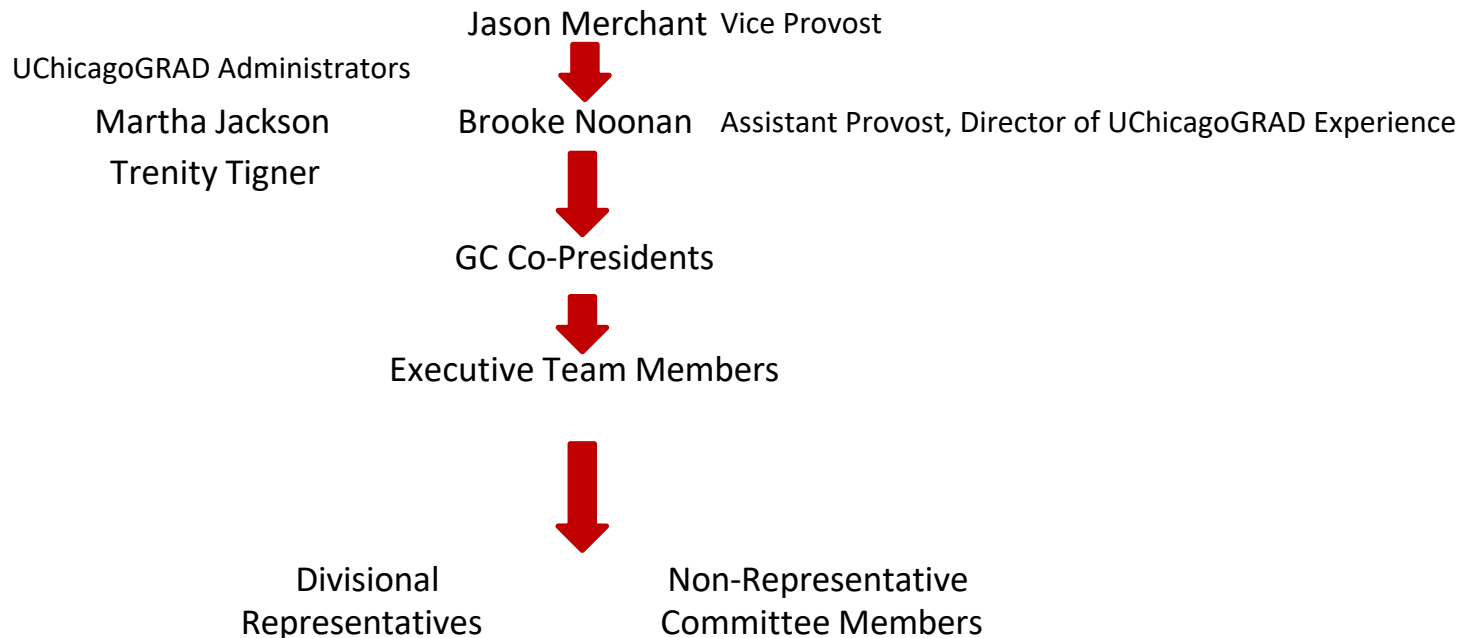


UChicago Graduate Council Annual Update 2021-2022



Graduate Council Structure



Graduate Council Executive Team Structure



Grace Schlesinger

Graduate Liaison to the Board of Trustees



Kimberly Liu

Graduate Council Co-President



Nikita Mehta

Graduate Council Co-President

Operations

Rebecca Delay

VP of Internal Affairs

Joseph Solis

VP of Marketing and Communications

Bishwa Pandey

Parliamentarian

Student Life

Olivia Pura

VP of Social Programming & Events

Jo Griffin

VP of Community Initiatives

Briana Banks

VP of Diversity & Inclusion

Joe Reda / Sophia Horigan

VP of Health and Wellness

Finance

Indranil Ghosh

VP of Research & Personal Development Fund

Zhengyuan Ling

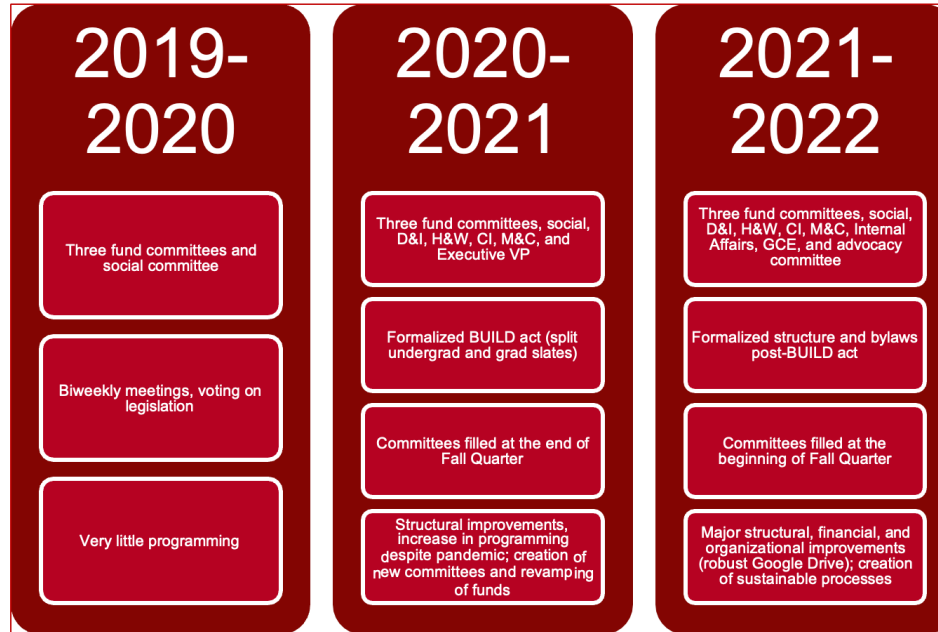
VP of Academic & Professional Fund

Rupan Bharanidaran

VP of Community, Social & Wellness Fund



Graduate Council Through the Years





2021-2022 Updates

- Keeping up with the demand for graduate student programming/services
 - Overcoming the ongoing challenges of communicating with divisions by creating new processes for disseminating information
 - Revamped M&C efforts
 - Launch of an International Graduate Student Advisory Board (IGSAB)
 - Safety and transportation response, survey, and analysis (report can be found on our website)
 - Major changes, improvements and updates to GC website (www.gc.uchicago.edu)
 - Opportunity to formalize structure after split of undergraduate and graduate student councils
-



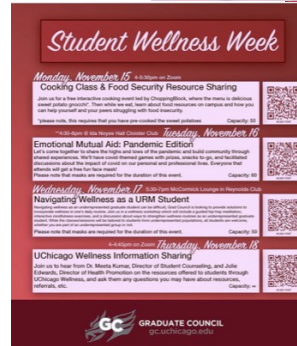
2021-2022 Updates

- Filled committees at the beginning of fall quarter
 - Include committee members (non-divisional representatives in GC meetings)
 - More hands-on mentorship/onboarding of divisional representatives and executive team members
 - More intra-GCbonding events
-



Non-Exhaustive Event List 2021-2022

- Fire and Ice
- Fall Quarter Grad Gala
- Activity Circles
- All-Grad Families
- Winter Quarter Rock Bottom Social
- Spring Quarter MSI Gala
- Plant Distribution Diva Cup Distribution
- Juneteenth Series of Events
- D&I Book Distribution
- Food security programming
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Funds – A&P, CSW, and RPD



Product pick-up information has been sent to everyone who signed up to receive a free DivaCup or GladRag



Graduate Liaison to Board of Trustees



Three Student Perspectives Series (“SPS”) Meetings:

Topics are proposed by the graduate and undergraduate liaisons to the board of trustees, who then each select 3 - 4 students to join these conversations.

- Fall 2021: State of student mental health and wellbeing at the University
- Winter 2022: Safety and Transportation on Campus
- Spring 2022: Size of the College and the quality of undergraduate and graduate education

Two Student-Trustee Luncheons:

Each luncheon is planned with 30 students total in attendance - 20 selected from the graduate schools and 10 selected from the college

- Tuesday, May 3 2022: **Craig J. Duchossois and Ashley D. Joyce**
 - Tuesday, May 24 2022: **Emily Nicklin**
-

Representatives, Vote Distribution and Budget



Division	Students	GC Seats
Booth	1339	4
PSD	1191	4
SSD	1144	4
Harris	959	3
Humanities	738	3
Law	657	3
Graham	496	2
BSD	442	2
Crown	412	2
Pritzker	406	2
Divinity	258	2
PME	193	2
Total	8235	33

Fund	Allocation '21-22
Research & Personal Development Fund	\$130,000
Academic & Professional Fund	\$70,000
Culture, Social, & Wellness Fund	\$70,000
Social Programming & Events	\$140,000
Community Initiatives	\$26,500.00
Diversity & Inclusion	\$26,500.00
Health & Wellness	\$26,500.00
Admin	\$21,000.00
Total	\$510,500

Internal Affairs

Purpose

Internal Affairs works to build intra-GC community, keep updated spreadsheets for GC membership, assist in the dissemination of policy and benchmarks.

Responsibilities

The VP is responsible for facilitating communication and data sharing with divisional student governments and serving as Parliamentarian at all GC meetings and GC Exec meetings or securing replacement in advance in the event of absence.

Initiatives

Fostering and Building a community within Graduate Council with a positive energy and wide array of icebreakers and games, including a Grad Council / International House Social Mixer.



Internal Affairs Budget

Fall -

- GC Meetings - \$2,475.67

Winter

- GC Meetings - \$888.39
- Gifts/Office Supplies - \$526.27

Spring

- GC Meetings (current) - \$446.04
 - Two more meeting to be held 5/10 and 5/24
- GC/I-House Social - \$1,314.12

Marketing & Communications

Purpose

To advertise Graduate Council's work and the brand itself to the general graduate student body

Responsibilities


Promote GC programming
Weekly Mass Communications
Strengthen GC's brand
Social Media maintenance
Website maintenance

Initiatives

- Weekly newsletter distributed to all graduate students
 - Establish new partnerships with stakeholders on campus to increase our reach
 - Publish success stories covering previous events and award recipients to increase interest in future events and funding applications
-


Weekly Newsletter

A weekly newsletter system was established to reach all graduate students. The newsletter features GC programming, division-specific events, partners' events and job opportunities.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
GRADUATE COUNCIL

Graduate Council's Weekly Newsletter

jjsolis@uchicago.edu [Switch account](#) 

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Your email is not part of your response.

Please select one of the following options:

I'm affiliated to UChicago (student, staff, org, etc)

I'm a potential employer

[Next](#) [Clear form](#)



GRADUATE COUNCIL
gc.uchicago.edu

This week's highlights:

- Earth Day Events
- Funding Available
- International Graduate Student Survey



UCSC Earth Day Panel
April 22 | 12 – 2 p.m. | [Register](#)

Please join UCSC as we hear from a dynamic panel of leaders in environmental justice, discussing themes of community, sustainability, and collaboration. This invigorating, interactive experience is designed to help you gain insight into being an active stakeholder in the Chicagoland area. Panelists will be announced soon. Lunch will be provided.



Earth Day of Service: UCSC Invests in Chicago
April 23 | 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | [Register](#)

Do you want an opportunity to have a positive impact on a Chicago community? Here's your chance! Join us on Saturday, April 23 as UCSC ventures out and works side-by-side with game-changing organizations right here in our own backyard. You can learn about and contribute to a mission-driven organization, and find out how they are fostering growth on the South Side. The first 150 RSVPs receive a FREE shirt.

Success Stories

The marketing committee created and published success stories on the graduate council's website, which illustrated the initiatives from different organizations and individuals that received funding from the Council.



LAW SCHOOL STUDENT ESERHAN ESER ATTENDS "THE MIDWESTERN LAW & ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE" (R&D FUND RECIPIENT)

Eserhan Eser, First year JSD Candidate at the University of Chicago Law School applied to the Research and Personal Development Fund for an academic conference in October, The Midwestern Law & Economics Association Annual Conference where he presented a paper about Intertia in

LATEST NEWS



ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL FUND SUPPORTS THE 57TH CHICAGO LINGUISTIC SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The UChicago Grad Council's Academic and Professional Fund helped the 57th Chicago Linguistic Society Conference. The event was hosted by the Chicago Linguistics Society, we are an RSO connected to the linguistics department. This RSO is mostly focused on hosting a big yearly conference on linguistics with scholars, from all over the

GRADUATE COUNCIL



Q&A with an Academic and Professional Fund Recipient: Aurora Martinez del Rio with the Chicago Linguistics Society, Department of Linguistics

Q: What was the event that your organization used A & P funding for?

A: The event was hosted by the Chicago Linguistics Society, we are an RSO connected to the linguistics department. This RSO is mostly focused on hosting a big yearly conference on linguistics with scholars, from all over the world presenting and it sets a venue for graduate students and even undergrads to go an engage with new research in the field. It was three days of talks, so we had invited speakers that were all big names in their field to come give presentations, typical conference talks and social meetings for students to come together and have a discourse about their own research and interests.

Q: What did the A&P help fund for this?

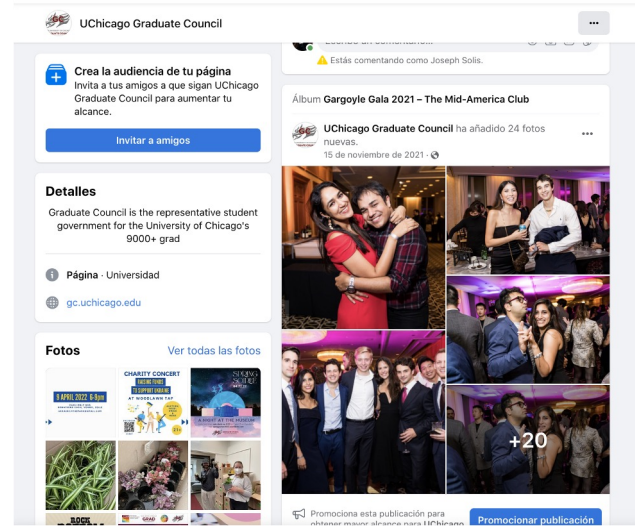
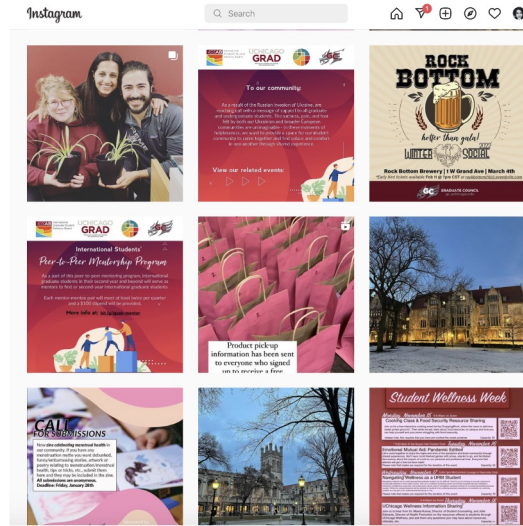
A: The event was online last year so we used the A & P funding to pay to make the event maximally accessible for anyone that wanted to come so the funding went to cover the cost of interpretation from English to ASL. We had more than 300 total attendees to the virtual event and many people could come because it was fully accessible. We run this conference annually but this is the first time that we utilized this source of funding. Interpretation is wildly expensive so it was great to have access to the A&P fund.

Q: How did you hear about the fund?

A: I heard about it from another graduate student that had previously received funding from the graduate council.

Social Media Content

Through powerful visuals, events were constantly promoted on our social media outlets, leveraging some of their user experience capabilities such as highlights and stories. To diversify the content, we also included campus photography courtesy of current committee members.



Academic & Professional Fund

Budget: \$60,000

Purpose

The A&P Fund supports student-led programming for academic and professional development - such as conferences, guest lectures, discussion groups, and academic socials

Responsibilities

- Disburse a \$60,000 budget for student-led programming
- Utilize the system for individual reimbursements for small purchases
- Organize and launch interdisciplinary academic initiatives
- Coordinate finance operations required to process reimbursements and payments

Initiatives

- **Individual Reimbursement Process:**
 - 50 events, 760 attendees, \$45,000 disbursed
- **Winter Graduate Academic Socials:**
 - 20 events, 310+ attendees
- **Computational Skills Training Initiative:** 150 attendees.
- **[Upcoming] Grammarly Premium** for >1,000 students
- **[Upcoming] Headspace Premium** for >500 students (in collaboration with H&W)

Academic & Professional Development Fund



Student-led programming

Events funded included conferences, guest lectures, writing groups, and networking events

- Events: 15
- Participants: 3,000+
- Disbursed amount: \$23,000+

Graduate Academic Socials

Funding for food or books for people to virtually or in-person spend time with colleagues in academic and professional units in a more relaxed setting

- Events: 15
- Participants: 310+
- Disbursed amount: \$5,000+

Computational Skills Training Initiative (ongoing)

Python Course on EdX: \$15,000
Professional Instructor Compensation (for hosting office hours and customized lectures; all instructors are UChicago grad students): \$5,000

- Participants: 150
- Instructors: 6
- Disbursed amount: \$15,000 + \$5,000

Academic & Professional Development Fund



Fall

- Slow start due to in-person transitioning; 2 out of 2 applications approved (distributed \$2,160)

Winter

- Graduate Academic Socials: 21 out of 39 applications approved (unapproved applicants referred to CSW Fund for better matching)
- 11 out of 15 of applications approved (distributed \$16,825)

Spring

- (ongoing review) 2 out of 4 of applications approved (distributed \$4,000)
- Computational Skills Training Initiative:
 - Guided Python Course, 150+ participants, 6 instructors, \$20,000.
- Grammarly Premium membership **[upcoming]: 1,000 students, \$7,000**
- Headspace Premium membership **[upcoming]: 500 students, \$4,500** (\$2,500 from H&W)

Summary

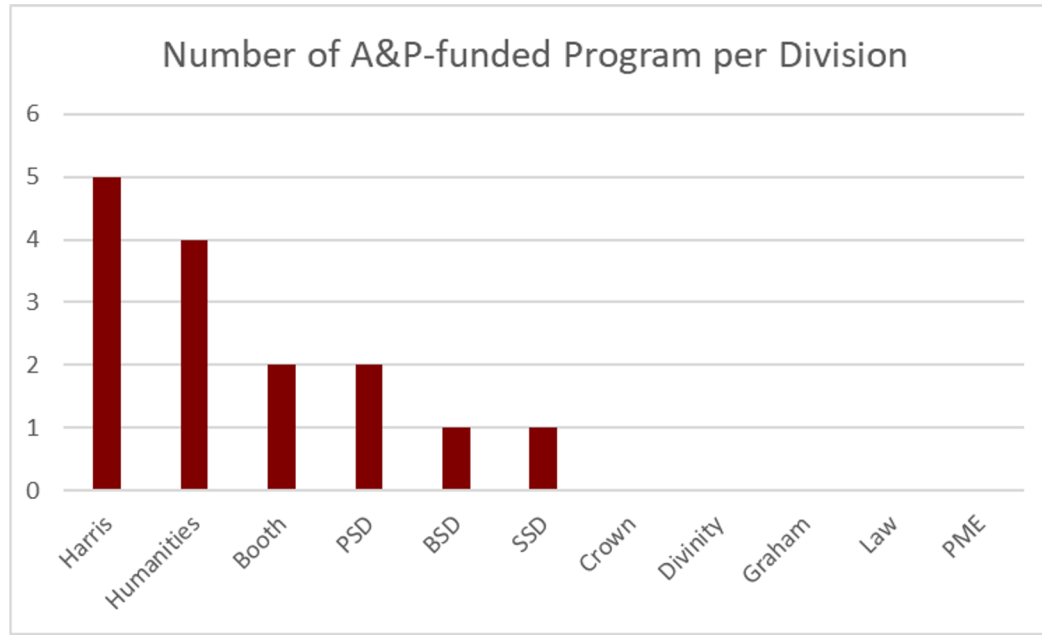
Total funds disbursed: \$56,985

Remaining funds: \$60,000 - \$56,985 = \$3,015

Final Date to Apply: May 23, 2022

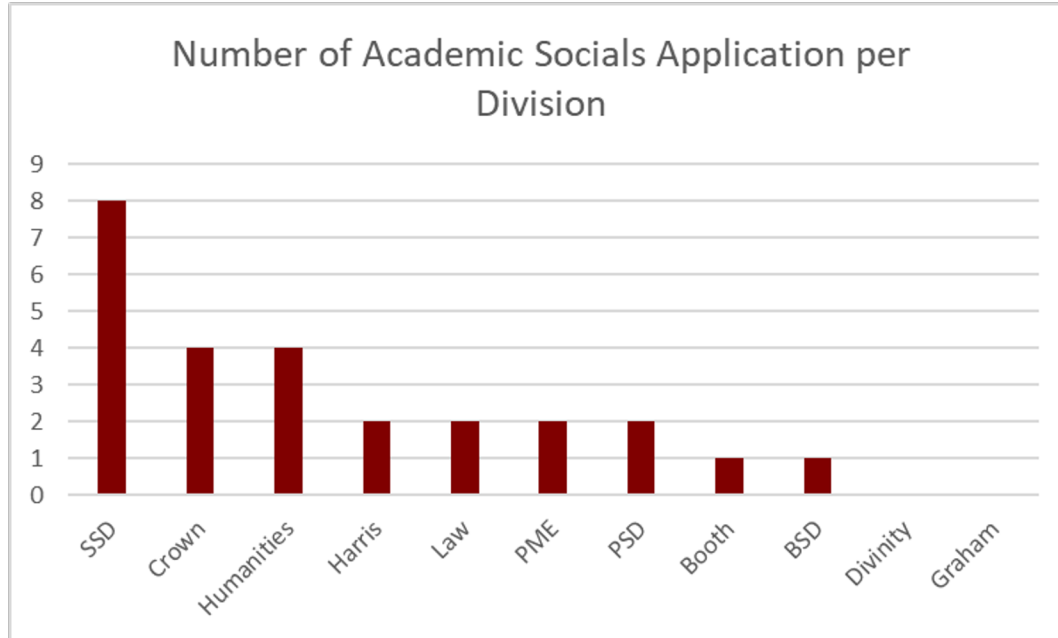


A&P Fund: General Event Applications

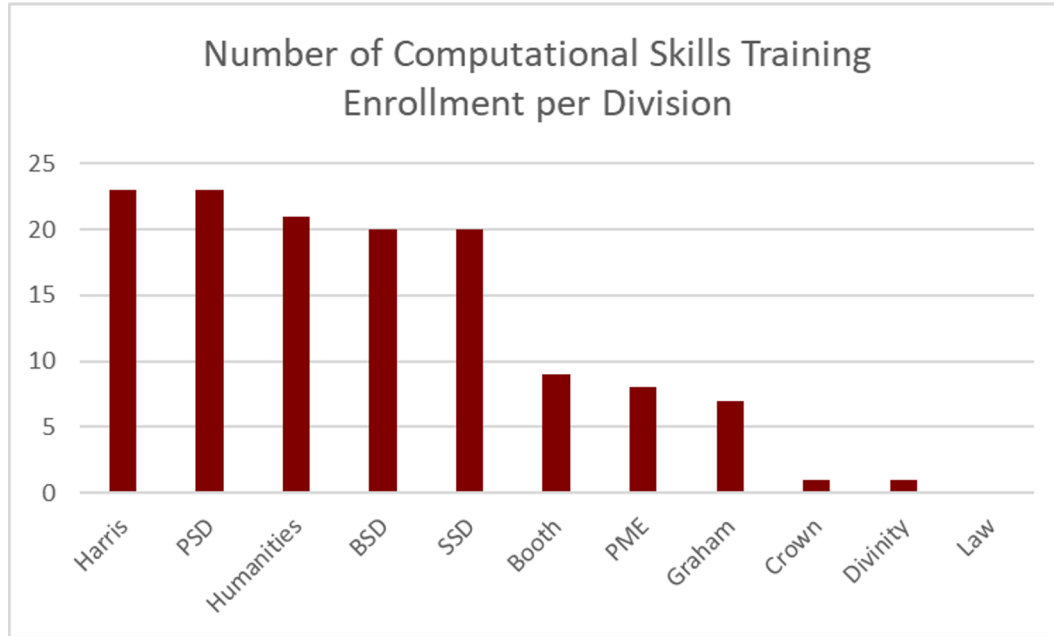


95% of A&P-funded events this year were open to more than one graduate division

A&P Fund: Graduate Academic Social Applications



A&P Fund: Computational Skills Training Applications



Community, Social, & Wellness Fund

Budget: \$70,000

Purpose

The CSW Fund provides funding for graduate student groups and organizations at the University of Chicago to plan and host events and programming that promote community-building and wellness

Responsibilities

The CSW Fund serves graduate students as a source for community-building, social connection, and emotional support

This year provided a great opportunity to come up with new and creative ideas through strategic partnerships

Initiatives

Encourage collaboration between different graduate divisions on campus

Helped support initiatives led by the International Graduate Student Advisory Board and Diversity Advisory Board

Community, Social, & Wellness Fund



Fall

- **13 applications approved for \$22,410**
- Events included Diwali Night, a Latin American Thanksgiving celebration, and wellness initiatives including yoga and rock climbing
- CSW also supported the Social Impact Summit and provided funding for the International Graduate Student Advisory Board and Diversity Advisory Board

Winter

- **11 applications approved for \$17,271**
- Events included the graduate student blood drive competition, a lunar new year celebration, technology conference, wellness talks, and much more

Community, Social, & Wellness Fund



Spring

- **4 applications approved for \$8,513**
- Events include student softball league, CPR classes, Ramadan Iftar dinners, networking events, and graduation socials
- Helped support Grad Council's Spring Formal by subsidizing 100 additional tickets
- Three more funding deadlines this quarter, so we expect most of our funding to be used up by the end of the quarter

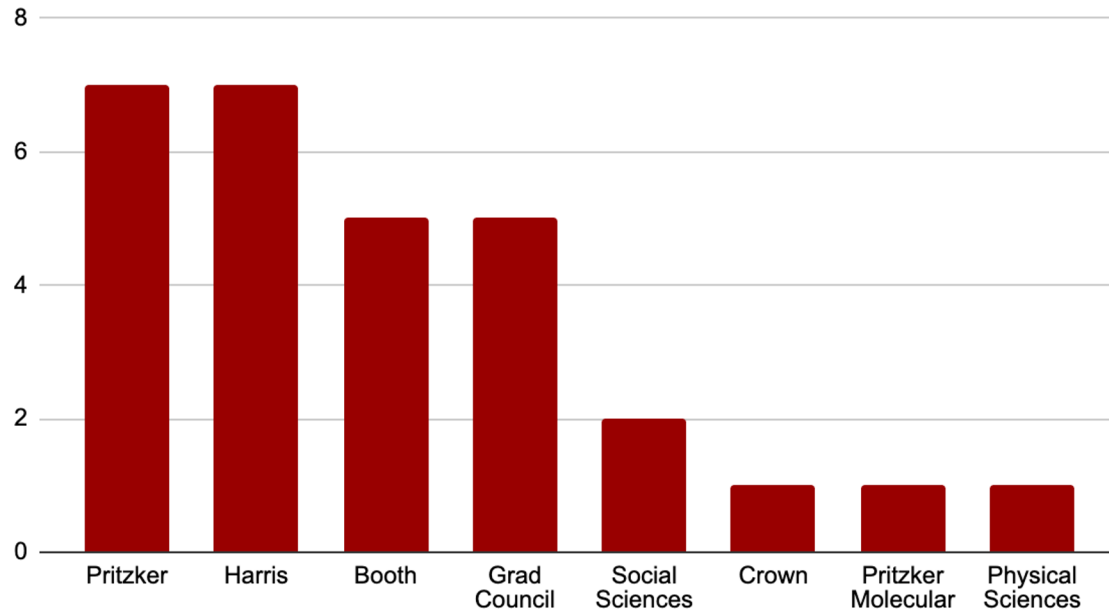
2021-2022 Academic Year

- **28 applications approved thus far for \$48,195 total funding (68% of CSW Fund budget)**

Community, Social, & Wellness Fund



Number of Approved Applications by Division



Research & Personal Development Fund

Budget: \$110,000

Purpose

This fund incorporated the personal development (PD) aspect at the onset of the pandemic. This year, travel restrictions were lifted and the fund operated to allow both travel and PD aspects.

Responsibilities

As COVID restrictions eased, the traveling aspect for research conferences were back in the scope of the fund. Also, research projects and internships were brought into the fold of the fund.

Research Fund:

- In-person and virtual conferences registration/attendance fees, membership fees.
- Traveling for research projects and internship.
- Food, airfare, car and gas, lodging for travel were covered, just like during pre-COVID.

Initiatives

Personal Development Fund:

- Online courses, certifications, or bootcamps for building a certain skill or generating knowledge
 - Licenses for research tools or software
 - Professional networking events
 - With these awards, we encouraged creativity and aimed to be flexible
-



Research & Personal Development Fund

- Budget: **\$110,000.**
- Max Values:
 - Research Awards (Travel): **\$600** if presenting, **\$300** if not.
 - Research Awards (Non-Travel): **\$300** if presenting, **\$200** if not.
 - Personal Development Awards: **\$300**
- **271 awards approved worth almost \$120,500 (Average Value = \$444.6)**



Research & Personal Development Fund

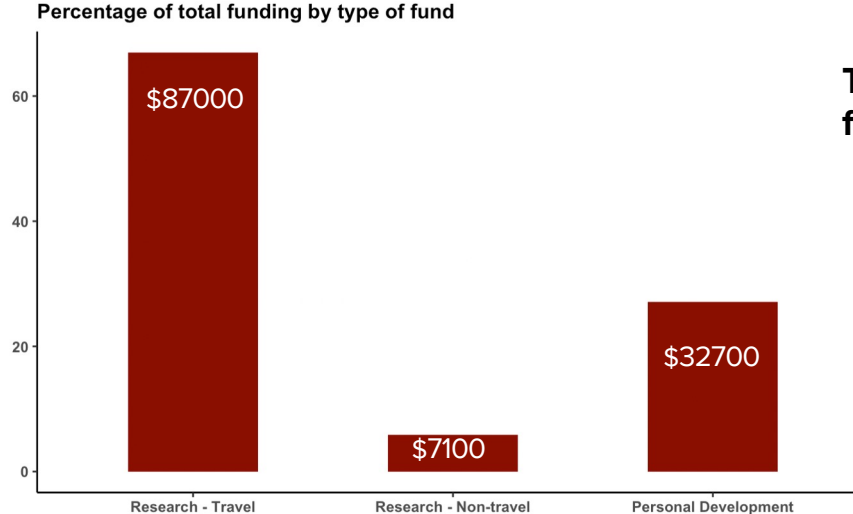
27th September to 15th April, 2022: (Budget: **\$110,000**)

Applications approved worth **\$120,500 (overshot budget)**

Reimbursements approved: **\$61,650 (much below budget).**

Plan on setting aside \$30,000 for the summer awards.

Total Approved	Total Rejected	Forfeited
271	33	9

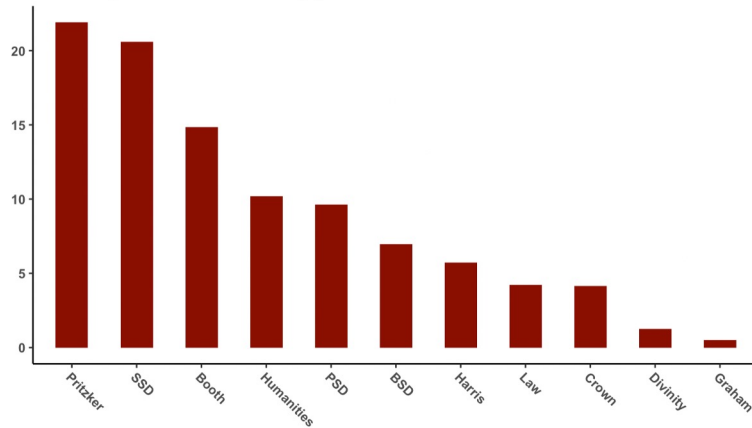


Travel continues to draw the most funding : *\$87,000*

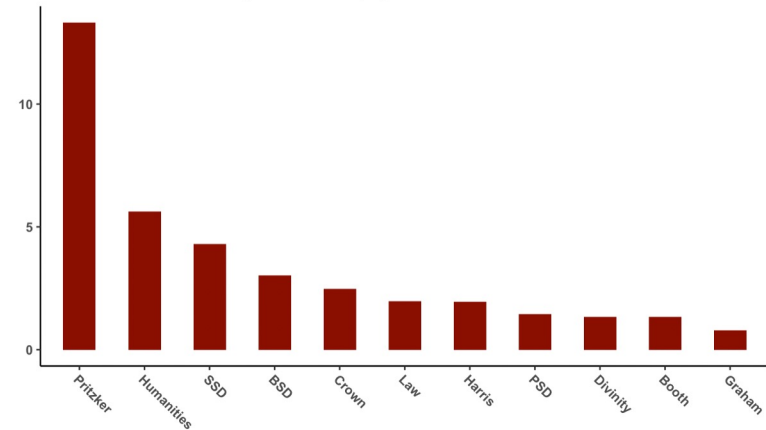


Research & Personal Development Fund

Percentage of funds awarded by graduate unit



Award winners as % of graduate unit population



- Pritzker (\$26,400) and SSD (\$24,800) received the most funds.
- Pritzker (13.3%), Humanities (5.6%), and SSD (4.31%) received the most awards as a percentage of their graduate unit population
- 2.61% University of Chicago graduate students have received RPD Funding in 2021-2022

Health & Wellness Committee

Budget: \$26,500

Purpose

The Health & Wellness Committee is committed to improving the wholistic wellness of graduate students by creating interactive programming and providing wellness-related resources.

Responsibilities

- Generate graduate student-wide wellness programming
 - Foster and utilize connections with existing wellness institutions across campus
 - Oversee a cross-division committee of students passionate about health & wellness
-

Initiatives

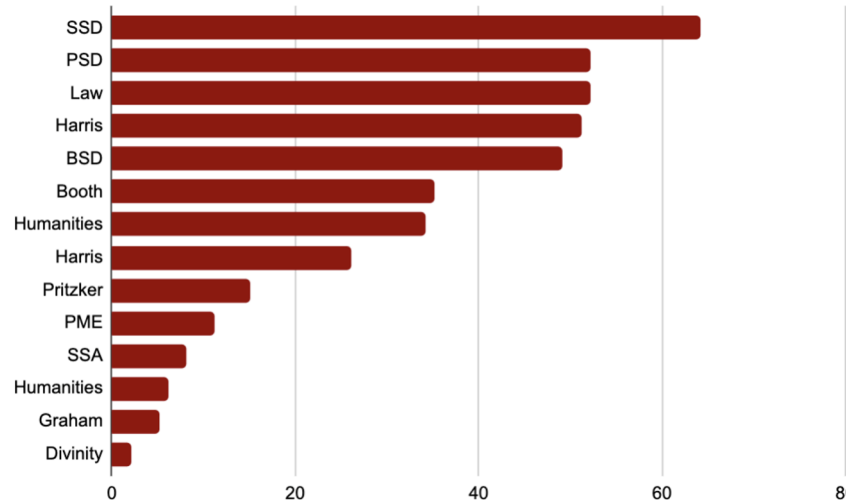
- **Physical Health**
 - Menstrual Health Initiative, Food Security Programming
 - **Mental/Emotional Health**
 - Plant Parents @ UChicago, Headspace, Emotional Mutual Aid
-



Menstrual Health Initiative



- **Free reusable menstrual products** for students
- Partnership with **DivaCup** and **GladRags**, including virtual employee-led training sessions



**Over 400
products
distributed**

Plant Parents @ UChicago



- **600 kits** included a **new plant**, a **decorative pot**, and a bright white **light bulb** that supports the student and the plant
- Partnership with **local nursery, Growers Outlet** for plant acquisition
- Distribution acquainted hundreds of students with the new **Graduate Student Lounge**
- Upcoming **repotting event** to take place **May 12th** on campus with distributed soil

Additional Programming



Food Security Panels

- Panel topics: **meal-prepping, local grocery stores, food security resources on campus**
- Free meal for students

Collaboration with **Center for Identity and Inclusion**

Emotional Mutual Aid

- Pandemic-themed **community emotional support** session with supervising psychologist from UChicago Counseling
- Similar event following loss of student last year discussing safety and anxiety around it
- Prizes, food, structured sharing

Collaboration with **UChicago Counseling**



Budget & Impact

Budget = \$26,500

Menstrual Health = \$6,000

Plant Parents = \$8,000

Food Panels = \$1,000

Emotional Mutual Aid = \$500

Committee Compensation = \$2,000

*Plant Repotting Event = \$2,500

*Headspace Memberships = \$2,500

*Additional Wellness Giveaways = \$4,000

Projected Total Spending = \$26,500

*upcoming events

**Total number of students
served = ~1100**

400 menstrual initiatives

600* plant parents

60 food programming

20 EMA

12 committee members

*Not including everyone who shares space with
new plant :)

Social Programming & Events

Budget: \$170,000

Purpose

The Social Programming & Events Committee is committed to growing campus-wide community by organizing and hosting large-scale events for UChicago graduate students.

Responsibilities

- Host at least one large-scale social event per quarter, open to students in all Divisions
 - Foster community across the entire graduate student body
 - Provide more affordable opportunities for both casual and semi-formal outings in the Chicago area
-

Initiatives

- **Gargoyle Gala**
 - 1,000 attendees, ~500 on waitlist
 - **Rock Bottom Social**
 - 1,000 attendees, ~300 on waitlist
 - **[Upcoming] Spring Soirée: Night at the Museum**
 - 1,684 attendees, ~650 on waitlist
-



Social Programming & Events (SP&E)

Fall - Gargoyle Gala

- **\$60,000** budget allocation
- **\$95,000** spent - **\$39,000** earned (ticket sales) = **\$56,000 net spent**

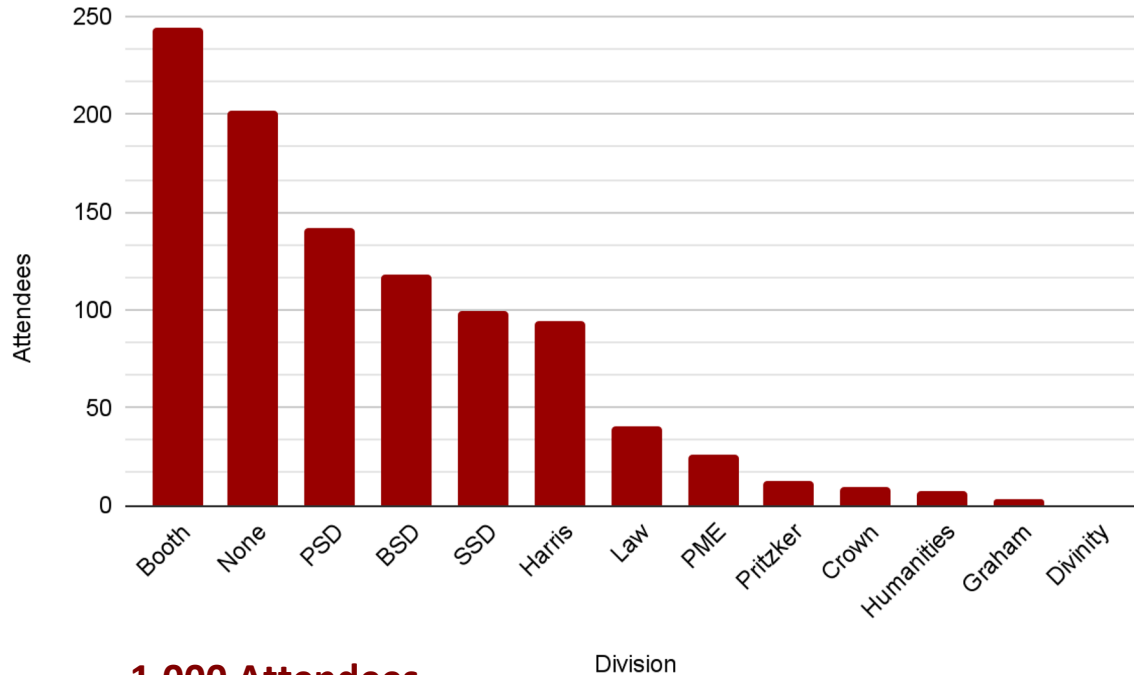
Winter - Rock Bottom Social

- **\$32,000** budget allocation
- **\$56,000** spent - **\$24,000** earned (ticket sales) = **\$32,000 net spent**
- Received \$30,000 total budget reallocation to accommodate high interest

Spring - Spring Soirée [UPCOMING]

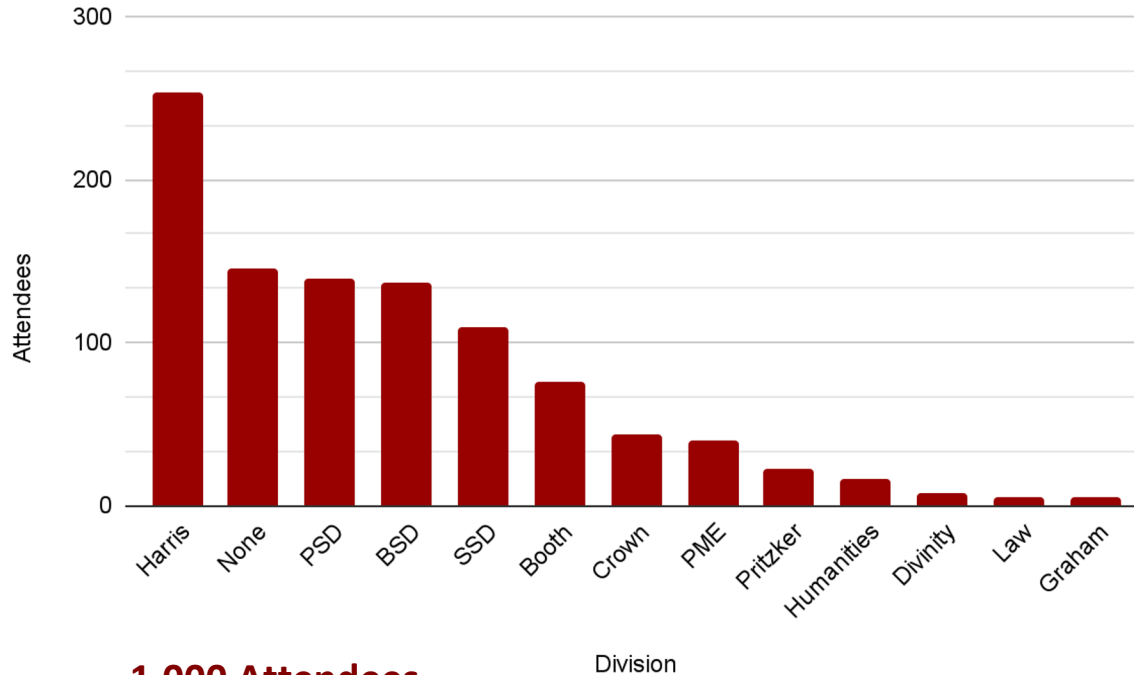
- **\$80,000** budget allocation
- Projected to remain within budget

SP&E - Gargoyle Gala Attendees by Division



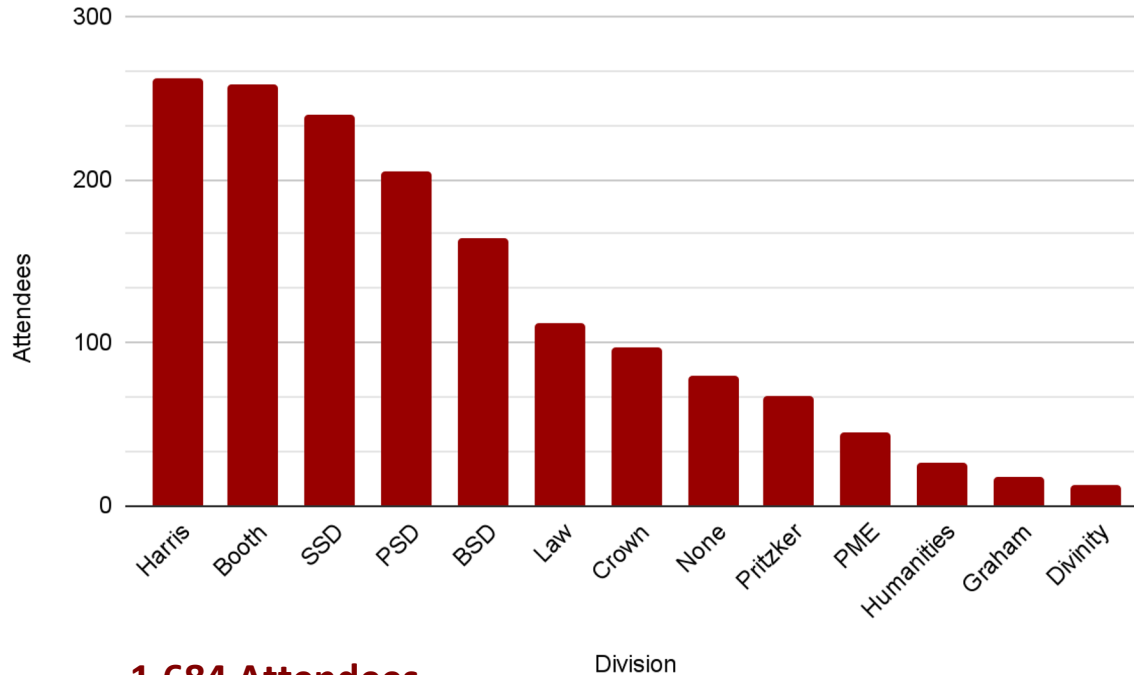
1,000 Attendees

SP&E - Rock Bottom Attendees by Division



1,000 Attendees

SP&E - Spring Soirée Attendees by Division



1,684 Attendees

SP&E in Photos



Community Initiatives

Budget: \$35,000

Purpose

Community Initiatives facilitates community building across the graduate student body with each other and with Chicago and Hyde Park.

Values

- Build connections with the surrounding nine neighborhoods
 - Prioritize investing in locally owned businesses
 - Connect students across divisions
-

Initiatives

- Kickstarted clubs which met consistently instead of only planning individual events
 - Prioritized investing in local businesses for food and supply purchases
-

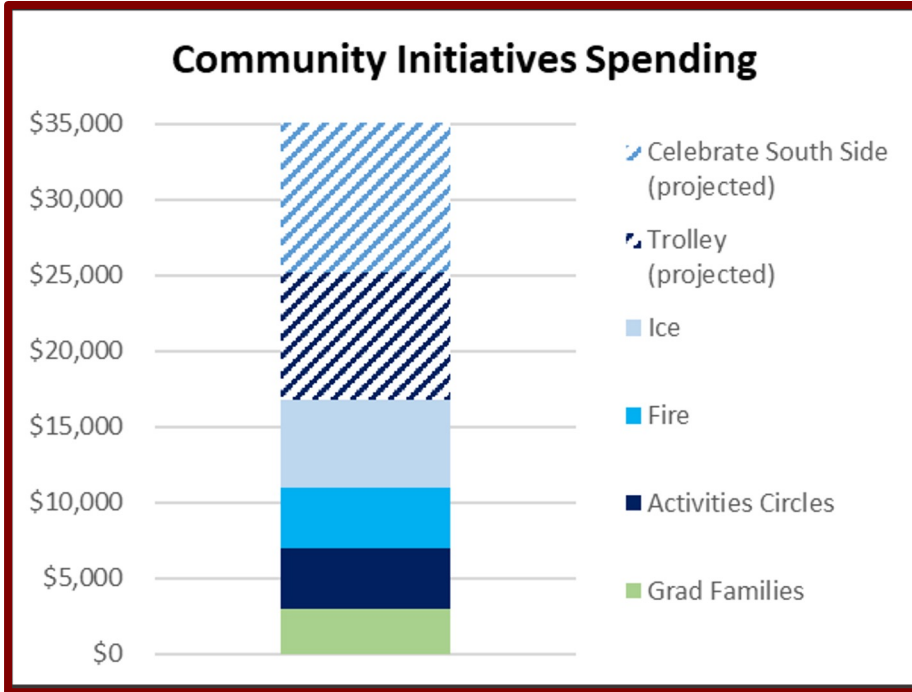
Programming Overview

- **Activities Circles (225 people):** inter-school clubs centered around activities like climbing, fiction book clubs, and fiber arts
- **Graduate Families (225 people):** inter-school social groups centered around Chicago neighborhoods
- **Fire Event (150 people):** Food trucks, plants, and summer games
- **Ice Event (200 people):** Ice skating, 90s tunes, cupcakes, churros and hot cocoa
- **Chicago Neighborhood Tours (180 people):** 6 trolley trips to 3 different Chicago neighborhoods
- **Celebrating the South Side (400 people):** South Side jazz ensemble and 8 family owned restaurants

Fire & Ice: 350 people

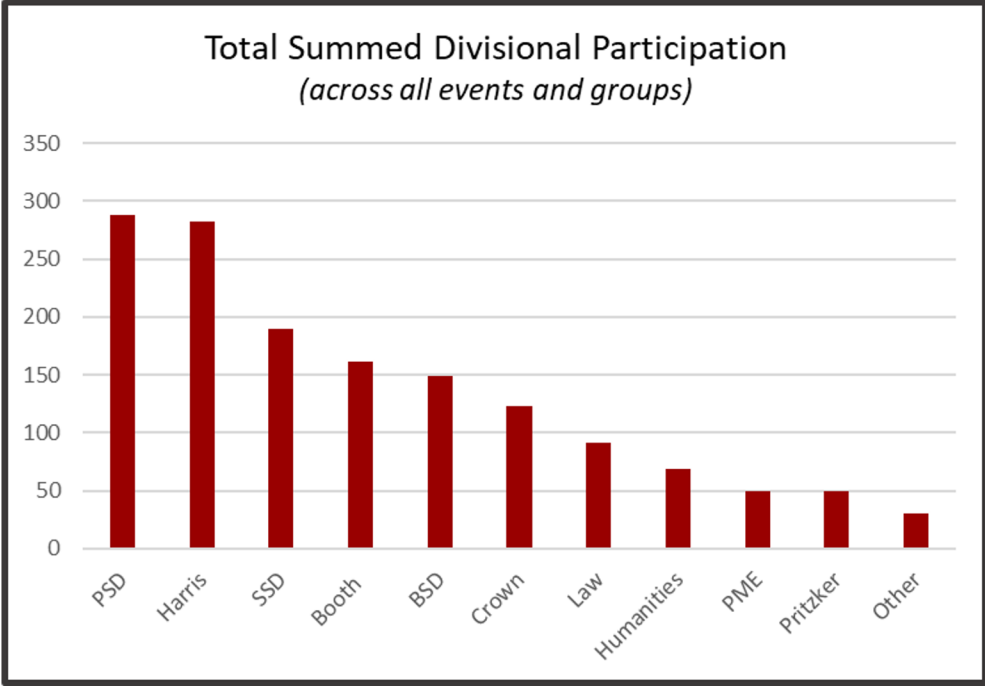


Spending



- **Activities Circles + Graduate Families:** both spent below projected levels due largely to a combination of cold weather and COVID restrictions
- **Neighborhood Trolleys + Celebrate South Side** are both projected expenses and will utilize the remainder of our budget

Divisional Participation



Diversity and Inclusion

Budget: \$26,500

Purpose

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee of Grad Council has a mission to curate and promote an inclusive and diverse environment through the four pillars: **infrastructure, community, people, and climate**

Responsibilities

Foster inclusive spaces throughout campus
Curate programs and workshops that celebrate diversity
Provide platforms where students feel seen, heard, and understood

Initiatives

People:

- Navigating Wellness as a URM student Workshop
- Anti-racist book distribution

Infrastructure:

- Inclusive pedagogy workshop for Faculty and TAs
- GC Student Cultural Spotlight

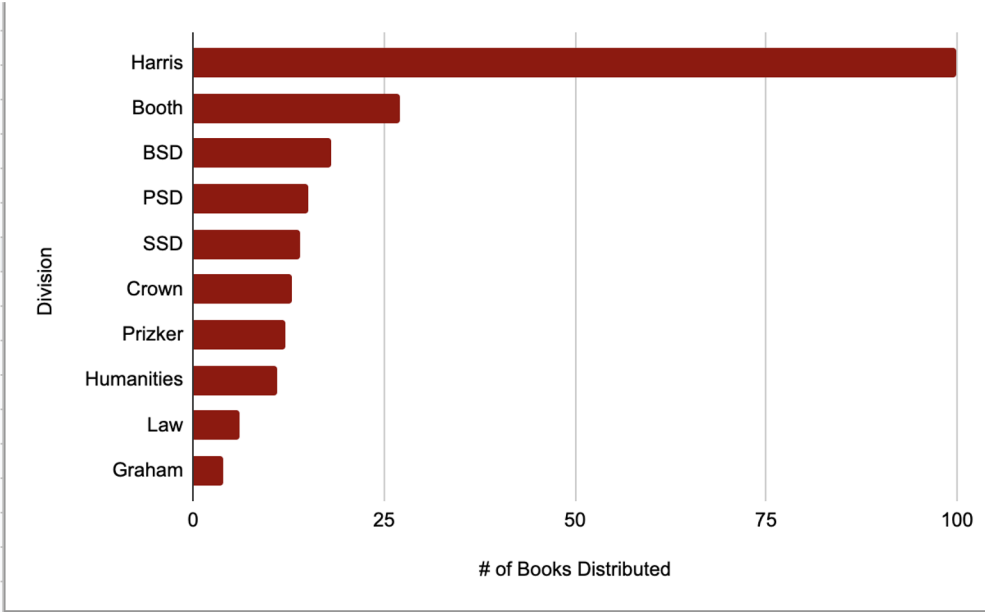
Community:

- UC Juneteenth 2022
 - Allyship
 - Fellowship
 - Speaker Series
-

Programmatic Overview and Budget Spent

People	Infrastructure	Community
<p data-bbox="710 325 1006 445">Navigating Wellness as a URM student Workshop</p> <p data-bbox="741 506 975 580">Anti-racist book distribution</p> <p data-bbox="821 618 877 685">↓</p> <p data-bbox="678 738 884 812">Budget Spent: \$6,500</p>	<p data-bbox="1128 342 1406 412">Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop</p> <p data-bbox="1226 618 1282 685">↓</p> <p data-bbox="1078 738 1284 812">Budget Spent: \$1,000</p>	<p data-bbox="1503 342 1798 369">UC Juneteenth 2022</p> <p data-bbox="1613 618 1669 685">↓</p> <p data-bbox="1483 738 1690 812">Budget Spent: \$17,000</p>

Book Distribution Initiative



6 books, 50 copies per book= 300 books distributed to graduate students across divisions

UC Juneteenth 2022

Building Allyship

Anti-racist Workshop at Dusable Musuem
History of Juneteenth Panel at Dusable Museum

Fellowship

Black@UC Fellowship Mixer at the Center for Identity and Inclusion

Dynamic Black Women Speaker Series

A Conversation with Dr. Eve Ewing at International House
A Conversation with Valerie Jarrett at International House

Events are open to all students, faculty, and staff unless noted otherwise. Dates: May 7th - May 26th

BUILDING ALLYSHIP

Taste of the South Side | Sat, May 7th, 12:00-3:00 PM
Register: bit.ly/gcSouthSide

Antiracist Workshop | Tue, May 10th , 5:00-6:00 PM
Register: bit.ly/gcAntiracistWorkshop

History of Juneteenth | Tue, May 17th , 5:00-6:30 PM
@ DuSable Museum
Register: bit.ly/gcJuneteenth

BLACK@UC

Black@UC Fellowship Mixer | Thur, May 12th, 5:00-8:00 PM
(open to Black-identifying students only)
Register: bit.ly/gcBlack

DYNAMIC BLACK WOMEN SPEAKER SERIES

A Conversation w/ Dr. Eve Ewing | Thur, May 19th, 5:00-7:00 PM
(In-Person)
Register: bit.ly/gcEveEwing

A Conversation w/ Valerie Jarrett | Thur, May 26th, 5:00-7:00 PM
(Hybrid)
Register: bit.ly/gcValerieJarrett

JUNETEENTH

Join us in a series of events designed to build allyship, create community spaces for Black students, staff, and faculty, and highlight Black excellence.



Full schedule at gc.uchicago.edu/juneteenth