

**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)**  
**FY2011 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.**

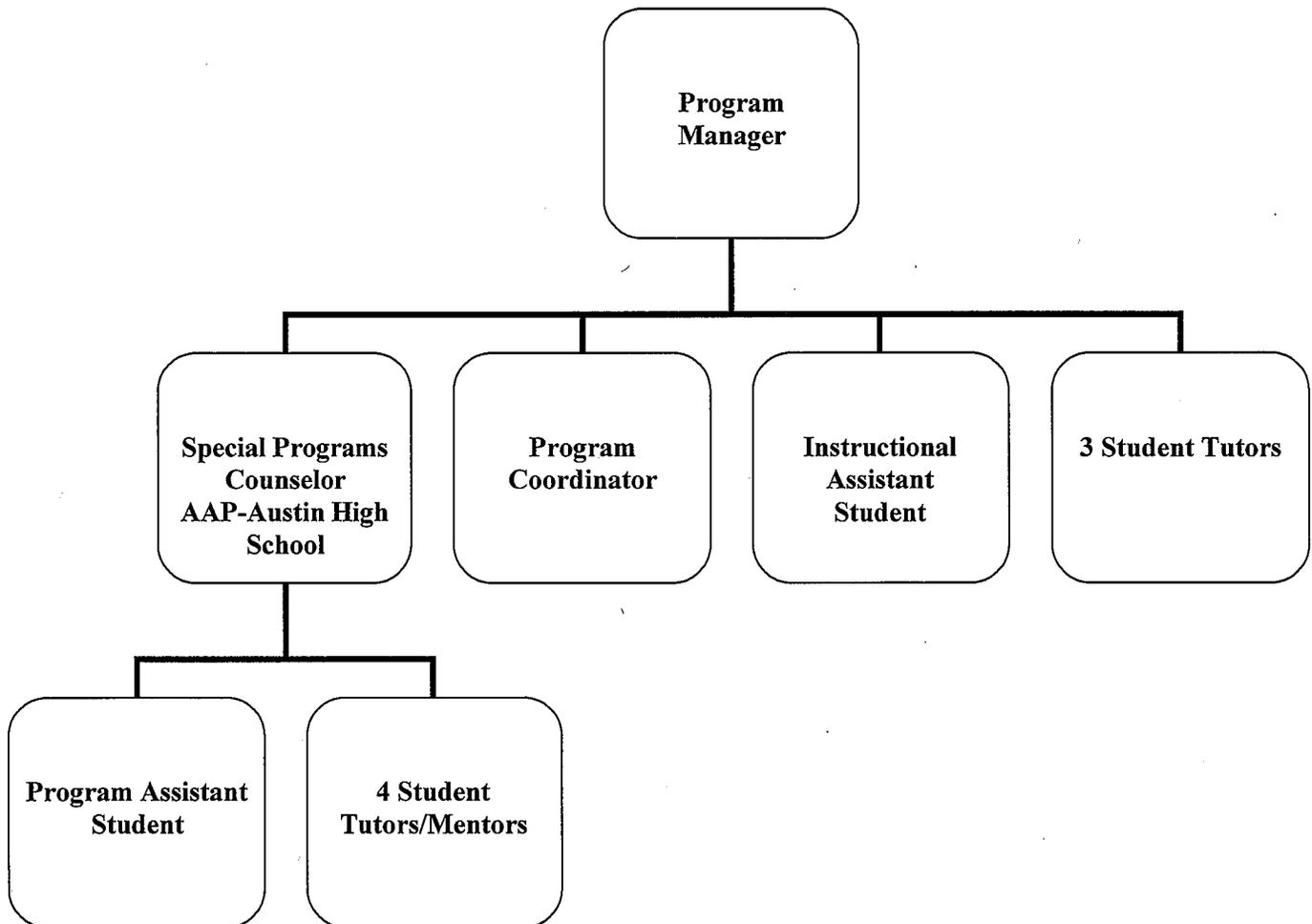
The mission of the Academic Achievers Program (AAP) at the University of Houston is to increase student retention and graduation through scholarship awards, tutoring, mentoring, and leadership training. To achieve its mission, the Academic Achievers Program used the 2009-2010 funding allocations from 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 2009-2010 academic year the Academic Achievers Program provided an annual scholarship of \$ 2,500 to sixty students and summer stipends to 20 students for a total of \$178,500. 13 students graduated from the program and 12 new students were accepted into the program for the fall 2009. Out of the approximate 7,600 hours of study hall hours completed during the fiscal year, students received over 2,500 hours of one-on-one tutoring. Incoming freshman met with AAP Instructional Assistant on a weekly basis to assess course work, test dates and study time dedicated to their individual classes. AAP students attended academic, effective leadership, communication, self-development and career development seminars sponsored by AAP and Learning Support Services. A total of 470 progress reports were sent to professors and about 300 reports 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. AAP Students continue to achieve academic excellence and successfully graduating from the program. 13 students graduated from the program and 14 students out of fifty-two made the Dean's list for the fall 2009 semester.

AAP provides a unique service to the recruitment and retention efforts of the University. Our efforts are focused on continuous improvement, development and student personal growth. 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



- 3. List the objectives that you provided with your 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 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. A new time management and study skills assessment was conducted by the Program Instructional assistant to our new freshman students. The program continued enabling students to attend and participate in leadership skills retreats and professional seminars, continued providing outstanding and individualized assistance to our students that included 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.

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 workshops throughout the year, AAP paid for registration fees for one GRE exam and two teacher certification exams.

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 2009-2010 academic year:

- 1) Retention of underrepresented students to graduation by providing academic tutoring and other educational support services.
  - A total of 60 AAP students and 35 non-AAP students received approximately 2,500 hours of one-on-one tutoring in different areas of academic studies.
  - 12 freshman AAP students participated in a new time management and study skills assessment conducted by the Program Instructional assistant in order to monitor their academic development and achievement throughout their first year of college
  - 15 AAP students were sponsored to attend a 2 day professional seminar "How to be a Highly Successful Team Leader" presented by Rockhurst University Educational Centers.
  - 30 AAP Students participated in a 4 hour seminar that focused on Confidence & Self Esteem and Boundaries & Effective Confrontation" sponsored by the program
  - 20 AAP students attended 15 academic and self-development seminars sponsored by the Learning Support Services.
  - Approximately 30 students will participate in our annual student leadership retreat in Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas, where they will able to interact with and gain knowledge from community professionals and leaders; participate in a challenger course and other camp activities. As a retreat outcome all the AAP students will participate in a community service project to be executed during the spring 2010 semester.
  - A total of 470 progress reports were sent to professors and 300 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 60 students in the Academic Achievers Program and 20 summer stipends for a total of \$178,500. 13 AAP students graduated from the program,
  - Out of 42 applications received, 12 new students were admitted to the program at the end of the fall 2009 semester: 9 incoming freshmen, 1 transfer student, and 2 currently enrolled at the University of Houston.
  - A total of 6 CMAS College Career Days were offered during the year were approximately 1,300 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 12 new students and for their parents.
  - 10 AAP students volunteered to participate in recruitment presentations to McReynolds Middle School mentorship program and CMAS career days.
  - 30 AAP Students participated in a "Shadow Day" designed for our AAP Austin High school students to interact with college students and experience college life for one day.
  - 45 AAP students participated in our mandatory community service project in conjunction with Junior Achievement.
  - 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, Milby High School Robotics Group in conjunction with the College of Technology
  - Program Manager participated in 4 recruitment presentations in conjunction with the University of Houston Office of Admissions.
  - Program Manager conducted 9 recruitment presentations throughout the year in area high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and community events that includes the 2009 Houston Hispanic Forum.
  - AAP Program Manager participated in 3 Television interviews 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 12 seniors, 10 juniors and 12 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 La Michoacana Meat Market Corporate, De La Garza Public Relations, Inc. and Lopez Negrete Communications.
  - 7 students interned in different companies, governmental agencies and organizations. Academic Achievers Program sponsored 1 student to participate in the 2009 NASA Summer Internship Program at the Johnson Space Center.
  - 1 AAP student was a recipient of the Adelante! U.S. Education Leadership Fund Scholarship and attended the Leadership Institute 2009 in San Antonio, Texas
  - 30 students were sponsored to attend professional workshops.
  - 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 2009 evaluation given to the students in the fall semester.

Do you feel you're benefiting from the program?

*"Yes, AAP creates an environment in which students can have success".  
AAP Senior*

*"Yes, the program has always been supportive and helped me find many opportunities". AAP Senior*

*"Yes, the mandatory tutoring helps a lot & the study hours required make sure the students are responsible about their classes".  
AAP Freshman*

*"Yes, the services and people who are willing to help make the college experience more enjoyable and easier". AAP Junior*

*"Yes, it's good to have support through school, financially and emotionally. The motivational aspect I think is the most benefitting part of the program".  
AAP Freshman*

*"Yes, of course, I don't know what I'd do without the AAP. The scholarship is helpful and the CMAS library and tutors are awesome".  
AAP junior*

5. **Please discuss any budget changes from your last (FY2010) 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 FY2009 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 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 will 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.
  - 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 monitoring time management, study skills assessment, academic development and achievement of AAP freshman throughout their first year of college.
  - 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, new member orientation, and freshman orientation at the beginning of the semester.
2. Recruitment of underrepresented students to the University of Houston through a competitive scholarship awards program.
  - 25 incoming freshman participants of our 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 seminars and 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 at the University of Houston and Austin High School components.
  - b. Continue to make the Center for Mexican American Studies and AAP more visible in the community to seek new donors in the community.
  - c. Submitting proposals to major foundations and corporations.
  - d. Seeking new donors by attending major social events that target large corporations and establishing contacts for potential new sponsors.
  - e. The **GRACIAS Alumni Association** established in November 2009 will help support the fundraising, mentoring and networking components of the Academic Achievers Program. The Alumni Association is composed of AAP graduates.

**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 recruitment and retention of underrepresented students at the University of Houston. No overlap exists between our program and other scholarship programs since there are few programs for students in our campus that provide financial assistance as well as support services that include an annual scholarship, academic tutoring, mentoring, leadership skills training, career guidance, internship and job opportunities. The Academic Achievers Program is dedicated to make education accessible and affordable for our students as well as assuring them that we are committed to help them receive a quality learning experience leading to the achievement of our students' highest education and professional goals.