STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE AND REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Prepared by:
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Danielle Niangar, Chief of Staff

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.*

Mission Statement

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 and collaboration with students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community the organization works to improve and enhance the quality of the student experience.

Core Values

- ✓ **Community**
- ✓ **Resilience**
- ✓ **Empowerment**
- ✓ **Commitment**
- ✓ **Service**
- ✓ **Advocacy**

Executive Summary

Student Government Association, in its role as the liaison between the student body and the administration, performs its mission by connecting SGA members and students through an accessible and relevant interface. The power of the organization lies in its student senators, representing and speaking on behalf of the fellow member of their colleges, to develop policy and legislation at the bi-weekly meetings of the senate and its committees. The executive branch then collaborates with the stakeholders and programs on campus to help develop and execute those policies. Further, the multitude of university committees and workgroups with SGA delegates serve to represent students on important policy and decision-making processes in nearly all facets of the university's operation.
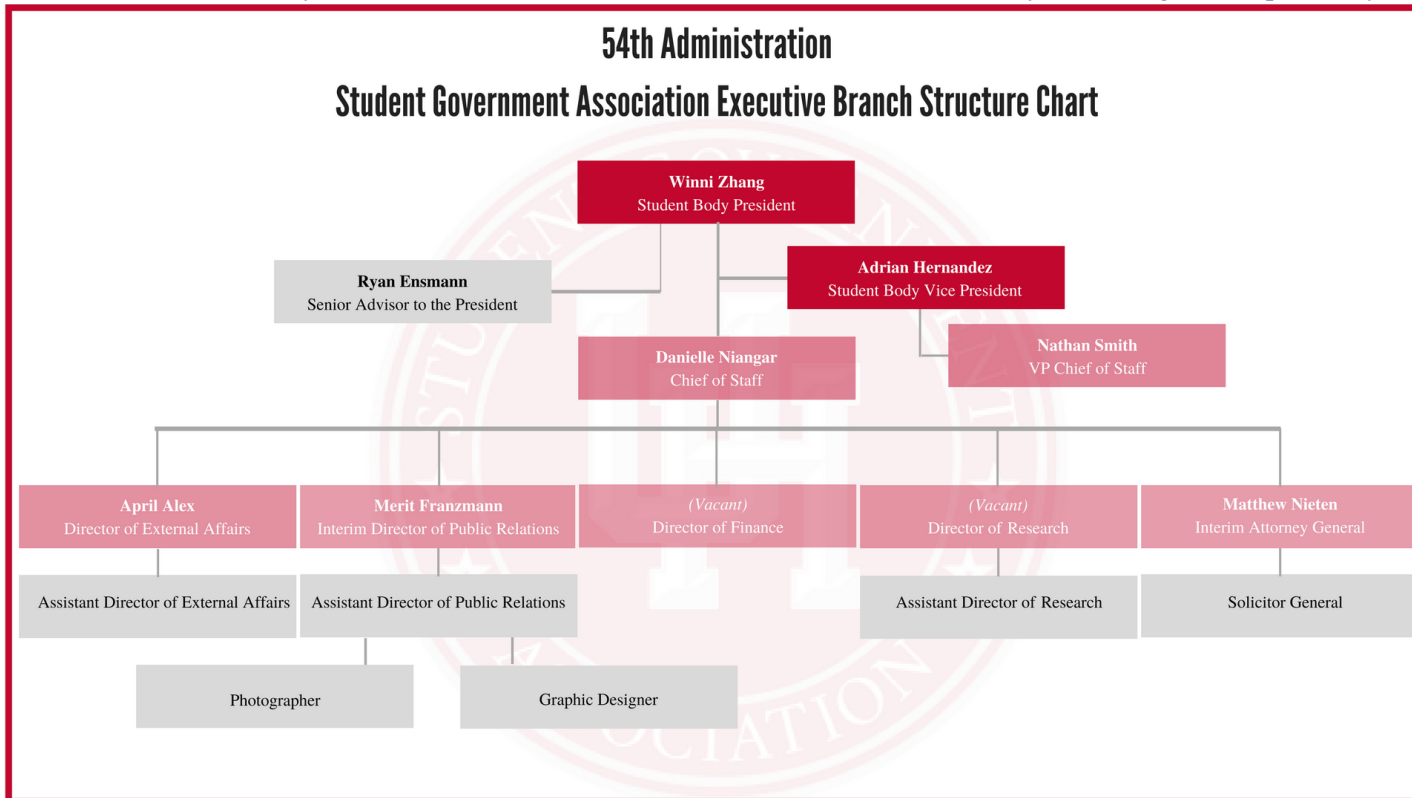
2. *Provide an organization chart of your unit. Large units may need to have an overview chart and then more specific charts for each program. Where you have multiple staff in the same position (e.g. counselor, advisor, etc.), note this on your chart. Student employees should be cited on the chart and identified as students.*

Student Government Association is divided into three branches: The Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

Executive Branch

The Executive Power of the Student Government Association is vested in the elected student body President and Vice-President. The Cabinet is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The main role of the Executive Branch is to carry out the legislation passed by the Senate.
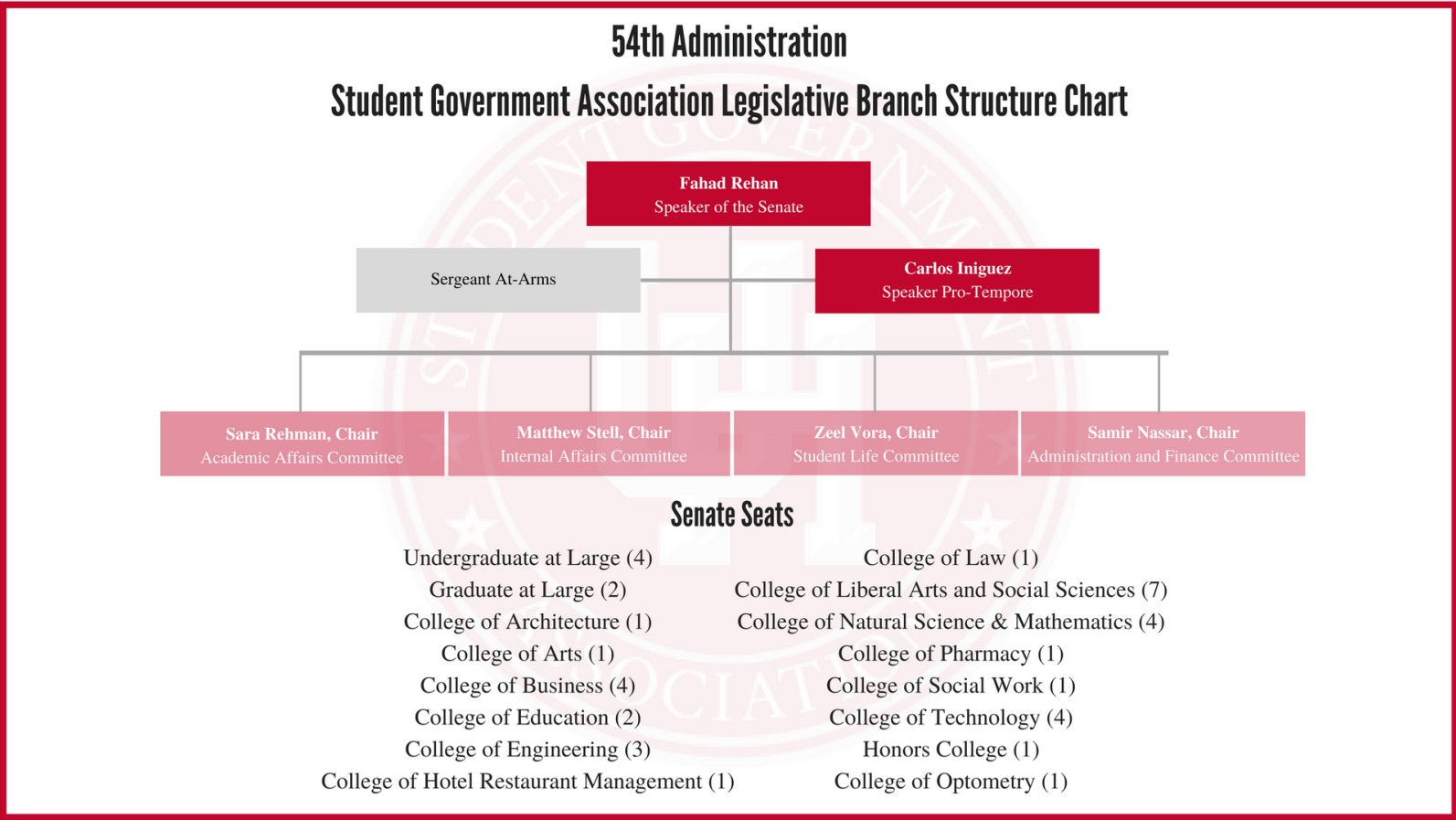

54th Administration
Student Government Association Executive Branch Structure Chart

- Winni Zhang — Student Body President
- Ryan Ensmann — Senior Advisor to the President
- Adrian Hernandez — Student Body Vice President
- Danielle Niangar — Chief of Staff
- Nathan Smith — VP Chief of Staff
- April Alex — Director of External Affairs
- Merit Franzmann — Interim Director of Public Relations
- *(Vacant)* — Director of Finance
- *(Vacant)* — Director of Research
- Matthew Nieten — Interim Attorney General
- Assistant Director of External Affairs
- Assistant Director of Public Relations
- Assistant Director of Research
- Solicitor General
- Photographer
- Graphic Designer

Legislative Branch

The Legislative power of the Student Government Association is vested in the Student Senate. Through legislation the Senate works toward improving the student experience at the University of Houston. The Speaker of the Senate is elected from within the Senate and presides over general meetings of the Senate, heads the Legislative Branch, assigns senators to standing committees, and sets meeting agendas and times. Other Senate officers include the Speaker Pro-Tempore (who presides over the Senate in the absence of the Speaker) and committee chairs. Four (4) undergraduate At-Large and two (2) graduate At-Large senators are elected by the entire student body. Every college elects representation in the Senate based on student population. Each of the Senators serves on at least one of the standing committees of the Senate.
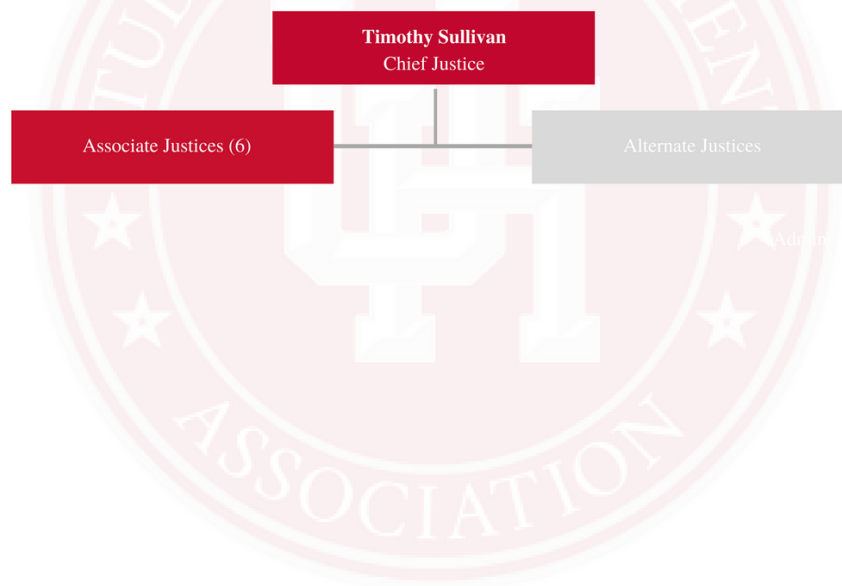
54th Administration
Student Government Association Legislative Branch Structure Chart

Fahad Rehan
Speaker of the Senate

Sergeant At-Arms

Carlos Iniguez
Speaker Pro-Tempore

Sara Rehman, Chair Academic Affairs Committee	**Matthew Stell, Chair** Internal Affairs Committee	**Zeel Vora, Chair** Student Life Committee	**Samir Nassar, Chair** Administration and Finance Committee

Senate Seats

Undergraduate at Large (4)	College of Law (1)
Graduate at Large (2)	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (7)
College of Architecture (1)	College of Natural Science & Mathematics (4)
College of Arts (1)	College of Pharmacy (1)
College of Business (4)	College of Social Work (1)
College of Education (2)	College of Technology (4)
College of Engineering (3)	Honors College (1)
College of Hotel Restaurant Management (1)	College of Optometry (1)

Judicial Branch

The Judiciary of the Student Government Association is vested in the Court of Appeals. The Court is comprised of the Chief Justice and six (6) Associate Justices who are appointed by the President and serve until graduation. The Court of Appeals is the Supreme Court for SGA and hears matters involved the constitutionality of legislation, disputes between branches, and is the court of last resort for election issues.

54th Administration
Student Government Association Judicial Branch Structure Chart

Timothy Sullivan
Chief Justice

Associate Justices (6)

Alternate Justices

3. *List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2016-2017 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services (DSAES) Strategic Initiatives and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate (links below). Please comment on your success in achieving these strategic initiatives/action steps. If a strategic initiative/action step changed during the year, please note this and explain. Also, list any new strategic initiatives/action steps, the rationale for the addition, and comment on your success in achieving these items.*

Primary Initiatives

Initiative	Goals	Lead	Partners
Dining Program Reform *University ~ II & VI* *DSAES ~ IV*	• Adjust meal plans to improve fairness and usefulness for students • Investigate alternative dining models to fit needs of student body • Design long-term dining plans to encourage University growth	Student Body President	o Auxiliary Services o Aramark o Student Housing and Residential Life
Actual: Existing Aarmark food services contract was terminated. New dining contract with Chartwells was signed. Chartwells offered a more student friendly service, and innovative ideas, and the new 24/7 program was recently highlighted during President Khator's Fall address last week. The new dining contract will impact the University for the next 10 years.			
Undergraduate Recruitment & Admissions Process Evaluation *University ~ I & V* *DSAES ~ II*	• Evaluate recruitment targets and methods • Implement the Common App as an accepted form of application • Engage students between their acceptance and enrollment decision	Student Body President	o Enrollment Services
Actual: Added the University of Houston to the Common App. This will impact University enrollment rates and overall benefit University recognition.			

International Student Support *University ~ II* *DSAES ~ I*	• Increase accessibility to campus housing during academic breaks • Assess support provided for cultural transition to U.S. • Consider steps to ease transportation for commute to campus	Student Body Vice President	○ Office of International Student and Scholar Services ○ Student Housing and Residential Life
Actual: Pushed for winter housing options for international students which is now available to international students during all university breaks.			
Parking & Transportation Services Improvement *University ~ VI* *DSAES ~ II*	• Raise revenue through creation of new advertising methods • Implement counters that track and display the number of vacancies • Participate in development of long-term parking plan	Chief of Staff	○ Parking and Transportation Services ○ University Marketing
Actual: Started working with Administration and Finance on parking guidance systems and real-time counters as a method to ease parking on campus. By the end of the term, 3 parking counters were approved as a trial.			

	Secondary Initiatives		
Initiative	Description	Lead	Partners
Wi-Fi & Cellular Signal Expansion University – VI DSAES – II	→ Locate areas of campus with high population and low coverage → Collect data on problem areas and compile reports → Work with IT to increase coverage to problem areas	Deputy Chief of Staff	→ University Information Technology
Actual: Met with University Information Technology at the beginning of the year. The department appeared to have initiatives set in place to improve Wi-Fi on campus already.			
Grade Replacement University – II DSAES – I	→ Assess status and observe result of current proposal → Prepare to implement current proposal if approved → Develop new proposal if current proposal is not implemented	Student Body President	→ Faculty Senate → Office of the Provost
Actual: Checked in with the Faculty Senate multiple times throughout the year. Grade Replacement is still in FS committee, pending the review from the Office of General Counsel.			
SGA Outreach University – II DSAES – III	→ Revise existing SGA outreach methods to engage students → Increase accessibility of SGA members to students → Encourage students to voice opinions about SGA decisions	Director of Public Relations	→ UH Community
Actual: Increased social media presence and outreach by 35%. Released multiple surveys throughout the year that garnered a substantial amount of responses.			
School Spirit University – IV & V DSAES – V	→ Encourage strategic marketing to increase yield of students reached → Form Spirit Committee to obtain perspectives across campus → Develop new and support existing spirit activities and traditions	Special Advisor for Student Engagement	→ Athletics → Student Affairs
Actual: Provided tailgate experiences at each Football game, including food, games, and discussions with other student constituents.			

Community Involvement *University ~ III & V* *DSAES ~V*	• Support President Khator's commitment to Third Ward residents • Advocate on behalf of UH to members of the Texas Legislature • Participate in service to improve the lives of Houstonians	Director of External Affairs	○ Governmental Affairs ○ Elected Officials ○ Metropolitan Volunteer Program
Actual: Created the first Coogs Vote Rally at the University of Houston. Helped organize 200+ students to attend UH Day at the Capitol. Lobbied with the Texas Student Government Coalition to the Texas Legislature. Established a service partner of the year and attended volunteering events with the Food Recovery Network to eliminate food waste in the community and curb hunger in Houston.			
Greek Life Expansion *University ~ II* *DSAES ~VI*	• Work to accomplish existing goals of increasing Greek membership • Increase opportunities for cultural and service-based chapters • Prepare for long-term growth of Greek life and additional chapters	Student Body Vice President	○ Student Affairs
Actual: This goal was not met.			
Student Well-being *University ~ II* *DSAES ~II*	• Raise sexual assault awareness and promote campus resources • Educate students on campus security and suggest improvements • Encourage students to be responsible when drinking alcohol	Deputy Chief of Staff	○ UH Police Department ○ Health and Wellness
Actual: Created the free pad and tampon project with the Student Centers. Established a mental health task force to resolve the concerns students faced when using UH Counseling and Psychological Services. Advocated student questions and concerns during Campus Carry to the Safety and Security Committee.			

4. *Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate both your success in achieving the aforementioned strategic initiatives and/or action steps and their importance as compared to others that you might pursue. Where data exist, discuss the number of persons served by each of your programs and any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting these data.*

Each year, the Student Body President releases an executive agenda outlining the goals for the administration. The agenda, as shown above, includes the initiatives we hope to achieve, the exact measured outcomes we hope to see, the project lead, and the partner(s) established for each initiative. If items are accomplished or started, the project will be marked as successful. Each Student Body President is elected by the student body to carry out their specific vision for the University. It is important for a governing institution to set clear goals and objectives for the year. While these executive agendas define these goals and objectives, it does not limit the organization. Throughout the year, SGA may find value or importance in other initiatives. However, ultimately, we will prioritize the successful implementation of each project on this agenda.

In addition to this, Student Government Association's goals and initiatives ultimately impact every student at the University of Houston. In some cases, our reach goes beyond the students at the University of Houston. Student Government Association works with local community members, public schools around Houston, and prospective Cougars. It is not uncommon for SGA to visit K-12 schools to talk about the importance of college and to represent the University of Houston. Initiatives such as the implementation of the Common App as an accepted form of application for the University of Houston affect prospective Cougars around the nation.

While our initiatives impact the entire student body, we can offer the following participation/engagement rates:

1. Emerging Leaders program – 20 freshmen
2. Chinese Star Replacement Survey: 4,351 respondents
3. Transfer Focus Group: 40 students
4. UH Night at the Houston Dynamo Game: 300 student tickets sold
5. End the Stigma 2017 Facebook statistics: 252 went/interested in event. 9,200 reached, 1,200 viewed
6. End the Stigma 2016 Facebook statistics: 253 went/interested in event
7. Coogs Vote Rally Facebook statistics: 88 went/interested in event
8. Candlelit Vigil for Suicide Awareness Facebook Statistics: 704 went/interested in event. 28,000 reached. 2,300 viewed.

5. *Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2018) 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.*

The Student Government Association holds its elections in the Spring and a new executive team assumes office in April 1st. Each administration is responsible for its budget proposal given the SFAC approved funding in their respective fiscal year. This creates some level of ambiguity in the budget, as it is impossible to know precisely what the next administration will choose to allocate their budget to, but there have not been any drastic changes.

SGA changed one cabinet position this year. The former Deputy Chief of Staff is now the Vice President Chief of Staff. The Vice President Chief of Staff offers more help than the Deputy Chief of Staff would traditionally be able to do. The Vice President Chief of Staff assists the

Vice President and the Chief of Staff with their projects and work load. This position has increased the productivity of the Vice President allowing them to focus on multiple initiatives while balancing committee appointments.

6. *If your unit concluded FY2017 with a Student Service Fee (SSF) Fund 3 addition to the SSF Reserve in excess of $5,000, please describe the conditions which caused the addition and provide a line-item identification of the budgetary source(s) of the addition (i.e. lapsed salary, conference travel, etc.).*

SGA returned $4,886 at the conclusion of FY17.

7. *Please list your unit's 2018-2019 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Values and University of Houston Strategic Goals to which they relate. Larger units may wish to group responses by subprogram. Under each unit strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiatives.*

Primary Initiatives			
Initiative	Goals	Lead	Partners

Parking
University ~ I and VI
DSAES ~ 1
	• Digital Parking Counters
	  o Push to install parking guidance systems and real time counters in major lots across campus, with the exception of lots that are to become garages
	• Partnership with Metro Park & Ride
	  o Collaborate with Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County to allow University of Houston students to park at Metro Park & Ride locations, largely in suburban areas, and easily bus into the University of Houston
		Student Body President	o Administration and Finance
			o Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee
			o Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County

Textbook Prices
University ~ I, II, and VI
DSAES ~ I, II, and III
	• Implement Open-Source Textbooks
	  o Work with the Office of the Provost to successfully implement an open-source textbook network accessible to students
	• Integration
	  o Integrate qualified texts with current University curriculum
	• Collaboration
	  o Work with University faculty to adopt accessible and higher education on campus
		Student Body President	o The Office of the Provost
			o University of Houston Libraries
			o Faculty Senate

Health Services
University ~ I, II, V, and VI
DSAES ~ I, II, III and VI
	• New Space
	  o Allocate the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to a new enhanced location
	• Balanced Staff to Student Ratio
	  o Improve our 1:3825 staff to student ratio to the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) recommend 1:1500
	• Increased Mental Health Awareness
	  o Create events and public campaigns to increase mental health awareness
		Student Body President	o Counseling and Psychological Services
			o Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services
			o Wellness

Secondary Initiatives			
Initiative	Description	Lead	Partners
Diversity and Inclusion *University ~ II and III DSAES ~ I, II, III, IV, V*	• Educate and inform students on how to foster an inclusive community • Support the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) commitment to engage, empower, and educate our highly diverse student population and campus partners • Develop new events and activities with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)	Senior Advisor	o Center for Diversity and Inclusion o Urban Experience Program o Council for Cultural Activities
Fraternity and Sorority Life *Enhancement University ~ II DSAES ~ I, II, and V*	• Resolve overall Greek-letter organization issues that are hindering experience and/or numbers • Improve the experience of fraternity and sorority involvement at the University of Houston • Rebrand Greek life as organizations of inclusion, positive interactions, and opportunity	Student Body Vice President	o Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life (CFSL) o Center for Student Involvement (CSI)
Non-Traditional Student Experience *University ~ I, II, and V DSAES ~ I and II*	• Encourage Commuter, International, and Transfer Students to become more involved on campus • Help ease International and Transfer Students' transition to the University of Houston by connecting these students to resource on campus	Director of External Affairs	o Commuter Student Services o International Student and Scholar Services o Council for Cultural Activities o Parking and Transportation o The Office of Admissions

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention *University ~ II and III DSAES ~ II, III and V*	• Address Issue in the process of which sexual assault cases are handled on campus • Increase awareness of sexual assault on college campuses and the resource available on campus and in the Houston area	Student Body Vice President	o Equal Opportunity Services (EOS) o UH Wellness o University of Houston Police Department o Women and Gender Resource Center (WGRC)
Community Engagement *University ~ II and III DSAES ~ II, IV, V, and VI*	• Work with local and state legislators and governments to help improve student life at the University of Houston • Connect with local nonprofits and organizations to better connect the University of Houston to the community	Director of External Affairs	o Houston Community
Sustainability *University ~ III, V, and VI DSAES ~ I, II, V, and VI*	• Push the University of Houston to join the Climate Commitment Plan • Create an on campus Farmer's Market • Encourage students to use reusable water bottles • Help with the installation of B-cycles on campus	Director of External Affairs	o Chartwells o Office of Sustainability
Free Student Legal Services *University ~ II DSAES ~ I, II, IV, and V*	• Create a streamlined free student legal service to advise and counsel students concerning their legal rights and responsibilities through confidential consultations	Attorney General	o University of Houston Law Center

Experiential Learning *University ~ II* *DSAES ~ I, II, and IV*	• Create a one credit course for freshmen • The course shall include learning about campus traditions, career-oriented workshops, and diversity and inclusion workshops	Chief of Staff	○ Provost Short ○ Career Services

8. *Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2019 base funding is extremely limited and recognizing that it is likely that some units will not be allocated the FY2019 base budget augmentations and/or one-time funds requested. Please provide a narrative of how your unit would accommodate a reduction of 5% in your total approved FY2018 base Student Service Fee budget and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.*

For the past two years, SGA has voluntarily decreased our budget by 5% for FY17 and 1% for FY18 in an attempt to set an example for other organizations to follow in suit. We appreciate SFAC's flexibility in including this question in the questionnaire. In the event that SGA's budget be cut by 5% ($7100+ $420 6% administration fee) we would accommodate in the following ways:

1. Professional Development be cut by _____$1,500.00
2. Awards be cut by _____$_400.00
3. Advertising be cut by_____$_700.00
4. Programs/Events be cut by _____ $3,500.00
5. Office/General Supplies be cut by _____$1,000.00
6. Administrative Charge would be _____$_426.00
   Total _____$7,520.00

If SGA suffered these cuts to our budget, we would be unable to adequately communicate with the student body, operate our offices, and host programs/events that are critical to student success and experience on campus. In addition to this, the awards at the end of the year banquet for SGA are not only awarded to student leaders, both in and outside of SGA, who have exceeded expectations in serving the student body, but also faculty and staff that have made a huge difference and impact on our campus. Cutting the quality of the awards damages both the reputation of SGA and the prestige of the awards.

9. *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.*

   Student Government Association does not receive any additional funding from other sources. At this time, there does not appear to be other manners in which SGA could receive funding, but we are prepared to pursue such avenues if they become accessible.

10. *Please describe any services that are similar to yours and/or any overlap between your unit and any other unit(s) providing services to students and the rationale for the overlap.*

    The Student Government Association is unique in that it serves as the main advocacy body for the students at this university. As referenced by state law, it fills the statutory role of an elected student representation. There is very little overlap, if any, with other fee funded units.