

**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY 2011 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**

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



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

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1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses.

MISSION:

The mission of the University of Houston Forensic Society (UHFS) is to create opportunities for all students to apply their public 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 experience or ability – and encourages participation in community service as well as national competition with other universities.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION:

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 15% of HISD's 300+ schools have resources to sponsor speech, debate, and theatre programs, the UHFS is obligated 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. Some of the programs planned for FY2011 include:

Volunteering:

- Judging at Greater Houston K-12 schools
- Volunteering to perform at orphanages, homeless shelters, & hospitals
- Coaching students at schools with limited faculty/financial resources

Hosting:

- Invitational forensic contests for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges/universities
- Hosting events that appeal to different races/ethnicities represented in \ K-12 schools, e/g/ ballet folklorica/mariachi, step shows, etc.
- Low-cost forensic workshops for inner-city and Greater Houston students
- Instructional seminars for inexperienced forensic coaches
- District, state, and national forensic championship contests
- Offering/directing summer camps for students

Competing:

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

JUSTIFICATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION'S FEE ALLOCATION:

The UHFS was re-established in July 2002 under the dual umbrella of the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Honors College. **Beginning with no students or identifiable events at all, the UHFS is now the most active collegiate host of on-campus events and educational programs in Texas, if not the U.S.!** Under the direction of volunteer Director of Forensics Dr. Michael L. Fain, the 2009-2010 UHFS has involved 300+ students in on-campus activities this year – and has planned educational programming beneficial to the entire UH student body! **This is the largest level of participation since UH debate teams first emerged in 1950 !**

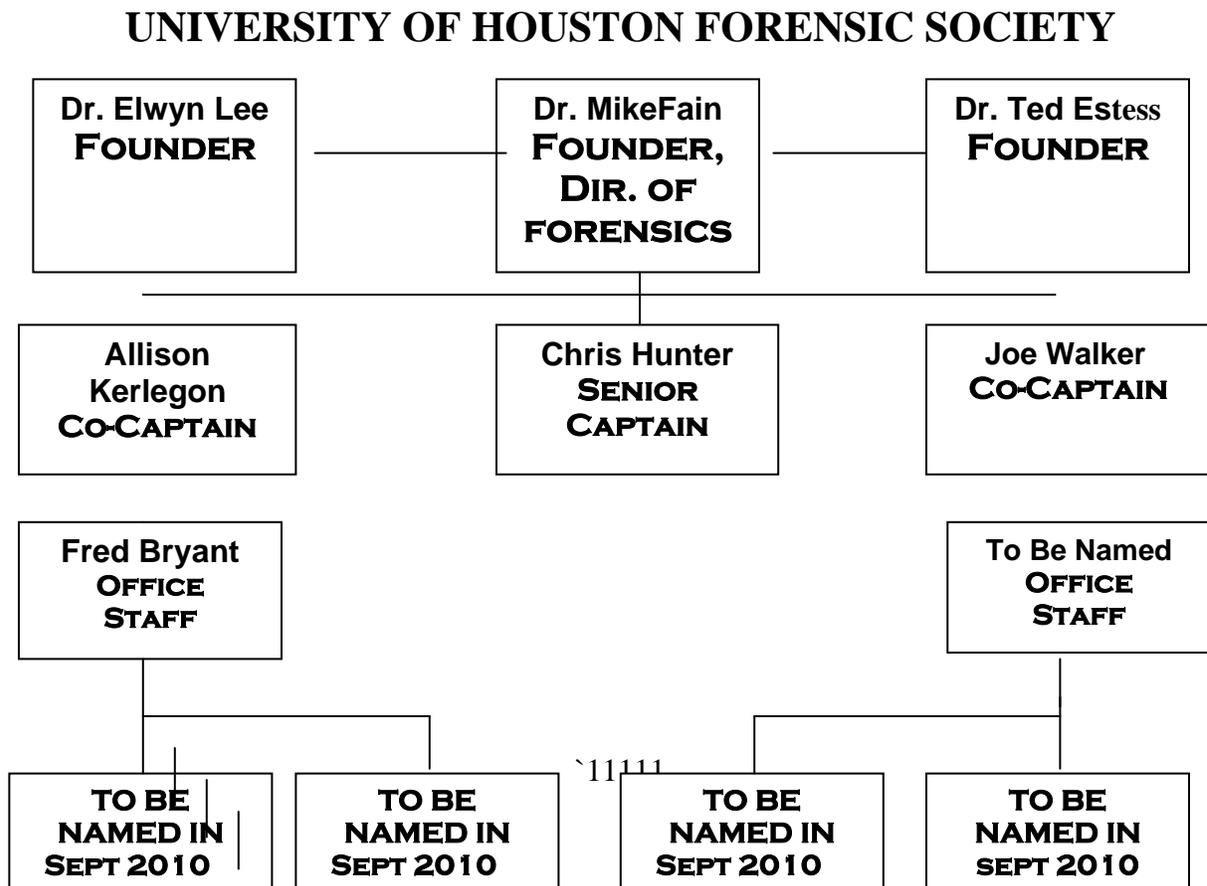
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2. Provide an organization chart of your unit.

The current administration of all on-campus events, community service activities, and Team competitions has been shared between Director of Forensics Dr. Michael L. Fain and the UH Forensic Society Senior Captain Chris Hunter, Co-Captain Allison Kerlegon, and Co-Captain Joe Walker . Office staffing is also provided by Fred Bryant.

Dr. Fain’s direction of both the UHFS and the Speech & Debate Team is guided by Dr. Elwyn Lee, Vice President of Student Affairs. Substantial coordination assistance is provided by Diane Murphy, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. Administration of financial documents is assisted by Dr. Noel Clark, Ms. Rosa Flugence (both of the University Center Business Office), and Ms. Brittney Bryant.

Please see the organizational chart for the University of Houston Forensic Society:



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- 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.**

Objectives Provided in Our 2009-2010 Request

After reinstating a competitive speech and debate program for the University of Houston during the 2002-2003 year, the three basic objectives that were maintained/pursued during the FY2010 were as follows:

- To attract a diverse group of students into a forensic organization
- To initiate a series of community service opportunities for Team members
- To host a series of contests and workshops for middle school, high school, & university students

Because of the UHFS' strong momentum at the end of FY2005 - the Forensic Society has had success in achieving these objectives – but our success cannot be guaranteed without an increase in our base funding for student involvement.

Additional objectives were communicated with our FY10 SFAC request. These four objectives are as follows:

- Hosting On-Campus Events for K-12 Students
- Hosting the 2009 Novice National Championships
- Financing and/or Providing Opportunities for the Growing No. of Members
- Re-Initiation of a Policy Debate Program

Two new objectives have emerged during the 2009-2010 school year:

- Hosting/staffing summer forensic camps for elementary and middle schools
- Initiation and coaching of teams to represent UH in the American Readers Theatre Assn. National Championships

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Success in Achieving Original FY10 Objectives

Achievement of the Three Base Objectives

The UHFS has had great success in achieving the above objectives. Achievement of success in these three areas has been enabled due to the initiation/hiring of a full-time Director of Forensics in September 2008. Highlights of the organization during FY10 include

- Recruitment of **more than 300 undergraduate and graduate students** as judges for on-campus contests hosted for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges/universities
- Participation in **four community service projects** at the Depelchin Children's Orphanages, Star of Hope Mission, and a Hamilton Middle School
- Hosting nine forensic contests for collegiate and K-12 school students, featuring **more than 3,000 students from 100+ schools**
- Representation of UH in **sixteen national-level speech/debate contests**
- Provision of forensic judges and academic directors for twenty-two U.I.L. District Meet(s) and TFA/HUDL contests throughout Greater Houston
- Receiving Excellent Awards at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament held in March 2009 in Shreveport, LA.

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Achievement of the Additional FY10 Objectives

Additional Objective - Hosting On-Campus Events for K-12 Students

The UHFS will host fourteen events for K-12 students during the 2009-2010 school year.

These events include the following:

- **Annual TFA State-Qualifying Contest for High Schools**
- **1st Fall Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools**
- **1st Holiday Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools**
- **1st Black History Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools**
- **5th Annual UH Speech/Debate/Theatre Contest for Middle Schools**
- **5th Cultural Heritage Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools**
- **2nd Annual Ballet Folklorico/Mariachi Contest for K-12 Schools**
- **2nd Annual Step Show for Middle Schools and High Schools**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Elementary Schools – Session I**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Elementary Schools – Session II**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Elementary Schools – Session III**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Elementary Schools – Session IV**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Middle Schools – Session I**
- **2nd Annual Speech/Theatre Camp for Middle Schools – Session II**

An estimated 3,000+ students will come to the UH Main Campus for these events – increasing the levels of national recognition of the University.

Additional Objective: Hosting the 2009 Novice National Championships

On March 6-8, 2009 the UHFS hosted the above event – featuring 227 of the most outstanding collegiate performers from throughout the U.S.

A total of 14 UHFS members competed in this event – with the organization being represented in the Top Six of competitors in this contest.

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Additional Objective – Financing and/or Providing Opportunities for the Growing No. of Members

This objective is both exciting and challenging. At the end of 2008-2009, the UHFS membership reached 200+. **At present, the membership has continued to grow to 300+ with no maximum no. in sight. WITHOUT QUESTION, THE UHFS IS NOW ONE OF THE FIVE LARGES ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UH SYSTEM. THUS, THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS CRITICAL.**

The annual schedule of events for the UHFS now totals 56+ per year – so opportunities are plentiful for members who wish to volunteer and/or host events on the UH Main Campus. However, funding is primarily limited to the base SFAC allocation which has not been raised since FY2004.

Additional Objective - Re-Initiation of a Policy Debate Program

This objective has now been achieved. Because the Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) now holds five annual contests for Houston I.S.D. schools – with 30+ UHFS judges at each contest – the organization’s involvement in policy debate is both active and far-reaching.

More importantly, the HUDL City Contest is scheduled to be held on the UH Main Campus in March 2010. Likewise, The 3rd Annual HUDL Summer Debate Camp – featuring 150+ high school students – will also be held on the UH Main Campus this August. Both these events will bring great amounts of notoriety and opportunities to the UHFS.

Establishment of New Objectives

New Objective - Hosting/staffing summer forensic camps for elementary and middle schools

A great level of interest has been generated among Greater Houston K-8 students for the summer speech/theatre hosted by the UHFS. **During the Summer of 2009, more than 400+ students were not able to attend these summer camps – and were left on waiting lists.**

A total of six week-long camps are planned this summer – and funding is needed to pay the costs (beverages/awards/supplies) of these camps. These are low-cost summer camps, designed for Title I students – so enrollment fees are kept low to encourage attendance.

New Objective - Initiation and coaching of teams to represent UH in the American Readers' Theatre Association National Championships

During FY09, the UHFS prepared teams to represent UH in national readers' theatre competition. This was the first time that UH was represented in this national-level contest – and received VERY good feedback/experience from entering this contest.

The UHFS wishes to expand its offerings and compete in the American Readers' Theatre Association National Championships – being hosted in Los Angeles in May 2010. Additional funding of \$8,300 will be needed to accommodate the needs of two teams entering this contest.

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.

Achievement of FY2010 Objectives and Their Relative Importance

For this seventh full year of our organization, the three original objectives are undoubtedly the most important ones we determined to pursue as our year began.

We are extremely pleased with our success in achieving our initial objectives. Because the current Forensic Society celebrated its seventh anniversary this past July – we are amazed at the extreme diversity of student involvement and the number of individuals served both on-campus as well as throughout Texas. **More than 9,000 individuals have benefited from our on-campus programs or elsewhere in the Houston community.**

The diversity and level of involvement is explained by the following recap of our FY09 activities and objectives:

Objective – To attract a diverse group of students into a forensic organization.

Without question, the UHFS is one of the most diverse academic organizations on the UH Main Campus. While the organization is aligned with the Honors College, its members are well-represented by students from all academic backgrounds and disciplines. Roughly half of the students who represent UH in national competition are non-Honors students.

There is extreme diversity of the racial/ethnic composition of Team members who represent the University of competition with the following % breakdown:

Anglo American	-	30%
African American	-	20%
Middle Eastern	-	30%
Hispanic American	-	10%
Asian American	-	10%

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Objective – To initiate a series of community service opportunities for Team members.

The UHFS maintains an ongoing relationship with the Greater Houston community. **Members have already performed service projects that have touched the lives of 9,000 individuals throughout our city. Events held as of today include:**

- March 26-27, 2009** - **Friendswood H.S.**
25+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- March 30-31, 2009** - **Davis H.S.**
15+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament of the Houston I.S.D.
- April 2-3, 2009** - **Kashmere H.S.**
6 UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament of the Houston I.S.D.
- April 3-4, 2009** - **Clear Creek H.S.**
10+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- April 3-4, 2009** - **Fort Bend I.S.D.**
20+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- April 4, 2009** - **Lamar H.S.**
10+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- April 8, 2009** - **Hamilton M.S.**
Members served as lecturers and demonstrators of parliamentary debate.
- August 16, 2009** - **Star of Hope Mission**
Members served lunch to 150+ mothers and children at this shelter.
- September 25-26, 2009** - **Lee H.S.**
25+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- October 16-17, 2009** - **Hastings H.S.**
25+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- November 5-6, 2009** - **Westside H.S.**
20+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech./debate tournament.
- November 14-15, 2009** - **Dulles H.S.**
15+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- November 26, 2009** - **Depelchin Orphanage**
10+ UHFS members performed improvisations for audiences.
- December 11-12, 2009** - **Sharpstown H.S.**
20+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.
- December 11-12, 2009** - **Alief Taylor H.S.**
15+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament.

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Objective – To host a series of contests and workshops for students in K-12 schools, and universities.

With maintenance of the following calendar of events, the UH Main Campus is now the most active collegiate sponsor of speech/debate/theatre contests in Texas:

September 11-13 – The UH Main Campus and LSU @ Baton Rouge co-sponsored The Seventh Annual UH/LSU National Invitation Tournament, **featuring 120+ contestants who represented 12 universities from throughout the U.S.**

October 2-3 – The Annual University of Houston Texas Forensic Association (T.F.A.) State-Qualifying Tournament was held on the UH Main Campus. **More than 541 students and faculty from 23 Texas high schools participated.**

October 14 – The First Annual UH Fall Speech & Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools was held on the UH Main Campus. **Roughly 140+ students and faculty from 12 Texas elementary schools participated.**

December 14 – The First Annual UH Holiday Speech & Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools was held on the UH Main Campus. **More than 160 students and faculty from 15 Texas elementary schools participated.**

February 19-21 – The UH Main Campus will host The David A. Thomas Cougar Classic Natl. College Tournament. **Roughly 100 students and faculty from 10+ universities are anticipated.**

March 2 – The First Annual Black History Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools will be held on the UH Main Campus – bringing an estimated 200 students and faculty to the UH Main Campus.

April 16-17 – The UH Middle School Forensic Tournament will be held, **bringing an estimated 500 faculty, staff, and students to the UH Main Campus.**

May 16 – The UHFS will host The Second Annual Greater Houston Ballet Folklorica/Marichi contest. **An estimated 400 faculty, staff, and students will come to the UH Main Campus – representing elementary, middle, and high schools.**

May 18 – The UHFS will host The Sixth Annual UH Speech and Elementary School Speech & Interpretation Contest, **bringing an estimated 300 students to the UH Main Campus.**

May 22 – The UHFS will host The Greater Houston Step Show Championships, **bringing an estimated 400 faculty, staff, and students to the UH Main Campus – from middle and high schools.**

June & July – Six week-long speech/theatre camps are offered for elementary and middle schools.

Status of Other FY10 Objectives

PLEASE SEE THE ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTIONS INCLUDED IN ANSWER 3 FOR THE STATUS/SUCCESSES IN THE OTHER FY08 OBJECTIVES OF THE UH FORENSIC SOCIETY.

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

5. Please discuss any budget changes from your last (FY2010) request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them.

With 300 undergraduate and graduate students already hosting this year's on-campus contests, participating in community service activities, and competing in national contests, the SFAC funds allocated for FY2010 have been vital to the organization's growth and maintenance.

The FY07 base augmentation for student office workers has truly helped growth of the organization. The ability of the UHFS to maintain a student office staff has provided a level of continuity not available during FY05. Likewise, the base budget allowed for part-time forensics staff has been vital to the UHFS activities held on the UH Main Campus and around the U.S.

In order to provide services and opportunities for the growing spectrum of students who wish to participate, **it is vital that additional base SFAC funds be obtained** for (1) increases in transportation/economic costs since FY04 and (3) the SIGNIFICANT increase in size of the UHFS. For these reasons, **the following base budget is needed for FY2011:**

<u>Base Funding Allocation - \$50,720</u>	
Air Fare [Twenty Members @\$290/Ticket for Ten Contests]	\$58,000
Ground Transportation [Two Vans @\$80/Day for Five Days for Eight Contests]	6,400
Food/Lodging Accommodations [Five Rooms for Four Nights @\$90/Night for Eight Contests]	10,240
Tournament Entry Fees [Eight Regional & National Contests @\$800/Contest]	6,400
Published Materials for Speech Contestants [Twenty Subscriptions @\$70/Subscription]	1,900
	Total \$55,640
	Less: Tournament Profits <4,920>
	Net = Base Allocation \$50,720
<u>Base Funding for Student Workers</u>	<u>\$23,790</u>
<u>Base Funding for Accountant</u>	<u>\$ 9,800</u>
<u>Base Budget for Part-Time Asst. Dir. of Forensics</u>	<u>\$17,040</u>
<u>Requested Base Augmentation for Student Travel Needs</u>	<u>\$15,171.</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$137,971</u>

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

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.

IT IS GIVEN THAT THE ORIGINAL THREE UHFS OBJECTIVES (DISCUSSED IN THE RESPONSE TO QUESTION 4) WILL REMAIN CORNERSTONES OF OUR ORGANIZATION. THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS OUR RANKING AND STRATEGIES FOR FULFILLING (1) PRIMARY OBJECTIVES AND (2) ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES ADDED IN FY11:

Primary Objective - Elevating the levels of national recognition earned in collegiate competition during FY2010

In order to maintain a nationally-competitive schedule which balances competition with academic demands, the UHFS will compete at the following colleges/universities:

- Colorado College (October 2010)
- McNeese State University (November 2010)
- West Chester University (January 2011)
- U.S. Air Force Academy (February 2011)
- Louisiana State University @ Baton Rouge (February 2011)
- Long Island University (February 2012)
- Novice National Championships (March 2011)
- Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament (March 2011)
- American Forensic Assn. National Championships (April 2011)
- American Readers' Theatre Association Nationals (May 2011)

Primary Objective - Hosting On-Campus Events for K-12 Students

The UHFS will host fourteen events for K-12 students during the 2010-2011 school year. [See detail of FY10 programs cited in response to Question 3.]

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

Primary Objective - Encouraging UH alumni to participate in The 60th Anniversary of UH National Forensics

Enthusiastic support for such an effort has already been expressed due to the success of The Seventh Annual UHFS Alumni Reunion and Celebration hosted this past November.

The next reunion is scheduled November 2010. **The theme of the eighth reunion will be ‘The 60 Years of National Success of the UH Forensic Society.’**

Primary Objective – Completion of Office Construction to Create a Usable Work Space

Our current space lacks central heat/air, flooring, ceiling covering, office lighting, and wall fixtures. While we are extremely appreciative for this space, it is very uncomfortable without proper air ventilation and amenities of all other UH office spaces.

Primary Objective – Establishment of Two Full-Time Associate Director of Forensics Positions

The current organization is filled with extremely talented students, but the lack of a second full-time associate director prevents successful recruitment efforts of academically-qualified high school students. More importantly, current students do not have regular access to coaching/direction for their competitive efforts. At present, there is a single, full-time Director of Forensics position. Whereas a majority of collegiate forensic programs sponsor 20+ students, the UHFS sponsors 300+ members . . .and is growing.

Primary Objective - Presenting public speaking seminars and/or coaching sessions for UH students and campus organizations

Based on the number of requests the UHFS already receives on a weekly basis, plans are being made to offer free coaching services for UH student organizations. Such services/seminars have already been provided three times since January 2004.

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

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.)?

Other possible sources of funding include the following:

- Proceeds from intercollegiate forensic contests
- Proceeds from on-campus contests for secondary schools
- Revenues from summer institutes and workshops
- Donations raised in an annual alumni fund drive
- Pledges by corporations to sponsor national events
- Grants supporting bi-lingual (Spanish) opportunities for children

In its seventh full year since being re-established under the dual guidance of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the UH Honors College, the above sources of funding have raised roughly \$40,000 to date. **This represents an annual increase of 82%+ over amounts raised in FY2004.** Specific efforts to utilize these sources have generated the following amounts and/or plans:

- On September 11-13, the UHFS co-hosted The Seventh Annual UH/LSU Swing Natl. Invitation Tournaments on the UH Main Campus. **Roughly 120 students and faculty members from 12 colleges/universities participated.**
- On October 2-3, the UHFS hosted its Annual University of Houston Texas Forensic Association State-Qualifying Tournament on the UH Main Campus. **Approximately 541 students from 23 Texas high schools competed, generating more than \$5,000 in funding.**
- On Friday-Sunday, February 19-21, The Annual David A. Thomas Cougar Classic National Invitation Tournament will be co-hosted with Lamar State College of Port Arthur.. This event is expected to bring over 100 students/faculty to the UH Main Campus, **raising an estimated \$1,000.**

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

Other Efforts to Locate/Obtain Funds

In addition to on-campus contests, other plans/efforts to obtain funds include the following:

- The Fourth Annual University of Houston Summer Forensic Institute is scheduled in June and July. With more than 128+ elementary and middle school students attending our third summer institute in the Summer of 2009, we **anticipate raising \$2,000.**
- Ongoing efforts are planned to pursue grants and endowments for events on the UH Main Campus.

[STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE / FY2011 QUESTIONNAIRE]

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

There are no other units or organizations on the University of Houston Main Campus that provide the services and opportunities offered by the UHFS.

Specifically, this organization is unique in its focus on providing opportunities which enable development and application of speech/debate/teaching skills in all of the following areas:

Volunteering

- Performing community services in homeless shelters & orphanages
- Mentoring and coaching inner-city schools
- Providing judges for high school and middle school contests
- Assisting/coaching other UH student organizations for public speeches
- Making recruiting presentations about UHFS to Greater Houston high schools

Hosting

- Hosting seven on-campus events for Texas K-12 school students
- Offering six low-cost summer programs for elementary/middle school students
- Hosting national championship contests for forensic competitors
- Making recruiting presentations about UHFS to Greater Houston high schools
- Holding/organizing fine arts contests on the UH Main Campus for Greater Houston K-12 schools, featuring ballet folklorica/mariachi and step shows.

Competing

- Preparing/coaching competitors to represent UH in regional contests

- Representing the UH in national collegiate competition throughout the U.S.