

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)

FY2026 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS: *Please respond to all questions. An electronic copy of your responses in PDF format should be sent to the SFAC Committee via the Dean of Students Office, at dlyoung4@central.uh.edu by 1:00 p.m., Friday, October 18, 2024. It should be noted that only electronic submissions will be considered. Only those requests submitted by 1:00 p.m., October 18, 2024 will be guaranteed full consideration.*

- 1. Please provide a one-page executive summary of your questionnaire responses. This summary should include, in brief terms: your unit's mission, goals that support your mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.**

Cougars in Recovery's (CIR) mission is to provide a continuum of support that bolsters success in recovery, academics, and professional pursuits which prepare students to confidently enter the workforce. Similarly, CIR's vision is to create an environment where recovering students can experience a reclamation of agency in the areas of education, self-efficacy, leadership, and professional. CIR fulfills these objectives through offering specialized support in the form of daily community check-ins, mentorship and leadership opportunities through the Source of Strength Leadership Program, professional development with Career Ready Coogs, community and leadership building through the Outdoor Adventure Learning Experience, individualized support, and serving as a liaison to on and off campus resources. We serve 60 students regularly, making us one of the largest Collegiate Recovery Programs in the world.

Currently a portion of the program coordinator's salary is funded by donation dollars. In the event these dollars are no longer provided the department will not have the ability to fund the coordinator's salary. Having the program coordinator's salary, benefits, and administration fees funded by the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) will allow funds to be reallocated towards providing programming that promotes student success and wellness in recovery. In addition, it will allow the program director to be relieved of some of the fundraising responsibilities. Focus will be shifted towards program modification and development, data collection and analysis, and recruiting students. Lastly, it will allow the department to grow its fund equity account for program sustainability.

The CIR lounge space serves as a 24/7 drop-in center for the students essential to success in any Collegiate Recovery Program per the Association of Recovery in Higher Education. We are currently housed in Moody Towers, which is scheduled to be torn down Fall of 2027. Dr. Kittle, Mr. Dawe and SHRL have been working to find us a new space. CIR will potentially have to pay rent for the new lounge and office space. We are seeking SFAC to fund the rent in the new space.

Our largest fundraising event is the annual Graduation Ceremony and Friendraising Dinner. We have been looking for an underwriter for this dinner for years to no avail. We use the dinner to celebrate those students from CIR who are graduating that year by letting them speak to the attendees, telling their stories of recovery and collegiate success. The attendees are stakeholders and supporters who then donate to help us continue this important work. By SFAC permanently funding this event, the program can leverage ROI to support student success.

Figure 1.

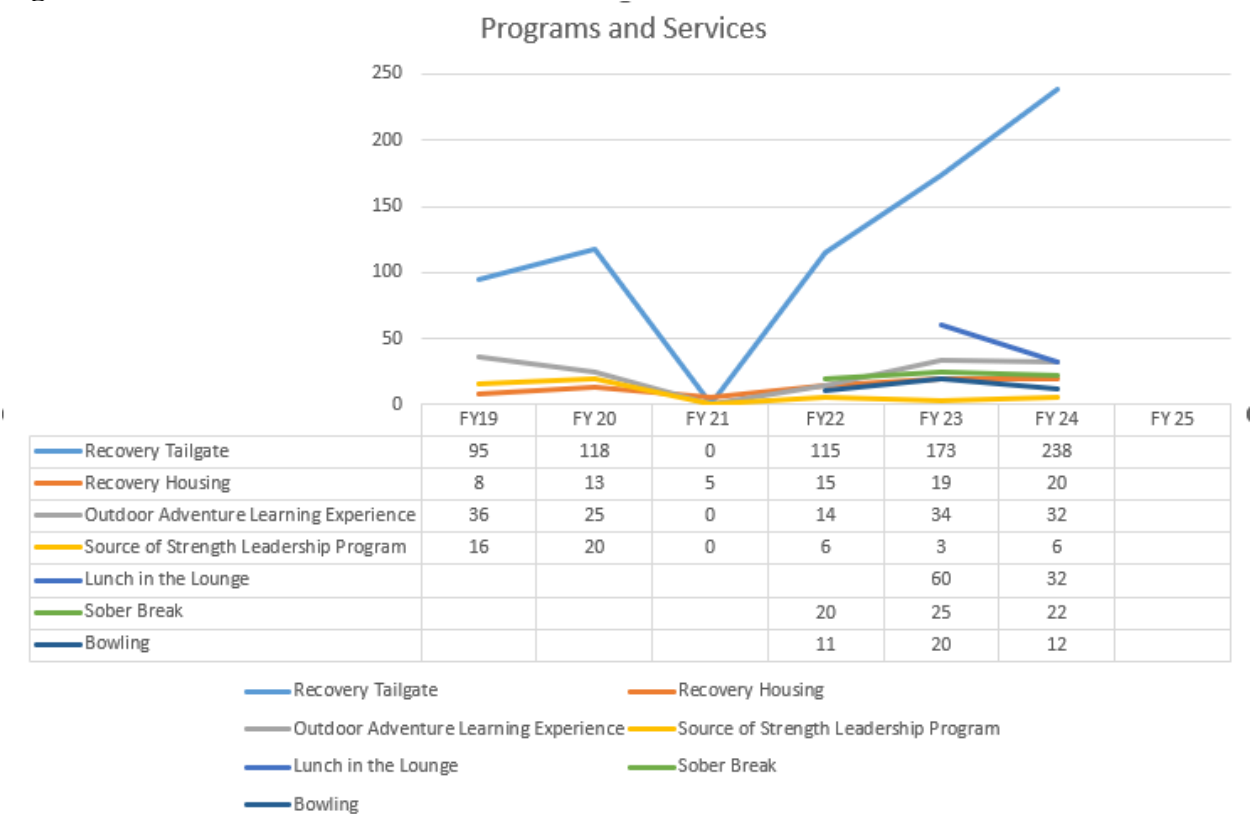


Figure 2.

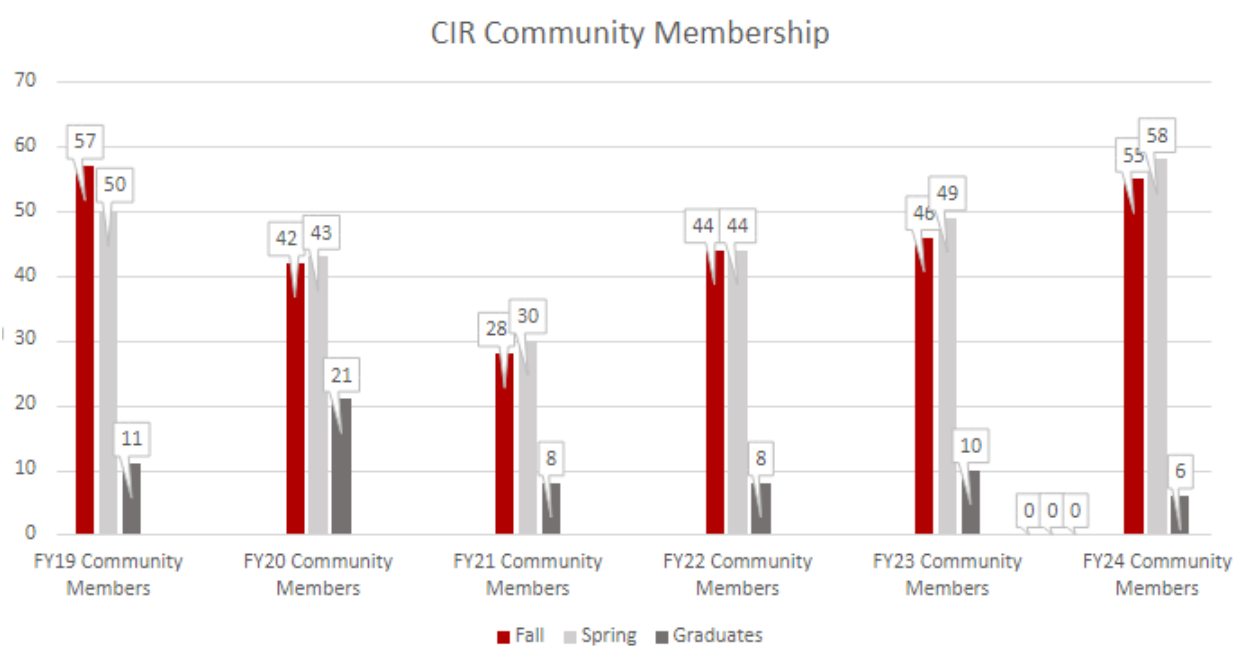


Figure 3.

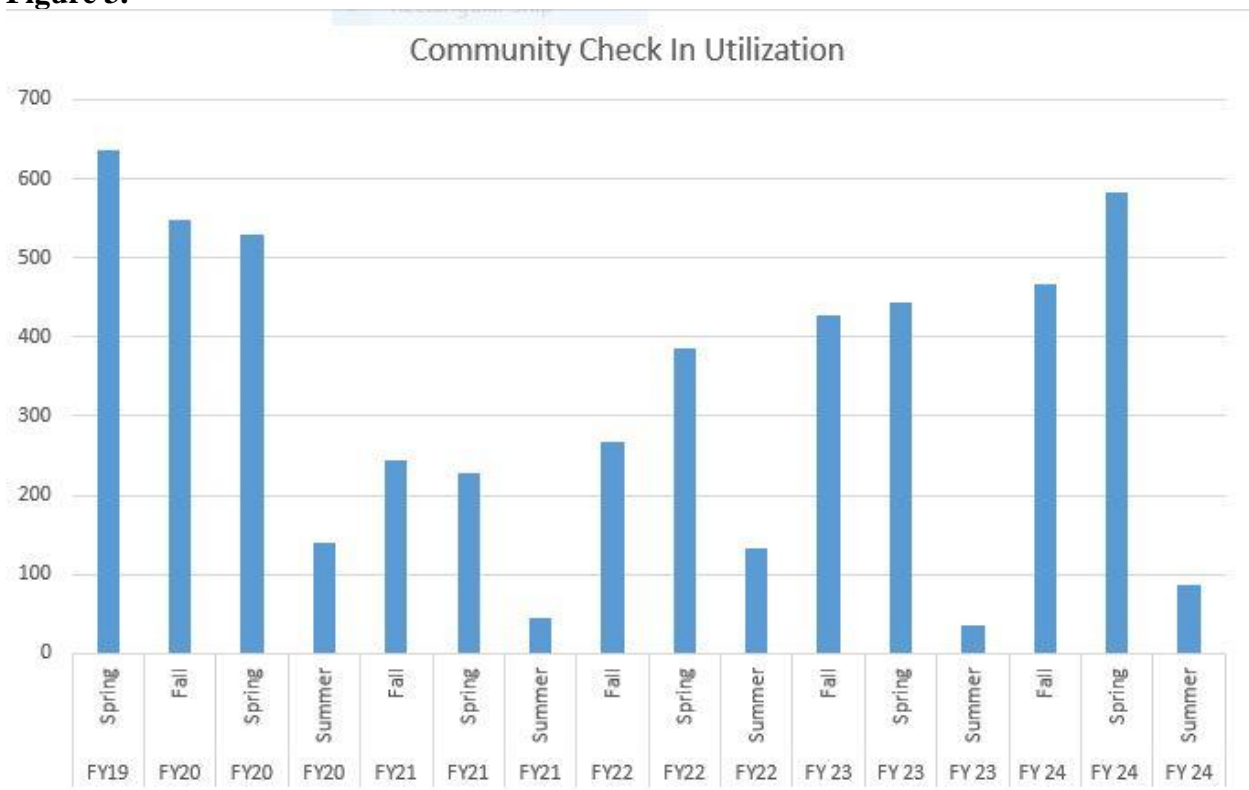


Figure 4.

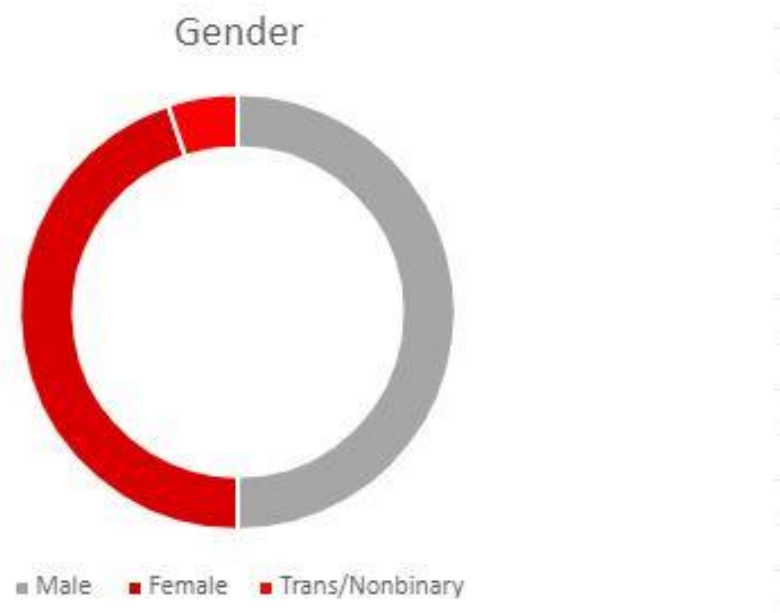


Figure 5.

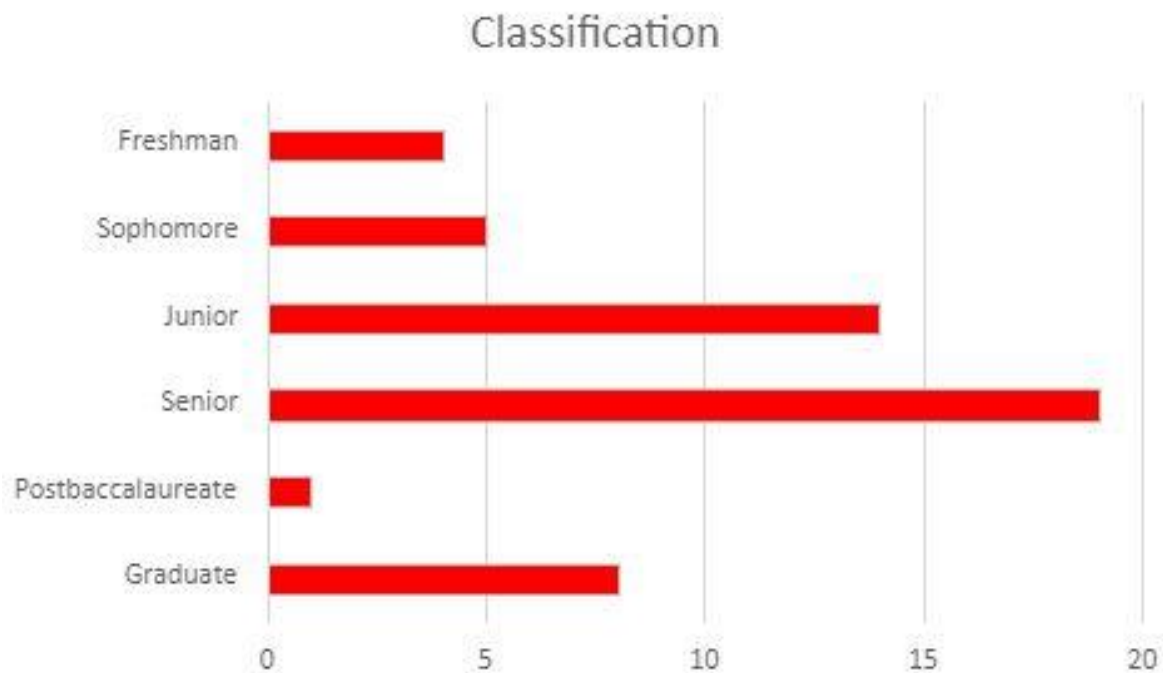
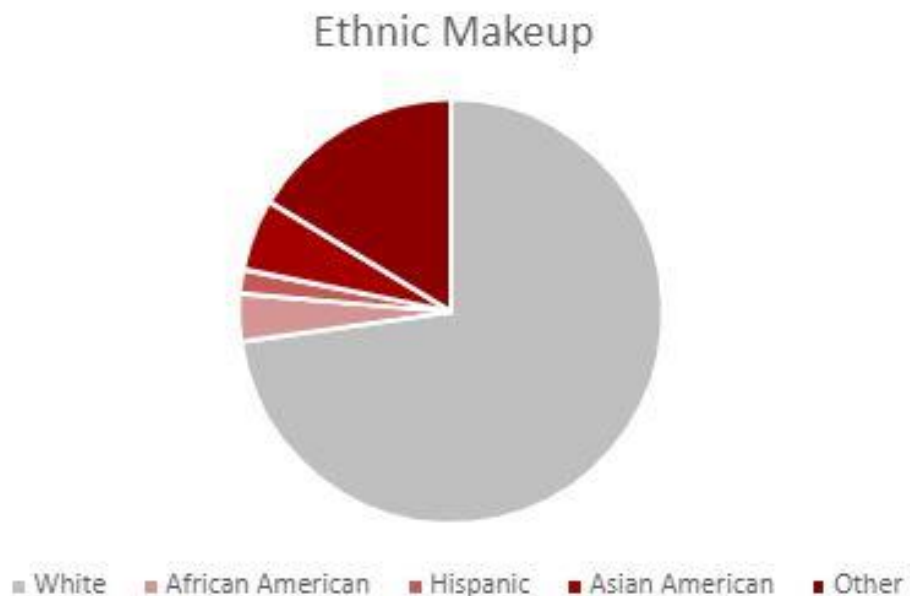


Figure 6.



2. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the DSA strategic initiatives and/or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exists, discuss any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting this data.

Figure #1, titled CIR Program and Services, depicts the number of CIR members that have participated in CIR programming since the program began. We track attendance at all events including daily check-in groups, tailgates, and volunteering efforts. Our highest attended events are our sober tailgates with over 230 students attending in Fall 2023. The two programs that have decreased significantly were lunch in the lounge, and bowling, due to budgetary constraints and understaffing, we hosted fewer last spring than we usually do. **Figure #2**, titled

CIR Community Membership, shows the growth of the community. The department saw a 19% increase in the size of the community from FY 23 to FY 24. CIR served 58 students in FY 24. Nineteen of those students were new to our community. We graduated six who were celebrated at our annual Graduation Celebration Dinner. The average community cumulative GPA from FY24 is 3.28. The average townhouse GPA is 2.84, where many of the more at-risk students live. Commuters' average GPA is 3.3. We measure recovery rates by tracking recovery dates and recurrence of symptoms and in FY 24 we had a 90% recovery rate. **Figure #3**, titled Community Check-in Utilization represents the number of times a student attends weekly check-ins. We host nine daily check-in groups per week each semester, which all our students are strongly encouraged to attend. We also host optional summer check-in groups twice a week throughout June and July. We saw a 25% rise in students' attending weekly check-in groups from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024. We also saw a 138% increase in attendance at the optional summer check-ins.

CIR continues to serve a diverse student population. **Figure #4**, titled Gender, shows we served twenty-nine who identified as men, twenty-six who identified as women and three who are transgender or nonbinary. We have students who attend many colleges on campus such as: McGovern College of the Arts Bauer College of Business, Cullen College of Engineering, College of Education, Hilton College of Hospitality and Global Leadership, The Honors College, UH Law Center, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Natural Science and Mathematics and Graduate College of Social Work. **Figure #5**, titled Classification, shows for FY 24 we had fifty undergraduate students, six graduate students and two postbaccalaureate students. **Figure #6**, titled Ethnicity, shows our breakdown as majority white at forty students, two African American students, one Hispanic student, three Asian American students and nine that identify as more than one race or ethnic group. It is estimated that 10% of the university students could benefit from recovery services, and so it is imperative we have increase programming funds to be able to maintain staff to accommodate a growing community of diverse students.

- 3. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2024) 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.**

The previous director, John Shiflet, left the university in April of 2024, and so Raquell Becker has been interim director and then promoted to director as of September 2024. Raquell Becker's previous position of Program manager has been vacant, and we are beginning our applicant search. In July 2024 CIR created and hired a full-time program coordinator, Ellie Morris. Creating another full-time staff position was essential as CIR continues to grow and maintain the same quality of programming. CIR received the global recognition of being one of the first ten Collegiate Recovery Programs to receive accreditation from the Association of Recovery in Higher Education. Part of this accreditation is the strong recommendation that we have one full-time staff per twenty students, which is why we created and filled the program coordinator role.

- 4. Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2025 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 5.0% in your total FY2025 base Student Service Fee budget request and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.**

Currently, SFAC funds the salary and benefits of the program director, program manager, and partially supports the program coordinator. These positions are essential to the day-to-day operations of the program. If these essential staff salaries and benefits were cut by 5% it would put these positions in jeopardy of being vacated and it would be exceedingly difficult to fill due to the uniqueness of the qualification of the position. All other funding is self-generated through advancement and development of relationships with potential private donors.

- 5. 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.**

Two proposals totaling \$75,000 have been awarded. The John P. McGovern Foundation, an organization that contributes to local health charities, supported CIR with a gift of \$50,000 for the eleventh consecutive year. The Hildebrand Foundation supports faith-based organizations serving the poor and needy in Houston. This generous organization gifted \$25,000 to CIR, for the eighth consecutive year. In Fall 2019, a \$30,000 endowed scholarship was generously provided to the CIR program by the family of a CIR alumni specifically designated for recovery housing. In the Spring of 2020, CIR received two additional endowments. Both are for \$25,000 and go towards awarding students' academic scholarships. In total CIR has raised 98,299 in FY 24. The grants and donations go towards OALE trips, events such as sober tailgates, student scholarships, and maintenance and operations.

6. Please use the following file naming conventions when submitting your pdf files to the Dean of Students:

FY26Q_DepartmentName	Questionnaire
FY26AOT25a_DepartmentName	Add'l One time request - change "a" to "b", "c", etc for additional one-time requests
FY26WS_DepartmentName	Excel worksheet
FY26BA_DepartmentName	Base Augmentation request
FY26OTa_DepartmentName	One time request - change "a" to "b", "c", etc for multiple one-time requests
FY25PRES_DepartmentName	Presentation

NOTE: *The totality of your responses to these questions should give the members of the Committee a comprehensive understanding of the role and function of your unit(s). To the extent that your responses do not accomplish this, please revise them accordingly.*

Questionnaire completed by (please include name, title, email, and phone number):

Raquell Becker, Program Director, rkriddel@central.uh.edu, (281) 785- 0798