Bill # 73-26

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)**

**The Pennsylvania State University**

****

**of the 73rd Assembly**

February 21, 2024

*Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,*

**Pan-African Professional Alliance Co-Sponsorship**

**Funding for Pan-African Professional Alliance 7th Annual Conference**

(Decided: [ Y ])

**Nature of the Situation:**

Pan-APA is a student-run organization for graduate students at Penn State that seeks to foster connections between Africa and the diaspora, provide opportunities for international students to integrate into the university community, and support the professional and academic development of its members. To achieve their mission, they organize various events and activities including an annual conference where they discuss issues relevant to Africa and the African Diaspora and actively engage in the solutions building process.

The 7th Annual conference scheduled for **April 13th, 2024**, has been themed *“The African Renaissance: Leveraging Tradition for Global Innovation, and Sustainability”*. This year’s conference will have a cultural night segment, sub-themed – African Night, where Africa’s rich cultural heritage (food, clothing, and language) will be highlighted across the University Park campus and a competition about details about Africa and relationships across the globe will be held. The main conference spotlights the vital connection between tradition, innovation, and sustainability, with a special focus on the indispensable role of Africa's youth. Pan-APA intends to unite thought leaders, young visionaries, scholars, and cultural enthusiasts to discuss the dynamics of tradition and a progressive Africa with the objective of creating an idea where youths leverage on lessons from the past towards economic development, cultural preservation and nurturing sustainable development.

Pan-APA is expecting the conference to be a dynamic and enlightening event where they will have speakers with expertise on development, panel discussions from various disciplines, and research presentations from graduate students.

The events will be advertised on Pan-APA social media pages, and websites. It will also be advertised through the Department of African Studies and Africana Research Center’s links. Poster advertisement at the HUB-Robeson Centre, and through Penn State Campus-wide Engagement Newsletter.

There is no cost to attend the event.

**Recommended Course of Action:**

The Graduate and Professional Student Association agrees to co-sponsor the Pan-APA 7th Annual Conference in the amount of $2000 for the conference lunch and African Night dinner.

An itemized budget is below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Store** | **Item** | **Price** | **Number of Items** | **Total** |
| Tasty Dishes | Lunch | 40 | 120 | 4800 |
|  | Lunch (delivery charge from vendor) | 300 | 1 | 300 |
| Tasty Dishes | African Night Event | 40 | 100 | 4000 |
|  | Pre-conference Dinner with Speaker/Advisor | 500 | 1 | 500 |
| Panera | Breakfast Conference | 800 | 1 | 800 |
|  | Speaker | 11400 | 1 | 11400 |
|  | Media & Entertainment | 4930 | 1 | 4930 |
|  | Service Items | 8811.97 | 1 | 8811.97 |
|  | Facility | 5022.71 | 1 | 5022.71 |

Total requested from GPSA: $2000

Total cost of event: $40564.68

Other requests:

* UPAC: Approved $20,074
* Global Programs: Approved $1000 for food
* Office of Educational Equity: Approved for $2500
* Africana Research Center: Funding for speakers
* Rock Institute: They have **not** received a decision on funding.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mary Ogidigben**

Delegate, College of Engineering

President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Affirm Veto

The Graduate and Professional Student Association