

University of Houston

**“Spirit of Houston”
Cougar Marching Band
Cheer Teams
Dance Teams
University Bands**

**SFAC Proposal
February 2009**

- 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 continue with the current support for the 2008-2009 budget. 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 University of Houston "Spirit of Houston" Cougar Marching Band 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 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.

- 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.), not 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 Antel

Director of Band/Cheer/Dance	David Bertman
Associate Director of Band/Cheer/Dance	John Alstrin
Instrumental Music Education/University Bands Consultant	John Benzer

Program Coordinator	Carol Risinger
---------------------	----------------

Instructional Team:	Eddie Green	Director Emeritus
	Patrick Schaad	Spirit Coach
	Shawn Perry	Spirit Coach
	Valerie Galvan	Spirit Coach
	Khristal Harbert	Dance Coach
	Amanda Carlos	Dance Coach

Ryan Demkovich	Graduate Assistant/Marching Band/Concert
Paul Rousse	Graduate Assistant/Marching Band/Concert
Chris Brown	Graduate Assistant/Marching Band/Concert

Staff	Rasheed Akande/Student Assistant
	Keith Graham/Student Assistant
	Justin Zarate/Student Assistant
	Candice Williams/Student Assistant

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 the objectives.**

In 2008-2009, 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	14
Clarinet	36	Tuba	18
Alto Saxophone	20	Percussion	30
Tenor Saxophone	6	Color Guard	20
Trumpet	48	Cougar Dancers	24
Horn	16	Drum Major	4
Trombone	34	Twirler	<u>3</u>
		Total	303

- 4. Please discuss the mean 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 nine 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 100 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	315
Cougar Brass	100
Wind Ensemble I	65
Symphonic Winds	66
Symphonic Band	55
University Band	40
Cougar Dancers	24
Cougar Color Guard	20
Cougar Percussion	25
Cougar Cheer Teams	<u>50</u>
Total	760

5. **Please discuss any budget changes from your last (FY2008) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes 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.**

Since our last request, we have not received any additional funding. We are currently working every angle to create funding to cover the cost for this fiscal year. We appreciate the continual support of SFAC.

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.**

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 will occur 2009-2010

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.

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 extra curricular 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.