Approval/Disapproval Guidelines

Relevant Bylaw: “The purpose of the Lectures Committee of the Graduate Student Association is to provide funding to enable graduate students to bring guest speakers to campus. Any graduate student can apply for support. The Lectures Committee hopes to enrich the graduate experience at Catholic University outside of the classroom. Therefore, the Lectures Committee does not provide support for lectures that are arranged by faculty or staff or that intended for a specific course (including departmental seminars, colloquia, etc.).”

Explanation

1. The primary purpose of GSA lecture funds is to enable graduate students to bring top scholars to campus thereby enriching graduate student intellectual/occupational life. The lecture fee serves this purpose.
   a. The event under question must be sufficiently analogous to a lecture (judged by the lecture’s committee) to receive consideration.
2. Secondarily, GSA lecture funds serve those things necessary for the primary purpose: travel and reception. Covering travel and reception costs serves the primary purpose by both enabling good hospitality of the lecturer and promoting graduate student interaction with the lecturer.
3. The GSA lecture’s account, per the above By-law, is not for the following:
   a. Curricular activities. This covers (but is not limited to) events primarily sponsored by one’s department, serving a departmental need, required for graduation, requiring attendance, or judged to be too closely identified with one of the aforesaid categories.
   b. Faculty or staff sponsored events. GSA lecture funds are present to enable graduate student initiative in support of graduate student enrichment.
      i. The money is for graduate student use and initiative. This means that no lectures primarily sponsored by faculty or staff (including those instigated by faculty or staff) can be approved.
      1. Proviso: events judged to be sufficiently beneficial for graduate students (yet remaining extra-curricular) but sponsored by faculty or staff may be approved at the discretion of the lecture’s committee.
   c. Those events not primarily benefiting graduate students. The money is earmarked to serve (primarily) graduate students in both intellectual and occupational enrichment by means of a lecture and those events surrounding proper hospitality of a lecturer. This means that no lectures aimed primarily to benefit faculty, staff, or undergraduate students can be approved.
4. Lecture applications must be received at least 4 weeks in advance of the lecture.
5. Since funding guidelines are based on the number of estimated graduate student attendance, please estimate as accurately as possible. This may require doing research into previous lectures.

**Examples of lectures denied based on the above criteria**

1. A request received within 1 week prior to the lecture.
2. A request received 1 week posterior.
3. A request received one day prior to the lecture.
4. A request for an event with required attendance for all graduate students of a particular department.
5. A request for a luncheon at an event showcasing graduate student work and unconnected with the main lecture/lecturer.
6. A request initiated primarily by faculty.