

RSO Name	Event	Requested	Recommended
Kheyal, Bengali Student Association	Bengali Year End Cultural Event Celebration (Makar Sankranti and Bôrdin)	\$4,008.48	2963.57
AI @ UChicago	CS123 Introduction to Building AI enabled Robots	\$3,020.63	2000
American Medical Students Association	Pritzker Formal 2026	\$23,157.75	Derrefed
Arab Student Association	Funding Request For Kunafa and Karaoke Cultural Activity	\$305.00	204
Edge Entrepreneurship	UChicago Edge Downtown Startup Speaker Visit	\$528.00	\$0
Hong Kong Student Association	HKSA Thanksgiving Cultural Celebration	\$800.00	\$0
JGrads Chabad	Maimonides Lecture on Jewish Medical Ethics	\$1,728.96	948.96
JGrads Chabad	Jewish Law Lecture	\$1,663.96	883.96
JGrads Chabad	Pre-Chanukah Chanukiah-Making Workshop	\$752.50	702.50
Pakistan Student Association	PSA Welcome Dinner	\$500.00	\$0
The Glass Eyeball	Funds for Ida Noyes Darkroom	\$200.00	184.43
UChicago Space Program	Funding request for UCSP Rocketry launch with Indiana Rocketry on 11/30	\$2,134.38	\$0

Attendance:

Name	Attendance
Caitlin Mooney - Chair	Present
Liya Luk - Vice Chair	Present
Cambron Bice - CLI Advisor	Absent
Andy Lin - Member	Absent
Grace Cheng - Member	Present
Addison Marshall - Member	Present
Grace Beatty - Member	Proxy
Kevin Guo - Member	Present
Carsten Chow - Member	Absent
Leonardo Quai - Proxy	Present
Fred Lee - Exofficio Member, Proxy	Present

Kheyal, Bengali Student Association (BSA)

Presentation:

- Requesting funding for two events: a cultural celebration and a Bengali-style Christmas event.
- Org explained that Bengali students have a distinctive way of celebrating Christmas focused on food and cultural elements.
- Expected total attendance of 400 across both events.
- Funding requested for food, decorations, car rentals (Zipcar for transporting food and decorations), and advertising (posters/flyers).

Q&A:

- Fred asked how they arrived at an expected attendance of 400.
 - BSA responded that their flagship October event (Durga Puja) had very high attendance and the 400 reflects cumulative attendance across past events.
- Fred clarified that the 400 is split across both events (roughly 200 per event) to which they said yes
- Caitlin asked what the car rental was for.
 - They said they planned to book a Zipcar to transport food and decorations.
- Caitlin asked what the advertisement budget was for.

- They said they planned to print flyers and posters. For the last event, they had a large poster at the venue and printed about 200 flyers to post across campus and distribute.
- Grace asked them to break down what they meant by “decorations.”
- They said they decorate the venue according to the theme (for example, last event’s theme was rural festivals of Bengal, with sculptures and region-specific instruments purchased from Amazon).
- Fred asked how much of the total requested amount would go to the first event versus the Christmas event.
- They said roughly \$1,500 for the first event and the remainder for the Christmas event, which is larger.

Deliberation:

- Fred noted that utensils and decorations would need to be cost guided.
- There was discussion about whether car rental should be funded.
- Fred commented that 400 attendees sounded high.
- Kevin pointed out that the events were scheduled over winter break and questioned how they would realistically reach 400 attendees.
- Caitlin responded that they would need to take the RSO’s word on expected attendance.

Motion:

- Kevin moved to fund \$2,963.57 for the two events.
- Motion seconded by Liya.
- Result: All in favor. Motion passes

AI @ UChicago

Presentation:

- Requesting funding to purchase parts for “robot dogs.”
- They have already received \$900 from the Student Engagement Fund for the project.
- Plan is to create a recurring, student-run course where undergraduates build the hardware (robot dog) from individual components and then program reinforcement learning agents to teach the robot to walk and perform tasks.
- The course is based on an open-source Stanford course (CS 123: Introduction to Building AI-Enabled Robots).
- Purpose: provide an entry point into tech/AI/robotics for students with little or no prior experience, and help them build a substantial project for their resume and for entry into selective tech clubs.

Q&A:

- Fred noted that the line items added up to \$2,985.50, not \$3,020 as originally listed in the request.
- Fred asked whether the equipment would be a one-time use or used over multiple years.
 - The RSO responded that the dogs will be reused each year for new cohorts of students.
- Kevin asked to confirm that the project involved building AI robot dogs from scratch.
 - The RSO confirmed.

- Kevin asked whether the dogs would be disassembled for new groups and how many students would work on each dog.
 - The RSO said the dogs can be disassembled between cohorts, and that each dog would have about 5-6 students working on it per quarter (roughly 10–12 students total per quarter).
- Liya asked why their RSO balance was zero.
 - They said they are a relatively new RSO and had never applied for funding before.

Deliberation:

- The committee discussed that this will be a capital investment and the fact that the equipment can be reused for multiple years and multiple cohorts.
- Caitlin mentioned that there is a cap on how much RSOs can receive for capital investment.
- There was also consideration of the external \$900 already secured from SEF.

Motion:

- Addison moved to fund \$2,000 for AI @ UChicago.
- Motion seconded by Kevin.
- Result: All in favor. Motion passed

American Medical Students Association

Presentation:

- AMSA requested funding for their annual formal event.
- Line items included: venue, menu and bar, transportation, DJ, AV, and photo booth rental, consistent with the past several years.
- They noted two changes compared to last year:
 - Transportation costs were cut roughly in half.
 - Ticket prices were increased by \$5, with a subsidized option for students who cannot afford full price.
- Venue costs were estimated at around \$13,000 based on quotes from several venues. One recent venue quote was about \$16,000, including custodial, security, linens, tables, etc.
- Food and bar (heavy hors d'oeuvres / buffet style) were cost using last year's budget plus a 3 percent inflation assumption.
- They reported that last year SGFC funded approximately \$12,000 of the event.

Q&A:

- Caitlin asked why the venue cost is ~\$3,000 higher than last year.
 - AMSA explained that last year's venue benefitted from a vendor discount.
- Caitlin asked if they could separate food vs drink costs.
 - AMSA said that catering quotes often come as a package with minimums, making it difficult to break out per-person costs; the majority of the food/bar line is food. They estimated roughly 70 percent of that line is food.
- Fred asked what "DJ and AV" included.
 - AMSA said venue AV is being rented in addition to the DJ fee, and the budget assumes the DJ does not provide their own AV equipment.

- Fred asked if a DJ was necessary.
 - AMSA responded that the formal traditionally has a DJ and dance floor, and that students, faculty, and staff have appreciated that element in prior years.
- Fred asked whether alcohol would be served.
 - AMSA said yes, there would be an open beer and wine bar, and attendance is limited to individuals 21 and over in Pritzker and the broader BSD.
- Addison asked where they source the DJ.
 - They said they used a recommendation from last year's DJ and booked through social media.
- Kevin asked if this event has historically been funded by SGFC.
 - AMSA confirmed that it has, around \$12,000 last year.

Deliberation:

- Caitlin noted that because the event is restricted to those 21 and older, it is not open to all students, which creates an issue under SGFC guidelines.
- There was discussion of whether this event should be primarily funded by Pritzker/the hospital rather than SGFC, given that it mainly serves medical school students and BSD affiliates.
- Some members mentioned that catering and some costs could be cost guided and reduced, but there was still concern about openness and alcohol.

Motion:

- Kevin moved to defer consideration of AMSA's request to the following week.
- Addison seconded.
- Result: Motion passed; request deferred.

Arab Student Association

Presentation:

- Requesting \$305 for an event called "Kanafeh Karaoke."
- Event plan: serve kanafeh (traditional Middle Eastern dessert) and host karaoke featuring Arabic and other music, open to Arabs and non-Arabs, focused on celebrating Arab culture and building community.
- Current RSO balance: \$1,850, but they stated that all of these funds are already allocated to upcoming events, and they project a deficit of about \$350 by the end of the year without additional funding.

Q&A:

- Addison asked whether the food was considered dinner.
 - They clarified it is dessert-only.
- Kevin asked, given their projected deficit, whether they planned to seek other sources of funding.
 - They said they planned to do fundraising to help cover their other events.

Deliberation:

- The committee discussed applying the cost guide for food and utensils, rather than fully funding the raw amount requested.

Motion:

- Kevin moved to fund \$204 for the event, based on cost-guided food and utensils.
- Motion seconded by Grace.
- Result: Motion passes.

JGrads Chabad

Presentation:

- Requesting funding for three events:
 - Jewish Law and Medicine lecture (speaker addressing medicine from a Jewish law perspective).
 - Second speaker event on contemporary international issues.
 - Pre-Chanukah Chanukiah-Making Workshop.
- For the speaker events, they plan to bring in outside speakers.
- For the workshop, they plan to provide materials for participants to build their own chanukiah (Hanukkah menorah).

Q&A:

- Fred asked where the speakers would be staying.
 - They responded that the speakers would stay with people around.
- Grace asked how they estimated the expected attendance of 40.
 - They said it was based on attendance at past events of this type.
- Kevin asked how past speakers were compensated.
 - They said speakers were often paid by sponsors rather than the RSO budget.
- Kevin asked why sponsors were not covering these speakers now.
 - They responded that they might still be able to ask sponsors.
- Caitlin asked whether they had done fundraising.
 - They said they had fundraised for the Pre-Chanukah Chanukiah-Making Workshop.
- Fred noted that the speaker fees would need to be cost guided under SGFC guidelines.
- Kevin asked whether the chanukiah-making kits should be treated as giveaways.

Deliberation and Motions:

Jewish Medical Ethics:

Kevin motion to fund them \$948.96

Seconded by Addison

Result: Motion passes

Jewish Law Lecture:

- Discussion about cost guiding speaker fee and ensuring alignment with SGFC speaker cost guidelines.
- Motion: Kevin moved to fund \$883.96 for the Jewish Law lecture, subject to relevant cost guidelines.
- Seconded by Addison.
- Result: Motion passes.

Pre-Chanukah Chanukiah-Making Workshop:

- Discussion about kit costs and whether they fall within material vs giveaway rules.
- Motion: Kevin moved to fund \$702.50 for the Pre-Chanukah Chanukiah-Making Workshop.
- Seconded by Addison.
- Result: Motion passes.

The Glass Eyeball

Presentation:

- Requesting funding for darkroom chemicals for the Ida Noyes darkroom, which is being set up for use.
- Line items for chemicals (developers, etc.) are listed at \$20 each, reflecting an average cost across different products and vendors.

Q&A:

- Kevin asked why all costs were listed as exactly \$20.
 - They responded that \$20 is the approximate average cost of the different chemicals.
- Fred asked to confirm these were chemical purchases.
 - They confirmed these were developers and related chemicals required to process film.
- Caitlin asked whether the request was for developing film in the RSO's darkroom.
 - They said yes, the supplies are for film development in the Ida Noyes darkroom.

Deliberation:

- Kevin said their existing RSO balance needs to be subtracted to be in line with funding guidelines.

Motion:

- Kevin moved to fund the request minus the RSO's existing balance which is \$184.43.
- Addison seconded.
- Result: Motion passes.

Edge Entrepreneurship, Hong Kong Students Association, Pakistan Students Association

Presentation:

- These organizations submitted requests but did not show. Given that their event was happening soon, the committee decided based on their request application.

Deliberation and Motion:

- Kevin moved to not fund these requests on the basis that they were not SGFC timeline
- Addison seconded.
- Result: Motion passes

UChicago Space Program

Presentation:

- Request submitted asking for funding for UCSP Rocketry launch with Indiana Rocketry on 11/30.

Deliberation and Motion:

The committee discussed that this RSO has over 100K in their account and that their reason for this request does not make sense. Fred also mentioned that this seems like a self-funded RSO

- Liya moved to not fund the request, stating that the justification for denying funding was unanimous among committee members.
- Kevin seconded.
- Result: Motion passes.