

# DEAN OF STUDENTS

*Your Student Success Advocates!*

## SFAC PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES FISCAL YEAR 2026

Submitted by:

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## **Question # 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.

### **Executive Summary of the UH Dean of Students Office**

#### **Mission:**

The Dean of Students Office at the University of Houston is committed to student success by advocating for students' personal and educational growth, promoting a respectful and safe campus environment, and engaging parents and families as partners in the educational journey.

#### **Accomplishing Our Mission:**

Our office fulfills its mission through key services and programs aimed at fostering a positive and supportive campus experience:

1. **Student Conduct:** We manage the investigation and resolution of violations of the UH Student Code of Conduct, ensuring educational sanctions that support students' development.
2. **Maxient Student Conduct Database:** We oversee Maxient, a centralized conduct management software shared across departments, streamlining the student conduct process.
3. **CARE Team:** Our multidisciplinary team addresses behaviors that may pose risks to the community, ensuring campus safety and well-being.
4. **Freedom of Expression:** We administer UH's Freedom of Expression Policy, ensuring organized expressive activities are conducted respectfully on campus.
5. **Academic Honesty Hearings:** We represent the university at academic honesty hearings, guiding students through the process and facilitating waivers where applicable.
6. **Parent and Family Programs:** We enhance family engagement through targeted communications and programs that involve UH families in their students' academic journeys.
7. **Commuter Student Services:** We support commuter student success through programs such as Commuter Assistants, meet-ups, and workshops, fostering engagement and community.
8. **UH Student Handbook:** We publish an annual online handbook, providing essential information on academic policies, student life, and campus resources.
9. **Student Advocacy Services:** We assist students and campus stakeholders in navigating complex issues, offering support and emergency financial assistance.
10. **Student Outreach and Support (SOS):** We connect students facing personal challenges to care and resources, ensuring their academic and social stability.

#### **Justification of Student Fee Allocation:**

Allocating student fees to the Dean of Students Office provides tangible benefits to the student body, including:

1. **Campus Safety:** Through student conduct oversight, addressing concerning behaviors, and administering Freedom of Expression policies, we ensure a safe, respectful, and productive campus environment.

2. **Student Advocacy and Support:** We offer critical academic and personal support, emergency financial aid, and advocacy that directly contributes to student success and retention.
3. **Family Engagement:** Our parent and family programs keep families involved, enhancing student satisfaction and support networks.
4. **Commuter Support:** Tailored services for commuter students enhance their campus involvement, fostering a sense of belonging and contributing to their academic success.
5. **Student Crisis Support:** The SOS program ensures that students facing personal difficulties receive the care and resources needed to overcome challenges, promoting holistic development.

In summary, the Dean of Students Office provides essential services that promote student success, safety, and engagement. The allocation of student fees supports these efforts, directly benefiting the student community and ensuring a supportive campus environment conducive to academic and personal achievement.

**Question # 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.

Response:

Leading UH Students, especially first time in college students to get involved, find belonging, and have more school pride through collaborative efforts with campus partners, providing support to UH Students, along with incorporating the DSA values into everything we do aid with keeping us in-line with the DSA strategic initiatives.

To track attendance at our events, we utilize Microsoft forms and event pass via the CSI office, along with surveying students via Qualtrics and Microsoft forms for feedback on their experience at our events and ways we can enhance what we provide. While numbers of attendees is important, survey feedback that our events and services were positively valued and having a following of students and their support system that participate in activities what we find is most important.

For our Know the Code campaign and other risk management related events, learning outcomes are knowing about resources, procedures, key contacts, and policies of the university.

For our social activities and events, learning outcomes are to know what is the role of the DSO Office, key contacts, students meeting other students, and contributing to the students sense of belonging at UH.

**Question #3:**

Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2025) 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.

Response: We have had to request more money for events due to inflation as the costs of food, shirts, entertainment, merch/swag, and décor have all gone up recently, which have raised the costs to host events. In addition, some events we host have gained followings which have resulted in us having more attendees, thus meaning we have to increase the number of what we provide for our guests overtime. For example, last football season we covered 250 students being able to eat in eth shared tailgate space with SGA and Athletics, this year due to great previous experiences, improved marketing and branding efforts, and a better location, we have had to increase covering 500 students being able to eat, along with providing 50 of those as a veggie option to be accommodating to all students.

In addition, since our last SFAC request we have had the following staffing changes:

Gabrielle Malone-Miller joined the Dean of Students Office as Assistant Dean of Students in April 2024.

Alex Beattie joined the Dean of Students Office as Assistant Dean of Students in September 2024.

Three IAs and three student assistants left the Dean of Students Office in December 2023 and May 2024.

3 IAs and 3 student assistants were hired during summer 2024.

**Question # 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.

Response:

While we have already made cuts in budgets resulting in staff members participating in less professional development, we can no longer make cuts in that area if we want to be able to recruit and/or maintain talented staff members. If we had to make additional cuts, we would unfortunately have to eliminate our student staff, sunset hosting Siblings Day, and no longer collaborate with various departments for student engagement or student resource events. We would then attempt to hire students that only qualify for work study to work in the office, however doing so would limit the students we could potentially hire significantly. In addition, hosting less events would reduce the opportunities for positive interactions with students and student

organizations.

FY2025 Base Budget Reduction 5% of \$1,276,274 in dollars per category.

1. Office Student Assistants \$20,000
2. Commuter Services Student Ambassadors \$20,000
3. Programming \$23,814 (Siblings Day, A.D Bruce Free Lunch, Mental Health & Risk Management related collaborations and events)

\$63,814 Total Reduction

### **Question # 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.**

Response: Additional sources of funding for DOS related programs include the following:

Family Weekend generates approximately \$65,000 in registration fees. Unfortunately, the event costs over \$100k to host.

Siblings Day generates approximately \$5,000 in registration fees. Unfortunately, the event costs around the same amount to host, so it is not making a profit currently.