Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) is the representative organization of graduate and professional students at the University of Arizona. In addition to serving as the representative body, of the students, to the University Administration and Arizona Board of Regents, GPSC promotes the professional development of graduate and professional students. GPSC achieves this goal not only by providing platform for communication and interaction between students but also by managing and disbursing funds for variety of academic advancement opportunities including hosting and attending conferences and meetings.

Travel Grants Program:
The GPSC travel grants program is among the most popular and widely used service of GPSC, which supports graduate and professional students to travel for professional meetings and conferences. This program supports the GPSC mission of fostering graduate student life on campus and promotes professional development. Increased funding support for such academic travel is one of the top 5 priorities of the students, and first priority for Graduate and Professional Students, as assessed by the Student Services Fee Evaluation and Survey. All the applications submitted to the travel grants program at GPSC are reviewed by unbiased, independent evaluators which include deans, faculty members and graduate students at the University of Arizona. Based on the recommendations from the reviewers, students are awarded up to $500 per application.

Over the years, Graduate College has been a strong supporter of the Travel grants program. The funds disbursed to graduate students through this program steadily increased over last few years as shown in the graph.

A total amount of $58,000 was allocated to GPSC Travel Grants program from the Student Services Fee for the 2008-09 academic year and all of that have been exhausted already with projection of $85,000 to be spent through the end of the fiscal year with support from the Graduate College.

With the large budget cuts being enacted on, departmental support for student professional travel is decreasing fast which directly relates to increased applications for the travel grants program now and in future. Moreover the support to the travel grants program from the Graduate College is at the jeopardy due to overall budget cuts. GPSC is positively looking at the continuing support from the Student Services Fee to this program which would benefit the students directly and enrich their academic experience at the University of Arizona.

We are requesting a total funding of $85,000 for the 2009-10 fiscal year from the Student Services Fee which would compensate for the total funding usually allocated by the Graduate College. The additional support from the Graduate College would substantiate the program and benefit larger audience of students at the University of Arizona.