GPAC Conference Funding Guidelines

GPAC recognizes the importance of conferences for many academic disciplines, outside events, co-curricular activities, and professional interests. To maximize the available funding, GPAC requires that any group requesting funding for conference attendance meet certain criteria. Individuals (even within an organization) are strongly encouraged to apply to the ECGPS Professional Advancement Grants Committee (PAGs) for funding (as appropriate), seek internal and external sponsorship, and consider volunteering for the event/conference to defray costs. GPAC will entertain requests for conference funding in consultation of the following guidelines:

1. Funds provided to a student organization to attend a conference must be for organizational benefit, not personal. Examples of personal benefit are conferences where the individual(s) attending would primarily:
   a. Network with professionals in their field or future career field.
   b. Job Search, interview, build independent job connections.
   c. Attending research talks, academic performances where the primary beneficiary is the person in attendance.
2. Attendance to a regional or national chapter of the local UI student organization seeking funding qualifies as a conference in which GPAC considers funding if:
   a. The delegates from the organization provide a report to the organization about what was learned, exchanged, and done at the conference in regards to their organization mission.
   b. The delegate(s) attending the conference are representing their UI-based organization.
   c. The delegate(s) attending participate in teambuilding, leadership development, and/or collaboration-building events with other student organizations attending the conference.
3. Contingent upon the funds available for GPAC to allocate, GPAC will consider funding up to 2 students per organization per academic year.
4. The GPAC Funding Guidelines suggest a maximum funded amount of $400/student, an amount that is inclusive of any registration fees, travel expenses, meals, and lodging. Requests in excess of this limit will be reduced to the maximum recommended funding.
5. Organizations must submit a brief statement to the GPAC Committee within 2 weeks of return explaining what was gained from attending/participating in the conference and what/how this new knowledge/experience will be employed locally at UI (i.e. explain the organizational benefit).
6. To maximize the number of students/organizations that can be funded by GPAC, the funding guidelines maxima may be changed to provide a higher number of smaller awards. GPAC encourages all organization to utilize all possible avenues of funding to attend/participate in the conference, such as seeking assistance from the regional/national parent organizations.