

FY22 SFAC One-Time Request

Speech & Debate

10/15/2020

Rationale

Growth in interest and participation in Speech & Debate in the last few years has resulted in the need for sustained and appropriate funding levels. The support from the current base allocation will continue to present substantial challenges in budgeting and will create uncertainty about any future initiatives. The FY20 decision to grant our Base Augmentation Request as a One-Time Allocation allowed us to move forward with several initiatives, as well as plan for our current core mission, policy debate competition, with more certainty. While the COVID-19 pandemic led to cancelling a second One-Time Allocation for FY21, reinstating it for FY22 will allow the program to meet our strategic initiatives, expand access to students, grow the reach of the program, and hopefully set the stage for a Base Augmentation in FY23. Hopefully, as things return to normal, we can continue where we left off.

Expense	Amount	Comment
Coaching	\$5,000	Graduate Assistantship
Travel—Speech & Debate	\$13,800	Support for expanded travel
Administrative Fee	\$1,200	
Total	\$20,000	

Coaching

This position would be deployed either to help reboot the speech program, if accompanied by additional money for travel, or for recruitment and training for novice (new) debaters. Either role would be tasked with supporting the Cougar Classic and Houston Debate Mentorship Collaborative. The preferred use would be toward a Graduate Assistantship, taking advantage of local talent while also allowing the funding to do double-duty for university students. Filling staffing positions, especially on a part-time or graduate-assistantship basis is one of the most challenging administrative problems for the program. Filling the position without certainty about future funding has been difficult, and it may require a permanent base-augmentation to facilitate this goal.

Travel Expenses

Travel budgeting depends on a number of variables that change depending on the level of competition, distance, and many other factors. On average, costs are lower for smaller regional tournaments and larger nationally competitive tournaments tend to be further away. The majority of this money would go toward the cost of registering, housing, and transporting additional team members who are currently denied the opportunity for travel, in particular the opportunity to compete at speech tournaments (dependent on coaching funds) and/or novice and junior varsity nationals at the end of the season. The following chart gives an example of an additional tournament outlay.

The most likely scenario for additional travel is either:

A) Speech Focused: Fund a regionally focused tournament schedule with sufficient funds remaining to attend at least one end-of-the-year national tournament; or:

B) Debate Focused: Adding two regional tournaments plus spending the remainder on adding members to the rosters of already-scheduled tournaments.

During FY20, where it was not possible to hire a speech coach, the funds were nonetheless efficiently spent on greatly expanding debate travel, while also providing some new opportunities for Speech competition for the first time in years. As detailed in our FY22 Questionnaire, a 50% increase in our funding equivalent to this one-time request lead to a 100% increase in competitive opportunities for UH students.

Example Debate Tournament Expense Outlay

Category	Days	Rate	Units	Sub Total
Lodging	3	\$114.00	5	\$1,710.00
Lodging - On Drive	1	\$85.00	5	\$425.00
Food – Students	4	\$15.00	9	\$540.00
Food – Coaches			2	\$120.00
Fees		\$60.00	14	\$840.00
Judging		\$240.00	1	\$240.00
Gas				\$250.00
Ground Transportation				\$450.00
			Total	\$4,575.00