Student Government Association

Fiscal Year 2020
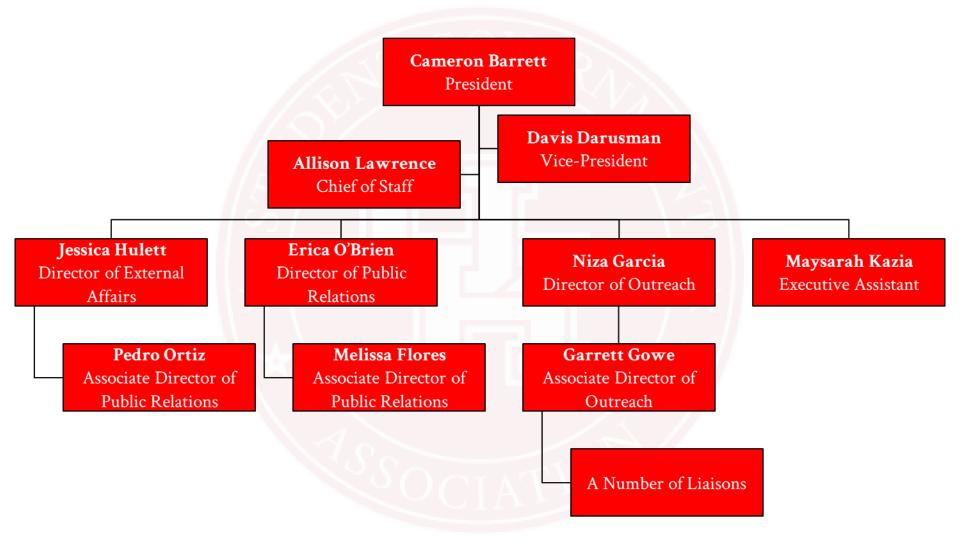

Presented by: Cameron Barrett, President
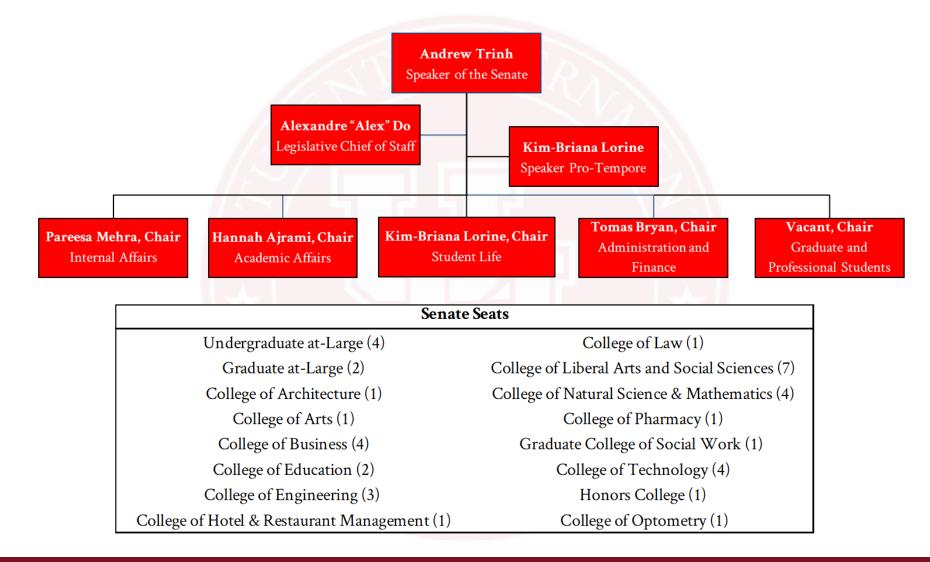
UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

Mission Statement

- "The Student Government Association exists to serve as the official voice through which student opinion may be expressed and empowered in the overall policy, decision making process, and services offered at the University of Houston. As such, the Student Government Association is committed to understanding the needs of students and advocating on their behalf. Through continuous interaction with students, faculty, staff, and administration, the organization works to improve and enhance the quality of the student experience." – Student Government Website

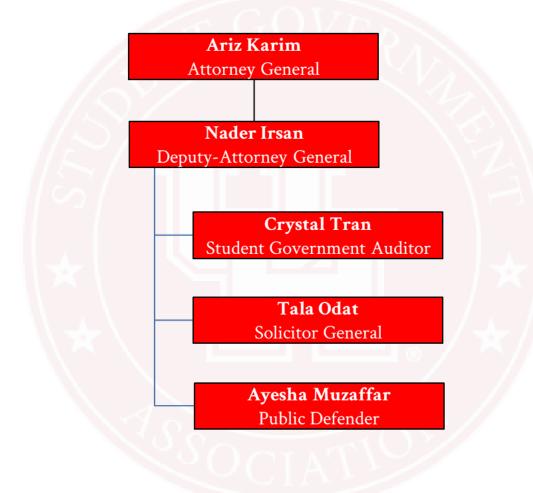# Organization Structure, The Executive Branch
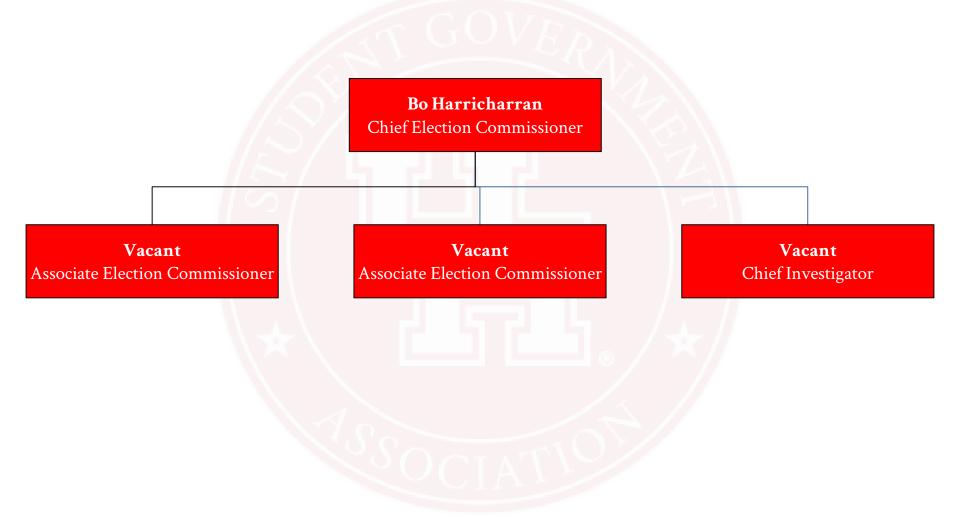
Organization Structure, The Legislative Branch

Andrew Trinh
Speaker of the Senate

Alexandre "Alex" Do
Legislative Chief of Staff

Kim-Briana Lorine
Speaker Pro-Tempore

Pareesa Mehra, Chair
Internal Affairs

Hannah Ajrami, Chair
Academic Affairs

Kim-Briana Lorine, Chair
Student Life

Tomas Bryan, Chair
Administration and Finance

Vacant, Chair
Graduate and Professional Students

Senate Seats	
Undergraduate at-Large (4)	College of Law (1)
Graduate at-Large (2)	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (7)
College of Architecture (1)	College of Natural Science & Mathematics (4)
College of Arts (1)	College of Pharmacy (1)
College of Business (4)	Graduate College of Social Work (1)
College of Education (2)	College of Technology (4)
College of Engineering (3)	Honors College (1)
College of Hotel & Restaurant Management (1)	College of Optometry (1)

Organization Structure, The Judicial Branch

Kate Dentler
Chief Justice

Elliott Kaufmann
Associate Justice

Reda Majidi
Associate Justice

Omid Abaei
Associate Justice

Matthew Stell
Associate Justice

Jacob Kratavil
Associate Justice

Mike Floyd
Associate Justice

Lena Craven
Associate Justice

Jorden Smith
Associate Justice

Organization Structure, The Justice Department

Ariz Karim
Attorney General

Nader Irsan
Deputy-Attorney General

Crystal Tran
Student Government Auditor

Tala Odat
Solicitor General

Ayesha Muzaffar
Public Defender

Organization Structure, The Election Commission

Bo Harricharran
Chief Election Commissioner

Vacant
Associate Election Commissioner

Vacant
Associate Election Commissioner

Vacant
Chief Investigator

54th Administration Initiative Success

54th Administration Initiative Success

- Mental Health
  - "Hired four new psychologists fully funded by the University"
  - "Student usage [of C.A.P.S. had] … a record increase [of] 64%"
  - "Implemented same-day walk in service for quicker service"
  - "Mandatory Counseling & Psychological Services segment implemented on every syllabus"
    - From "Year in Review Student Government", posted by 54th Student Government Administration

54ᵗʰ Administration Initiative Success

- Parking
  - "Contract finalized for real-time counters coming to all garages starting Fall 2018"
    - From "Year in Review Student Government", posted by 54th Student Government Administration
- Free Textbooks
  - "Worked with the Open Textbook Network Committee to gather Textbook Data at UH"
  - "Trial started for Open Source Textbooks for core classes"
    - From "Year in Review Student Government", posted by 54th Student Government Administration

Identified Issues from SFAC 2017

1. ## Lack of Attendance Metrics

   - "SFAC makes decisions based on data-driven metrics and proven returns on investment. However, SGA failed to provide this information during their presentation. For future reports, we urge SGA to include pertinent information regarding expenditures of Student Service Fees. We would also like to remind SGA to collect relevant data on their programming so that SFAC can properly judge their efficacy. The committee supports the use of more accurate measurements of attendance, such as card swipes and sign-in sheets." **– FY19 SFAC Recommendations PDF**, October 2017

2. ## Budget Transparency

   - "During public comment, it was brought to the committee's attention that students are concerned about SGA's accountability with its budget and expenditures. The committee recommends that you comply with students' requests for transparency." **– FY19 SFAC Recommendations PDF**, October 2017

Identified Issues from SFAC 2017

Overview:

- The Student Government **is not** a programming entity

- What the S.G.A. does year-to-year is largely unmeasurable

- The "Programming/Events" line of the SFAC-formatted budget will **always** make it seem like the SGA is misusing its funds

  - This includes all general marketing like signs, flyers, merchandise, the entire Election Commission budget, etc.

Identified Issues from SFAC 2017

55th Administration Response to these Issues:

- Creation of the SGA Auditor within the Department of Justice
  - Auditor ensures everyone has access to the budget and that we spend money reasonably
- Sending out the line-item budget every two-three weeks to the entire Senate
- Budget Controls:
  - Executive Authority of budget transferred to respective branch leaders
  - Gave Senate and Election Commission a fixed proportion of the controllable budget (10% and 14% respectively)
  - Capped travel spending at 10% of the controllable budget of the Student Government

Identified Issues from SFAC 2017

55th Administration Response to these Issues:

- For each event/service the 55th Student Government hosted, where relevant, we collected data
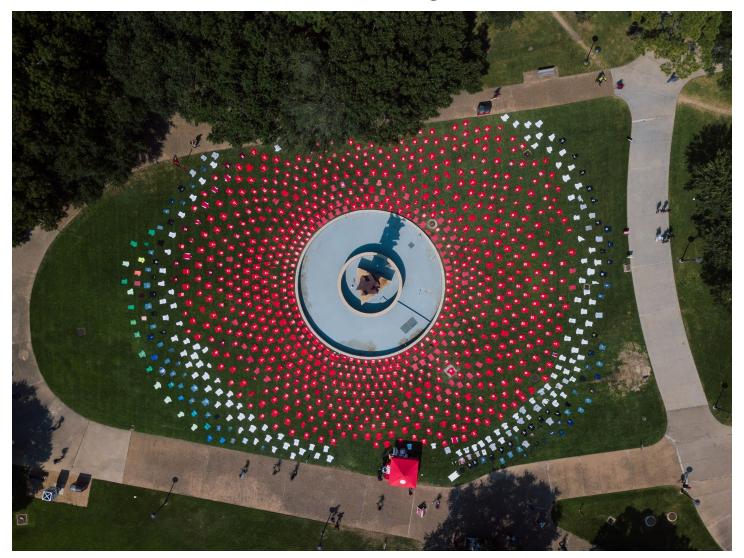 - Voter Registration
  - Blood Drive
  - End the Stigma
  - Etc.

Events/Programs

1. End the Stigma

2. Santa Fe Blood Drive

3. Voter Registration

4. Other Events

End the Stigma

- The Student Government collects ~1,100 t-shirts, laying them out in Butler Plaza
  - Each shirt is meant to represent a college student who commits suicide each year
  - Meant to inform people of the importance of mental health and connect them to University Resources
- Most collaborative End the Stigma ever (2018)
  - Done in conjunction with UH Wellness' 'Fresh Check Day' and SPB's "Perks of Being a Wallflower" event

End the Stigma

Santa Fe Blood Drive

- May 18th, 2018
    - 10 people killed and 14 more injured at Sante Fe High School
    - Less than two weeks later the Student Government Organized a Blood Drive:
        - Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
        - Live Performances
        - Metropolitan Volunteer Program
    - 22 Donations Collected total
        - Effects/Saves around 66 people
        - All Donated to support the surrounding medical facilities of Santa Fe

Santa Fe Blood Drive

Voter Registration

- Made a priority from the beginning of the administration:
  - Weekly tabling
  - National Voter Registration Day Event
    - 252 students in attendance, 411 people registered
    - In collaboration with the Graduate College of Social Work, several voter registration organizations, and the Texas State Department
  - In around 25 weeks, we registered around 775 students

Voter Registration (National Voter Registration Day Event)

Other SGA Events

- General Tabling
  - DestresSGA
    - Gave out food to students studying during finals week (10PM-11:30PM)
    - ~100 students participated
  - Round Table
    - Small meet-and-greet at beginning of administration
    - ~80 students engaged
  - Houston Health and Safety Summit
    - Big collaboration with UHPD, the Fire Marshall, MVP, the UH Safety Administrator, etc.
    - ~72 students in attendance

55ᵗʰ Administration Initiative Accomplishments

55th Administration Initiative Accomplishments

- Food Insecurity
  - Acquired free space for Campus Food Pantry through Auxiliary Services
  - Implemented reduced meal-plan program for homeless students
  - Doubled meal voucher program from 200 donations to the Urban Experience Program to 400
  - Implemented Meal-Card program with residual budget
    - Cards, Vouchers, and Meal Plan discounts valued at ~$96,000

55th Administration Initiative Accomplishments

- Campus Safety
  - Implemented "The Cougar Pack"
    - Student-run ride program where students may be escorted from Library to their residence hall or vehicle late at night
    - Includes funding of four paid positions
      - Valued at ~$19,000
  - Implemented once per semester "Walk in the Dark" event, (previously only in Spring)

55th Administration Initiative Accomplishments

- Worked with Facilities to rebuild University Drive sidewalks
  - Summer 2019, valued at ~$110,000
- Menstrual Products
  - Worked with Chartwells to price menstrual products as necessities rather than luxury items
  - Reduced their margins by ~10%
- Worked with Auxiliary Services to transition out all Styrofoam products under Chartwell's governance
  - Panda Express, Chick Fil-a

55th Administration Initiative Accomplishments

- Worked with Auxiliary Services to provide busing for students to vote on October 22nd (early voting)
  - 612 students bussed to vote in one day (72 students per hour)
- Established textbook exchange/donation system through UH Libraries Course Reserve System

Request

Request

1. Lower the President's stipend from $800 to $702 per month (from tier-5 to tier-4)

2. Lower the Vice-President's Stipend from $702 to $613.60 per month (from tier-4 to tier-3)

3. Eliminate one of our $318.75 per month (tier-1) positions

   - Move all of this money into the general/controllable budget

Request

- Rationale/Justification:
  - The Student Government is one of two organizations which has the tier-5 stipend for the Chief Executive, and the tier-4 stipend for the number two Chief Executive
  - This change creates parity between other fee-funded units and the Student Government which is crucial
  - The elimination of one of our tier-1 stipend positions is necessary because it has been a struggle for each Administration to determine a position for this stipend
  - These changes create an extra $6,000 in controllable expenses which the Student Government needs to more sustainably fund things like International Mother Language Day, The Election Commission, outreach materials, etc.

Requests

Student Government Association		
Titles	**Monthly Rate**	**New Monthly Rates**
President	$ 800.00	$ 702.00
Vice President	$ 702.00	$ 613.60
Speaker of the Senate	$ 613.60	$ 613.60
Chief of Staff	$ 613.60	$ 613.60
Director, Public Relations	$ 466.34	$ 466.34
Director, External Affairs	$ 466.34	$ 466.34
Director, Outreach	$ 318.75	$ 318.75
Executive Assistant	$ 318.75	$ -
Annual Total	$ 51,592.56	$ 45,530.76
	Net Savings	$ 6,061.80

Questions?