Mentor Award and the Pari Perana Excellence in Education Award. The committee members gain experience in the process of reviewing and evaluating academic grants and awards.

The Programming and Fund-Raising Committee plans and executes events designed to foster a sense of community between the graduate and professional students at Indiana University and to allow social and professional inter-personal networking. Some of these events seek to raise funds for GPSO awards and community-building activities. The committee members gain experience in event planning, fund-raising and community advocacy.

The Graduate Benefits Committee develops and implements strategies to improve the salary and health benefits for graduate and professional students, as well as strategies to reduce the costs of attending graduate school. The committee members gain expertise in health care, health care policy and negotiating salary and benefits on behalf of a large constituency.

The University Life Committee plans and executes events and strategies to address issues related to living and learning on the IUB campus and in the Bloomington community. The committee

variously addresses issues related to campus sustainability and the smoking policy and organizes the graduate student team for Relay for Life. The committee members gain expertise and experience in community and campus-based advocacy.

General Membership: The membership of the GPSO consists of all graduate and professional students. Furthermore, all graduate and professional students are invited to serve on GPSO committees or to represent the GPSO in other bodies, such as the Bloomington Faculty Council and the IUSA.

Services

Academic Support: The GPSO strives to help graduate and professional students with the burdens of pursuing academic and professional careers by offering both opportunities for financial assistance toward academic and professional development and recognition of students for their achievements. The GPSO offers Travel Awards each semester and Book Awards each year; when possible, the GPSO offers awards in support of research as well. Additionally, the GPSO annually recognizes faculty members for their efforts on behalf of graduate and professional education.

Travel Awards: Since the spring of 2006, the GPSO has awarded \$3000 each semester in Travel Awards which support graduate and professional student travel to conferences/workshops/special training/auditions/competitions. The awards provide assistance with registration fees, presentation materials, transportation, accommodation, and/or food costs associated with the travel event. The applications for Travel Grants are peer-reviewed each semester by the GPSO Awards Committee which employs a blind-review process for this competition. Committee membership is open to all graduate and professional students at IUB.

The total number of applicants from fall 2006 through fall 2008 was 304. A total of 62 Travel Awards have been awarded, with amounts ranging from \$100 to \$500. The breakdown of applications and awards for this two and a half year period is as follows:

- Fall 2006: 65 applicants, 13 winners awarded \$200-\$300
- Spring 2007: 74 applicants, 14 winners awarded \$150-\$300
- Fall 2007: 48 applicants, 14 winners awarded \$100-\$300
- Spring 2008: 72 applicants, 13 winners awarded \$150-\$300
- Fall 2008: 45 applicants, 8 winners awarded \$250-\$500

Applications have been received from graduate and professional students representing all eleven schools on the IUB Campus granting graduate or professional degrees.

Applicants for the GPSO Travel Award must be enrolled full-time in a graduate or professional degree program and must submit both the completed application form and a comprehensive curriculum vita.

Pari Prerana (The Essence of Inspiration) Award: The GPSO administers the Pari Prerana (Essence of Inspiration) Award with the support of the University Graduate School and the generous support of an anonymous donor. The award strives to recognize and honor students who have overcome a severe physical, cognitive or other health-related challenge(s) and have demonstrated academic excellence. The award's goal is to contribute to building self-esteem, courage and a competitive spirit among graduate students with challenges and to further Indiana University's mission.

All advisors, graduate students, faculty and professors at Indiana University, Bloomington, are invited to nominate those students that they feel deserve special recognition for exemplary courage and determination under adverse and challenging conditions

The Pari Prerana Award is awarded annually at the University Graduate School's spring awards ceremony, and the recipient receives a certificate and a \$250 prize.

Faculty Mentor Award: The GPSO annually recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding mentorship and exemplary training of graduate or professional students. All currently enrolled graduate and professional students are invited to nominate current IUB faculty members for this award. Nomination criteria include, but are not limited to: fostering the long-term development of students; serving an active and vocal role in administrative and professional matters, such as assistance with publishing, grant writing, and conference presentations; encouraging students to develop individual talents and strengths by providing support and guidance in their research; sponsoring students and their work both on and off campus, including supporting student attendance and participation at conferences; and furnishing specific job information tailored to the student's strengths/regional preferences.

Nominations encompass all levels of tenured and non-tenured faculty, including lecturers, researchers, and adjunct faculty. Award recipients are recognized with a plaque at the University Graduate School's spring awards ceremony.

Recent Faculty Mentor Award Recipients:

2002: Dr. William Yarber, Applied Health Sciences
2003: Susan D. Gubar, English
2004: Laura Stachowski, School of Education
2005: Pheadra Pezzullo, Communication and Culture
2006: Randall Bramley, Computer Science
2007: Michael Reece, Applied Health Sciences
2008: Colin Allen, History and Philosophy of Science

Conference Funding: Starting in fall 2008, the GPSO has offered awards up to \$250 to conferences or meetings being held at IUB which are being organized, at least in part, by graduate or professional students. Conferences receiving funds must demonstrate that they will benefit the academic and/or professional development of graduate and professional students. Some of these conferences have components to feature the work of undergraduate students. The following groups have already received support for their conferences.

The Student Association in the Jacobs School of Music
The Association of SPEA PhD Students (ASPS)
The Graduate Student Association in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology
The African American and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Society

Book Awards: In 2007, the GPSO awarded 10 scholarships to new graduate and professional students at Indiana University-Bloomington. Graduate students registered for this award at the 'Get Oriented @ IU' event and the winners received \$50 awards through a matching grant from the IU Bookstore to cover some of the costs of course materials for the upcoming semester.

Research Grants: Through the fall of 2007, the GPSO offered grants in support of research, through the generous financial support of the University Graduate School. These awards were given to graduate and professional students in support of student-driven research, such as dissertation projects. Researchers in all disciplines were eligible to apply, and grants could be used in support of research-related costs, including equipment fees, data collection costs or travel to resources outside of Bloomington. These grants were open to any full-time graduate or professional student. Recipients were chosen through a blind peer review process completed by the members of the GPSO Awards Committee.

Fall of 2007 was the last semester the GPSO was able to offer Research Grants. In that semester, 22 applications were received, and 7 winners were awarded \$300-\$500 each, for a total of \$3000. Recipients were further invited to present some of their research to members of the IU administration, faculty and student body at the annual GPSO research forum held each spring at the Indiana Memorial Union.

Community-Building: Traditionally Sponsored Events: The GPSO annually plans and executes a diverse schedule of academic and social events aimed at enhancing graduate student life on the IUB campus. In addition to new programming each year, GPSO is pleased to offer a series of annual events which have become GPSO traditions. These traditions include:

- New Graduate and Professional Student Orientation
- Graduate Student Survival Week
- The Graduate Student Valentine's Day Dance
- Graduate Student Appreciation Weekend

New Graduate and Professional Student Orientation

Held in the lobby of the H.B. Wells Library, Get Oriented @ IU is GPSO's annual orientation for new graduate and professional students. Organized in partnership with the University Graduate School and IU Libraries, this event provides an excellent opportunity for numerous campus and community organizations to introduce their activities and resources to new graduate students. The principal goal of the information fair portion of orientation is to gather together the most important services, organizations, and activities that new graduate students need to know about in one convenient location. This fall, nearly 400 individuals participated in or attended Get Oriented at IU, necessitating a possible change in venue for this event in the future.

New in 2008 – GPSO Department Visits

In a major effort to increase GPSO's visibility to the IUB graduate student community, Executive Committee members visited over 30 graduate department orientations to provide an organizational introduction to over 900 incoming graduate and professional students. The department visits were scheduled in response to invitations sent out at the beginning of the summer. Using a newly designed Power Point presentation, GPSO Executive Committee members spoke on the organization's mission to enhance graduate student life in the areas of *Academic Support, Advocacy, Community Building*, and providing *Graduate Resources*.

Graduate Student Survival Week

Organized in partnership with several campus departments and organizations, Survival Week event activities are planned to offer support to graduate students in the areas of health and wellness, money matters, and professional development. Social events are also included to encourage graduate students to meet individuals from other departments. Fall 2008 partnering organizations included the IU Credit Union, Counseling and Psychological Services, and IU Health and Wellness.

The Graduate Student Valentine's Day Dance

A popular graduate student tradition, the Graduate Student Valentine's Day Dance is held in an intimate venue and includes free food, dancing, and live music. In the past GPSO has engaged qualified swing dancers to provide instruction before the band begins a danceable program of jazz and swing standards from the Great American Songbook. GPSO's 2008 Graduate Student Valentine's Day Dance was held in the IMU IU Club. Several services were donated (e.g. swing dance instruction) in efforts to defray costs. Past high attendance at this event has also necessitated a possible change in venue for this event in the future.

Graduate Student Appreciation Weekend

GPSO annually provides this series of programs and activities to recognize the incredible efforts and achievements of graduate and professional students on the IUB campus. In the past, these events have been largely social in nature, culminating in the annual GPSO Grad Bash. Initially begun as the GPSO Garden Party, the Grad Bash draws students from nearly every graduate department for a fun evening of music, dancing, and year-end socializing. For the spring of 2009, GPSO plans to incorporate a largely academic component to Graduate Student Appreciation Weekend. To this end, future plans include a Research Information Fair to provide graduate students with an additional opportunity to present findings to their peers. Over 700 attendees enjoyed the activities planned for GPSO's Graduate Student Appreciation Weekend in April, 2008.

Family Friendly Events

GPSO is pleased to offer a variety of family friendly programming each semester. Previous family friendly events have included after school Halloween parties and campus trick-or-treating, as well as after school guided tours of the IU Art Museum.

New Events and Increased Organizational/Departmental Partnering

GPSO actively cultivates existing organizational partnerships. The GPSO also works actively to create new organizational/departmental partnerships in efforts to reach a larger number of graduate and professional students on the IUB campus.

Graduate Student Social Networking Hours

Social Networking Hours are planned to build community within the graduate and professional student population and are frequently departmentally sponsored. These events are focused on strengthening the graduate student community in Bloomington and increasing awareness of resources available across campus. Additionally, GPSO Social Networking Hours provide an informal atmosphere for socializing as well as inter-departmental networking. Beginning in the fall of 2008, GPSO began scheduling two Social Networking Hours each month. Between 80 and 120 graduate students regularly attend. Nearly 250 graduate students turned out for the January 16, 2009 Social Hour. Some of the recent Social Networking Hour sponsors have included the School of HPER (Applied Health Sciences), the Center for Sexual Health Promotion, and the School of Informatics.

GPSO/IOC Multi-Cultural Halloween Fair

On Thursday, October 30, the Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO) and International Outreach Council (IOC) presented a Multi-Cultural Halloween Fair. Held in IMU Stateroom West, participating groups included the Russian and East European Institute, Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, and West European Studies. In efforts to advertise to the IUB campus and Bloomington community at large, GPSO increased its organizational exposure by advertising the event through avenues of mass communication including postings to online community bulletin boards, and frequent event announcements on WFIU radio. Nearly 80 attendees (including many children) enjoyed the offerings of this GPSO co-presentation.

GPSO Election Watch

Held at Coaches Bar and Grill, this event had attendees from numerous departments gathered to monitor election results. Nearly 200 graduate and professional students attended GPSO's Election Watch event on Tuesday, November 4th.

Advocacy: The GPSO is very active in affecting policies on the IUB campus and University-wide. Graduate and Professional students have a representative voice on the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC) and on most of its standing committees. The number of students appointed to serve on the BFC and its standing committees varies from year to year depending on how that group revises its structure. There are currently around 30 students appointed by the GPSO to represent graduate and professional student interests on these committees. Through these appointments, GPSO asks students to be advocates. This provides those students with important opportunities to reflect on faculty governance issues and to help develop solutions to the problems the campus faces.

GPSO appoints students to other administrative committees including the Student Advisory Board, which meets regularly with the Dean of Students and student leaders from across the campus, as well as the Student Transportation Board which addresses policies of the Campus Bus system. Altogether, GPSO was asked to appoint students to over 20 committees across campus. In addition to these fairly routine administrative committees, we found volunteers to represent graduate and professional students on several “search & screen” and review committees, as well as the ad hoc committees that have convened, such as a recent Campus Grievance Commission.

Graduate and Professional students have a large role to play in campus governance. The extent varies to which these appointees are able to effect change or see tangible results from their dedication. Some committees meet biweekly while others meet once per semester. It’s a measure of success for our organization that we are given a seat at each table and that graduate and professional students sit in them.

In addition to working with and through other organizations, the GPSO has its own standing committee structure. In spring 2008, the University Life committee mobilized graduate students for the Relay for Life and began its own recycling project aimed at improving the recycling policy at IU. This year, GPSO has taken advocacy to a new level and proposed four different resolutions designed to effect positive change for graduate students at IUB. Two of these resolutions relate specifically to Student Academic Appointees (SAAs), including one resolution based on a report that GPSO recently conducted comparing SAA stipends at IUB to peer institutions. Several of our projects, such as the comparative salaries data report, the graduate student survey and the department chair survey, require time, effort and money. The GPSO is committed to accurately and effectively identifying problems confronting graduate students at IUB so that there is a baseline from which our appointees can advocate.

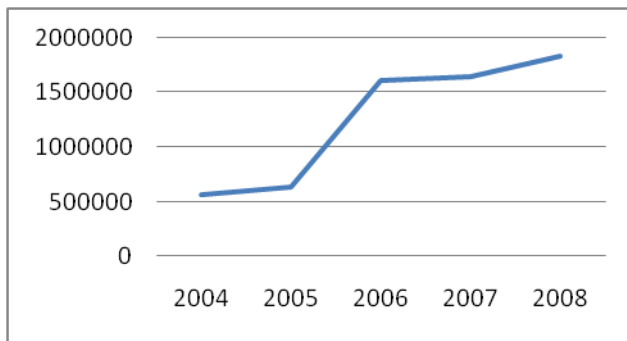
The GPSO Assembly also passed resolutions on Drop/Add fees for Graduate Students, as well as the organizational structure of the University Graduate School. GPSO advocates on behalf of non-SAA graduate and professional students at IUB as well. The proposed change in Drop/Add fees will affect the vast majority of graduate level students at IUB, and the GPSO is actively looking for new ways to improve life for non-SAA graduate students. The Voluntary Health insurance plan in which many of those students enroll is up for negotiation again in spring, 2009. GPSO looks forward to engaging in talks about how to improve this and other aspects of campus life on behalf of all graduate and professional students through effective advocacy.

Resources: To improve graduate student life on the IUB campus, the GPSO provides graduate students with their own space in the IMU, known as the GradPad. The room is equipped to host group meetings, mini-conferences and provide a comfortable space for quiet study. In 2008, over 3604 students used this space: 1404 attended organized meetings, while 2200 used it for individual study. We believe the GPSO's continued efforts to increase awareness of the GradPad in the graduate student population will certainly lead to increased future usage.



The GPSO integrates graduate students in the Bloomington community by sharing information and resources through the GPSO website. As official IU reports show, the website is one of the most effective means of communication with students. In 2008 the website received over 1,830,000 requests representing an increase of 20,000 hits compared to 2007.

Increase in website hits from 2004 to 2008



In 2008 the Housing Board portion of the website evidenced the greatest demand, receiving over 20,000 hits. The Housing Board serves to provide information about renting and buying property in Bloomington, and advertises vacancies to incoming and current graduate students. Of the different parts of the website, our page on general resources received 6400 hits; the travel grants section received 1272 hits; information on health care received 1600 hits; and the newsletter received over 1800 hits. Almost 3000 requests explored information about the GPSO and its mission. The GPSO will launch a re-designed website in the spring of 2009. The website is currently maintained by the GPSO Communications Coordinator and requires a time commitment of 4 hours per week for updates, and over 15 hours per week during occasional periods of redesign. Due to the increasing importance of the website as an interface of

communication with students, the GPSO is seeking to create an hourly position to further improve the information on the website and upgrade its design.

Financial Data

Revenues:

	Actual, 2006-07	Actual, 2007-08	Budgeted, 2008-09	Actual (YTD), 2008-09
Student Mandatory Fees	\$46,693	\$64,240	\$68,950	\$37,737
Other Revenue	\$15,000*	\$9,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
Total Revenue	\$61,693	\$73,240	\$74,950	\$40,737

* \$10,000 from University Graduate School plus Grant Money

Overview of Outside Revenue Sources:

Additional revenue has come from the University Graduate School (UGS) and has been largely utilized to fund the GPSO's research and travel grants for IU graduate and professional students. Additional UGS support has been used to fund capital improvements in the GPSO offices and the GradPad space.

Expenditures:

	Actual, 2006-07	Actual, 2007-08	Budgeted, 2008-09	Actual (YTD-Nov), 2008-09
Staff Expenses	\$43,098	\$46,569	\$49,488***	\$21,600
Academic Support	\$6,960	\$9,000	\$7,300	\$4,025
Community-Building Resources	\$10,745	\$15,718	\$6,500	\$2,351
Travel Expenses	\$0	\$12,565	\$12,914	\$5,382
Capital and Office Expenses	\$496	\$531	\$0	\$0
General Expenses	\$3,553*	\$2,041**	\$1,027	\$527
Total Expenses	\$67,287	\$86,459	\$77,729	\$33,885

*One-time expense for computer purchase and set-up of \$1861

**One-time expense for furniture for Grad Pad \$1,335

*** Increase due to increased SAA insurance requirements

Overview of Recent Changes to the GPSO Budget:

Staff Expenses: The budget for compensation of the GPSO's three graduate student employees has increased over the last few years largely due to the increasing cost of health care coverage. The GPSO also began to provide small stipends to the officers of the Executive Committee, in line with the last CFR's recommendations.

Academic Support: The GPSO recently began to offer limited financial assistance to graduate students planning academic conferences on the IU campus. The support for travel and research

grants has largely depended on the assistance from the University Graduate School and they have not been able to help fund research grants for this academic year.

Community-Building: In line with the CFR's suggestions from the last round, the GPSO has worked to save costs on events and continues to develop ideas to offer high-quality programming to the IU community at a low cost.

Resources: The increase in this budget line is due to the marginal increase in rent for the GradPad in the Indiana Memorial Union.

Travel Expenses: The GPSO has previously funded the travel of the Liaison to the annual conference of the National Association of Graduate Student (NAGS) and covered the institution's membership fees in this organization. Last year, the Assembly decided to suspend these expenses, as NAGS has gone through several organizational problems in the last few years, and it is unclear how NAGS, in its current state, benefits graduate students at Indiana University.

General Expenses/Capital and Office Expenses: In the category of general and office expenses, the GPSO has consistently maintained operations around \$1500 over the last few years. The combined budget for general and office expenses was higher in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 due to capital expenditures in the GPSO offices and GradPad.

Proposed Budget for FY10 and FY11 Student Mandatory Fees

Expenditures:

	Budget, 2009-2010	Budget, 2010-2011
Staff Expenses	\$61,250	\$62,150
Academic Support	\$14,750	\$16,750
Community-Building	\$10,850	\$10,850
Advocacy Efforts	\$1,800	\$1,800
Resources	\$15,500	\$15,500
Publicity	\$500	\$500
General Expenses	\$785	\$785
Total Expenses	\$110,435	\$114,335

Overview of Budget Request:

With the support of the CFR, the GPSO now provides substantially more community-building activities, advocacy initiatives and resources to the graduate and professional student community. In our recent surveys of graduate and professional students, many of the respondents indicated they would like the GPSO to secure more sources of academic support. Much of our requested budget increase is thus aimed at providing better academic support to graduate and professional students, as well as the entire IU community.

Staff Expenses: In serving the IU graduate student community, the GPSO utilizes some of our student fees to ensure the organization possesses sufficient staffing resources to plan, prepare and execute events; to organize advocacy initiatives and efforts; and to manage the different resources provided to graduate and professional students. A portion of our fee request is dedicated to minor, unavoidable increases in staffing costs. Specifically, we would like to increase the salaries of our three funded staff positions by \$500 a year (and \$800 a year in 2010-2011) to bring these positions more in line with salaries offered to other graduate student employees at Indiana University. We have also slightly increased the budget lines to compensate the leadership of our organization; a move encouraged by the last CFR's recommendation. We have also budgeted for the expected increase in the costs of health benefits for our graduate student employees.

Additionally, following the recommendations of the GPSO Assembly and the wider graduate community, we have recently devoted staff resources to re-designing our website and creating a monthly newsletter, so that we might better disseminate information about jobs, awards, events and other matters to the graduate community. While we believe this investment has paid off in allowing us to better reach out to the graduate community, we have had to divert resources from other, more vital tasks, such as answering and responding to personal requests from graduate

students and managing the daily operations of the GPSO. We have thus requested an additional \$5,000 to create a part-time, hourly position for a web manager/newsletter editor position.

Academic Support: To better fulfill our first objective (the provision of academic and professional support), we have devoted a significant portion of our requested fee increase to academic and professional grants for projects. For several years, the GPSO has offered grants to fund travel to academic and professional conferences. To ensure that graduate and professional students might pursue successful careers after leaving IU, it is absolutely vital that they be able to attend such conferences. In meetings and discussions with IU's graduate students, faculty and administration, it has become clear that 1) students and faculty would like to see more such grants offered for graduate students and 2) IU may need to do more in this area to stay competitive with our peer institutions. The University Graduate School (UGS) has provided us with \$6,000 a year to put toward these grants. We do not expect that the UGS will be able to increase this amount in the coming years and we would thus like to subsidize the travel awards with an additional \$2,000 (\$2,500 in 2010-2011).

The GPSO has previously offered research grants to the graduate and professional student community. These grants were also financed by the UGS. In recent years, the Graduate School has been unable to continue support for these awards. We would like to devote \$2,000 (\$3,000 in 2010-2011) toward re-establishing these awards and better enabling graduate student research at IU.

In the last year, the GPSO established a \$1,000 fund to support graduate student conferences at IU. These conferences allow graduate and professional students to network and collaborate in research and teaching. We have had an enormous response to this opportunity and could have easily exhausted the fund in the first few weeks of the award. We would like to continue offering this grant and increase it from \$1,000 to \$2,500 (\$3,000 in 2010-2011).

The GPSO has requested funds to supplement the book awards we provide to new students at the Information Fair, as we have occasionally had trouble raising sufficient funds or donations for these awards. We have also added a monetary award to our long-standing Faculty Mentor Award, a suggestion made to us by several faculty members and graduate students in this last year. We feel this award contributes to our recognition of faculty efforts on behalf of graduate students.

Finally, in seeking to facilitate stronger inter-disciplinary connections at Indiana University, the GPSO would like to organize an annual graduate student conference to recognize the teaching, research and professional efforts of graduate and professional students across the IU campus. The \$1,500 budget for this planned two-day conference will be used for organization, receptions and awards for excellent papers, projects, presentations and performances.

Community-Building: The GPSO has traditionally offered a diverse program of regularly scheduled events to the graduate and professional student community. In the last year, we have observed a marked increase in the number of attendees at our events and have received feedback indicating that graduate students deeply appreciate the community-building efforts of the organization. Following the last CFR's recommendation, we have decreased our budget for the traditional Grad Bash and Graduate Appreciation Week events. We have slightly increased the budget for our opening Orientation Week events, specifically to accommodate the ever-expanding Information Fair that we plan for new students before the first week of classes. Finally, we have proposed small budgets for a number of new events we have started to offer to graduate students and their families, as well as the campus and Bloomington communities. We have partnered with the International Outreach Council and several other student groups at IU in planning the Multi-Cultural Halloween Fair and we also plan to work with the Graduate Diversity Emissaries and other student groups to offer a Martin Luther King Day event.

Advocacy Efforts: The proposed budget includes funds to continue the GPSO's support of the hospitality room for student volunteers at the spring Lotus Bazaar held at Binford Elementary School. The Lotus Organization plans this two-day event, open to area fourth graders on the first day and the wider Bloomington community on the second day. The hospitality room serves the many undergraduate and graduate volunteers at the event.

The GPSO has also budgeted \$500 for food and organizational expenses for an event to recognize and honor our many volunteers that serve in campus and community initiatives, such as the Bloomington Faculty Council and the Relay for Life.

Finally, the GPSO plans to establish a new Undergraduate Mentoring Program. This program would identify participants from the graduate and professional student community to act as mentors to undergraduate students who are considering and/or applying for admission to a graduate or professional program. The GPSO would then work with undergraduate advisors and counselors from the different schools to identify prospective undergraduate participants and to pair those undergraduate students with appropriate graduate student mentors. The mentors would provide assistance, when necessary, in applying for and getting into graduate programs, as well as advice and counseling on research and academic work. It is hoped that, over the course of the program, mentors will prepare undergraduates for graduate life and the demands of a graduate program.

The program would outline goals and expectations for the graduate student mentors and establish a mechanism to evaluate the success of the program by interviewing undergraduate participants before they leave IU. We are proposing to establish an initial fund of \$1,000 to support the efforts of 20 graduate student mentors. If the success and/or demand from the undergraduate

community demonstrate a foundation for further efforts, we will seek additional monetary support for the program from academic and non-academic units on the campus.

Resources: The proposed budget anticipates a slight increase in the rent for the GradPad in the Indiana Memorial Union. This budget line also includes funds to continue developing the GPSO website and for the Executive Committee to utilize toward funding new initiatives and maintaining the organization.

Publicity and General Expenses: This proposed budget allocates funds to cover the costs of printing materials for GPSO meetings and events and to pay the costs of maintaining the GPSO offices.

Proposed Revenue for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

	Budget, 2009-10	Budget, 2010-11
Student Mand. Fees	\$100,000	\$105,000
Other Revenue	\$10,435	\$9,335
Total Revenue	\$110,435	\$114,335

To ensure the GPSO can provide these services, we ask the CFR for support in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year and \$105,000 for the 2010-2011 academic year. We anticipate that the University Graduate School will continue to provide us \$6,000 in additional revenue for travel awards. Following the last CFR's recommendations, we have initiated a fund-raising committee to supplement some of our operational expenses and have set a goal of raising an additional \$3,000-\$5,000 over the next two years for the purpose of enhancing the GPSO's academic support.

Conclusions

We recognize that these proposals entail a significant expansion of the GPSO budget and the GPSO's activities. We also understand that the CFR may have some concerns about the use of undergraduate student fees for the purposes of graduate education and graduate life. We would ask the committee to consider the following points.

First, the GPSO seeks to contribute to the entire IU community. We offer events open to the all individuals at IU such as the Multi-Cultural Halloween Fair. We engage in advocacy efforts to benefit all students such as: our Recycling Committee which has sought to assess and improve recycling efforts on campus, and our support for RAISE, a program that largely benefits undergraduate students. We have also funded academic conferences that showcase undergraduate research. We plan to incorporate an undergraduate best paper award into our annual academic conference and to initiate a new Undergraduate Mentoring Program. In these efforts, we strongly believe the GPSO offers tangible benefits for all of Indiana University.

Second, most of IU's peer institutions support a graduate student organization or graduate student union. We consider such an organization a necessity for institutions supporting graduate studies. Larger undergraduate-focused student governments and organizations may not always be able to consider the unique demands of graduate life and graduate education. We have recently surveyed graduate student associations at 25 public and private institutions. Through these surveys, we have discovered that funds for the GPSO trail behind the available support for graduate student groups at institutions of similar size. Many of these groups receive their funding from fees paid by both undergraduate and graduate students. We thus believe the current system for financing the GPSO is not unprecedented for a large, research-oriented university.

Third, the GPSO has assumed several different functions in its efforts to serve the graduate community. Thus, similar to IUSA Aid, the GPSO provides financial support for the academic and community-building efforts of groups and individuals on the IU campus; similar to Union Board and Outdoor Adventures, the GPSO provides programming for graduate students that is uniquely designed for the interests of families and the wide range of ages and professional backgrounds that make up the graduate student community; and similar to IUSA, the GPSO seeks to represent and advocate for the interests of the large graduate and professional student constituency at IU.

Finally, as approximately one-fifth of the student body, graduate students contribute a significant portion of the student fees supporting Union Board, the IUSA, IUSA Aid, the campus television and radio programs, Outdoor Adventures, and several other student groups. These many different organizations provide excellent support and services to the graduate community, but our recent survey of 804 graduate and professional students indicates that the GPSO does indeed serve an important role for the IU community. These survey results are summarized below.

If the Committee for Fee Review is interested in seeing a more complete breakdown of the demographic data of our survey respondents, we would be happy to provide that information.

Thank you for your consideration of our budget request and please contact us with any further questions, suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The GPSO Executive Committee

Partial Summary of GPSO Survey Results:

1. In what school are you a student?		Response Percent	Response Count
College of Arts and Science		43.5%	349
Jacobs School of Music		6.6%	53
Kelley School of Business		12.3%	99
School of Education		6.7%	54
School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation		5.0%	40
School of Informatics		5.0%	40
School of Journalism		1.6%	13
School of Law		11.0%	88
School of Library and Information Science		7.5%	60
School of Optometry		0.2%	2
School of Public and Environmental Affairs		4.4%	35
<i>answered question</i>			803
<i>skipped question</i>			0

34. How often have you attended events or programming sponsored by the following organizations					
	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Response Count
Union Board	65.4% (447)	19.6% (134)	14.1% (96)	1.0% (7)	683
Indiana Union Student Association (IUSA)	70.9% (487)	21.4% (147)	7.7% (53)	0.1% (1)	687
Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO)	39.6% (275)	30.8% (214)	25.2% (175)	4.6% (32)	695
Outdoor Adventures	84.9% (584)	9.9% (68)	5.1% (35)	0.3% (2)	688
<i>answered question</i>					696
<i>skipped question</i>					107

35. How often have you applied for or received funds or any type of financial support (whether for yourself or for a group or event) from the following organizations?

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Response Count
Union Board	95.2% (660)	2.2% (15)	2.6% (18)	0.1% (1)	693
IUSA	89.7% (620)	4.5% (31)	5.4% (37)	0.6% (4)	691
GPSO	85.2% (593)	6.6% (46)	6.8% (47)	1.6% (11)	696
				<i>answered question</i>	696
				<i>skipped question</i>	107

36. How often have you used or benefited from the following facilities or services

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Response Count
Campus Day Care	97.7% (677)	1.0% (7)	0.9% (6)	0.6% (4)	693
IU Auditorium	35.0% (243)	32.9% (229)	26.9% (187)	5.3% (37)	695
IUSTV – student television state	91.1% (631)	5.6% (39)	2.3% (16)	1.2% (8)	693
Indiana Memorial Union	8.6% (60)	21.0% (146)	36.7% (255)	33.8% (235)	695
The Recreational Sports and Aquatic Facility	34.4% (239)	13.7% (95)	22.3% (155)	29.8% (207)	695
Student Legal Services	85.4% (592)	9.1% (63)	4.3% (30)	1.3% (9)	693
WIUX – student radio station	74.4% (515)	11.4% (79)	7.8% (54)	6.5% (45)	692
Campus Bus System	25.6% (178)	20.5% (142)	19.5% (135)	34.6% (240)	694
Student Health Center	20.3% (141)	23.5% (163)	32.9% (228)	23.5% (163)	694
University Information Technology Services	9.7% (67)	24.1% (167)	31.7% (220)	34.6% (240)	693
				<i>answered question</i>	696
				<i>skipped question</i>	107

37. Please rate the usefulness of each organization or service in improving the quality and conditions of graduate education and graduate life at IU

	Not At All Useful	Not Useful	Useful	Very Useful	Response Count
Union Board	21.6% (138)	27.6% (176)	45.8% (290)	4.7% (30)	633
IUSA	22.2% (139)	32.3% (202)	41.7% (261)	4.0% (25)	626
GPSO	10.6% (69)	12.3% (80)	57.1% (372)	20.1% (131)	651
Outdoor Adventures	23.3% (147)	27.6% (174)	44.4% (280)	4.8% (30)	630
Campus Day Care	11.6% (71)	13.4% (82)	53.8% (329)	21.4% (131)	612
Student television and radio stations	20.7% (131)	30.4% (192)	42.9% (271)	6.2% (39)	632
The Recreational Sports and Aquatic Facility	4.6% (32)	5.6% (37)	41.4% (276)	48.3% (322)	666
Student Legal Services	8.9% (56)	13.3% (84)	55.0% (347)	23.0% (145)	631
Campus Bus System	3.0% (20)	4.2% (28)	33.2% (223)	59.8% (402)	672
Student Health Center	3.1% (21)	3.1% (21)	33.1% (226)	60.9% (416)	683
University Information Technology Services	2.8% (19)	4.9% (33)	35.0% (237)	57.5% (389)	677
				<i>answered question</i>	696
				<i>skipped question</i>	107