STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC) FY 2012 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 FY2012 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, <u>e/g/</u> 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:

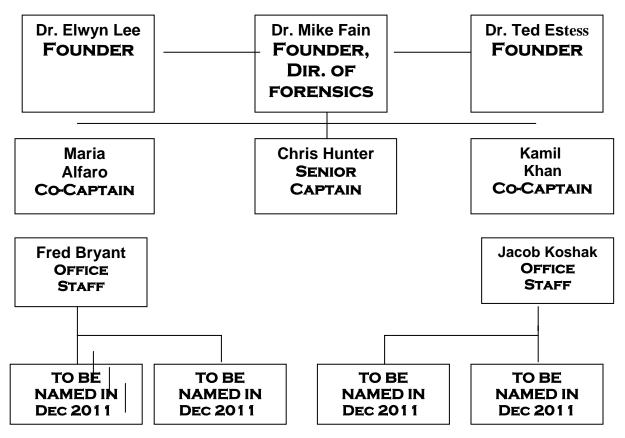
The UHFS was re-established in July 2002 under the dual umbrella of the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Honors College. <u>Beginning with no students or identifiable</u> <u>events at all, the UHFS is now the most active collegiate host of on-campus events and</u> <u>educational programs in Texas, if not the U.S.!</u> Under the direction of volunteer Director of Forensics Dr. Michael L. Fain, the 2009-2011 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 !

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 Maria Alfaro and Co-Captain Kamil Khan.. Office staffing is also provided by Fred Bryant and Jacob Koshak.

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:



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY

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 – <u>but our success cannot be</u> <u>guaranteed without an increase in our base funding for student involvement.</u>

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

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 **three community service projects** at the Depelchin Children's Orphanages and Star of Hope Mission
- Hosting eight forensic contests for collegiate and K-12 school students, featuring more than 3,000 students from 100+ schools
- Representation of UH in 26 national-level speech/debate contests
- Provision of forensic judges and academic directors for eighteen U.I.L. District Meet(s) and TFA/HUDL contests throughout Greater Houston
- Receiving eight awards including a National Championship in Congress
 at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament held in March 2010 in Minneapolis, MN.

Achievement of the Additional FY10 Objectives

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

The UHFS hosted 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

Approximately 4,000+ students came 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.

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

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

The annual schedule of events for the UHFS now totals 65+ 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 <u>base</u> 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 – was also be held on the UH Main Campus this past August. Both these events will bring great amounts of notoriety and opportunities to the UHFS.

Establishment of New Objectives

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

A great level of interest has been generated among Greater Houston K-8 students for the summer speech/theatre hosted by the UHFS. <u>During the Summer of 2010, more than 400+ students were not able to attend these summer camps – and were left on waiting lists.</u>

A total of six week-long camps were held during the summer 0f 2010 – and funding is needed to pay the costs (beverages/awards/supplies) of these camps. <u>These are low-cost summer camps, designed for Title I students – so enrollment fees are kept low to encourage attendance. A TOTAL OF 225 STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-8 ATTENDED THESE CAMPS HELD JUNE-AUGUST 2019.</u>

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

During FY10, 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 expanded its offerings and competed in the American Readers' Theatre Association National Championships – hosted in Los Angeles in May 2010. Additional funding of \$8,300 was awarded as a one-time SFAC allocation – and was needed to accommodate the needs of UH students 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 <u>three original objectives</u> are undoubtedly the most important ones we determined to pursue as our year began.

We are <u>extremely</u> pleased with our success in achieving our initial objectives. Because the current Forensic Society celebrated its eightth 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	-	30%
Middle Eastern	-	15%
Hispanic American	-	10%
Asian American	-	15%

<u>Objective – To initiate a series of community service opportunities for Team</u> 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 FY10 include:

> 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. January 22-23, 2010 Yates H.S. 20+ UHFS members served as judges at this debate tournament. February 20-21, 2010 Westbury H.S. 25+ UHFS members served as judges at this debate tournament. March 4-6, 2010 **Houston Urban Debate League** 30+ UHFS members served as judges at this City of Houston championship contest. March 23-24, 2010 Santa Fe H.S. 25+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament. March 31 & April 1, 2010 Davis H.S. 15+ UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament of the Houston I.S.D. April 2-3, 2010 Lamar H.S. 10 UHFS members served as judges at this speech/debate tournament of the Houston I.S.D. April 8, 2010 South Texas N.F.L. District 10+ UHFS members served as judges at this national-qualifying Congress tournament. August 29, 2010 Star of Hope Mission Members served lunch to 150+ mothers and children at this shelter.

<u>Objective – To host a series of contests and workshops for students in K-12 schools,</u> 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:

<u>September 11-13</u>, 2009– 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.**

<u>October 2-3, 2009</u> – 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.

<u>October 14, 2009</u> – 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.**

<u>December 14, 2009</u> – 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.**

<u>February 19-21, 2010</u> – The UH Main Campus hosted The David A. Thomas Cougar Classic Natl. College Tournament. **Roughly 100 students and faculty from 10+ universities are anticipated.**

<u>March 2, 2010</u> – The First Annual Black History Speech/Interpretation Contest for Elementary Schools was held on the UH Main Campus – **bringing an estimated 200 students and faculty to the UH Main Campus**.

<u>April 16-17, 2010</u> – The UH Middle School Forensic Tournament was held, **bringing 300** + **faculty**, **staff**, **and students to the UH Main Campus.**

<u>May 16, 2010</u> – The UHFS hosted The Second Annual Greater Houston Ballet Folklorica/Mariachi contest. **Over 400 faculty, staff, and students came to the UH Main Campus – representing elementary, middle, and high schools.**

<u>May 18, 2010</u> – The UHFS hosted The Sixth Annual UH Speech and Elementary School Speech & Interpretation Contest, **bringing 150+ students, faculty, and parents to the UH Main Campus.**

<u>May 22,2010</u> – The UHFS hosted The Greater Houston Step Show Championships, bringing 400+ faculty, staff, and students to the UH Main Campus – from middle and high schools.

<u>June, July, & August, 2010</u> – Six week-long speech/theatre camps were held for elementary and middle schools, **bringing 240+ students (grades 3-8) to the UH Main Campus.**

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.

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 FY2012:**

TOTAL FUNDING

<u>Base Funding – Air / Lodging / Registration / Tr Base Funding – Pt. Time Staff / Dir. of Forensic Base Funding – Maintenance & Operating</u>		\$50,720 \$36,381 \$ 4,449
	TOTAL BASE	\$91,550
One-Time Allocation from SFAC		\$47,271 **
	TOTAL FUNDING	\$138,821
TOTAL EXPENSES		
Air / Lodging / Registration / Transportation [State/Regional Contests]		\$73,000
Air / Lodging / Registration / Transportation [National Championships]		\$16,310
Base Funding – Pt. Time Staff		\$32,880
Base Funding – Dir. of Forensics		\$ 3,501
Salary & Wages [Hired Judges]		\$ 1,000
Maintenance & Operating		\$ 11,370
Fringe Benefits		\$ 760
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$138,821

** SFAC One-Time Allocations of \$16,640 were awarded to the UH Forensic Society, but were not recorded to appropriate accounts for use.

6. Please list your 2011-12 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 FY12:

<u>Primary Objective - Elevating the levels of national recognition earned in collegiate</u> <u>competition during FY2010</u>

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

- San Francisco State University (September 2010)
- Lone Star College @ Kingwood (October 2010)
- Colorado College (October 2010)
- State University of New York (November 2010)
- New York University (December 2010)
- West Chester University (January 2011)
- James Madison University (February 2011)
- Louisiana State University @ Baton Rouge (February 2011)
- 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 FY11 programs cited in response to Question 3.]

<u>Primary Objective – Encouragement of UH alumni to participate in The 60th</u> <u>Anniversary of UH National Forensics</u>

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

The next reunion was held October 2010. The theme of the eighth reunion was 'The 60 Years of National Success of the UH Forensic Society.'

<u>Primary Objective – Completion of Office Construction to Create a Usable Work</u> <u>Space</u>

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.

<u>Primary Objective – Establishment of Two Full-Time Associate Director of</u> <u>Forensics Positions</u>

The current organization is filled with extremely talented students, but the lack of a two full-time associate director prevents successful recruitment efforts of academically-qualified high school students.

More importantly, the UH Forensic Society can only attend one contest on a given weekend **and** must pay huge judging fees due to there not being more than one qualified faculty judge.

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.

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 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.**

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 was held in June, July, and August With more than 220+ elementary/middle school students attending our fourth summer institute in the Summer of 2010, we **raised approximately \$1,000**.
- Ongoing efforts are planned to pursue grants and endowments for events on the UH Main Campus.

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.