

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY2012 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 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.

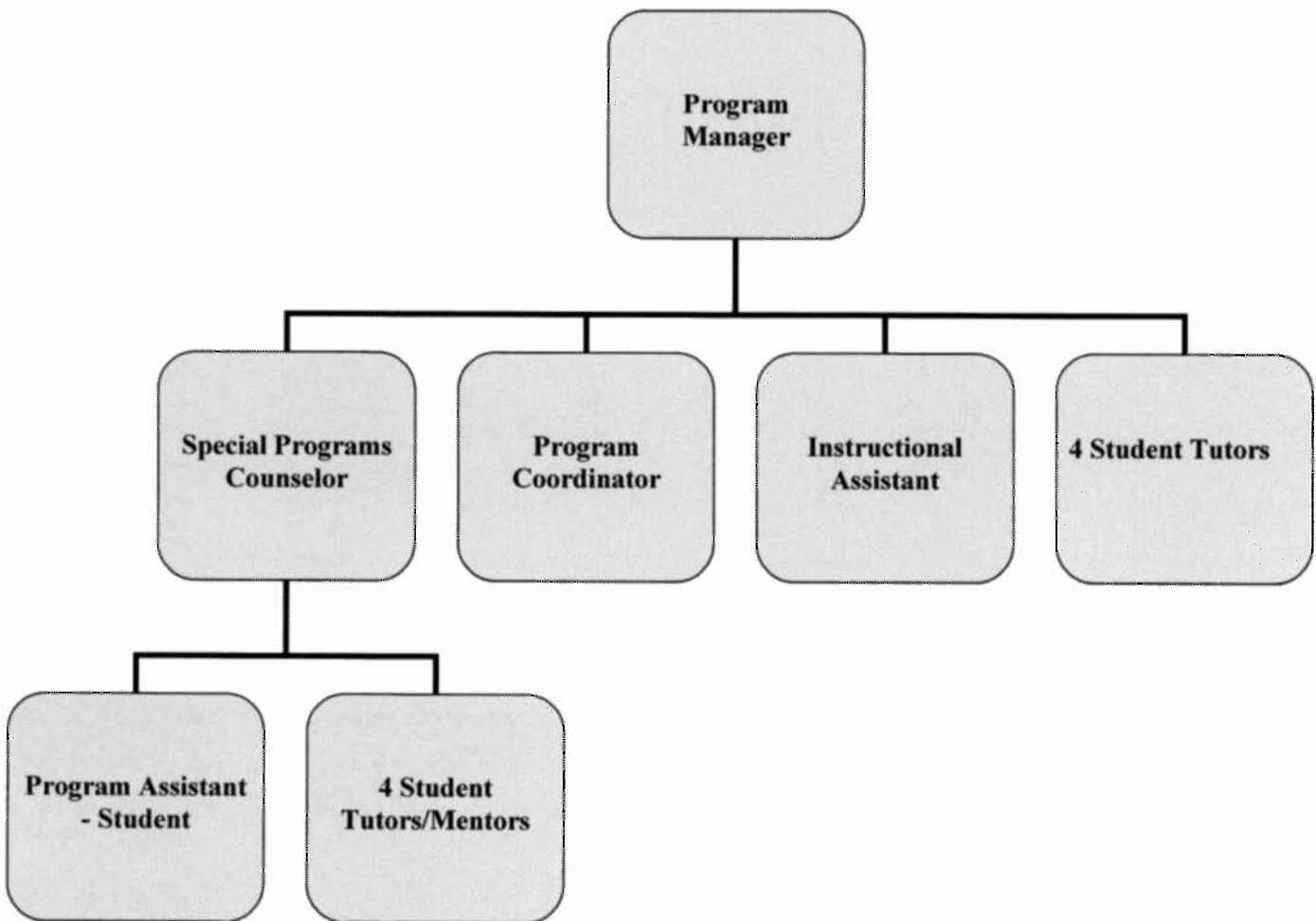
The SFAC fee allocation has helped the AAP to continue its efforts to provide financial, academic and mentorship support to students whose success depends on it. By addressing the academic and fiscal challenges facing university students, the program increases retention and graduation rates. Most often 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 fifty-five students, 11 summer scholarship and 1 summer internship stipend in NASA for a total of \$147,500. The AAP sponsored 10 incoming freshman students to enroll for the summer 2010 JUMP program. 4 students graduated from the program and 11 new students were accepted into the program for the fall 2010 semester. Out of the approximate 9,500 hours of individual study hall hours completed, students received over 1,500 hours of one-on-one tutoring and study skills sessions with lead tutor the other academic tutors. AAP students attended academic, self-development and career development seminars during the year. A total of 900 progress reports were sent to professors and about 640 were returned to the AAP to indicate progress and provide an update of the student's academic success during the year 2009-2010. Student evaluations given each year show that over 99% of students report a positive experience in the program. Students have excelled academically. AAP Students continue to achieve outstanding GPA's and graduating from the program. A fourth program evaluation is presently being conducted by the Office of Institutional Research.

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



- 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, the AAP provided individualized time management and study skill sessions to incoming freshman, 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.

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 from our AAP-Austin High School recruitment component 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 students.

The AAP partnered with The Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership to have AAP students participate in a week-long intensive Latino Leadership Initiative during the summer to increase the numbers of Latino Professionals across the nation and contribute to build a strong new generation of Latino Leaders. The AAP 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 students to attend community networking events. AAP worked with U of H Career Center to have AAP freshman complete aptitude exams and juniors and graduating seniors attend seminars/workshops on resume preparation, career exploration and mock interviews.

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 50 AAP students and 30 non-AAP students received approximately 1,500 hours of one-on-one tutoring in different areas of academic studies.
- A total of 40 AAP students attended 25 academic and self-development seminars sponsored by the Learning Support Services.
- 11 AAP incoming freshman and 3 sophomore students participate in time management and study skills sessions with the AAP lead tutor during the fall 2010 semester
- Approximately 35 students will participate in our annual One day student leadership retreat at the University Hilton Hotel. Students will be able to interact with peers and gain knowledge from professionals who are leaders in our community. A 4 hour workshop “Empowering Yourself For Success” will be presented and should accomplish the following Objectives (1) identify and teach key leadership skills (2) define “success” and the difference between it and “failure”. (3) outline strategies to maximize success, increase self-confidence, self-motivation, and overall fulfillment at school and in life. As a retreat outcome the students will participate in a community service project to be executed during spring 2011 semester.
- A total of 900 progress reports were sent to professors and 640 returned to the AAP to indicate progress and provide an update of the student’s academic success.
- 20 AAP Students achieved Dean’s List recognition

- 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 fifty-five students in the Academic Achievers Program, 11 summer scholarships and 1 summer internship stipend for a total of \$147,500. 4 AAP students graduated from the program,

- 11 freshman students from our AAP Austin High School program were admitted for the fall 2010 semester.
- A total of 5 CMAS College Career Days were offered during the year were approximately 1,000 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.
- 40 AAP students volunteered in our Community Service Project in conjunction with Junior Achievement at De Zavala Elementary
- 25 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 CMAS and the University of Houston to East Early College High School, South Houston Elementary, McReynolds Middle School Mentorship Program and 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 included the 2010 Houston Hispanic Forum.
- AAP Program Manager participated in 3 Television interviews during the year to publicize services offered by CMAS, AAP program 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 students.

- 6 AAP Junior students were selected to participate in a week-long intensive 2010 Latino Leadership Initiative with The Harvard Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership during the summer to increase the numbers of Latino Professionals across the nation and contribute to build a strong new generation of Latino Leaders
- A total of 12 seniors, 15 juniors and 15 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.

- 1 AAP Junior student was sponsored by the AAP to participate in the 2010 NASA Summer Internship Program other 5 students interned in different companies.
- 10 students were sponsored to attend professional conferences and community networking events
- 15 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 99% 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 2010 evaluation given to the students in the fall semester.

Do you feel you're benefiting from the program.

"Yes, I really do think I am benefitting from the AAP because I have different mentors that I can count on and ask for help". AAP freshman

"Yes, Absolutely, I have all the resources I need to succeed in college". AAP freshman

"Yes, extremely! The program offers help for students, not only academic support but all kinds of support possible". AAP sophomore

"Yes, the AAP Scholarship allows me to work less hours and focus more on school". AAP junior

"Yes, AAP is doing a great job in keeping me focused in school". AAP freshman

"Yes, the support services provide a sense of family no other organization I am a part of offers me". AAP junior

5. **Please discuss any budget changes experienced since your last (FY2011) 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 FY2010 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 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 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. AAP Scholarship amount will be increased to \$3,000 per year starting in the spring 2011.
 - 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. The number of students in the program will be increased to 65 students.
 - 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 underrepresented students to graduation by providing career and educational support services that will advance student academic, professional development and leadership potential.
 - 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 funding of one summer internship.

- 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. Coordinating an Annual Funding Campaign with AAP Alumni for November 2010 with U of H Development
 - b. Hosting an annual fund-raising banquet in order to raise money for both Academic Achievers Program components
 - c. Submitting proposals to major foundations and community corporations
 - d. Seeking new donors by attending major social events and establish contacts for potential new sponsors.

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.