



Women and Gender Resource Center
Division of Student Affairs

FY26 Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC) Program Questionnaire

Questionnaire Completed by:
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I. Executive Summary

Mission:

The mission of the Women & Gender Resource Center is to advance the University of Houston and promote the success of all students, faculty, and staff through educating, empowering, and supporting the UH community. The WGRC accomplishes its mission using our 3 Methods: Education, Empowerment, and Support. The WGRC actualizes its mission and moves towards our vision by:

- **Educating** on gender-related issues impacting access, development, and success.
- **Empowering** all members of the UH community by providing opportunities to develop personal, interpersonal, organizational, and communal competencies.
- **Supporting** sexual misconduct survivors and respondents, new parents, and any member of the UH community in need of resources, assistance, and information.

Justification of Student Fee Allocation:

The Women and Gender Resource Center addresses the needs of the entire student body through Sexual Misconduct Support Services, educational programming, and resources. The WGRC is dedicated to advancing the SFAC philosophy by fostering student success, creating a vibrant social environment that promotes a sense of community, enhancing intellectual growth, promoting student engagement on campus, and supporting the development of both personal and interpersonal skills of students.

SFAC support has been vital in enabling the WGRC to extend its impact beyond Ledger 2 central funds. Thanks to SFAC support, in FY24 the WGRC significantly expanded its programming, reaching an unprecedented number of students and broadening our engagement across the campus community.

In FY25 and FY26, the WGRC aims to build on our demonstrated success of the last year by reaching more students and increasing our presence on campus through strategic collaborations. To sustain our growth and continue to make a meaningful impact, the WGRC is formally requesting the opportunity to present to SFAC for funding that will allow us to provide even more comprehensive support and educational programs to the entire UH community. With funding, the WGRC can expand our reach, offering more innovative programming and support services that address the evolving needs of our diverse campus community. Funding for the WGRC is not just an investment in our Center, but a commitment to creating a campus environment where all students can thrive. Our one-time and base augmentation requests align with the WGRC's mission and vision, the values of the Division of Student Affairs, the strategic plan of the University of Houston, the SFAC philosophy, and the University's commitment to fostering student success and well-being during their time at UH and beyond.

II. Evaluation and Assessment

For the 2023 – 2024 academic year, the Division of Student Affairs identified four key strategic initiatives focused on prioritizing student success, fostering division cohesion, optimizing resource use, and strengthening partnerships. To effectively evaluate our progress in these areas, we implemented assessment measures to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.

Under Student Success, the WGRC, in response to a move to a new physical office location in Student Center South, conducted an assessment of our space and reconfiguration of the room to be more accessible for students of varying abilities. We also incorporated spaces conducive to various levels of neurodivergence, including individual and group gathering spaces and different types and positioning of seats. Additionally, we formalized our training of student staff with a newly designed Student Staff Handbook that helped to make onboarding more consistent and clear, along with setting professional development goals at the onset of employment.

Regarding Division Cohesion, the WGRC consistently partners with several Student and Academic Affairs partners for initiatives throughout the year. This past academic year, we expanded our collaborations through our second year of the NASPA Culture of Respect Collective addressing campus sexual violence prevention and response, as well as the newly formed Pregnant and Parenting Student Taskforce, an interdisciplinary team dedicated to looking at campus supports for pregnant and parenting students. The latter, led in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office and the Children's Learning Centers, is representative of our commitment to partner with DOS portfolio colleagues.

Regarding resource optimization, at the WGRC we are committed to making the most of our resources by using a strategic, data-driven approach. This past year, we conducted program surveys to evaluate our events and gather feedback about the WGRC's services. As a result of our move to an independent suite in Student Center South, we were able to gather new data regarding office utilization. A snapshot of data compared to past years is included below.

	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
Office Visits	624	755	45	2406 (+286%)	2708 (+259%)	396 (+780%)
SMSS Services	662	617	201	726 (+10%)	471 (-24%)	157
Programs	732	287	18	381	286	40
Tabling	1754	700	2361	1237	734	2385
Resources	144	170	46	933 (+548%)	1393 (+719%)	291 (+533%)

*Percent comparisons are based on the previous academic year's semester.

A new assessment item for AY 23-24 is the inclusion of dollars' worth of goods and services. The WGRC estimates that we provided approximately \$24,500 worth of goods and services to UH



students in the form of hygiene products, menstrual products, safe sex products, snacks, and clothing. The goods and services provided by the WGRC are more than just resources; we help to ensure that students can continue to excel academically by providing essential items for their health, hygiene, and well-being. For college students who often face financial insecurities, having access to these items provides critical support, ultimately creating a more equitable, inclusive campus where all students have the opportunity to thrive.

During the past year, we continued to host COMPASS Sexual Misconduct Response Training. Offered twice a Fall and Spring semester, this training is hosted in conjunction with Equal Opportunity Services, and it is designed to provide additional support to campus mandatory reporters, equipping them with essential policy knowledge as well as information on how to respond to disclosures of sexual misconduct in compassionate, trauma-informed ways. Over the past year, COMPASS attendees reported the following outcomes: 97% felt knowledgeable about their reporting responsibilities, 97% expressed confidence in responding to disclosures of sexual misconduct, and 94% enhanced their understanding of sexual trauma and campus resources. Additionally, 97% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the training was beneficial to their professional development. Feedback from attendees included the following: "I learned so much as a result of attending," "I am more aware of the resources provided on campus," and "Thank you for presenting so well on such a difficult topic."

In Summer 2024, the WGRC collaborated with UH Libraries and re-launched a summer version of our HIVE book club, reading Liliana's *Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice* by Dr. Cristina Rivera Garza, a UH faculty member. We passed out 40 copies of the book free to students and gathered for 3 reading discussion groups. 100% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the HIVE created a sense of community, felt engaging, and taught them something new. Attending the discussion groups, one attendee stated that they enjoyed "the opportunity to share space with a small group of friendly folks on a huge campus connected by a shared reading journey." Other attendees noted the "welcoming vibes," "warm and friendly environment," and enjoyed "sharing [their] thoughts with others on topics [they] felt important to discuss."

To gauge how students feel about and utilize the WGRC space, we conducted a survey in the Spring 2024 semester. Students remarked they "enjoy[ed] the homely vibes," the "comfortable environment," and appreciated what we do in "creating a safe space and providing free resources." We plan to conduct ongoing assessments about space utilization, strengths, and growth areas.

From these assessments, we gained valuable insights into the impact and value of our programs and services, demonstrating their significance and reaffirming our mission to serve students through educational programs and support services.

Finally, campus and community partnerships are at the core of our mission to create a supportive and inclusive campus environment where all students can thrive. The past year presented us with new opportunities to create and strengthen partnerships in exciting ways. In Fall 2023, as a result of a grant from the Human rights Campaign/Trans Justice Initiative Small Grants Program, we

were able to host a resource fair for Black Trans Empowerment Week that featured 8 community partners: The Montrose Center, Avenue 360, Tony's Place, Montrose Grace Place, Organizacion Latina Trans in Texas, Save Our Sisters United, The Truth Project, and Transgender Education Network of Texas. Six of these organizations were new that we partnered with for the first time. In Spring 2024, we worked with a record number of student organizations, including the College of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists, alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Society of Women Engineers, the Freedom Collective, Coog Student Parents, and Deeds Not Words. In addition, for our Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource Fair, the WGRC invited 4 new programs to participate: Center for Student Advocacy and Community, UH Police Department, TXFNE: Center for Forensic Excellence, and Houston Methodist Forensic Nursing Program. These new partnerships helped us bring new and increasingly comprehensive resources for our students.

Collaboration with campus departments, community organizations, and student groups amplifies our efforts to provide meaningful programs and expand our impact to the campus community. These partnerships allow us to have a deeper impact on the student population.

The WGRC plans to continue expanding partnerships both on and off campus, broadening our impact, as well as diversifying the educational experiences that our students have at our programs.

III. Budget and Organizational Changes

Since our last SFAC request, the strategic decision was made to move sexual violence prevention and education to the WGRC which was previously housed in UH Wellness. This move represents a pivotal shift in our approach to addressing and preventing relationship and sexual violence on campus. This is significant for several reasons:

1. **Centralization of Resources:** By relocating these critical programs to the WGRC, we are centralizing our efforts to combat sexual violence within a dedicated space that focuses on supporting individuals affected by such issues. The consolidation allows for more streamlined communication, increased collaboration, and enhanced accessibility to resources for students seeking help.
2. **Holistic Support Services:** The WGRC is uniquely positioned to provide comprehensive support that encompasses not only prevention programming but also response, advocacy, and education. This holistic approach ensures that students receive the necessary assistance and resources throughout their experience at UH, creating a safer and more supportive environment.
3. **Enhanced Outreach and Education:** Integrating sexual violence programming into the WGRC supports the center's commitment to education as a key strategy in advancing our mission. This shift enables innovative peer education initiatives, such as the CORE student ambassador program, where trained students engage their peers in conversations about



consent, healthy relationships, and available resources. By empowering students, we foster a culture of responsibility and community care across campus.

4. **Alignment with Institutional Goals:** This move aligns with the university's strategic initiatives aimed at improving student engagement and retention. Addressing the serious issue of relationship and sexual violence and providing robust support systems, we contribute to a safer campus environment that encourages students to feel secure in their academic pursuits. A proactive approach to prevention enhances student satisfaction and promotes overall well-being, leading to better retention and graduation rates.
5. **Community Collaboration:** Absorbing sexual violence programming into the WGRC facilitates stronger partnerships with various departments and organizations on campus. By working collaboratively, we can engage in comprehensive prevention efforts that address the multifaceted nature of sexual violence, ensuring that students receive consistent messaging and support from all areas of the university. It also provides us with a unique platform to continue to build and leverage community partnerships in anti-violence work with the Third Ward and beyond, bridging gaps between our university and the community in which we live.

In summary, the relocation of sexual violence programming to the WGRC signifies a strategic enhancement in our efforts to provide comprehensive support, education, and prevention resources to the campus community.

IV. Base Budget Reduction Planning

The WGRC's SFAC base funding supports the salary and fringe for our Administrative Coordinator position. To protect these essential personnel expenses, we propose absorbing a 5% reduction—equivalent to \$2,628.65—through our one-time funds. To accommodate this shift, we would scale down or temporarily pause select programs, focusing on reducing non-essential costs like promotional items. Additionally, we would explore partnerships with other student or academic affairs departments to share resources and secure supplemental funding, ensuring the continuity of key initiatives despite the budget adjustment.

V. Additional Funding Sources

The WGRC receives funding from Ledger 1 (state funds) and Ledger 2 (central tuition funds). These funds support salary and fringe. We continually seek new funding opportunities, such as grants, to meet the evolving and expanding needs of our students.