

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Student Government Association FY2022 Program Questionnaire

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.

SGA 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.

How the 57th Administration Accomplishes Our Mission:

The 57th Student Government Association serves as the student voice when collaborating on policy making with university administration. Since our inauguration in April of 2020 the 57th administration became entirely virtual. Despite the unprecedented shift in procedure, the 57th administration has continued its commitment to serving the student body and working on improving university policy. The 57th administration prides itself on being an organization of diverse student leaders who collectively represent the diversity intrinsic to the University of Houston. Over the summer, several student concerns and petitions arose on the topics of diversity and inclusion as well as over-policing of student events. The Student Government Association got in contact with university administration and passed the Policy Reforms Act that created several workgroups made up of students, faculty and staff; The University Police Department, Sexual Assault and Misconduct, Diversity and Inclusion, Security of Student Events and Freedom of Expression work groups were created with the purpose of reforming various university policy. The Legislative and Executive Branches work together in order to accomplish our mission. The Executive Branch members connect with appropriate university administration to alleviate student concerns and the Legislative Branch votes on changes to university policy and serves as a student voice in workgroups that make policy changes.

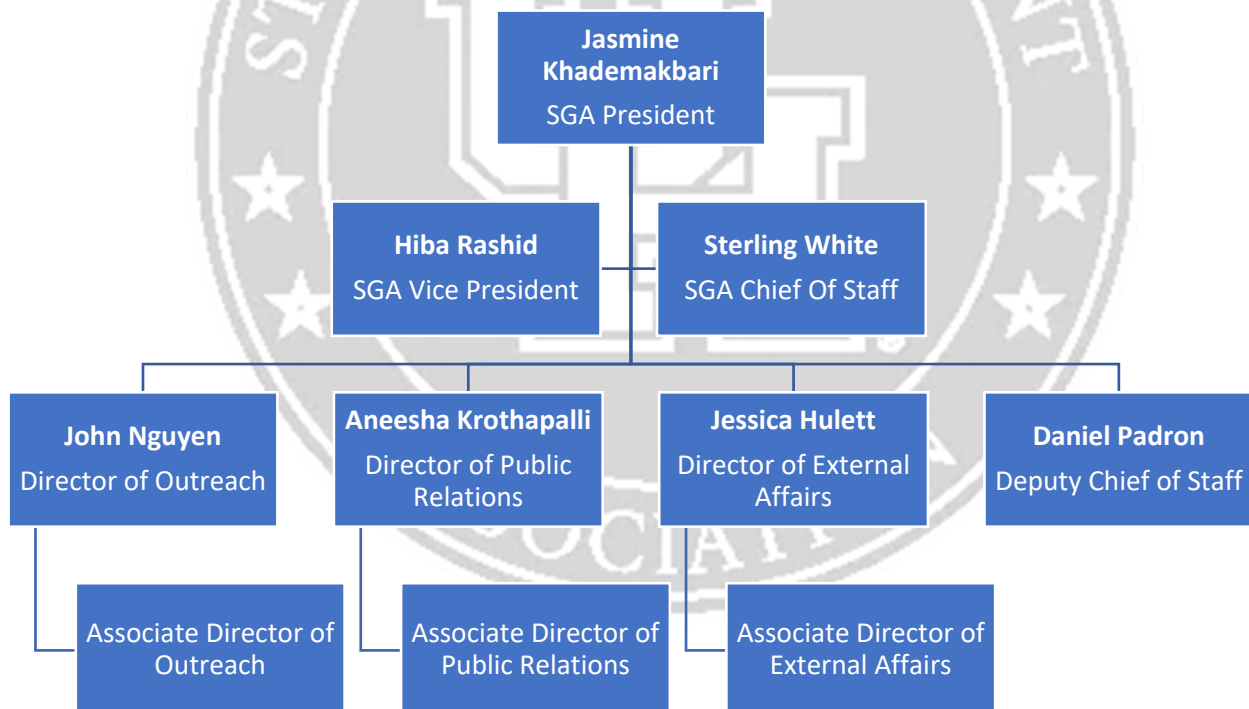
Justification of the Student Government's Fee Allocation:

The Student Government Association at the University of Houston dates back to the 1930s and is a student run, student led group that focuses on policy and the improvements of student life on campus. The Student Government Association aims to use its entire budget to fund new policy changes, pilot programs, incentivize students on campus to get involved and fund the student employees that make these changes reality. Policies that the Student Government Association advocates for do not only affect students currently on campus but serve to improve the life of future students at the University of Houston. Policies such as the International Student Mentorship Program that the 57th administration piloted this semester and the Transfer Student Mentorship Program that will pilot in Spring 2020. Events like End the Stigma, various food drives and Cougar Pack serve to help students currently on campus.

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, advisor, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.

Overview:

The Student Government Association is made up of three branches; the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. The Executive branch is led by the Student Body President and advised by the cabinet made up of the Vice President, Chief of Staff, Director of External Affairs, Director of Public Relations and the Deputy Chief of Staff. Cabinet positions may vary from year to year depending on need and any other staff the President deems necessary. The Legislative Branch is led by the Speaker of the Senate who presides over the bi-weekly Senate meetings, sets agenda and meeting times. The Student Senate writes legislation to work towards improving the student experience on campus and their respective colleges. The Justice Department is headed by the Chief Justice and made up of eight Associate Justices, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Together, they make up the Court of Appeals that hears matters involving the constitutionality of legislation, disputes between branches and decides the results of election complaints. The Election Commission is led by the Chief Election Commissioner.



Chiamaka Chukwu
Chief Election Commissioner

Associate Election
Commissioner

Associate Election
Commissioner

Chief Investigator

Julian Cheg
Speaker of the Senate

David Paul Hilton
Speaker Pro-Tempore

Iqra Khan
Legislative Chief of Staff

Saabreen Ahmed
Academic Affairs

Esther Arias
Administration and
Finance

Sandra Ortiz
Student Life

Jon Garcia
Graduate and Professional Students

David Paul Hilton
Internal Affairs

Eddie Munoz
Chief Justice

Ben Solis
Associate Justice

Stepheni Torres
Associate Justice

Anu Thomas
Associate Justice

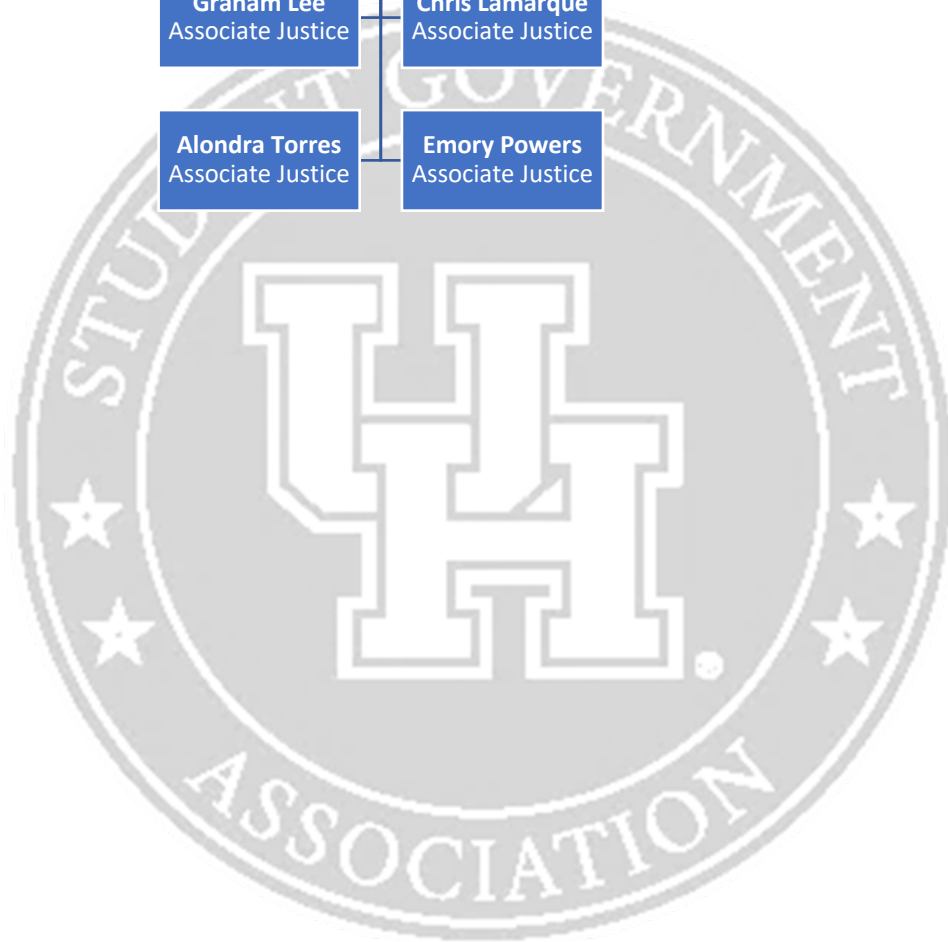
**Esteban
Rodriguez**
Associate Justice

Graham Lee
Associate Justice

Chris Lamarque
Associate Justice

Alondra Torres
Associate Justice

Emory Powers
Associate Justice



3. List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2019-2020 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (DSAES) Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate (links below). Please comment on your success in achieving these strategic initiatives/action steps. If a strategic initiative/action step changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new strategic initiatives/action steps, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these items.

Strategic Initiatives and Action Steps 2019-2020:

Higher Wages for Students:

Main Goals:

- Raise the minimum wage of on campus student workers
- Create a Student Worker Bill of Rights to accurately educate and protect student workers
- Conduct a Student Worker survey to understand how to improve the student worker experience

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Negotiated with Administration and Finance and University departments to raise the minimum wage for student workers on campus to \$8.00 per hour
- Created a survey in partnership with Human Resources and University Career Services to measure the student worker experience on campus
- Conduct research and gather information on the creation of a Student Worker Bill of Rights to protect students and educate departments

Better Health Services:

Main Goals:

- Push for third party insurance in the Student Health Center
- Increase awareness of the Student Health Center and host events

University Goals:

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DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Work with the Student Health Center to host meetings with private insurance carriers to create a contract for the credentialing process of third-party insurance
- Hosted HPV vaccination awareness week with tabling sessions to educate students on HPV

A Sustainable Campus:

Main Goals:

- Creation of a Green Fund
- Work towards a more sustainable campus
- Reduce plastic waste on campus

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Conducting research with every high enrollment public Texas University to gather research on the Green Fund
- Passage of a bill with over 100 student organizations sponsoring the creation of a Green Fund
- Working with Auxiliary Services to reduce Plastic Number 6 on campus

4. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned strategic initiatives and/or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data.

Consistent Attendance of Meetings with University Administration:

The 57th Student Government Association branches work together to keep every branch and member accountable to ensure efficiency and efficacy. The Student Government Association is first and foremost an advocacy organization. Advocacy can be measured in several ways. First is the regular attendance of meetings whether that is University Committee meetings, meetings with university administration or Senate Committees and Caucuses with fellow Student Government leaders. University Committee meetings and meetings with university administration are always attended by at least one member of the Executive Branch. The Vice President appoints appropriate student members throughout the year to various University Committees to ensure that a student voice is always represented.

Consistent and Efficient Meeting Holding:

Despite being in unprecedented times and holding an entirely virtual Student Government Association for Summer and Fall 2020, the Speaker of the Senate has held consistent and efficient Senate meetings. Meetings are recorded and meeting minutes are taken and approved at every Senate meeting. The 57th Student Government Association has held more Summer Senate meetings than any prior Student Government Administration, demonstrating our commitment to be an active and efficient Student Government Association despite our virtual platform.

Initiative Record Keeping:

Part of a successful Student Government Association is keeping proper documentation of all of the initiatives worked on throughout the year. Any conversations or policy work done with university administration is documented on legislation that is then reviewed and passed by the Senate. Some legislation can have a direct impact on university policy and procedures and others serve as a way of communication to the public on what the Student Government has been working on as well as serve as a paper trail for future administrations to learn and build from.

5. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2021) 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 light of the COVID-19 pandemic the need for funds to allocate to event programming has been greatly reduced due to the low student population on campus and new social distancing guidelines. As a result, the budget for the Office of Public Relations increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000. The 57th administration will focus on informational marketing for the November Presidential election, merchandise and promotional items for students on campus. The External Affairs budget was decreased from \$5,000 to \$2,000 as the in-person event, the UH System Conference that was being planned by External Affairs became virtual. The SGA banquet budget was also decreased by \$500, as the cancelation of last year's banquet led us to have leftover supplies. The Chief of Staff and Outreach Departments were given a budget of \$2,000 each to aid with any expenses that may arise as a result of the departments going virtual and needing to mail out merchandise or materials to students who may be uncomfortable with picking up materials on campus.

6. If your unit concluded FY2020 with a Fund 3 addition to Fund Equity in excess of \$5,000, please describe the conditions which caused the addition and provide a lineitem identification of the budgetary source(s) of the addition (i.e. lapsed salary, conference travel, etc.).

The Student Government Association concluded FY 2020 with a return of \$41,878. The \$38,213 savings indicated on the budget as "Maintenance & Operations/Travel" were due to the financial restraints placed by the university as a result of COVID-19. The \$3,665 savings indicated on the budget as "Salary/Wage/Fringe" were due to positions not being filled immediately at the commencement of the 57th Administration due to the freeze on hiring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Please list your 2021-2022 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Values and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiative.

Strategic Initiatives and Action Steps 2020-2021:

Inclusive Student Support:

Main Goals:

- Increasing ADA Accessibility
- Creation of an International Student Mentorship Program
- Creation of a Transfer Student Mentorship Program

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- The creation of the Equity for Students with Disabilities and CSD Support Act
- The creation of a Disabled Students Demand Justice petition

- The creation of a workgroup to review university policy related to various areas of concern for students with disabilities including the Provost Office, Campus Facilities and Administration and Finance
- The passage of the International Student Support Act that piloted the University of Houston's first International Student Mentorship Program to be continued in Spring 2020
- The creation of a Transfer Student Program proposal and the piloting of the Transfer Student Mentorship program in Spring 2020

Green Campus:

Main Goal:

- To decrease the use of single-use plastics on all dining locations on campus, including the student centers

University Goal:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Bi-weekly meetings with Auxiliary Services
- Student Representation on the Student Centers Sustainability Committee
- The creation of a survey to measure the amount of single-use plastic currently consumed on campus

Affordable Housing:

Main Goal:

- To ensure that the University of Houston maintains a low-cost Housing option for students

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Meeting with the Executive Director of Student Housing and Residential Life
- Meeting with Residence Halls Association Leadership
- Creation and passage of a Resolution in Support of Maintaining the affordability of Moody Towers

Academic Support:

Main Goal:

- Academic Support Groups for Students

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- The creation of a Improve UH Online Learning Petition
- The creation of a survey to asses student academic need amidst the pandemic

Campus Safety:

Main Goals:

- Increasing Awareness of Sexual Assault and Mental Health on Campus
- Continued Support and Expansion of the Cougar Pack

University Goals:

#2 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research university by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Meeting with UH CAPS to continue the End the Stigma Event virtually
- Creation of Marketing and videos to promote UH CAPS resources for students
- The holding of a virtual event to increase awareness of sexual assault
- The creation of a re-opening plan for Cougar Pack by the Vice President

8. Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2022 base funding is extremely limited and recognizing that it is likely that some units will not be allocated the new base budget and/or one-time funds requested. Please provide a narrative of how your unit would accommodate a reduction of 5% in your total FY2022 base Student Service Fee budget request and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.

A reduction of 5% from the total FY 2022 base would be approximately \$8,023.75 and would be reduced from the \$25,300 currently allocated for Programs/Events. As the Student Government Association is an advocacy organization and there currently exist organizations that receive SFAC funding for student programming events, reducing funding for programming and events would be the most appropriate area for reduction.

9. 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.)? If you receive funds from other sources, please briefly describe the source, purpose, and duration of the funding and report the amounts received in the appropriate rows/columns on the SFAC Spreadsheet

Currently, the Student Government Association does not receive any additional funding, nor is it able to accept donations.

10. Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.

The Student Government Association is unique in its position as an advocacy organization that works directly with university administration to make policy changes on campus.