

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**
VETERAN SERVICES



**Student Fee
Advisory
Committee
(SFAC)**

Base Augmentation
Request FY 2017



FY2017 Base Augmentation Request

Veteran Services

VISION

UH Veteran Services (VS) will provide student veterans with the highest level of support and dedication, fostering personal growth and academic success through graduation and rewarding careers. In doing so, we will strive to be a benchmark institute and a leader in Veteran Support and Advocacy.

VS respectfully requests a base augmentation of \$29,309. This funding will provide UH student Veterans with continuing support for the transition from military service to higher education. We present changes in operating expenses and a summary of VS strategic Initiatives and programs supported by this funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Initiative 1: Interact with newly-enrolled student-veterans early in their college careers to foster student engagement and student success.

New Student/Transfer Orientation and Welcome Week gives VS an opportunity to set the tone for a great first year experience.

In partnership with the Student Veterans of America at the University of Houston, Veteran Services hosted the FY 15 Welcome Back Mixers. This event is open to the entire UH community fostering inclusion and celebrating diversity. We also, focused on increasing our marketing to new students by offering a new student "Coog Vet" t-shirt and used social media to draw in new students to the VS office. VS continues to work with Enrollment Management seeking methods to obtain the most accurate data regarding prospective students. Changes in the Orientation program, during the summer of 2015 caused a change in the way that VS accessed students during the orientation process, and we continue to work with the Orientation program to streamline the process for student veterans.

Initiative 2: Support student success and engagement by fostering leadership development and a peer mentoring initiative in the Student-Veteran Organization.

VS continues to support initiatives within the Student Veterans of America that foster leadership development and mentoring. In January 2015, VS sent 15 Student Veteran leaders to the SVA national conference in San Antonio, Texas. The Conference is the biggest meetings of Student Veterans in the country, bringing Student Veterans together for leadership development and mentoring opportunities. UH Student Veterans were stand outs among the countries top Student Veteran Leaders. They attended meetings led by Robert McDonald, Secretary of the VA, Retired Army General Casey, Purple Heart recipient Kyle Carpenter, and Vice President Joe Biden. As a result, the Student Org returned invigorated and excited about their charge and membership has grown to over 200 members.

VS along with SVA also hosted Fortune 500 Accounting and Consulting Firm Deloitte in the Summer 15, bringing over 50 of Deloitte's talented staff to campus to provide a day of mentorship and development. Student Veterans focused on how to network, developing a brand, and building a strong

network. VS and Deloitte also brought in top executives from Shell, Deloitte, and ConocoPhillips to conduct a Q&A session with our Student Veterans. Student Veteran participants expressed a high level satisfaction after attending each event.

VS also, had the opportunity to invite Active duty Major General Barrye Price (UH Class of '85) back to the University. We held a private luncheon for 60 of our student veteran and ROTC leaders. MG Price was a charismatic speaker who had a great message for our students.

VS and the SVA continue to seek out opportunities to provide mentorship opportunities to our students and has worked with many community organizations, building strong relationships along the way.

Initiative 3: Implement an early alert system to ensure all Veterans receive academic, career, and financial advice before challenges become overwhelming. (DSAES Strategic Initiative: 4c, 6e)

Currently, we rely on our marketing efforts and peer network to bring in those students who are facing challenges. We continue to have conversations with LSS, CAPS and UH Wellness about how we can better serve our Veterans. In 2015, we really worked on and continue to work on branding our department. We started focusing on the use of social media to reach our students. We will continue to develop our brand in 2016.

In addition, based on student request, we developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Veteran Affairs Vet Center to bring in Licensed Clinical Social Workers who specialize in providing readjustment counseling to Combat Veterans and Veterans who have a history of Military Sexual Trauma. We have also, partnered with the Harris County Veterans Office to bring in a Veteran Service Officer who specializes in filing disability Claims for our Veterans. This can help our Student Veterans with financial compensation for disabilities incurred in the military.

Also, UH Veteran Services is one of the few Universities across the nation who has a full time VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselor. These Counselors are full time VA employees and specialize in Veteran vocational rehabilitation. In 2015 we worked to ensure that our VSOC counselor had UH access and capabilities to assist veterans to were struggling academically.

Lastly, as requested by our student veterans we increased our office hours during finals week, from 7am- to midnight to accommodate student's needs. We partnered with some community organizations who provided coffee and snacks to help sustain our students during finals week.

Initiative 4: Collaborate with the administrative and academic departments in developing and implementing methodologies to educate the campus community about issues facing student-veterans and inform the campus community about the programs and services offered by Veterans' Services.

As we continue to provide services for more and more Student Veterans, VS will continue educate our administrative and academic partners about issues facing Student Veterans. During the year, we partnered with UH Wellness on the topic of Sexual Assault Prevention bringing attention to Military Sexual

Trauma in both men and women in the military. We partnered with WGRC to educate our campus community on the impact of women in the military and bring light to the issues that they may face. In addition, we have begun conversations with Academic Affairs about how we can begin to educate our faculty on Veterans issues. As we move forward, we have already scheduled future professional development seminars on Veterans issues for 2015-2016 and we look forward to educating our faculty and staff.

Initiative 6: Create and implement a comprehensive training program for VA Work-Study Peer Counselors to ensure, including delineation of responsibilities, customer service, reception of guests, conflict resolution, attendance and punctuality, and knowledge required to address the most frequently-asked questions.

With the addition of 12 more peer counselors bringing our total VA Work Study Peer Counselors to 22; Veteran Services has a commitment to our student veterans to continue to provide top-notch customer service via our Peer Mentor Program. We have added an HR Intern, whose primary duty is to continue to develop our training program. The addition of staff brings some challenges to our office as we work on effective ways to manage and train this many student staff. The addition of an HR intern helps to deviate some of the responsibility from the Director, and gives them a real hands on practicum experience.

Summary of SFAC Base Augmentation Request FY 2017:

VS Core Programming	\$25, 000
DSAES Annual Core Tech Fee	\$2,650.00
6% Administrative Fee	\$ 1,659.00
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	\$29,309.00

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**
VETERAN SERVICES



**Student Fee
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One-Time Allocation
Requests FY 2016



FY2016 One Time Funding and

Veteran Services

Vision

UH Veteran Services will provide student veterans with the highest level of support and dedication, fostering personal growth and academic success through graduation and rewarding careers. In doing so, we will strive to be a benchmark institute and a leader in veteran support and advocacy.

As a result of Division reorganization Veteran Services has incurred additional mandatory operating fees. To ensure that we have adequate funding to continue to serve our student veterans at a high level we are requesting a one-time fund request for FY 2016 to cover the additional cost.

Summary of the SFAC One-time Allocation Request FY 2016:

Mandatory DSAES IT Fee:	\$ 2,650.00
6% admin charge:	\$159.00
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	\$2809.00