

## Band – Spirit of Houston 2013 SFAC proposal

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**1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms; your unit's mission, how you accomplish your unit student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.**

The main mission of the University Bands, Cheer and Cougar Dolls is to provide U of H students with the opportunity to participate in instrumental and spirit groups that represent the University of Houston with the highest degree of quality. The University Band program consists of the following student ensembles and groups: "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, University Band, Cougar Brass, Cougar Dolls, Cougar Color Guard, Cougar Percussion: Cougar Spirit Groups, Cheerleaders and Cheer Team, Mascots and Cougar Keepers.

We must make every effort to match and exceed our competing universities in the State of Texas and across the country. Currently, many Houston area students are lured away to other universities that offer large scholarships to the students involved in the marching band.

The University of Houston Band Program would like to propose that SFAC give a one time amount of \$135K for new uniforms. We believe that one of the most significant representations of quality is the college marching band, cheer and dance. The "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band and its components are ambassadors for the university that help create an environment supporting the highest standards for the University of Houston's spirit and tradition. The current uniforms are now 10 years old and are starting to show the age. In addition, the band has grown and for the past 3 years we have not had enough of the uniforms to dress everyone alike. We are asking for any assistance SFAC can provide in this area. We also have an honorary committee being formed to assist in raising of funds and are confident this group will help us achieve our goal. However, it is imperative that we have a commitment early so we can begin the year long process to have the uniforms designed and completed by the 2012 season.

The University of Houston "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band, Cheer, and Dance is the ultimate example of students from varied backgrounds and majors coming together for the common goal of excellence and promotion of the university. This group instills a focus of commitment to the university that does not exist in any other group on our college campus.

Currently, the University of Houston Band, Cheer, and Dance Program is a top funding priority of the University of Houston, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Moores School of Music. We are currently working every angle to generate more financial assistance for the University of Houston student that is a member of the band, cheer and dance. We are also aiming to increase the operating budget that would fund travel, instrument repair, music arrangements, marching drill, uniforms, recordings, summer camps and other band-related expenses. In addition to the above, we have a need for rehearsal rental space and for assistance with coaches' salaries. Both require an increase in our operational spending.

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**2. Provide an organization of your units. Large units may need to have an overview chart and then more specific charts for each program. Where you have multiple staff in the same position (e.g. counselor, custodian, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.**

### University of Houston Band Department Organizational Chart

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences	Dr. John Roberts
Director of Band/Cheer/Dance	David Bertman
Associate Director of Band/Cheer/Dance	Dr. Troy Bennefield
Associate Director Visiting Clinical Professor	Marion West
Instrumental Music Education/University Bands	
Consultant	John Benzer
Program Coordinator	Carol Risinger
Instructional Team:	
Eddie Green	Director Emeritus
Joe Dixon	Consultant
Shawn Perry	Spirit Coach
Chris Muniz	Spirit Coach
Khrystal Harbert	Dance Coach
Amanda Carlos	Dance Coach
Scott Aldridge*	Percussion
Jamie Kohler*	Percussion
Cristina Mendoza*	DMA Grad Student
Matt Lamm*	DMA Grad Student
Cory Meals*	MM Grad Student
Eric Shannon*	MM Grad Student
Ryan Mohny*	MM Grad Student
RJ Cappa*	MM Grad Student
Carly Brennecke-Jones*	Office Assistant 1
Rhonda Pitts	Alumni Volunteer

\*denotes student employees

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**3. List the objectives that you provided with your 2010-2011 SFAC request. Please comment on your success in achieving these objectives. If an objective changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new objectives, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving the objectives.**

In 2010-2011, our main objective was to increase and maintain the membership of the "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band, raise the level of band (financial assistance) support and increase the operational budget. The band has continued to grow. Our operational and band grant accounts are a severe problem.

Total "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band Membership

Each number represents the membership for each instrument group:

Flutes	30	Euphonium	18
Clarinet	36	Tuba	19
Alto Saxophone	22	Percussion	30
Trumpet	48	Cougar Dancers	24
Horn	18	Drum Major	4
Trombone	34	Twirler	4
		Color Guard	12

**Total 299**

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**4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned objectives and their importance as compared to other objectives that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and the satisfaction level of those served. Please provide the method for collection of this data.**

In the past ten years, the University Band/Cheer/Dance area has seen tremendous growth. We have implemented many new ways to recruit and maintain the membership of the marching band and the entire band program. We are working with the Admissions Office and Honors College to increase the opportunity for enrolling the students that were members of bands in high school. The exponential growth of our program indicates that a tremendous need for spirit and tradition is a priority of the university community and its alumni.

We are in a perpetual state of evaluation as we continue to experiment with new and refreshed ideas. The desire for this university to have a marching band that is a true reflection of the pride in the University of Houston is evident by the recent support given by the administration, faculty and students. We have received numerous letters, e-mails and words of praise. The current members are supportive by their actions and continued commitment towards excellence. The cooperation from the students and the faculty are our best indicators of the success of the energy surrounding the band program.

Even though marching season officially ends in November, in conjunction with the end of football season, the "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band willingly participates in or will be a part of events such as: Houston Rodeo Parade, Houston Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Battle of Flowers Parade in San Antonio, as well as numerous University of Houston special events, athletic events and special occasions here on campus and throughout the community. In addition, the Cougar Brass, which is a 50 student-member group, supports the endeavors of the University of Houston basketball teams and all spring sports. It is evident, from the breadth of the band's participation, that the "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band is a vital resource to the university community. For the band to increase in stature, students and substance, it is critical that funding be given to support the program.

Below, a snapshot picture is provided for the "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band, the University Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, University Band, Cougar Brass, Cougar Dancers (Cougar Dolls), Cougar Color Guard, Cougar Percussion and Cougar Cheer Teams:

"Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band	299
Cougar Brass	50
Wind Ensemble I	55
Symphonic Winds	61
Symphonic Band	72
University Band	39
Cougar Dancers	24
Cougar Color Guard	12
Cougar Percussion	30
<u>Cougar Cheer Teams</u>	<u>53</u>
Total	695

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**5. Please discuss any budget changes experienced since your last (FY2012) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections. In addition, if your unit concluded FY2011 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.**

Since our last request, we have received an additional base augmentation of \$40,000 from SFAC. This was consistent with five years of one-time allotments of \$40,000. We are very grateful for this increase to the base augmentation. We are currently working every angle to create funding to cover the cost for this fiscal year. We appreciate the continued support of SFAC.

The unit did end with a fund balance of \$67, 387.68 carrying forward into FY12. This was due to a change in business administration processing of expenses and end of year reallocations. A prior year adjustment was submitted in October, after the final 998 journals were posted, to reduce the fund balance by reallocating expenses from other cost-centers that should have been charged originally to the Ledger 3 accounts. The final fund balance left when the prior year adjustment is posted is roughly \$2,387.68, which will be expended in FY12.

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**6. Please list your 2012-2013 objectives in priority order. Larger units may wish to group your response by subprogram. Under each objective, state the specific programs, activities, and/or services that you plan to implement to meet your objectives.**

### **General Operation**

It is crucial that our operational budget meet the needs of the students and the program. Below are the major items used in the general operating budget. Because of the time commitment from the students, the band must assist them with meals during many events. We also have many outreach campaigns that are a part of the general operating expenses. In addition to this, we have coaches' salaries and rental facilities.

### **Band Grants (financial assistance program)**

Recruitment and maintaining the membership of the band program in the primary objective. We are securing funding in all ways possible.

### **Instrumental Purchase (General Operations)**

The University of Houston instrument inventory is in need of a complete overhaul. We have worked with several instrument companies on a purchase program.

### **Travel (General Operations)**

The band must travel more for state, national and international exposure we are working with travel agents and the university to begin a cost effective approach.

### **Music arrangements, compositions, marching drill (General Operations)**

The University of Houston Band should have all customized music and drill. This would allow for greater creativity and also develop an exclusive trademark of style and sound. We are currently using several arrangers and drill writers.

### **Recording (General Operations)**

The University of Houston Band should have the resources to make high quality recordings, not only for U of H fans, but also to initiate a standard of excellence in all areas of band sound. We are working to create a scheduled recording session.

### **Summer Camps (General Operations)**

The band department should host camps for high school and middle school students. This would be a direct connection to future students. We are currently planning an invitational high school band camp in June and a middle school band camp in July.

**Uniforms (One time ask every 5-7 years)** – This request is detailed in section 1.

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**7. What are the other possible sources of funding available to your unit and what efforts are being made to access them (e.g. grant, donations, etc.)?**

The \$100,000 Project for Band Grant Assistance and Operations. The Drum Major Scholarship fund is under way. This will be a named endowed scholarship.

Two endowment campaigns have begun in the names of Dr. William Moffit and Mr. Eddie Green.

We are working closely with the University of Houston Alumni Organization to enhance our opportunity to raise the needed funding for a progressive band program.

We are working with the Cougar Marching Band Alumni to bring the University of Houston Band Program back to its glory years.

We have submitted a request to the SFAC committee for assistance in the budget area of operations and financial assistance. We feel the best way for the student service fees to be used would be direct student benefit in the band program.

There is a strong and enthusiastic commitment to raise money for our students here at the University of Houston. All areas are under constant re-evaluation. We are always trying to create new avenues for possible giving in both the private sector and here on campus.

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**8. Please describe any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.**

The funding for the marching band is a unique area. There are several aspects that create crossover. First and foremost the band functions on two different levels. It is an extracurricular activity comprised for university needs and athletic events. It also is a large ensemble provided for instruction to the music education major. Both areas are equal in importance.