

**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)  
FY 2013 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,  
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM**

**REQUEST FOR FY13 BASE AUGMENTATION OF  
\$136,828 TO FUND PARTICIPATION IN ANNUALLY  
SCHEDULED EVENTS**



***"WITH 300+ MEMBERS, TOUCHING THE LIVES OF  
9,000+ INDIVIDUALS ANNUALLY . . . WITH EVENTS  
HELD EVERY FIVE DAYS, EACH YEAR!!!"***

**PREPARED BY:  
DR. MICHAEL L. FAIN,  
DIRECTOR OF UH FORENSICS SOCIETY &  
COACH OF THE UH SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM  
(713) 385-0541**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,  
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM:  
REQUEST FOR A FY13 BASE AUGMENTATION OF \$136,828  
TO FUND PARTICIPATION IN ANNUALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**MISSION:**

The mission of the University of Houston Forensic Society (UHFS) is to create opportunities for all students to apply their speaking skills in ways that benefit local communities and bring recognition to the University of Houston. The UHFS recognizes that public speaking represents one of the world's greatest fears. Therefore, membership is open to all students – regardless of levels of expertise or ability – and encourages participation in community service as well as national competition with other universities.

**HOW THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED:**

While a majority of other collegiate forensic programs focus solely on national awards and rankings, the UHFS realizes that it is uniquely positioned as part of an urban university in the seventh largest school district in the U.S., the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Considering that less than a quarter of HISD's 300+ schools have resources to sponsor speech, debate, and theatre programs, the UHFS strives to fill a void by offering a combination of on-campus educational events, community services and resources, and collegiate competitions for the UH Speech & Debate Team.

**As a result of this unique combination of community service, on-campus events, and competition, the University of Houston Forensic Society has been named "The Outstanding Community Service Program" in the U.S. for two of the last six years.**

Some of the programs completed during the 2005-2011 school years include:

**Community Services**

- Judging at Greater Houston middle schools and high schools.
- Volunteering to perform at orphanages and homeless shelters.
- Collecting and donating materials needed by homeless shelters.
- Working with evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita & Ike.
- Providing elementary and middle school students with resources to compete at local speech and debate contests.

**On-Campus Events**

- Ten forensic contests for K-12 schools
- Two collegiate tournaments with LSU Baton Rouge and Rice University
- National qualifying tournaments for high schools

- Summer forensic seminars for elementary and middle school students
- On-campus speech contests for elementary schools in both English and Spanish
- Six open houses for at-risk high school students, emphasizing college enrollment

**[THE UHFS / REQUEST OF A FY12 BASE AUGMENTATION OF \$136,828 TO FUND PARTICIPATION IN ANNUALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS / PAGE 3]**

### **National Collegiate Competition**

- Local contests in Texas & Louisiana, regardless of experience
- Regional competitions for students achieving local success
- National contests for members capable of bringing recognition to UH, particularly in National Forensic Honor Societies.

**BECAUSE THE UHFS' MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN FROM 23 MEMBERS TO 300+ SINCE THE START OF THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEARS, A FY13 BASE AUGMENTATION OF \$136,828 IS NEEDED FOR ANNUALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS.**

**THE BASE TRAVEL BUDGET OF THE UH FORENSIC SOCIETY HAS NOT BEEN INCREASED SINCE FY04.**

**The University of Houston Forensics Society currently has a budget to accommodate approximately one-half of travel expenses, the funds to pay for the student assistants presently working in the office to recruit and run the society, and to pay fees associated with having a space in the University Center. However, the current travel/competition budget was awarded by the SFAC FY04 at a time when the UHFS had only 40+ members. THE UHFS HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH DURING THE 2008-2010 SCHOOL YEARS . . . AND HAS REACHED 300+ MEMBERS.**

**In order to provide opportunities/resources needed by the no. of members of the UHFS – and to continue hosting of events that will expose an estimated 9k**

**students, faculty, and parents to the UH Main Campus - a FY13 BASE AUGMENTATION OF \$136,828 IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY AND NUMBER OF EVENTS THE UH FORENSIC SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN EACH YEAR.**

**THE TOTAL FY10 ONE-TIME ALLOCATIONS WAS FOR \$136,828.**

**[THE UHFS / REQUEST OF A BASE AUGMENTATION OF \$136,828 TO FUND PARTICIPATION IN ANNUALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS / PAGE 4]**

**The breakdown of the \$136,828 can be divided into two critical components:**

**Salary for One Assistant Director of Forensics:**

Salary		\$
48,000		
Taxes/Benefits for One Asst. Director of Forensics		
\$ 13,440		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>61,440</b>		

**Costs for Team Travel for Current UHFS**

Air Fares for Growth in Competitors (12 Students) – 10 Regional Contests		
\$ 38,900		
Increased Air Costs for 8 Members (\$270/Trip x 4Contests) - National Contests		
\$ 13,640		
Hotel / Ground Transportation / Registration / Food Competitors		
\$ 5,190		
Payment of Hired Judges		\$
5,000		
Supplies for Competition (Folders, Visual Aids, & Portfolios)		
\$ 3,235		
Rental Charges for Events Held in the University Center		
\$ 1,314		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>67,179</b>		

Total Administrative Charge for All of the Above Funds

\$ 8,209

**GRAND TOTAL**

**\$**

**136,828\*\***

**\*\*THIS IS THE SAME AMOUNT THAT THE SFAC  
GAVE TO UHFS AS AN ONE-TIME ALLOCATION  
FY12.**

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE THE SFAC FUNDS MADE  
AVAILABLE FOR OUR EFFORTS – AND ASK FOR THE  
ABOVE BASE AUGMENTATION FY13 SO UH STUDENTS  
CAN CONTINUE OUR ANNUAL PLANS FOR HOSTING,  
COMPETING, VOLUNTEERING . . . WHICH WILL TOUCH  
THE LIVES OF 10,000+ INDIVIDUALS DURING 2012-  
2013!!!**

**STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)  
FY 2013 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,  
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM**

**REQUEST FOR AN ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$44,470 TO  
TRANSITION A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO A FULL-TIME WEBSITE  
MASTER/CONTEST JUDGE**



***“CONTINUING TO ELEVATE NATIONAL RECOGNITION  
OF OUR UNIVERSITY WITH  
COMMUNITY INTERACTION,  
ON-CAMPUS AMBASSADORSHIP,  
AND COMPETITION  
THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES”***

**PREPARED BY:  
DR. MICHAEL L. FAIN,  
UH DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS &  
COACH OF THE UH SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM  
(713) 385-0541**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON FORENSIC SOCIETY,  
HOME OF THE U OF H SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM:  
REQUEST FOR AN ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$44,470 TO  
TRANSITION A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO A FULL-TIME  
WEBSITE MASTER/CONTEST JUDGE**

**MISSION:**

The mission of the University of Houston Forensic Society (UHFS) is to create opportunities for all students to apply their speaking skills in ways that benefit local communities and bring recognition to the University of Houston. The UHFS recognizes that public speaking represents one of the world's greatest fears. Therefore, membership is open to all students – regardless of levels of expertise or ability – and encourages participation in community service as well as national competition with other universities.

**HOW THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED:**

While a majority of other collegiate forensic programs focus solely on national awards and rankings, the UHFS realizes that it is uniquely positioned as part of an urban university in the seventh largest school district in the U.S., the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Considering that less than a quarter of HISD's 300+ schools have resources to sponsor speech, debate, and theatre programs, the UHFS strives to fill a void by offering a combination of on-campus educational events, community services and resources, and collegiate competitions for the UH Speech & Debate Team.

**As a result of this unique combination of community service, on-campus events, and competition, the University of Houston Forensic Society has been named "The Outstanding Community Service Program" in the U.S. for two of the last six years.**

Some of the programs completed during the 2005-2011 school years include:

**Community Services**

- Judging at Greater Houston middle schools and high schools.
- Volunteering to perform at orphanages and homeless shelters.
- Collecting and donating materials needed by homeless shelters.
- Working with evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita & Ike.
- Providing elementary and middle school students with resources to compete at local speech and debate contests.

**On-Campus Events**

- Invitational forensic contests for K-12 schools
- Collegiate national tournaments with LSU Baton Rouge & Rice University

- National qualifying tournaments for high schools
- Summer forensic seminars for elementary and middle school students
- On-campus speech contests for elementary schools in both English and Spanish

**[THE UHFS / REQUEST FOR AN ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$44,470 TO TRANSITION A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO A FULL-TIME WEBSITE MASTER/CONTEST JUDGE]**

**National Collegiate Competition**

- Local contests in Texas & Louisiana, regardless of experience
- Regional competitions for students achieving local success
- National contests for members capable of bringing recognition to UH, particularly in National Forensic Honor Societies.
- On an annual basis, the UHFS has attended five National championship contests in the spring semester – which has enabled UH to receive 35 National Championships and/or recognitions since 2002.

**BECAUSE THE UHFS' MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN FROM 23 MEMBERS TO 300+ FOR EACH OF THE 2008-2011 SCHOOL YEARS – AND WITH CONTINUED INCREASES IN JUDGING FEES - A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$44,470 IS NEEDED TO HANDLE THE WEBSITE AND JUDGING NEEDS OF THE CURRENT UHFS' ACTIVITIES.**

At present, the 60+ days of ongoing website management and required judging at collegiate contests is being performed by a volunteer who receives only a part-time salary of \$9,800 per year to handle a portion of the accounting needs of the UHFS.

**TWO GENERAL DUTIES WILL BE SATISFIED BY THIS FULL-TIME WEBSITE MASTER/CONTEST JUDGE:**

**INPUT/CALCULATION DUTIES OF UHFS WEBSITES**

**THE WORK THAT MUST BE PERFORMED FOR ALL CONTESTS/SEMINARS ON THE UH MAIN CAMPUS REQUIRES (1) DESIGN AND REVIEW OF 18 WEBSITES AND (2) USE OF WEBSITES DURING EACH CONTEST/SEMINAR FOR 3+ DAYS EACH. THUS, DESIGN AND INPUT OF DATA REQUIRES A TOTAL OF 48+ DAYS EACH YEAR.**

**SERVICE AS A FORENSIC JUDGE THROUGHOUT THE U.S.**



The continued growth of the UHFS causes a similar increase in the no. of judges that must be provided – or paid for – at each of the 23+ contests that the UHFS attends each year.

With the current size of each UHFS entry in contests throughout the U.S., at least three UH judges must be provided in each contest – or a fee of \$250+ must be paid.

At present, the UHFS is providing a volunteer judge – but the availability of volunteers is unreliable. THUS, THE CONTEST JUDGE WILL ATTEND ALL CONTESTS WHERE UHFS MEMBERS PARTICIPATE, REQUIRING 60+ DAYS OF TRAVEL.

[THE UHFS / REQUEST FOR AN ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$44,470 TO TRANSITION A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO A FULL-TIME WEBSITE MASTER/CONTEST JUDGE]

THIS POSITION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGULAR ACCOUNTING TASKS ALREADY PERFORMED BY A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE WHO IS ALREADY PAID VIA BASE SFAC FUNDS.

The breakdown of this one-time allocation is as follows:

Salary	\$	
45,000		
Taxes/Benefits	\$	9,270
Less: Part-Time Salary Included in Base (for Accountant)		(\$
9,800)		
<b>TOTAL CRITICAL NEEDS/REQUESTED FY12</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>44,470</b>		