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**Graduate and Professional  
Student Government**

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**18th Session  
April 28, 2026  
D.B. #20**

Sponsors: Patrick Johnson, Finance Director; Airiana Mohr, Vice President; Abby Crabtree, President  
GPSG Action: Passed

**A BILL**

GPSG commits to providing the Student Life Emergency Fund with an additional \$13,500.00 for FY26.

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**Section 1: Short Title**

This bill may be cited as “Student Life Emergency Fund FY26 Supplement”

**Section 2: Discussion**

**WHEREAS**, “the Student Life Emergency Fund was created to assist and support University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who encounter an unforeseen financial emergency or catastrophic event which would otherwise prevent them from continuing their education at the University of Iowa” (Division of Student Life, n.d.);

**WHEREAS**, “These funds are for students who experience an event or unforeseen circumstance that negatively and severely impacts their academic success” (Division of Student Life, n.d.);

**WHEREAS**, Student Life Emergency Fund awards are commonly used for health-related challenges, housing issues, family emergencies, and safety issues;

**WHEREAS**, Emergency fund awards average \$350 and can be received one time per academic year. In extenuating circumstances, a student may be awarded up to \$500 in a year;

**WHEREAS**, The average award provided to a graduate or professional student during the 2024-2025 academic year was \$315 compared to a campus average of \$308;

**WHEREAS**, The Student Life Emergency Fund provided \$104,591 in awards during the 2023-2024 academic year, but was only able to award \$68,470 in awards during the 2024-2025 academic year due to decreased funding sources;

**WHEREAS**, 100 graduate and professional students received an award from the fund out of total 222 awarded, comprising 45% of recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year;

**WHEREAS**, Graduate and professional students received \$31,485 out of \$68,470 awarded in the 2024-2025 academic year, comprising 46% of funds awarded;

**WHEREAS**, The Student Life Emergency Fund has a demonstrated positive impact on student retention and degree completion, which increases as a student is further into their academic degree program;

**WHEREAS**, USG and GPSG each provide a small contribution to the emergency fund in their operational budgets each year. In the FY26 GPSG Operational Budget, GPSG allocated \$253.33 to the emergency fund;

**WHEREAS**, The Division of Student Life utilizes their allocation, in conjunction with additional sources of funding, fully each year to fulfill their mission;

**WHEREAS**, the 2025-2026 GPSG administration has made it a priority to support programming and services that help graduate and professional students access basic needs;

**WHEREAS**, the GPSG FY26 Contingency Spend-Down Plan prioritizes additional support to programs like the Student Life Emergency Fund in order to further GPSG's commitment to supporting Graduate and Professional students;

**WHEREAS**, any GPSG spending in excess of \$1,500.00 must be voted on for approval by the GPSG delegates;

**WHEREAS**, GPSG's Contingency Account for FY26 is in a position that enables GPSG to allocate additional financial resources to support student services;

**WHEREAS**, GPSG intends that this block of funding to the Student Life Emergency Fund will last beyond the 2025-2026 academic year. GPSG recommends that these funds are used over the coming fiscal years;

**WHEREAS**, GPSG and USG agreed to contribute a \$50,000 gift to dedicate the newly renovated student government office with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, the funds from which would be allocated to student support programs within the Division of Student Life;

**WHEREAS**, the \$13,500 amount is derived from GPSG's portion of the office dedication;

**WHEREAS**, GPSG leadership met with Vice President for Student Life, Sarah Hansen to identify support programs with a demonstrated impact for graduate and professional students for GPSG's portion of this gift to be allocated to;

**WHEREAS**, A \$13,500 allocation, would serve 45 students awarded \$300 each;

**WHEREAS**, GPSG has come to an agreement with the Vice President for Student Life that the funds allocated from GPSG will only be used for graduate and professional students.

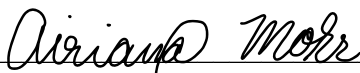
### **Section 3: Action**

**Therefore, be it Resolved**, GPSG will allocate \$13,500.00 from its Contingency Account to the Student Life Emergency Fund for FY26.

### **Section 4: Enactment**

**THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government upon the signature of the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

  
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Airiana Mohr, Vice President

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Crabtree, President

4/28/2026

Date