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**PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**

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**BILL No. FA25-B001**

**Establishing Minimum Funding Thresholds for  
GRAC Awards**

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**Author(s):** Sukesh Ranganathan (Treasurer, PGSG)  
**Sponsor(s):** Varshitha Yalamanchili, Engineering Technology

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**WHEREAS**, the Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG) is funded by the Graduate Student Activity Fee, and therefore has a responsibility to ensure that allocations meaningfully benefit the graduate student body that contributes these funds<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the PGSG Grant Review and Allocation Committee (GRAC) currently maintains a minimum funding policy of 25% of the requested amount for grant awardees; and

**WHEREAS**, this approach has, in practice, resulted in award amounts as low as \$33 or \$50, which risks diminishing the perceived value of the applicant's research and undermining the credibility of PGSG's grants program (Exhibit "A"); and

**WHEREAS**, other campus funding bodies, such as the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars (OGSPS), maintain a minimum award standard of \$300 for travel grants<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in practice, students who receive these minimal award amounts frequently decline or reject the award offers, leading to unnecessary administrative work for both PGSG and applicants; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/treasurer/finance/bursar-office/tuition/fee-rates-2025-2026/student-fee-rates-footnotes-2025-2026/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/academics/ogsps/fellowship/funding-resources-for-students/grants/gs-managed-travel-grants.html>

**WHEREAS**, establishing a reasonable minimum threshold would enhance the integrity of PGSG’s grants program and ensure equitable treatment of applicants; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued issuance of disproportionately low award amounts poses an immediate risk to the credibility and operational effectiveness of PGSG’s grants program, creating administrative inefficiencies and reputational harm that require urgent correction prior to the next funding cycle;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, That PGSG establish a baseline award amount for grants administered through GRAC as follows:

- Travel Grants: \$300
- Other Grants: \$200 or 25% of the requested amount, whichever is higher.
- If the requested amount is less than or equal to \$300 for the Travel Grant and \$200 for other grants, a minimum of 50% of the requested amount shall be awarded.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That in cases where the GRAC budget is insufficient or where applicants receive scores too low to justify a minimum award, no award shall be issued, and the applicant will be encouraged to strengthen their proposal and reapply in a subsequent cycle.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That these minimum thresholds be applied beginning in the current fiscal year, and that GRAC shall update its internal policies and applicant communications to reflect these changes.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ENACTED** 8<sup>th</sup> day of *October* 2025.

Signed by:  
**Shalom Kpetsu**  
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Shalom Kpetsu  
President, PGSG

Signed by:  
*Ethan Johnson*  
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Ethan Johnson  
Senate Chair, PGSS

Signed by:  
*Ayooluwa Ojo*  
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Ayooluwa Ojo  
Parliamentarian, PGSG

Signed by:  
*Sukesh Ranganathan Ranganathan*  
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Sukesh Ranganathan  
Treasurer, PGSG

Signed by:  
*Varshitha Yalamanchili*  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Varshitha Yalamanchili,  
Senator for Engineering Technology

## **Certification**

I, Abigayl Novak, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of *October* 2025 by the following vote:

**AYES (32):** Aeronautics and Astronautics - Don-Terry Veal  
Agricultural & Biological Engineering - Autumn Denny  
Agricultural Economics - Kavitha Srikanth  
Anthropology - Heidi Cooke  
Biochemistry - Jacob Czaicki  
Black Cultural Center - Victoria Parker  
Botany & Plant Pathology - Jean Paul Iyakaremeye  
Chemistry - Anusha  
Civil Engineering - Chandra Vikas Thipirishetty  
Communication - Gladys Mana Momade  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine - Maya Fulton  
Ecological Sciences and Engineering - Jayvaughn Peter  
Economics - Zachary Knepper  
Electrical and Computer Engineering (Indianapolis) - Haylie Rayl  
Engineering Education - Udeme Idem  
Engineering Technology - Varshitha Yalamanchili  
English - Sidney Ducleroir  
Food Science - Lauren Yepes  
Health and Kinesiology - Ivan Bobadilla  
Horticultural & Landscape Architecture - Grace Lentz  
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Kasey Paige Riha  
Industrial and Molecular Pharmaceutics - Neha Panchabhai  
Industrial Engineering - Pragathi Jha  
Languages and Cultures - Nafiu Olayiwola Oloore  
Linguistics - Zeyu Feng  
Materials Engineering - Jasmyne Emerson  
Mathematics - Geoffrey Baring  
Mechanical Engineering (West Lafayette) - Chathusha Punchi  
Wedikkara  
Native American Educational and Cultural Center - Alyssa Nez

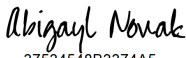
Nursing - Christelle Altidor  
Physics and Astronomy - Lindsay Michelle Dawson  
Sociology - Sean Boylan

**NAYS (4):** Agronomy - Jude Addo-Chidie  
Biomedical Engineering (West Lafayette) - Sushma Gude  
Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences - Sam Harris  
Theatre & Dance - Tatyanna Rodriguez

**ABSENT (14):** Agricultural Science Education and Communication - Kwabena Bayity  
Applied and Creative Computing (West Lafayette) - Khalil El Breidi  
Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center - Nguyen Le  
Chemical Engineering - Katherine Leigh Young  
Curriculum & Instruction - Maria Regina Jaga  
Educational Studies - Fangfang Mo  
Health Sciences - Esraa Gabal  
History - Srishti Dutta Chowdhury  
Nuclear Engineering - Jonah Lau  
Nutrition Science - Pius Sarfo Buobu  
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) -  
Emmanuel Oluwarotimi  
Statistics - Nikola Draganic  
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Oluwabanmi T. Oladele

**ABSTAINED (7):** Biological Sciences - Ayomide Olohigbe Unuigbokhai  
Computer Science - Harry Tian  
Entomology - Hira Poudel  
Forestry & Natural Resources - Jean Fritz Saint Preux  
Human Development and Family Studies - Sybil Cutler  
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences - Danielle Ahwireng  
Management - Chiran Kodippili

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> day of *October*  
2025.

DocuSigned by:  
  
37534548B3374A5...  
Abigayl Novak  
Senate Clerk, PGSS

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**SAMPLE OF AMOUNTS AWARDED FOR PGSG GRANTS**

[SEE ATTACHED TWO (2) PAGES]



**Small Research Grant:**

B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Applicant #	Total Score	Amount Requested	Penalty	First Name	Last Name	\$ Received
1	42.38	\$700.00				\$350.00
2	44.35	\$750.00				\$525.00
3	43.87	\$715.00				\$357.50
4	40.35	\$750.00				\$375.00
5	43.38	\$717.96				\$358.98
6	34.81	\$264.00				\$33.00