2011-2012
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 exists 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 interests of the 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.
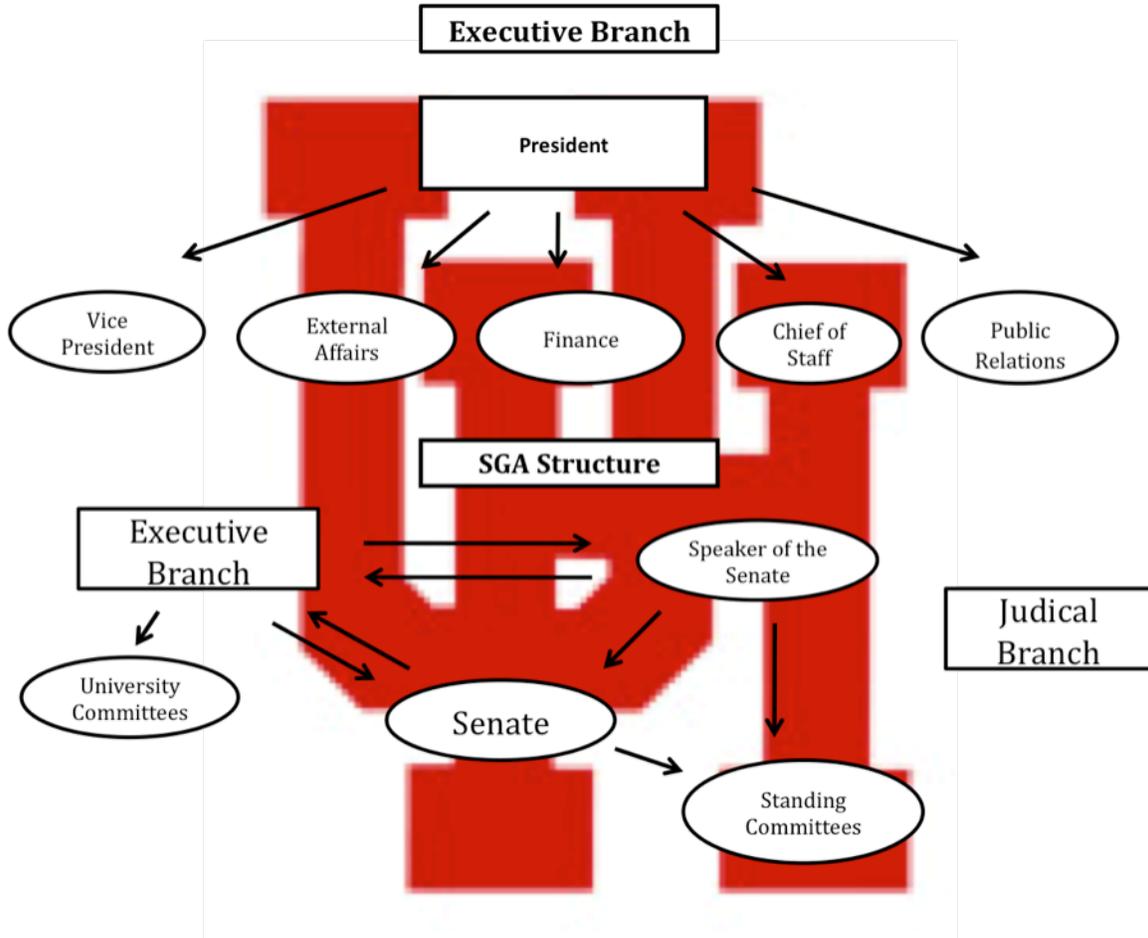
How our Mission is accomplished

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 all students. 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 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. It's the official representative 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 fellow students. Whether it is by fighting unnecessary tuition increases or finding ways to save 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 the 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.

Executive Branch

President

Vice President

External Affairs

Finance

Chief of Staff

Public Relations

SGA Structure

Executive Branch

Speaker of the Senate

Judical Branch

University Committees

Senate

Standing Committees

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.

Objective 1: Campus Infrastructure Initiatives

Status: Accomplished/Ongoing

Description:
1. **Transportation and Parking:** SGA created an initiative concerning a comprehensive parking and transportation plan. SGA worked with Division of Administration and Finance to open up new spaces in ERP for students and will continue to work with administration to address our Transportation and Parking needs.

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. SGA is working on creating a University Committee for housing.

4. **University Center Renovations:** SGA successfully supported and is actively participating in the renovation process of University Center which will enhance the quality of student activity space and accessibility of student service units.

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 and Academic 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. SGA hosted its annual Walk in the Dark and currently working with UHPD as well as Plant Operations to create a priority list.

2. **Student Dining:** SGA played an active role in the implementation of dining revision planning. SGA will continue to address different dining needs as our campus is growing towards Tier One with more students living on campus.

3. **Enforce Fair Practices:** SGA continues to address individual issues rising from unethical practices by faculty and staff.

4

4. **College Councils:** SGA will continue to work towards the creation of student councils in the individual colleges.

5. **Students Savings Program:** SGA successfully created its first Students Savings Program and it offers discount for students in more than 300 different locations.

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

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. SGA also looked into committees that need by-laws revision and currently working with respective divisions to improve the committee structure.

2. **Internship Program**- SGA successfully 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 activities, ideas and policies around campus. SGA revised the bylaws and implemented a financial code to further hold ourselves accountable. SGA successfully created the Associate Director for Technology, which helped increase our online presence and website.

   Groups Involved: SGA

   Groups Impacted/Benefited: All UH Students

Objective 4: Outreach

1. **Texas Students Association:** SGA continued efforts to sustain the Texas Students Association by way of communicating with other SGAs. SGA brought the Texas Students Association back this year to work towards common goals.

2. **SGA Improvement Initiatives and 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.

3. **Student Organizational Tour & Town-halls:** SGA dramatically increased its town hall to communicate effectively with our students and to receive feedback on important issues.

4. **Greater Houston Student Association:** SGA worked with other Universities in Houston area to create Greater Houston Student Association to work towards common goals.

5. **Prop 4 and Voter Registration Campaign:** SGA lead a rigorous voter registration campaign, focusing on registration, education and mobilization. SGA played a noticeable role on and off campus to encourage people to vote and pass the Tier-one Proposition 4.

6. **Co-Sponsorship of Events:** SGA noticeably increased co-sponsorships by hosting several events including: Cat's Back, Early Voting Shuttles, The Great Pumpkin Event, Finals Mania, Dr Khator Luncheons, Campus Accessibility Tour, etc

   Groups Involved: SGA, Texas Students Association, City of Houston, State of Texas, UH Administration, Center for Student Involvement.

   Groups Impacted/Benefited: UH Students, Students across the City of Houston and 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 tasks that we complete or the amount of legislation we pass, but by the amount of people we affect with our involvement in each 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 for the betterment and future of the students at the University of Houston. 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.

The Student Government Association has two One Time requests. These include the following:

- $3,060 – Increase in UH Administrative charge
- $7,465 – Computer upgrades and purchase of digital projector
- $560.00 in fees

SGA had $8299.18 in fund equity for FY10. The major portion is from lapsed student salary.

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.

Plan of action:
<u>Objective 1: Student Service Initiatives</u>
1. Raise Money for SGA Endowment Scholarship: SGA will create a Scholarship/Endowment to raise money for scholarships for students.
2. Students Savings Program: SGA will continue to work with business to offer discounted services for students.
3. University Center Renovations: SGA will continue its support and work with UH Administration to proceed with UC Renovation.
4. Student Safety: Work with UHPD to ensure a safe and secure campus community and will continue to launch different campaigns to improve student's safety and accessibility.
5. Recognize outstanding students and student organizations on our Campus.

<u>Objective 2: Student Government Improvement Initiatives:</u>
1. New member retreat and orientation: SGA will continue to offer its internship program to develop future leaders for this University.
2. University Committees: SGA will improve communications with current University Committees and will ensure proper shared governance.
3. Reform the SGA Bylaws and eliminate ambiguity

<u>Objective 3: University Advancement Initiatives</u>
1. Continue partnership with various University departments to sponsor events beneficial to students
2. Transportation and Parking: SGA will develop an initiative to address the needs of students and will educate students about alternative ways.
3. Student Housing: Build a better relationship with RLH and continue resolve issues with housing as the campus continues to grow in the future.
4. Continue support the University in its efforts to establish itself as a Tier One Institution.
5. Continue initiate and support initiatives to sustain an eco-friendly campus environment.

<u>Objective 4: Student Advocacy Initiatives</u>
1. SGA will continue its relationship with other Houston Colleges and Universities through active participation in Greater Houston Students Association

2. Continue SGA's membership in the Texas Student Association, a collation of Student Government across the state of Texas.
3. Continue to provide opportunities for students to get registered and educated about voting rights.

Objective 5: Student Empowerment Initiatives:
1. Pursue the implementation of relatively autonomous college council.
2. Continue to develop a comprehensive proposal for moderate and fair tuition and fees.
3. Examine the current Student life policies and make necessary recommendation to the President.

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.