

**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY 2010 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM**

**REQUEST FOR A \$15,170 BASE AUGMENTATION TO
PROVIDE FOR GROWTH IN STUDENT PARTICIPATION
AND A POLICY DEBATE PROGRAM**



***“CONTINUING TO ELEVATE NATIONAL RECOGNITION
OF OUR UNIVERSITY WITH
COMMUNITY INTERACTION,
ON-CAMPUS AMBASSADORSHIP,
AND COMPETITION
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES”***

**PREPARED BY:
DR. MICHAEL L. FAIN,
UH DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS &
COACH OF THE UH SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM
(713) 385-0541**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM:
REQUEST FOR A \$15,170 BASE AUGMENTATION TO PROVIDE FOR
GROWTH IN STUDENT PARTICIPATION
AND A POLICY DEBATE PROGRAM**

MISSION:

The mission of the University of Houston Forensic Society (UHFS) is to create opportunities for all students to apply their speaking skills in ways that benefit local communities and bring recognition to the University of Houston. The UHFS recognizes that public speaking represents one of the world's greatest fears. Therefore, membership is open to all students – regardless of levels of expertise or ability – and encourages participation in community service as well as national competition with other universities.

HOW THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED:

While a majority of other collegiate forensic programs focus solely on national awards and rankings, the UHFS realizes that it is uniquely positioned as part of an urban university in the seventh largest school district in the U.S., the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Considering that less than a quarter of HISD's 300+ schools have resources to sponsor speech, debate, and theatre programs, the UHFS strives to fill a void by offering a combination of on-campus educational events, community services and resources, and collegiate competitions for the UH Speech & Debate Team.

As a result of this unique combination of community service, on-campus events, and competition, the University of Houston Forensic Society has been named “The Outstanding Community Service Program” in the U.S. for two of the last five years.

Some of the programs completed during the 2005-2009 school years include:

Community Services

- Judging at Greater Houston middle schools and high schools.
- Volunteering to perform at orphanages and homeless shelters.
- Providing 3k+ hours of judging at Greater Houston forensic contests
- Working with evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike.
- Providing middle school students with resources to compete at local speech and debate contests.

On-Campus Events

- Invitational forensic contests for K-12 schools
- Collegiate national-qualifying tournaments with LSU Baton Rouge
- National qualifying tournaments for high schools
- Summer forensic seminars for high school students
- Contests co-sponsored with SGA and/or Meade Group for K-12 students in drum line, ballet folklorico/mariachi, forensics, and stepping

[THE UHFS / REQUEST OF A \$15,170 BASE AUGMENTATION / CONT.]

National Collegiate Competition

- Local contests in Texas & Louisiana, regardless of experience
- Regional competitions for students achieving local success
- National contests for members capable of bringing recognition to UH, particularly in National Forensic Honor Societies.

THE NEED FOR A \$15,170 BASE AUGMENTATION TO PROVIDE FOR GROWTH IN STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND A POLICY DEBATE PROGRAM

The University of Houston Forensics Society has maintained the same \$50,000 competition budget since FY03. While this budget provided with sufficient resources for the early years of the new program – with 10-20 competitors – the number of students who wish to participate AND have talents that deserve opportunities to represent the UH can no longer be accommodated by our budget.

AS OF JANUARY 28, 2009 THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN UHFS EVENTS HAS GROWN TO OVER 200+.

We anticipate that a total of 60 students can represent the UH in national-level competition with satisfaction of this \$15,170 base augmentation request. A TOTAL OF 200+ WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL UH CONTESTS – WHICH NOW BRING OVER 4,000+ TO OUR CAMPUS EACH YEAR.

BASED ON STRONG RESPONSE FROM UH STUDENTS, THERE IS A TREMENDOUS DESIRE FOR UH TO FUND/DEVELOP A POLICY DEBATE PROGRAM.

From its inception in 1952 to 1976, the UH was regularly ranked in the Top 5 in the U.S. in policy debate. The UH policy debate program became extinct in 1993.

A BASE AUGMENTATION WILL ENABLE (1) ADDITIONAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND (2) INITIATION OF A POLICY DEBATE PROGRAM.

The travel funds of the UH Forensic Society has not been increased since the organization's inception in 2003.

This amount is estimated on the following basis:

Increase in Gas and Car Rental Expenses	12 Contests x \$40/Contest	=	\$ 480
Est. Costs of Two Natl. Debate Tournaments	3 Contests x \$4,900/Contest	=	\$14,700
	TOTAL		\$15,170

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,
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**REQUEST FOR A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$16,640 FOR
HOSTING EVENTS ON THE UH MAIN CAMPUS**



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**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM:
REQUEST FOR A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$16,640
FOR HOSTING EVENTS ON THE UH MAIN CAMPUS**

MISSION:

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As a result of this unique combination of community service, on-campus events, and competition, the University of Houston Forensic Society has been named “The Outstanding Community Service Program” in the U.S. for two of the last five years.

Some of the programs completed during the 2005-2009 school years include:

Community Services

- Judging at Greater Houston middle schools and high schools.
- Volunteering to perform at orphanages and homeless shelters.
- Collecting and donating materials needed by homeless shelters.
- Working with evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita & Ike.
- Providing middle school students with resources to compete at local speech and debate contests.

On-Campus Events

- Invitational forensic contests for K-12 schools
- Collegiate national-qualifying tournaments with LSU Baton Rouge
- National qualifying tournaments for high schools
- Summer forensic seminars for high school students
- Contests co-sponsored with SGA and/or Meade Group for K-12 students in drum line, ballet folklórico/mariachi, forensics, and stepping

[THE UHFS / REQUEST OF A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$16,640 FOR HOSTING EVENTS ON THE UH MAIN CAMPUS/ CONT.]

National Collegiate Competition

- Local contests in Texas & Louisiana, regardless of experience
- Regional competitions for students achieving local success
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THE NEED FOR A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOSTING GREATER HOUSTON EVENTS ON THE UH MAIN CAMPUS

The University of Houston Forensics Society currently has a budget to accommodate travel expenses, a base to pay for the student assistants presently working in the office space in order to recruit and run the society, and to pay fees associated with having a space in the University Center. **However, the current budget does not provide for the expenses incurred when hosting a ADDITIONAL EVENTS CO-SPONSORED WITH THE UH STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND/OR MEADE GROUP, on the UH campus in SPRING 2009. In order to execute a successful events that will bring an estimated 4k students, faculty, and parents to the the UH Main Campus, a ONE- TIME ALLOCATION is necessary.**

The one-time allocation of \$16,640 awarded in FY010 will be invaluable and will provide for national universities to compete and visit UH, giving the campus recognition.

The specific events being scheduled/funded by this request – which will be co-sponsored by the UHFS and the SGA and/or Meade Group are as follows:

- The Annual UH Middle School Forensic Tournament**
- The Greater Houston Drum Line Championships (Middle/High Schools)**
- The Greater Houston UIL Academic/Forensic Tournament for Elementary Schools**
- The Greater Houston UIL Academic/Forensic Tournament for Middle Schools**
- The Greater Houston Academic/Forensic Tournament for High Schools**
- The Greater Houston Ballet Folklorico/Mariachi Championships
(Elementary/Middle/High Schools)**
- The Greater Houston Stepping Championships (Middle/High Schools)**

THIS REQUEST IS FOR THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS

Trophies & Awards	\$ 11,000
Payment for AV Rental/Operator of Houston Room	\$ 690
UC Early Opening	\$ 150
Payment of Hired Judges	\$ 3,300
Hospitality Needs for Judges/Coaches	\$ 1,500
TOTAL	\$ 16,640

Amount Requested as a One-time Allocation \$16,640