

## **FY 21 Base Augmentation Request-University Bands/Spirit**

The Spirit of Houston and University Bands Department are grateful for the current base budget provided by the Student Fees Advisory Committee to support our programs. As we continue to explore all avenues of efficiency within our budget and additional fundraising, we would like to request a base augmentation for the FY 2021 of \$50,000. The augmentation would go towards partially funding the creation of a new position within the Spirit of Houston titled Spirit Coordinator.

The position of Spirit Coordinator for the Spirit of Houston would serve as the Head Coach of the University of Houston Cheerleaders, Cougar Dolls, and Mascots as well as being the administrative head of these areas working directly with the Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands. The coordinator position would work directly with the three coaches for each area to support the students within these groups at a higher level than currently experienced. All spirit positions with the current staff are part time positions, with the coaches working as teachers, business partners, cheer gym administrators, and professional mascots outside of their work on campus. The creation of this position would put a full-time staff member on campus at all times to support these groups and allow them to have the proper guidance, training, administrative support, and follow through needed by the students. In addition, the full-time position would allow all spirit groups the chance to engage our campus and local communities in different ways than possible with all part-time staff.

In addition to the direct work with the spirit groups, the coordinator would be expected to handle duties within the entire Spirit of Houston just as the rest of the staff are. This would include responsibilities within the budget, travel coordination, student training, recruiting, and daily operations that would elevate the productivity and function of the entire Spirit of Houston and University Bands Department. The creation of this position, which is a common position among other universities in the American Athletic Conference as well as the majority of Division I Athletics Programs, would allow the University of Houston students interested in all spirit areas to be cared for and developed in a way that our campus has not seen prior to this. As the students and their experiences grow, so does the level with which they represent the University of Houston.

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