

Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)

Questionnaire & Report for FY 16

Submitted by:

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I. Executive Summary

Our Mission:

The Student Government Association exists to serve as the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed and empowered in the overall policy, decision making process, and services offered at the University of Houston. As such, the Student Government Association is committed to understanding the needs of students and advocating on their behalf. Through continuous interaction with students, faculty, staff, and administration, the organization works to improve and enhance the quality of the student experience.

How our mission is accomplished:

Our mission is accomplished through constant interaction with the student body. Our legislative branch utilizes town halls to speak with their constituents on issues that matter to them and hold bi-weekly senate meetings to allow students to voice concerns to the whole of SGA. SGA is committed to empowering students to voice their opinions on different issues and work with senators so that legislation may be drafted.

Through partnerships with departments and university committees throughout campus, students are able to serve as representatives and further voice their opinions. SGA believes the university is for the students, and those students should be able to make a lasting, positive impact for the campus community.

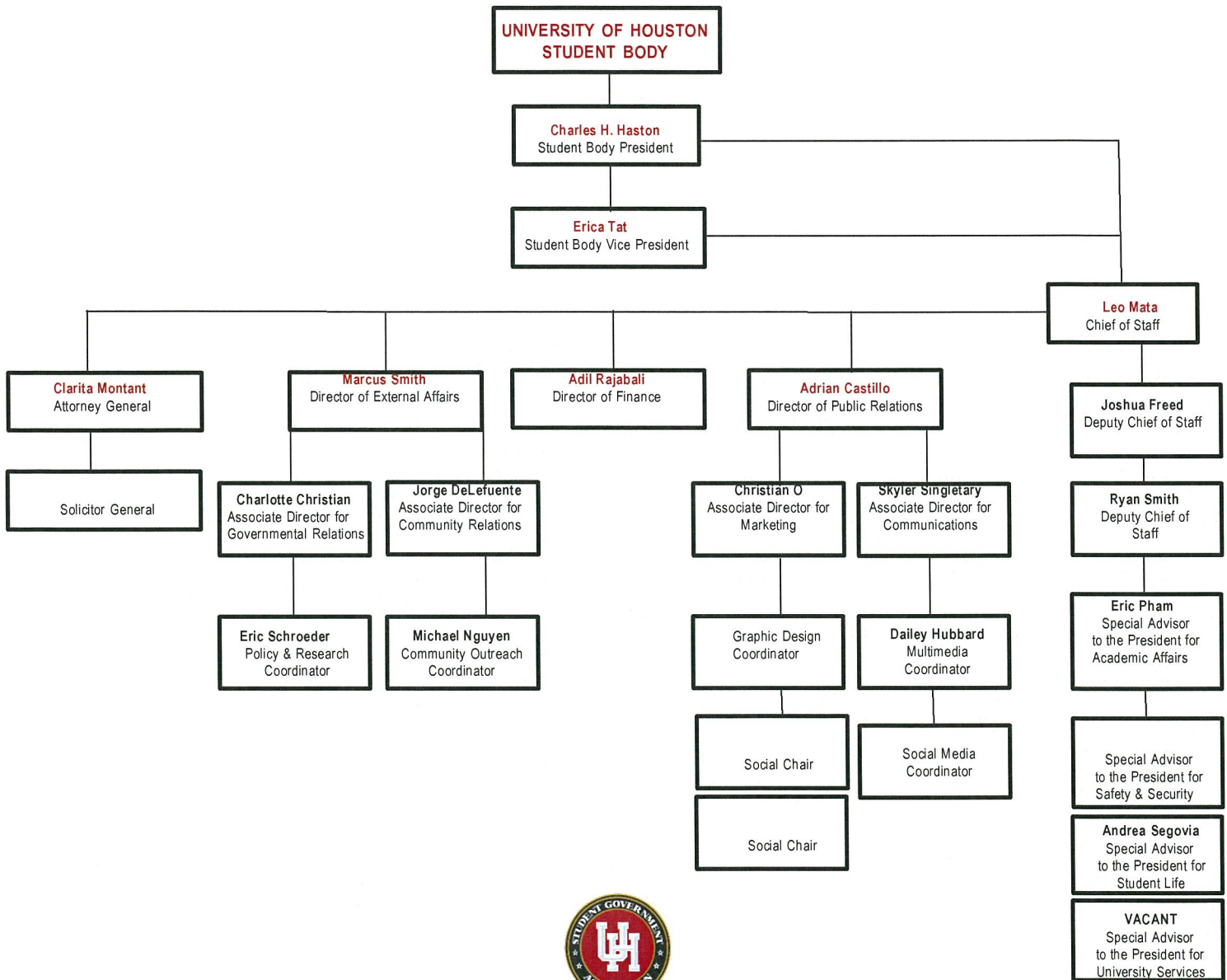
Justification:

SGA serves as the liaison between university administration and the students. Through our town halls, meetings, university committees, and internships, we offer the students effective avenues to make changes on the campus that matter to the student body. The University of Houston is committed to the shared governance process with SGA serving as the official voice of the students, and is required to exist per state law.

II. Organizational Structure – Executive Branch (President and Cabinet)

The Executive Power of the Student Government Association is vested in the Student Body President. The President is advised by the cabinet which consists of the President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Director of External Affairs, Director of Public Relations, Director of Finance, and any other staff the President deems necessary.

The Student Body President and Vice President are elected on a single-ticket while the Chief of Staff and Directors are appointed by the President and confirmed with advice and consent of the Senate. The Executive Branch oversees the daily operations of the Student Government Association, enforces laws and resolutions, and appoints student representatives to various university-wide shared governance committees

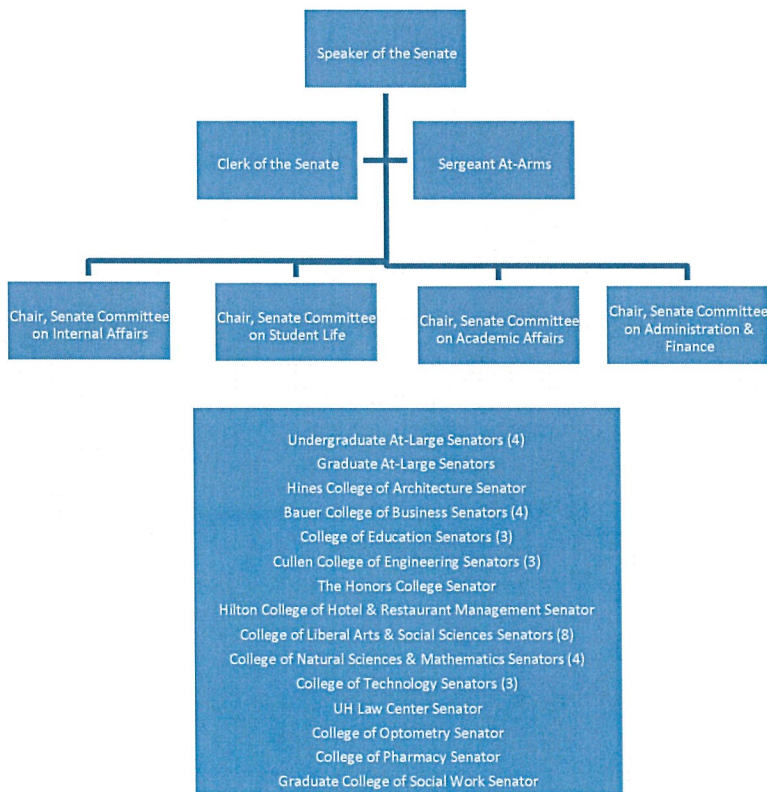


Organizational Structure – Legislative Branch (Senate)

The Legislative Power of the Student Government Association is vested in the Student Senate. Through legislation, the Senate works toward improving the student experience at the University of Houston.

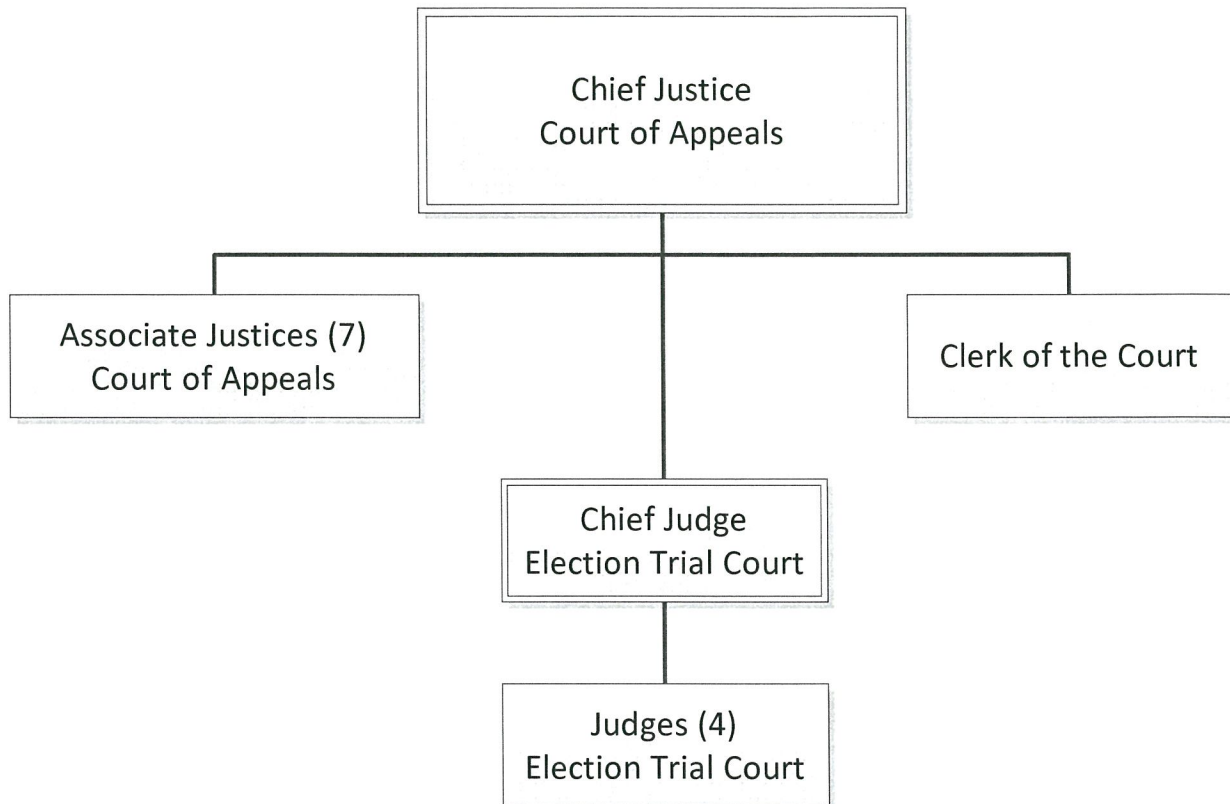
The Speaker of the Senate is elected from within the Senate and presides over general meetings of the Senate, heads the legislative branch, assigns senators to standing committees, and sets meeting agendas and times. Other Senate officers include the Speaker Pro-Tempore (who presides over the Senate in the absence of the Speaker) and senate committee chairs.

Four (4) undergraduate at-large and two (2) graduate at-large senators are elected by the entire student body. Every college elects representation to the Senate based on that college’s percentage of the entire student population. Each of the Senators serves on at least one of the standing committees of the Senate.



Organizational Structure – Judicial Branch (Court of Appeals)

The Judiciary of the Student Government Association is vested in the Court of Appeals. The Court is comprised of the Chief Justice and six (6) Associate Justices who are appointed by the President and confirmed with advice and consent of the Senate; and serve until graduation. The Court of Appeals is the Supreme Court for SGA and hears matters involving the constitutionality of legislation, disputes between branches, and is the court of last resort for election issues.



III. 2013 – 2014 Strategic Initiatives

Athletic Competitiveness

1. **New Athletic Facilities:** SGA will work with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics throughout the construct of the new stadium and arena to ensure maximum student experience in the new facilities. SGA will also work to ensure compliance with the athletic fee memorandum of understanding.
 - Status: SGA continues to work with Athletics to ensure that students are a part of the new facilities. SGA is also following up on the memorandum of understanding through a series of ongoing meetings.

Civic Engagement & External Relations

1. **Texas Student Association:** SGA will lead an effort to formally establish a Texas Student Association with longevity regardless of whether the legislature is in session or not.
 - Status: The program faltered during this time.
2. **Senate District 13 Student Coalition:** SGA will be an active participant in Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis' student coalition.
 - Status: This program did not come to fruition.
3. **Houston City-Wide Elections:** SGA will provide information and opportunities to the student body regarding the 2013 city-wide elections. (SGA successfully partnered with UH College Democrats and College Republicans to host a mayoral candidate forum).
 - Status: This initiative was successful as SGA was able to host a number of candidates and advocate for the University as a whole to the city.
4. **National Campus Leadership Council:** President Bando will remain an active member of the NCLC, a coalition of student body presidents. (President Bando is currently a member of the NCLC College Affordability Work Group, where he and other national leaders are addressing higher education policy regarding tuition rates and student loan debt)
 - Status: SGA continues to be a part of NCLC
5. **Reauthorization of Higher Education Act:** SGA will be an active voice and advocate on behalf of UH students as Congress is set to reauthorize the federal Higher Education Act which governs Pell Grants and other higher education policies.
 - Status: SGA traveled to DC to advocate for the reauthorization, but the legislation remains an issue for Congress.
6. **Presidential Advisory Committee:** President Bando will hold regular meetings with former Student Body Presidents to receive feedback and advice on the administration's initiative.
 - Status: This Committee did not end up forming.
7. **BikeShare Program:** SGA will work closely with the city of Houston to expand the B-Cycle program on campus.
 - Status: The BikeShare program was not brought to campus. SGA found it more beneficial to advocate for an expansion of bike racks as most students willing to ride bikes owned them.
8. **Rebuild Cullen Blvd. Initiative:** SGA will continue to work with university administration and the city of Houston to rebuild Cullen Blvd.
 - Status: This initiative was completed under the 51st administration.

9. **Community Outreach:** SGA will be heavily engaged in community service and outreach initiatives. (SGA currently participates in monthly service projects and hosted an Economic Justice Conference in September 2013 in partnership with the Houston Peace & Justice Center).
 - Status: SGA participated in monthly community service events ranging from the food bank to helping clean up dilapidated parts of Houston.

Communication

1. **ImproveUH:** SGA will launch an innovative online community where students can express ideas or concerns directly to SGA representatives and university decision makers.
 - Status: SGA successfully launched the program and worked on establishing an active student presence
2. **Redline – UH Mobile Application:** SGA will continue to work with UH IT and the mobile app developer (Pentagram) to complete the official UH mobile application (branded Redline).
 - Status: This initiative was advertised by SGA but was eventually moved outside of SGA.
3. **MyUH Mobile App Development:** SGA will continue to assist University Information Technology through testing and final development of a mobile app for myUH online student self-services which SGA hopes to integrate into Redline in the future.
 - Status: SGA worked with IT to help test this feature and it is still in early phases.

Safety & Security

1. **Cougar Patrol:** SGA will explore the feasibility of bringing back Cougar Patrol, a student led initiative in which student organizations volunteer to assist students around campus during late hours. This volunteer patrol would be in partnership with the Department of Public Safety.
 - Status: Cougar Patrol was not completed as there were difficulties in securing how student volunteers would assist students around campus.
2. **Perception of Campus Safety:** SGA will work closely with the Department of Public Safety to address the issue of perception vs. reality of safety on campus. Furthermore, SGA will work on ways to better communicate incidents of crime to the campus community. (SGA thus far has successfully hosted a panel discussion on the realities of campus crime in comparison to other Houston-area colleges and universities).
 - Status: This initiative is being followed up on by the 51st administration and is continuing to be addressed.
3. **Walk in the Dark:** SGA will partner with the Department of Public Safety to host the annual Walk in the Dark event.
 - Status: SGA participated in Walk in the Dark to raise awareness of late night safety on campus.
4. **Health & Wellness Week:** SGA will host a week of events to bring awareness to health & wellness services offered on campus as well as health issues that affect college students.
 - Status: The event was put under a new department and in the post-assessment it was clear that it should be relocated to the Department of External Affairs.

5. **Student Financial Literacy:** SGA will partner with campus stakeholders to spread awareness about financial literacy programs available on campus and events centered on topics that will benefit long term student financial health.
 - Status: With the departure of the Director of Finance this event did not occur.
6. **Sexual Assault Awareness:** SGA will partner with the Office of Equal Opportunity Services on informational items to bring awareness to sexual assault. (SGA will work to install “Potty Talks” in restroom stalls to give students information on where they can get assistance if they are a victim of sexual assault or know someone that is).
 - Status: The “Potty talks” portion shifted focus and became a separate entity from sexual assault awareness. SGA worked with offices to present before the Senate to give information regarding Sexual Assault Awareness.

Student Life

1. **Council of Presidents:** President Bando will establish a Council of Presidents to engage more student leaders in the decision making process. The council will consist of Presidents/Leaders of major clubs, organizations, spirit groups, and honor societies.
 - Status: This initiative did not meet regularly and was left in limbo.
2. **Campus Dining Hours:** SGA will work with UH Dining Services to extend campus dining hours.
 - Status: SGA worked with FSAC through their student appointments to identify potential locations and options for some type of late night dining options/hours.
3. **Experience Houston:** SGA will work to improve student participation in the annual student discount program. Furthermore, SGA will work closer with the Student Savings Club on an initiative that aims to give students opportunities to experience everything Houston has to offer by providing discounts.
 - Status: SGA struggled to market this initiative appropriately and was only used by a fraction of the student population.
4. **One-stop shop for event registration:** SGA will work with a task force charged by the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs- Student Life to develop a one-stop shop for the arduous event registration process.
 - Status: SGA helped push for a clearer process for registering events that would eventually become an online registration that is still in progress.

Student Success

1. **Textbook Adoptions:** SGA will continue to work with the Division of Academic Affairs and the UH Bookstore to ensure textbook information is submitted in a timely manner.

(President Bando participated in a video that was sent out to all faculty members and also worked with the Provost who sent out a message to all faculty).

- Status: Textbook information was relayed better but the Bookstore occasionally does suffer from a lack of books at the beginning of each semester.
2. **Student Legal Services:** SGA will continue the work of exploring the feasibility of bringing back an office for Student Legal Services.
 - Status: With a midway departure of the Attorney General, SGA did not complete this initiative.

3. **Student Refund Management:** SGA will continue to work to provide an improve student refund management service that does not charge students unnecessary and frivolous fees. SGA will also work with federal agencies, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and others to address the national issue of the industry that has been created around student financial aid refund cards.
 - Status: SGA worked with administration to identify issues in this process and provide greater education for students on what the process is.
4. **Extended Library Hours:** SGA will work with UH Libraries to extend the operating hours of the M.D. Anderson Memorial Library. (SGA was successful in work with UH Libraries administration to extend the library hours, which now closes at 2:00am.)
 - Status: SGA was successful in getting library hours extended and they still monitor as to whether extensions need to occur.
5. **Tuition & Fees:** SGA will work through the Tuition & Fee committee to develop priorities for FY 14. SGA will also work with the Division of Academic Affairs to develop a fixed-tuition plan.
 - Status: UH in 4, a fixed tuition plan was developed and launched in 2014 for the 14-15 year.

University Advancement

1. **University Speaker Series:** SGA will work with campus stakeholders to establish an official body that will bring “big-name” speakers to UH annually.
 - Status: SGA did not create an official body that bring big speakers but has worked on bringing speakers such as the Mayor of Houston to speak at the University.
2. **Multicultural Student Services:** SGA will work through a task force established by the Vice President for Student Affairs to explore the feasibility of creating a new center that will focus on celebrating the rich diversity of the University of Houston.
 - Status: The Center for Diversity Inclusion was approved and created.
3. **Global Strategies & Studies:** President Bando will serve on a search committee that will bring a new leader to lead UH Global Strategies and Studies under the Provost office. This leader will oversee and create a strategic plan for study abroad programs, international curriculum, international agreement, and international student services.
 - Status: SGA played a role in identifying a new leader and was a key part to identifying how to improve our planning around study abroad programs and other international education issues.
4. **University Center Transformation Project:** SGA will continue to play in integral role in this project. A successful effort has been completed to rename the University Center the UH Student Center upon substantial completion of the project in January 2015. President Bando along with the New-UC Co-Chairs are leading behind-the-scenes tours leading up to the opening of Phase I.
 - Status: SGA worked diligently with the UC and successfully renamed it along with renaming rooms within the UC.
5. **New Health Center Project:** SGA will continue to participate in the committee that will explore the feasibility of a new health/counseling/wellness/career services center. SGA will also play an integral role in the search of a new Executive Director for the Health Center.
 - Status: SGA is continuing to work on a potential new Health Center.

50th Year Celebration

1. **Celebration 50 Years:** SGA will hold a special ceremony and formal celebration to commemorate 50 years of SGA under the current system of governance. This will culminate in ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new SGA Senate Chamber and SGA Executive Offices.
 - Status: SGA held a celebration that brought together a number of SGA and UH alumni to celebrate the 50 years that SGA has been on campus.

IV. Data & Assessment

Bills and Resolution:

2013-2014

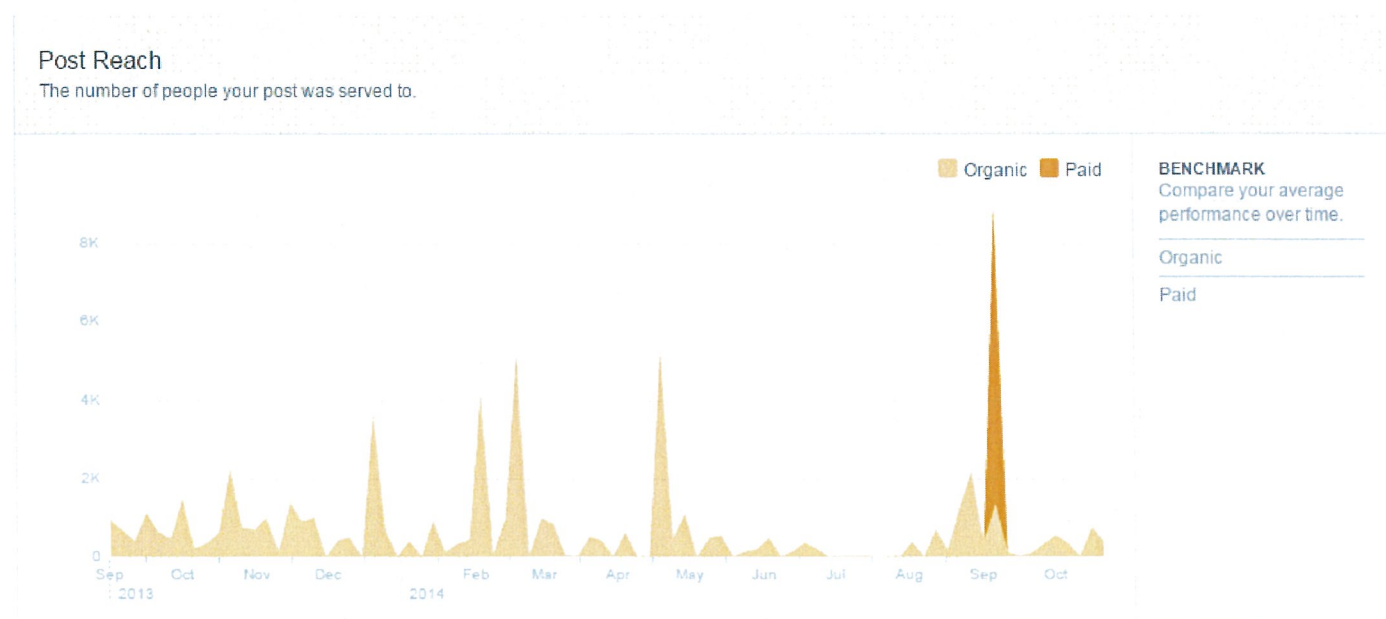
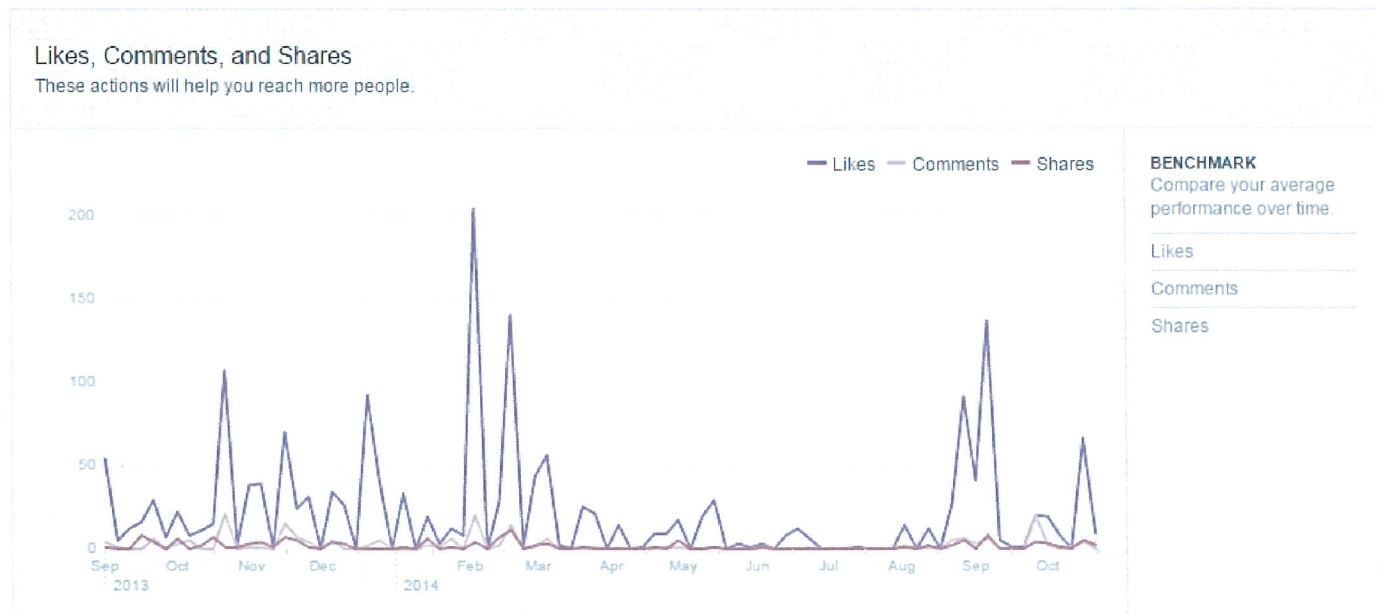
SGA Bills: 10

University Bills: 5

Resolutions: 9

Below we have data demonstrating the measured improvements on both of our online sites that are used to reach out to students:

Facebook

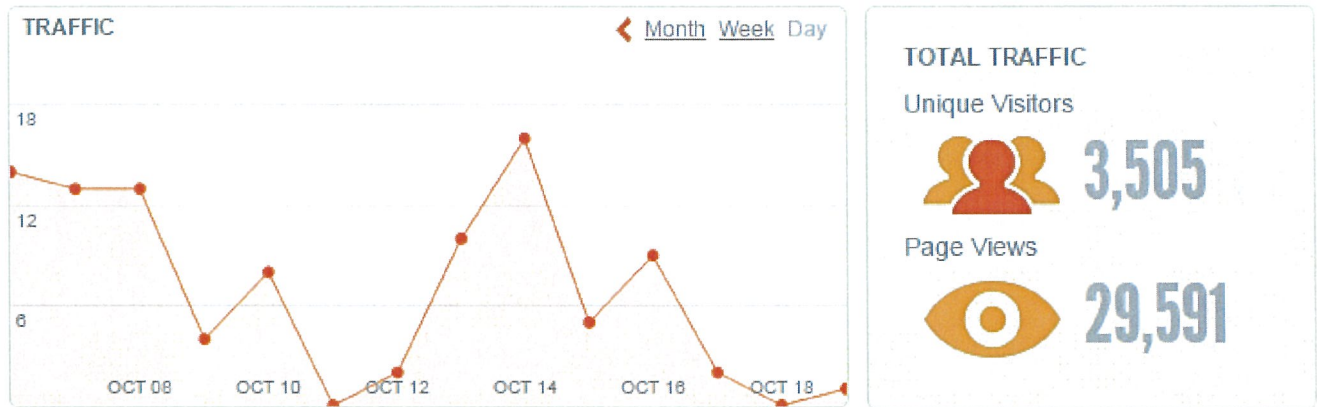


Mind Mixer

Traffic

Welcome to ImproveUH's Reporting Interface

The **Reporting Interface** displays all of the activity from your project.




TOTAL TRAFFIC

Unique Visitors **3,505**

Page Views **29,591**

YOUR AVERAGE PARTICIPANT IS...

Male



26 Years Old

Living in these Postal Codes:
77004, 77479, 77054

SHARING

Facebook	113	Google+	5
Twitter	20	Email	16
LinkedIn	3		

Top Shared Item
<http://improve.uh.ed>

Engagement

Engagement

DETAILS

5

Open Topics

ACTIVITY

2412

Interactions

487

Comments

64

Shares

Participants

TOTAL

165

Participants

GENDER



58%

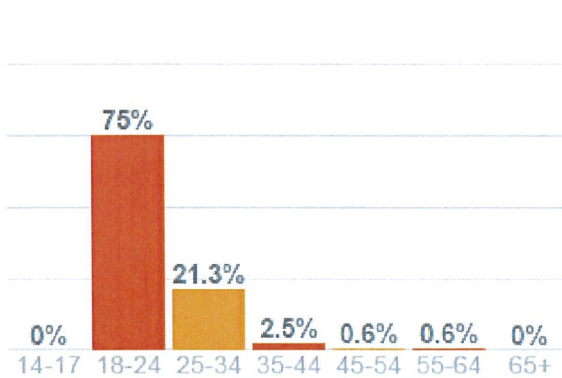
Male



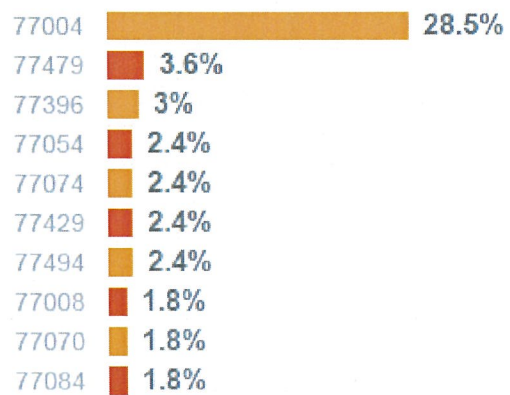
42%

Female

AGE



POSTAL CODE



[View All Postal Codes](#)

V. Ledger 3 Fund Equity Balance from FY 13

The Student Government Association Ledger 3 Fund Equity from FY 13 is **\$0**.

VI. 2015 – 2016 Strategic Initiatives

**The strategic initiatives listed below are for 2014-2015 as the 2015-2016 has not yet been elected.*

Athletic Engagement

1. **New Stadium Opening:** The administration will work closely with the department of intercollegiate Athletics and other student leaders to prepare for the stadium's opening festivals.
2. **Athletic Attendance:** The administration will work to promote attendance at all major home athletic events, especially by SGA members.
3. **Student Engagement Collaborative:** The Student Engagement Collaborative is a group of student leaders that will work closely with administrators to ensure the success of major campus events.

Communication

1. **ImproveUH:** With the launch of the program in late 2013, the administration seeks to continuously promote ImproveUH as a useful and convenient tool for students to voice their concerns and present solutions to improve our campus. The administration will also oversee the activity on the program, as it is an innovative tool for serving as a virtual town hall to allow the organization to make more data-driven decisions and advocacy plans.
2. **Increasing SGA Visibility:** The administration will implement a comprehensive marketing strategy to increase SGA's visibility. This will allow SGA to more effectively engage students across campus.

Community Outreach & Development

1. **Community Relations/Outreach Programs & Initiatives:** The administration will work with local and national organization to help increase the political consciousness and activity of the student body on campus. Furthermore, the administration will work to engage all SGA officers and the student body with more local and progressive community service projects.

Civic Engagement & External Relations

1. **Collaboration with Texas Student Governments:** The administration will work to strengthen the relationship between student government associations both locally and across the state.
2. **National and State-Wide elections:** The administration will promote voter turnout and civic engagement to the student body during the 2014 election season. Additionally, we will seek to provide a polling location on campus for the convenience of the student body.
3. **University of Houston Political Council (UHPC):** The Department of External Affairs will work to found the University of Houston Political Council. The (UHPC) will consist of prominent and active political and grassroots organizations on campus the UHPC will collaborate with these organizations to increase voter registration and deputation, hosting officials and representatives, and strengthening the campus political culture in regards to consciousness and activity.
4. **Legislative Advocacy - 84th Texas Legislature:** The Department of External Affairs, in addition to relevant student organizations, will participate in advocacy efforts in order to advocate efforts in order to advocate on behalf of the student body at the University of Houston.

Safety & Security

1. **Walk in the Dark:** The administration will partner with campus group to increase student involvement in annual Walk in the Dark community event and will recommend to the Department of Public Safety to join the event with the annual National Night Out event.
2. **Increasing Lighting on Campus:** The administration seeks to improve safety on campus by advocating for the addition of more lighting on campus.

Student Health & Wellness

1. **Health & Wellness Week:** The administration will host a week full of events to bring awareness to health and wellness services on campus as well as health issues that affect college students
2. **Sexual Assault Awareness:** The administration will work closely with the EEO/AA office on informational items and events to bring awareness regarding sexual assault in colleges.

Student Success & Student Life

1. **Tuition & Fees:** Through the Tuition & Fee Committee, the administration will work closely with campus partners in promoting and informing students about new tuition services.
2. **Academic Advising:** Student Government will work with administration to bring about greater feedback and accountability on the academic advising system by implementing post-advising surveys.
3. **Professional Preparation:** Student Government will work with administration and individual colleges to promote existing internship programs and bring more opportunities for students to get real world experience in their career.
4. **Office of Study Abroad Initiative:** The administration will work closely with the global Strategies and Studies Advisory Committee to assess the current study abroad process and discuss ways of improvements to the study abroad process as well as the promotion of the office and its programs.
5. **On-Campus Dining Hours:** The administration will work closely with UH Dining Services to further assess the on-campus dining hours to see if they meet the demands of our student body. Furthermore, the administration will also work on more late night dining options.
6. **Student Financial Literacy:** The administration will partner with Bauer College and other campus partners to host a series of financial literacy workshops on selected topics that will benefit student financial health long term.
7. **University Center Transformation project:** The administration will continue to work on the New UC project team throughout the construction of its last phase.

Student Government Internal Operations

1. **Empowering Student Initiatives:** The administration will put a greater emphasis this year on partnering with university organizations, as well as tabling at university events to increase students' awareness about engagement opportunities.
2. **SGA Emerging leaders:** The administration will continue to build on the SGA Emerging Leaders Program by giving more emphasis on mentorship, team building, and social activities.
3. **SGA Election Reform:** The administration will work to improve the election code and work to facilitate a smoother election.

Big Rocks

1. **Medical School:** The administration will work to initiate the founding of a medical school at the University of Houston. With UH and the largest medical center in the world being located in the same city, we believe it is imperative for UH to develop a medical school. This will allow our university to solidify its place as a Tier 1 university as we seek admission to the Association of American Universities.
2. **Conference Realignment:** The administration will work to facilitate of Houston to a more regional conference.

VII. Other Sources of Funding

The Student Government Association is funded solely by the student fee dollars, allowing us to offer free programs and initiatives to involve students in the campus community.

VIII. Overlap with other units

No overlap exists between the Student Government Association and other units at the University of Houston.