

Pandemic-Related GPSAFC Funding Policies for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Updated: August 16, 2022

All line number references are to the current GPSAFC Funding Guidelines and indicate a part of the existing guidelines that will be superseded by the Pandemic-Related Funding Policies during the 2022-2023 academic year. Justifications are provided to explain why policies are necessary and/or beneficial; however, the justifications do not constitute official GPSAFC policy.

1. In-person events must adhere to the most recent Cornell University COVID-19 Guidelines for Meetings and Events (<https://scl.cornell.edu/get-involved/campus-events/covid-19-guidelinesmeetings-events>) regarding number of attendees, food, drink, mask policies, etc. These guidelines are subject to change throughout the academic year and student orgs must be aware of them before hosting events.

2. Groups should follow the University guidelines for food and alcohol distribution at events: <https://covid.cornell.edu/events/>.

3. All in-person events must occur on campus or on auxiliary Cornell properties. GPSAFC-funded virtual events are **allowed** and encouraged, and students may participate from anywhere in the world. However, off campus in-person events are still governed by section II.10 (line 73).

Justification: Virtual events allow participation from the whole Cornell community, even those who are learning remotely this semester or quarantining at the time of the event.

4. Groups will be allowed to send, mail, or deliver “kits” of supplies for virtual activities (e.g., yarn for a craft night) that will be allowed to remain permanently with members (line 209), unlike groups’ durable goods (line 169). Individually packaged “kits” can also be made available for pickup at a central location on campus.

Justification: “Kits” will allow groups to host a wide range of hands-on events virtually.

5. Groups will be allowed to pay for postage (line 203), as well as office supplies related to sending mail (line 198).

Justification: This will allow groups to set up pen pals at other universities, nursing homes, etc.; and keep up with group members who are located in another US state or internationally. It will also allow for the sending of “kits” by mail if necessary.

6. The honorarium cap will increase to 1000 USD per speaker per group, from 500 USD (line 230).

Justification: As groups have been somewhat limited over the past two years in terms of what events are feasible, this will allow groups to spend more of their money on speaker honoraria. Groups will also be encouraged to co-sponsor speakers.

7. Groups will be permitted to send “kits” with non-perishable food ingredients or non-perishable food to event participants via delivery; individually packaged non-perishable food can also be made available for pickup on campus. The food must be a part of an organization’s virtual event, i.e. a group cannot buy food simply for the sake of giving its members free food; there must be an associated virtual event that participants attend that is open to the entire Cornell graduate and professional community. Event registration can be capped if necessary. (line 524). The food must be purchased online.

Justification: Food is an integral part of many graduate and professional groups’ activities. It contributes to cultural and regional identities, promotes social bonding, and can create a sense of a “special occasion”. Due to Cornell Risk Management guidelines and other regulations, food must be non-perishable, must be purchased online, and can only be purchased for virtual (i.e. not in-person) events.