



**STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION**

EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Fiscal Year (FY) 2013
2012-2013 Academic School Year

**Student Fees Advisory Committee
Report/Program Questionnaire**

University of Houston
Student Government Association
57 University Center Underground
Houston, TX 77204
(832) 842-6225
www.uh.edu/sga

Question 1

In Response to:

- **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.**

Our Mission

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 our Mission is accomplished

Our efforts are accomplished through constant interaction with the student body through the following core objectives:

Surveying- Student Government is committed to accurately representing the student voice through student satisfaction surveys and questionnaires as well as referendums.

Town Halls- Student Government is committed to ensuring students have the opportunity to address their elected officials through monthly town halls in each of the colleges.

Empowerment- Student Government is committed to giving students the ability to vote and voice their opinion on different subject matters through student positions on university-wide committees and governing boards.

Partnerships- Student Government is committed to working with university partners such as the administration, student groups, and other student leaders to ensure that student issues are addressed efficiently and effectively.

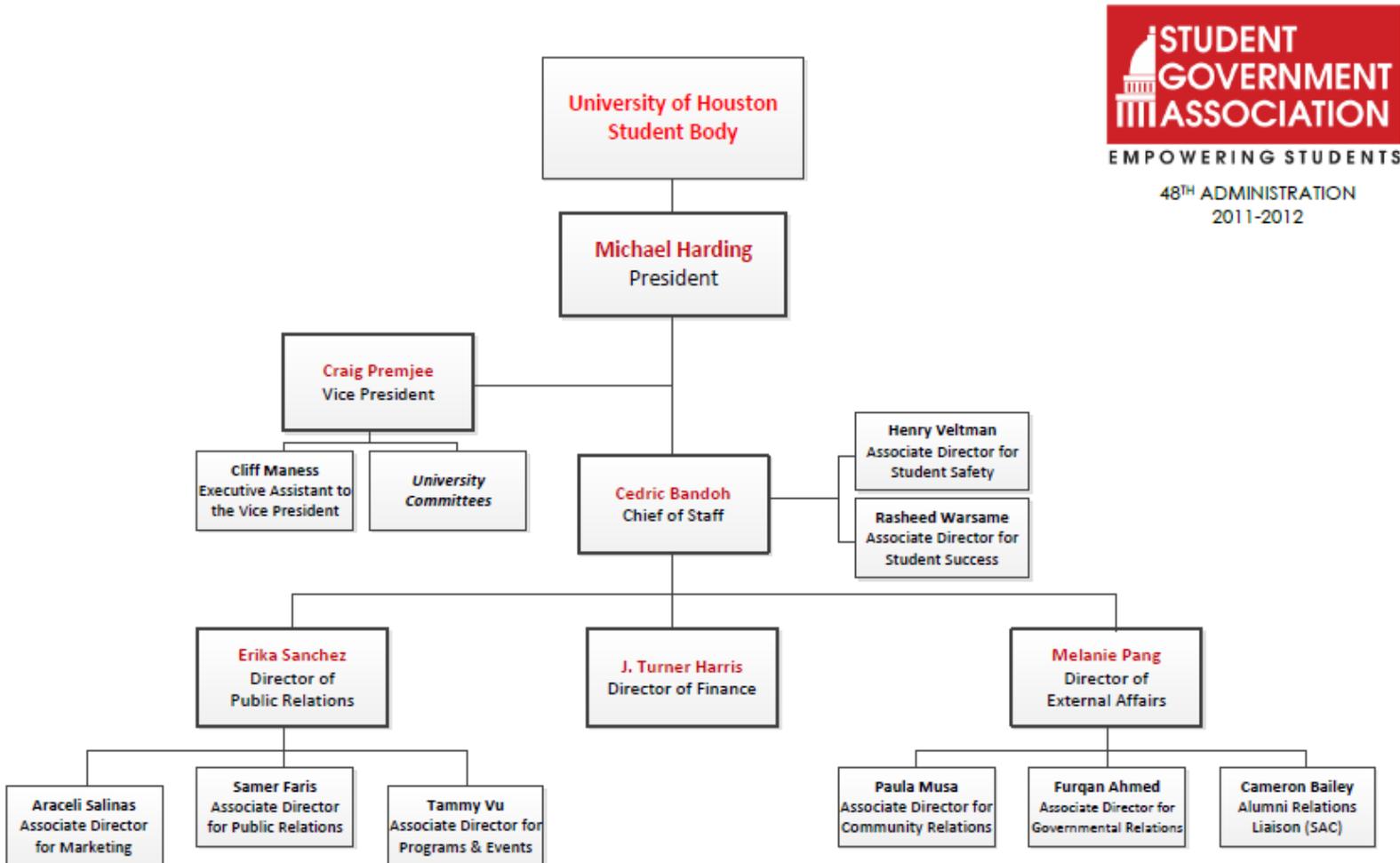
Justification

The Student Government Association believes that the student fee dollars allocated to this organization have a tremendous and positive impact for the student body and the general welfare of the University of Houston. The Student Government Association serves a very essential role at the University of Houston by providing a source for which student opinion may be expressed. SGA is required to exist per state law and serves as the official student voice on all matters regarding student affairs.

Question 2

In Response to:

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



Question 3

In Response to:

- **List the objectives that you provided with your 2010-2011 SFAC request. Please comment on your success in achieving these objectives. If an objective changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new objectives, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these objectives.**

2010-2011 Objectives

47th Administration

Objective 1: Student Service Initiatives

- **SGA Endowment Scholarship:** SGA will create a Scholarship/Endowment to raise money for student scholarships.
Status: Changed
Comments: This item was a focus of the previous administration. The current administration has decided to forego interest in this program and will continue to encourage students to seek out other scholarships.
- **Student Savings Program:** SGA will continue to work with community businesses to offer discounted products and services to University of Houston students.
Status: Accomplished
Comments: SGA has partnered with Houston area universities to have a joint student savings club. The club has a Facebook page and provides updates to program users.
- **University Center Transformation Project:** SGA will continue its support and work with the administration to proceed with University Center renovation and expansion.
Status: Ongoing
Comments: The current administration continues to work on the project design and development team.
- **Student Organization and Student recognition:** SGA will continue to recognize outstanding student organization and students on campus.
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: SGA will continue to recognize outstanding student organization leadership at the annual Student Leaders Awards Banquet.

Objective 2: Student Government Improvement Initiatives

- **New Member Retreat and Orientation:** SGA will continue to offer professional development for its members.
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: Executive members attended the Executive Leadership Retreat with the other fee funded student leaders in May 2011. The Speaker of the Senate continuously works with senators on professional development and the SGA advisor continues to train judicial members.

- **University Committees:** SGA will improve communication with current university-wide committees and ensure that proper shared governance is being followed
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: The current administration has implemented a accountability system for university committee appointments
- **SGA By-laws reform:** SGA will work to reform the by-laws and eliminate ambiguity
Status: Ongoing
Comments: The organization continues to work to remove ambiguity from the by-laws.

Objective 3: University Advancement Initiatives

- **University partnerships:** SGA will continue to partner with university departments to sponsor events beneficial to students
Status: Ongoing
- **Transportation and Parking:** SGA will develop initiatives to address the parking needs of students and will educated students about transportation and parking alternatives.
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: The organization continues to work with the Dept. of Transportation and Parking on developing alternative transportation options, such as the rent-a-car by Hertz and the METRO Q-card program.
- **Student Housing:** SGA will work to build a better working relationship with Residential Life and Housing and continue to resolve issues with campus housing as the university experiences growth.
Status: Ongoing
- **Tier One efforts:** SGA will continue to support the university in its efforts to establish itself as a Tier One institution.
Status: Accomplished
Comments: In January 2011 the University of Houston was elevated to a Tier One Research Institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, making it the 3rd tier one university in the State of Texas.
- **Eco-Friendly Campus environment:** SGA will initiate and support initiatives to sustain an eco-friendly campus.
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: The University of Houston has become an annual competitor in RecycleMania and has established a sustainability program (GreenUH).

Objective 4: Student Advocacy Initiatives

- **External partnerships:** SGA will continue its relationship with other Houston area and state colleges and universities through active participation in the Greater Houston Association (GHSA) and Texas Student Association (TSA).
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: UH SGA continues to hold membership in GHSA and TSA.
- **Civic engagement:** SGA will continue to provide opportunities for students to get registered and educated about voting rights.
Status: Ongoing/Accomplished
Comments: SGA provided early voting shuttles to students and will work to continue to provide that service during early voting.

Objective 5: Student Empowerment Initiatives

- **College Councils:** SGA will pursue the implementation of relatively autonomous college councils.
Status: Ongoing
Comments: The administration continues to work with college deans to implement college councils at all schools. In the last year the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences implemented a college council.

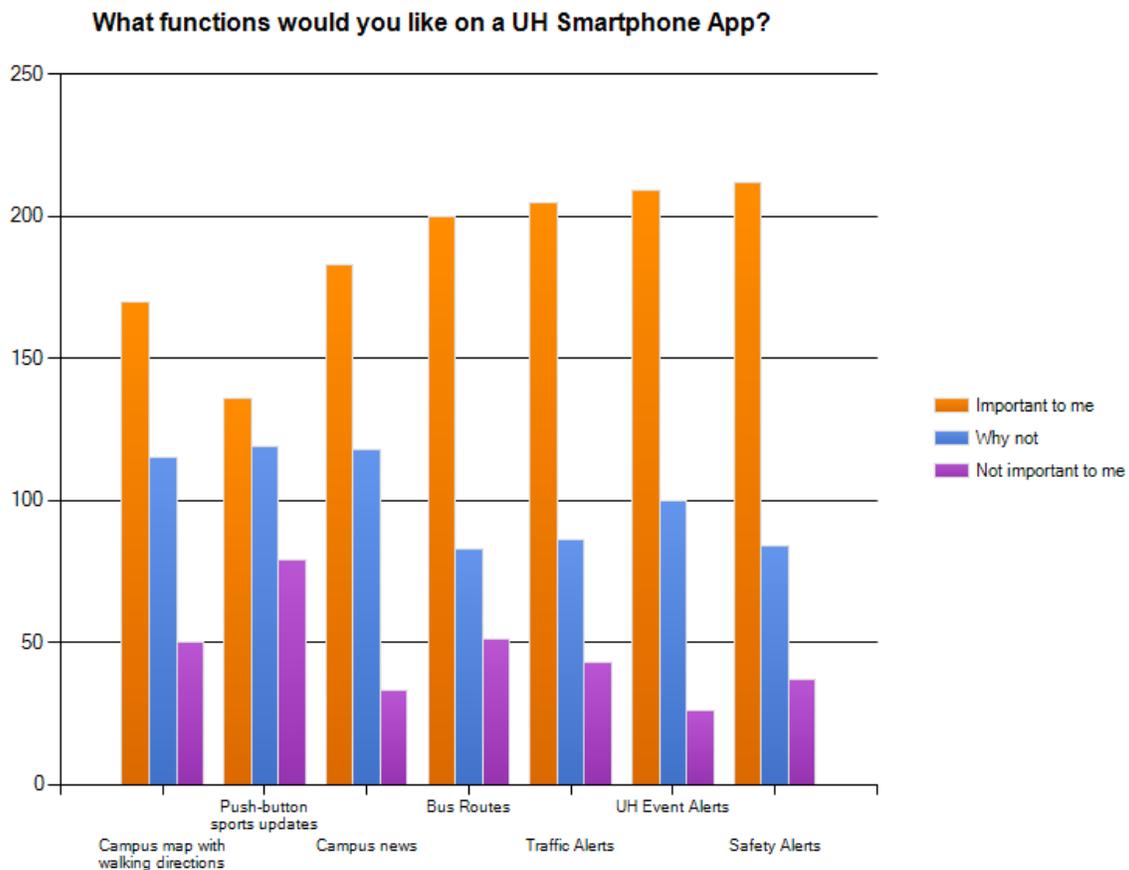
Question 4

In Response to:

- Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned objectives and their importance as compared to other objectives that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs, the satisfaction level of those served, and/or any other assessment measures evaluated. Please provide the method for collecting these data.

The Student Government Association evaluates its success in achieving our objectives through many tools: town halls, surveys, website traffic.

Here are early results from our recent SGA Survey (held on October 11 & 12, 2011) regarding an official UH Smartphone application:



Question 5

In Response to:

- **Please discuss any budget changes experienced since your last (FY2012) 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 addition, if your unit concluded FY2011 with a Ledger 3 Fund Equity balance, please describe the conditions which caused the fund balance.**

The Student Government Association is requesting a One-Time allocation:

- **FY 2012-** \$59,125.00 for UH mobile application development
- **FY 2013-** \$10,750.00 for UH mobile application maintenance.

The Student Government Association is requesting a base augmentation:

- \$1,008.00- for implementation of new software

Please see attached documentation for one-time request and base augmentation details.

The Student Government Association experienced \$1,204.00 in fund equity for FY 2011. The fund equity was a result of lapsed student leader stipends, benefits, and unused travel and business expenses.

Question 6

In Response to:

- Please list your 2012-2013 objectives in priority order. Larger units may wish to group your response by subprogram. Under each objective, state the specific programs, activities, and/or services that you plan to implement to meet your objectives.

FY 12 and 13 Objectives 48th Administration

Student Empowerment Initiatives:

We are committed to providing opportunities for students to lead and inspiring students to use their knowledge and skills effectively in addressing ideas or issues.

- **Creation of the Residential Life and Housing Advisory Committee (FY 12):** SGA will work with the Department of Residential Life and Housing and the Residence Halls Association (RHA) to establish this committee to review housing rates, policies, and programming as the University of Houston becomes more of a residential campus having 25% of its student population reside on campus by the year 2015.
- **Re-Installation of the Scholarships and Financial Aid Advisory Committee (FY 12):** SGA will work with the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and the Division of Academic Affairs to revive this committee to address customer service, policies, and procedures in regards the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
- **SGA Emerging Leaders Program (FY 12):** SGA will implement a new and improved internship and leadership development program. Members of the program will intern with one of the executive agencies, serve as a legislative aide to a member of the senate, or as a judicial aide to a member of the SGA Court of Appeals. In addition to the internship program, members participate in leadership development activities provided by the Center for Leadership & Fraternity and Sorority Life as well as other activities selected by the program director. The program is directed by the SGA Chief of Staff.
- **Restructuring Town-Hall System (FY 12):** SGA will work to create more flexibility in the method that town halls are executed. Senators will have options to hold town halls in a “traditional” room, or set up tables in common areas on campus, roam their college, travel on shuttles, and meet with constituents in dining halls, etc. The goal is to reach out to students rather than forcing the students to come to the senator.
- **Summer Student Leadership Conference (FY 12):** Every summer, SGA and the university divisions partner to offer a one-day student leadership conference. Presentations are given by the respective divisions to foster working relationships between them and student leaders.
- **Student Satisfaction and Opinion Surveys (FY 12):** SGA will continue to gauge student opinion as it pursues major policy decisions and services. The organization will host “Survey Days” and collect data that will used to make decisions with university administration and partners.

- **Accountability system for University Committees (FY 12):** The Vice President will implement an accountability system for all university committees. The accountability system calls for committee chairs to send a report of absences for student members to the Vice President. A student member will be removed if he/she has two consecutive absences or three total absences without proper notification.
- **Establishing Executive Agencies (FY 12):** Executive Agencies have not been used in recent past administrations. In an effort to create more leadership opportunities and to bring attention to major internal and external functions of the executive branch, the following agencies have been established: Student Safety, Student Success, Public Relations, Governmental Relations, and Community Relations.
- **Early Voting Shuttles (FY 12):** The organization will continue to provide free shuttles to poll locations for students during early voting. This year an emphasis will be put on increasing marketing and turn-out.
- **College Councils (FY 13):** SGA will continue to work with college deans to implement college councils. The following colleges currently have college councils in place: Hines College of Architecture, Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Student Success Initiatives:

We are committed to ensuring that students receive a quality Tier One education that adequately prepares them for a global workforce. The initiatives listed below are geared towards increasing the university's graduation and retention rates.

- **Free Tutoring Programs in Residence Halls (FY 13):** SGA will work with the Division of Academic Affairs to establish free tutoring programs in all residential halls with a high undergraduate population.
- **Evaluation System for Academic Advisors (FY 13):** SGA will work with the Division of Academic Affairs and college deans to establish an evaluation system for academic advisors.

Student Access Initiatives:

We are committed to ensuring that the University of Houston remains affordable and that student receive quality student services on campus.

- **Consolidation of online student self-services (FY 12):** The administration will work with the Division of Academic Affairs and the Division of Administration and Finance to consolidate all online student self-services (myUH, Blackboard, etc.). The administration will advocate for a student universal password into these various systems.
- **Affordable Tuition rates (FY 12/13):** The administration will continue to work with the university administration and Texas legislature to ensure the University of Houston remains an affordable public educational institution.

Student Awareness Initiatives:

We are committed to ensuring that students and the university community are informed on the actions of their Student Government Association.

- **“State of UH” Presidential Address (FY 12):** The Student Body President will address the student body on the state of the University of Houston from the student perspective at least once a semester.
- **Executive Updates (FY 12):** Executive Updates outline all important business from the Office of the President. The communications are prepared by the Office of the Chief of Staff.
- **New SGA Logo and improved communication (FY 12):** The administration has created a new, contemporary logo. The administration will continue to connect with student through social media networks. The SGA website will be redesigned for better navigation and to meet the public information needs of the organization. Minutes, pending legislation, videos of senate meetings, and other SGA information will be posted on the website in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- **Improvements to SFAC Reports and Presentations (FY 12):** The administration will improve the quality of the SGA SFAC report and presentation in order to provide a more accurate picture of the organization’s accomplishments and goals.

Student Safety Initiatives:

We are committed to ensuring that students are protected and safe on campus.

- **Establishment of Student Safety Agency (FY 12):** The Student Safety Agency will work with the Department of Public Safety to resolve safety and security issues. This agency also plans and coordinates the annual “Walk in the Dark” event.
- **New and improved Campus Directories (FY 12):** The administration will work with the Division of Administration and Finance to replace all the campus directories which are the outdoor maps and building guides located at shuttle stops and other prominent locations. The new directories will feature updated maps and refurbished finishes.

University Advancement Initiatives:

We are committed to ensuring that student needs are met as the university grows.

- **Parking Fines Appeals Plan (FY 12):** The administration will implement an appeals plan. The plan is as follows, if a student receives a citation and pays it within 24 hours the citation will be discounted at 75%, 48 hours at 50%, 72-120 hours at 25%. The plan is geared to assist students during the university’s parking challenges and major construction period.
- **New University Center Transformation and Expansion Project (FY 12-13):** The administration will continue to work on the project design and development team.

- **Design and Development for new Construction, Renovation, and Expansion projects (FY 12-13):** The administration will continue to work with Facilities to ensure construction projects meet the academic and student life needs of the student body.
- **UH smart phone application (FY 12-13):** The Administration will work with University Relations to develop an interactive application that could have the following features: interactive campus maps, campus news, bus routes, on-campus events, safety and traffic alerts, etc.
- **24-hour on-campus dining services (FY 13):** The administration will work with University Services to establish an on-campus 24 hour dining option in preparation of a more residential campus.
- **Instillation of “Red Box” DVD Movie Rental Kiosks (FY 13):** The administration will work with University Services to install the “Red Boxes.” In preparation of a more residential campus, the DVD rental will add quality to the living experience.
- **Instillation of a bike-share program (FY 13):** The administration will work with University Services to implement a bike-share program similar to “BikeShare Houston.” The campus has experienced an increase in bike riders on campus and the program will give another option to students and will decrease vehicular traffic on campus.

Organizational and Alumni Partnerships Initiatives:

We are committed to collaborating with other organizations and capitalizing on a supportive alumni base.

- **Green UH/Sustainability Partnerships (FY 12):** The administration will partner with Houston Area universities to bring sustainability awareness to Houston college students and to reduce the carbon footprint of the city.
- **Partnerships and meetings with SGA leadership from UH System (FY 12):** The administration will continue to work with UH-Downtown, UH- Clear Lake, UH- Victoria, and UH System teaching centers.
- **Partnerships and meetings with SGA leadership from Greater Houston Area (FY 12):** The administration will continue work with Houston area universities and the Greater Houston Student Association.
- **Partnerships and meetings with SGA leadership from Texas institutions (FY 12):** The administration will continue to work with universities around the state and the Texas Student Association.
- **Increase participation in Greater Houston Student Association and Texas Student Association (FY 12):** The University of Houston SGA will take a leadership role in both of these organizations.
- **Partnerships with Student Alumni Connection (FY 12):** The administration will continue to work with the UH Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection (SAC) to bridge the gap between students and alumni and capitalize on a supportive alumni base.

Student Government Internal Improvement Initiatives:

- **SGA By-Laws (FY 12):** The organization will work to remove ambiguity in the SGA by-laws and reconcile older versions.
- **U-Stream Technology for Senate meetings (FY 12):** Senate meetings will be streamed live and recorded for later viewing via U-Stream technology.
- **Senate Meeting Attendance and Voting Records for public information (FY 12):** Senate meeting agendas, minutes, attendance, and voting records will be posted online in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and the SGA Constitution and By-laws.
- **Election By-laws:** The organization will work to remove ambiguity from the election by-laws.
- **Presidential Advisory Committee (FY 12):** The administration will hold Presidential Advisory Committee meetings, consisting of former SGA leaders, at least twice a semester to advise the Student Body President.

Question 7

In Response to:

- **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.)?**

There are no external funding sources for the Student Government Association. The primary source of funding is through the Student Service fee.

Question 8

In Response to:

- **Please describe any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.**

There is no overlap between the Student Government Association and any other units at the University of Houston.