

## **FY 18 One-Time Allocation Request – University Bands/Spirit**

The Spirit of Houston has been grateful for the additional travel funding provided for FY 17. The addition of \$75,000 permitted the Spirit of Houston to send the full band, cheer and dance to the games against Oklahoma (at Reliant Stadium) and Texas State, and a pep band to Southern Methodist University and Navy. We secured donor/UHAA support to send cheerleaders to Cincinnati and additional pep band/cheer for Navy. We hope to receive donor support to send a group to Memphis as well.

Our goal is to provide Spirit of Houston support at all games, home and away. To this end, we request a one-time allocation of \$75,000 for additional travel related expenses during FY 18. As we work to become more nationally visible at the University of Houston, a one-time amount of \$75,000 for travel will allow us to provide transportation for Spirit of Houston students to support our team at additional away games, as well as support for our fans and alumni across the country. The continued success of the UH football team increases the demand for our spirit groups to be present at all away games in some capacity.

Three years ago we were fortunate to receive generous funding from SFAC to purchase 12 new trumpets, 14 new saxophones, 8 new baritones and 10 new trombones for the Spirit of Houston. For FY 18, we are requesting a one-time allocation of \$75,000 to support the purchase of new instruments and the continued maintenance of our inventory of instruments. In FY 17, we had to purchase 12 additional mellophones and 12 additional baritones to meet the needs of incoming students who did not have an instrument to begin the fall semester. As the program continues to grow, the demand for the purchase of additional instruments and maintenance will increase. We have a number of sousaphones that are in need of considerable repair and/or replacement at this time.

## **FY 2018 Base Augmentation Request – University Bands/Spirit**

Although the SFAC base budget has remained unchanged for a number of years, the university bands/spirit organizations have grown and continue to do so. Operational costs have also increased as required goods and service prices have risen in recent years. With the rise in costs and increased enrollment, the amount of monetary support per student is in decline. With expected growth next year and for the next several years, this amount will continue to fall.

Current base budget support provides approximately \$412 per student, down from \$443 per person in FY2016. With growth of 8% in FY2017, and expected growth/retention rates of 13% in FY2017, this number will fall to approximately \$358 per student in FY2018.

To return current funding to the FY2016 amount of \$443/student, we are requesting an addition of \$61,600 to base budget support. The addition of \$61,600 will increase the base budget from \$286,400 to \$348,000, allowing the university bands/spirit organizations to maintain current university commitments while facilitating growth and representing the University of Houston on the national stage.