

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY2010 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

- 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's mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.**

The mission of the Academic Achievers Program (AAP) at the University of Houston is to increase student retention and graduation through scholarship awards, tutoring, mentoring, and leadership training. To achieve its mission, the Academic Achievers Program used the 2008-2009 funding allocations from SFAC to successfully 1) recruit underrepresented students to the University of Houston by offering a competitive scholarship awards program; 2) retain underrepresented students to graduation by providing academic tutoring and other educational support services that retention research has shown to strengthen students' academic and social development and integration into the university; 3) prepare students to assume leadership roles at the university and in the community. The academic accomplishments of the students in the AAP, Assessment results, and student satisfaction surveys show that the AAP has successfully achieved its objectives for this reporting period. The different support services offered throughout the year by the Academic Achievers Program has contributed to students' academic success, individual potential and graduation.

The SFAC fee allocation has helped the AAP to continue its efforts to provide financial, academic and mentorship support to students whose success depends on it. By addressing the academic and fiscal challenges facing university students, the program increases retention and graduation rates. Most often these students are the first in their family to attend college and come from low-income families. Our efforts are concentrated in the development of culturally diverse populations. The diversity of our students makes the program unique.

During the 2008-2009 academic year the Academic Achievers Program provided an annual scholarship of \$ 2,500 to sixty-five students and summer stipends to 25 students for a total of \$187,500. 15 students graduated from the program and 11 new students were accepted into the program. Out of the approximate 7,450 hours of study hall hours completed, students received over 1,400 hours of one-on-one tutoring, attended academic, self-development and career development seminars. A total of 550 progress reports were sent to professors and about 240 were returned to the AAP to indicate progress and provide an update of the student's academic success during the year. Student evaluations given each year show that over 98% of students report a positive experience in the program.

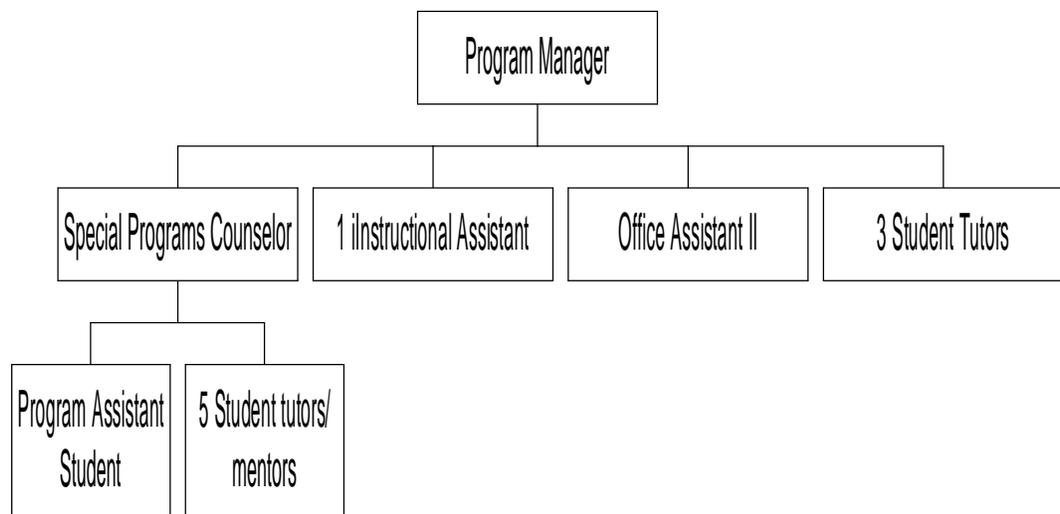
Students have excelled academically. Although a program evaluation was not conducted this year, AAP Students continue to achieve outstanding GPA's and graduating from the program. 15 students graduated from the program and 12 students out of sixty-five made the Dean's list for the fall 2008 semester. A fourth program evaluation will be conducted by the Office of Institutional Research during the 2009 summer semester.

AAP provides a unique service to the retention efforts of the University. There are few programs for students that provide financial assistance as well as support services, and this program is highly successful in recruiting and retaining underrepresented students.

2. Provide an organization chart of your unit. 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.

Academic Achievers Program

Organizational Chart



Note: please see attached organizational chart for all the units in CMAS (Exhibit A).

3. **List the objectives that you provided with your 2008-2009 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 these objectives.**

The AAP used the 2008-2009 funding allocations from SAFC to successfully accomplish the following objectives.

1. Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing academic tutoring and other educational support services.

The program provided competitive scholarships for incoming freshman and undergraduate students. The program provided on-call academic tutoring to the students in the program and to other university students who work more hours than a typical college student in the evenings and weekends in a more individual tutoring manner without time limitation, the program continued enabling students to attend and participate in leadership skills retreats and conferences, continued providing exceptional and individualized assistance to our students that included priority registration, course selection assistance, academic, career and personal counseling.

This included the hiring of a full-time Program Coordinator to provide assistance with the overall administration of the program which includes the assistance in preparation of yearly reports, monitoring of student grades, tutoring hours, progress reports, scholarship award memos, counseling and recruitment presentations.

2. Recruitment of underrepresented students to the University of Houston through a competitive scholarship awards program.

New students were admitted into the Academic Achievers Program and awarded merit scholarships through a documented selection process, Personal recruitment presentations were conducted throughout the year in area high schools, University of Houston recruitment events, community events, and CMAS College Career Days. Incoming freshman students were helped with admissions process and assisted parents and students with financial aid information and resources that they could find at the University of Houston.

3. Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing career and educational support services that will advance student

academic, professional development and better professional opportunities to our upper level students.

The program funded one summer internship for one of our program students, continued providing internship information and opportunities to our students, organized student job site visits at various business locations to help students learn more about career opportunities, sponsored students to attend professional conferences throughout the year, AAP paid for registration fees for two GRE exams, AAP worked with CLASS Career Center to have AAP juniors and graduating seniors attend seminars/workshops on resume preparation, career exploration and mock interviews.

Assessment results and student satisfaction surveys show that the AAP has successfully achieved its objectives for this reporting period.

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 collecting these data.**

During the 2008-2009 academic year:

- 1) Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing academic tutoring and other educational support services.
 - A total of 65 AAP students and 65 non-AAP students received approximately 1,400 hours of one-on-one tutoring in different areas of academic studies.
 - A total of 45 AAP students attended 25 academic and self-development seminars sponsored by the Learning Support Services.
 - 5 freshman students participated in a mentorship program during the fall 2008 semester with Junior and Senior AAP students.
 - Approximately 30 students will participate in our annual student leadership retreat in Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas, where they will be able to interact with and gain knowledge from professionals who are leaders in the areas of Engineering, Politics, Networking and Community Leadership, a challenge course and other camp activities. As a retreat outcome the students will participate in a community service project to be executed during spring 2009 semester.
 - A total of 550 progress reports were sent to professors and 240 were returned to the AAP to indicate progress and provide an update of the student's academic success.

- 2) Recruitment of underrepresented students to the University of Houston through a competitive scholarship awards program.
 - We have provided an annual scholarship of \$ 2,500 to sixty-five students in the Academic Achievers Program and 25 summer stipends for a total of \$187,500. 12 AAP students graduated from the program,
 - Out of 55 applications received, 11 new students were admitted to the program at the end of the fall 2008 semester: 2 incoming freshmen, 3 transfer student, and 6 currently enrolled at the University of Houston.
 - A total of 6 CMAS College Career Days were offered during the year were approximately 1,500 high school

seniors applied to the University of Houston and received financial aid and college life information.

- 1 New Member Orientation was conducted during the year for the 11 new students and for their parents.
- 30 AAP students volunteered to participate in recruitment presentations to McReynolds Middle School mentorship program and CMAS career days.
- Program Manager participated as a speaker representing the University of Houston to the High School Equivalency Program, the Parent Leadership Program with HISD parents of LEP/Immigrant students.
- Program Manager participated in conjunction with the University of Houston Office of Admissions (3 recruitment presentations were conducted)
- Program Manager conducted 7 recruitment presentations throughout the year in area high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and community events that includes the 2008 Houston Hispanic Forum.
- AAP Program Manager participated in 1 Television and 1 radio presentations during the year to publicize CMAS, the AAP program services and the University of Houston.

3) Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing career and educational support services that will advance student academic, professional development and better professional opportunities to our upper level students.

- A total of 20 seniors, 12 juniors and 10 freshmen had the opportunity to attend job site visits throughout the year to familiarize themselves with different career opportunities and network with professionals in their field of study. 3 Job site visits were conducted that included Lopez Negrete Communications, Bank of America and The Houston Rockets.
- 9 students interned in different companies, governmental agencies and organizations. Academic Achievers Program sponsored 1 student to participate in the 2008 NASA Summer Internship Program.
- 6 students were sponsored to attend professional conferences.
- 10 students participated in seminars/workshops dealing with resume preparation and mock interviews sponsored by the CLASS Career Center.

- 20 AAP participated in academic workshops sponsored by the Learning Support Services and/or the Counseling and Psychological services

An annual student evaluation given showed that over 98% of students report a positive experience. Students have excelled academically, are more dedicated to their classes by completing a higher number of study hours and commit themselves to receive other skills that may be beneficial for them. Following are quotes taken out of our annual 2008 evaluation given to the students in the fall semester.

Do you feel you're benefiting from the program?

"Yes, a lot without the constant pushing of the manager, I believe that I would have stayed behind". AAP freshman

"Yes, a side from the scholarship assistance, I know that when I need something I know where to go ask for help".

AAP freshman

"Yes, the program's tutoring is the reason why I made the Dean's list this semester".

AAP freshman

"Yes, I feel the program is inspirational and motivating, I like the sense of community that I have found in the AAP".

AAP freshman

"Yes, AAP is doing a great job by being there when I have needed them the most".

AAP sophomore

"Yes, I am really thankful to be part of this program; I have gained a lot of help from everyone in the program as well as great friendships".

AAP junior

5. **Please discuss any budget changes from your last (FY2009) 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 FY2008 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.**

no fund balances with ledger 3 remain in account

6. **Please list your 2009-2010 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.**

Our Objectives for the 2009-2010 remain as follow:

1. Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing academic tutoring and other educational support services.
 - Continue providing scholarships for incoming freshman and undergraduate students. It is expected that approximately 32 out of 40 new freshmen will be admitted into the program in the fall of 2010, these 32 students are graduating seniors participating in the Academic Achievers component in Austin High School.
 - Continue providing on-call academic tutoring to the students in the program and to other university students who work more hours than a typical college student in the evenings and weekends in a more individual tutoring manner without time limitation.
 - Continue enabling students the opportunity to attend and participate in leadership skills retreats and conferences.
 - Continue providing exceptional and individualized assistance to our students that includes priority registration, course selection assistance, academic, career and personal counseling.
2. Recruitment of underrepresented students to the University of Houston through a competitive scholarship awards program.
 - Continue recruiting new students into the Academic Achievers Program. It is expected that 32 incoming freshman participants of AAP Austin High School component will be accepted into the program in the fall 2010.
 - Continue doing personal recruitment presentations throughout the year in area high schools, University of Houston recruitment events, community events, and CMAS College Career Days.
 - Continue offering incoming freshman students help with admissions process and assist parents and students with financial aid information and resources.
3. Retention of under represented students to graduation by providing career and educational support services that will advance student academic, professional development and better professional opportunities to our upper level students.
 - Organize student job site visits at various business locations to help students learn more about career opportunities.

- Continue funding registration fees to the students in the program that are pursuing graduate school or Law School admissions.
- Continue providing internship opportunities and fund one summer internship for one student in the program.
- Sponsor students to attend professional conferences throughout the year.
- Offer more career orientation seminars/workshops for sophomores and juniors and graduating seniors.

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

- a) Hosting an annual fund-raising banquet in order to raise money for the Academic Achievers Program, U of H and Austin High School components.
- b) Requesting financial support from the Office of the President and past donors.
- c) Submitting proposals to major foundations and community corporations.
- d) Seeking new donors by attending major social events that target large corporations and establishing contacts for potential new sponsors.
- e) Seeking donations from our Academic Achievers Alumni and soliciting their assistance to recruit donors through their place of employment.

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

The Academic Achievers Program provides a unique service to the retention and retention efforts of the University. There are few programs for students that provide financial assistance as well as support services. By addressing the academic and fiscal challenges facing university students, the program increases retention and graduation rates. Most often these students are the first in their family to attend college and come from low-income families. Many are the sons and daughters of immigrants or are foreign born. Our efforts are concentrated in the development of culturally diverse populations. The diversity of our students makes the program unique.

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