



UNIVERSITY *of* HOUSTON
Student Government
Association

2010-2011
Student Fee Advisory Report

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.

Mission:

The Student Government Association exist to provide an official voice through which student opinion may be expressed, in the overall policy and decision making processes of the university community. The Student Government Association also represents the needs and interest of student body at the University of Houston, by serving as a liaison between the students and the University; advocating on their behalf and raising pertinent issues aimed at improving and enhancing the quality of the student experience.

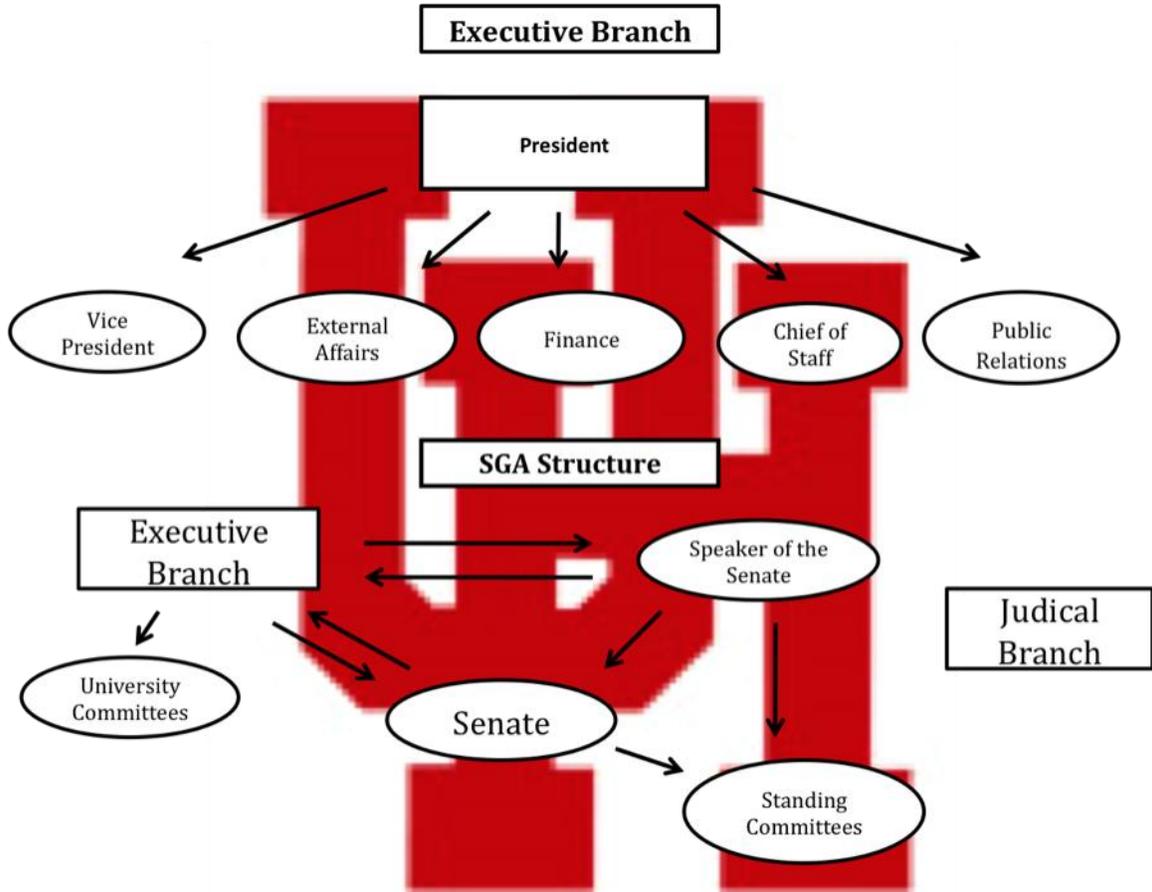
How our Mission is accomplished

The Student Government Association continuously makes efforts to meet the needs and demands of every student on campus. Every month Senators conduct town halls in their respective colleges where they interact directly with their constituents. Input from these conversations is often developed into Legislation or Resolutions, which have the potential to benefit the student. Twice a month the Student Government Association holds its formal Senate Meetings. At these meetings the entire Legislature comes together to vote on any new Bills or to address pressing student issues. All Senate meetings are open to the public and allow for students to address their Senate. A major role of the Student Government Association is to make student appointments to over 50 different University Committees. Through the committee appointments the students are able to change specific sectors of the University Policy and University Life. Finally by meeting with policy makers and University Administrators, the Student Government Association is able to present the student's perspective in totality to those who otherwise would not be made aware of it.

Justification

The Student Government Association serves a unique role. We are the official representatives of the University of Houston Student Body; representing the needs and interests of those we serve, and advocating on behalf of the rights and welfare of our fellow students. Whether it is by fighting unnecessary tuition increases or finding ways to save or fellow students' money, the Student Government Association is here to ensure that the voice of the students is heard. SGA not only serves as the voice of the student body, but we are also a reliable source of student leaders who can be counted on to make a positive impact on campus and in our community.

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.



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.

Objective 1: Campus Infrastructure Initiatives

Status: Accomplished/Ongoing

Description:

1. **Transportation and Parking:** SGA created an initiative concerning a comprehensive parking and transportation plan.
2. **Campus Sustainability:** SGA worked with and supported initiatives to sustain an eco-friendly campus environment. SGA also supported the Sustainability Task Force in creating an official sustainability policy.
3. **Student Housing:** SGA continues to work with housing to resolve issues as the campus continues to grow.

Groups Involved: SGA, Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee, UH Sustainability Task Force, Residential Life and Housing, UH Division of Administration and Finance,

Groups Impacted/Benefited: All UH Students

Objective 2: Student Life Initiatives

Status: Accomplished/Ongoing

Description:

1. **Student Safety:** SGA expanded and promoted safety resources to students through safety awareness programs and events like Walk in the dark.
2. **Student Health:** SGA worked with the Health Center to support initiatives promoting health and wellness education.
3. **Student Dining:** SGA played an active role in the implementation of dining revision planning.

Groups Involved: SGA, UH Division of Student Affairs, UH Division of Administration and Finance,

Groups Impacted/Benefited: All UH Students

Objective 3: SGA Improvement Initiatives

Status: Accomplished/Ongoing

Description:

1. **University Committees-** SGA appointed students to serve on standing university committees.
2. **Internship Program-** SGA continued the internship program to continue its mission of developing future leaders within the organization.
3. **Accountability-** SGA continued to improve accountability to the student body by communicating with them more frequently and updating them on new activity, ideas and policies around campus.

Objective 4: Outreach

1. **Texas Students Association:** SGA continued efforts to sustain the Texas Students Association by way of communicating with other SGAs.
2. **SGA Multidimensional Campaign:** SGA continued its campaign to be multidimensional by expanding its scope of influence through co-sponsorships, increased town-halls, organizational tours, and through playing an active role in the Texas Students Association.

Groups Involved: SGA, Texas Students Association, City of Houston, State of Texas,

Groups Impacted/Benefited: UH Students, Students Across the State of Texas.

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.

The Student Government Association measures success by the role SGA plays in improving the student experience on campus; for example, when SGA advocates on behalf of a student group to represent their needs to the administration. The Student Government Association doesn't necessarily measure success by the amount of task that we complete or the amount of legislation we pass but by the amount of people we affect with our involvement in such task or issue; such as fighting to lower textbook prices to save all of our students money or opposing massive tuition increases. Student Government also measures success by our ability to empower our fellow students to make an impact; we accomplish this by holding town halls with our student constituents and appointing them to represent fellow students by serving on University Committees. Basically success is measured through our involvement in moving the campus toward a more effective student university experience. The way in which we measure the effectiveness of this year is to look back and see if the strategic moves made by the SGA were looking out for the betterment and future of the students at the University of Houston; to make the University of Houston a more student responsive environment. Furthermore, we gauge the perception of SGA by the willingness of the administration to discuss concerns with the Student Government Association and to solicit our advice before making decisions affecting the university. Concerning students, we monitor levels of responsiveness by the influx of committee applications, SGA website traffic, town hall meetings, and Senate meetings.

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 FY2009 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.

N/A

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.

Objectives:

Plan of action

Objective 1: Student empowerment initiatives (Student rights, representation, University Committees)

1. Publish the Student Academic Bill of Rights and in the Student Handbook (2010-2011) and SGA website.
2. Pursue the implementation of relatively autonomous college councils.
3. Promote student involvement by encouraging and appointing them to serve on University Committees.
4. Develop a comprehensive proposal for moderate and fair tuition & fees.

Objective 2: Student safety initiatives (Personal and Public Safety & Security)

1. Work with UHPD to ensure the safety and security of the campus community.
2. Launch an accessibility campaign to improve students' accessibility around campus for students with disabilities.
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Objective 3: Student support initiatives (Student organizations)

1. Support and partner with various student organizations on campus for the benefit of fellow students.
2. Recognize outstanding student leaders and organizations.

Objective 4: Student service initiatives (Student savings, scholarships)

1. Offer tangible services to the student body by way of seeking discounts on campus and in the community.
2. Develop a new, more user-friendly and interactive SGA website to serve as a central hub for information useful to students.
3. Upgrade the speed and performance of computer and IT services around campus.

Objective 5: SGA improvement initiatives (Bylaws, election code, judicial branch)

1. Reform the SGA Bylaws and eliminate ambiguity.
2. Refine the internship program by providing more opportunities to more students; build future leaders.

Objective 6: Community impact initiatives (Outreach, philanthropy, external affairs)

1. Continue to provide opportunities for students to get registered and educated about their voting rights.
2. Collaborate with philanthropic student organizations to provide community service.
3. Continue SGA's membership in the Texas Student Association, a coalition of Student Governments across the state of Texas.

Objective 7: University advancement initiatives (Policy, quality of service, Tier One)

1. Continue partnerships with various University departments to sponsor events beneficial to students.
2. Support plans for effective parking and transportation services.
3. Initiate and support initiatives to sustain an eco-friendly campus environment.
4. Work to resolve issues with housing as the residential campus population grows.
5. Support the University in its efforts to establish itself as a Tier One institution.

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.)?

There are no external funding sources for the Student Government Association. The primary source of funding is generated through the Student Service Fee.

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

There is no overlap.