UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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.**

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

How the 58th Administration Accomplishes Our Mission:

The 58th Student Government Association serves as the student voice while working with University administrators on policy making. This is done in several ways, such as by meeting directly with the administrators, passing legislation to show the support for the policies, or by making appointments to the University committees. Furthermore, the 58th administration interacts with the student body and hears their voice through direct communication, social media platforms, and their attendance in public events.

The 58th continues to work with University administrators on crucial issues such as reducing the cost of attendance by providing more affordable parking passes and study materials, and by advocating to expand student support services such as Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Student Accessibility Center (SAC).

Justification of the Student Government's Fee Allocation:

The Student Government at the University of Houston is a student led organization, advocating on behalf of the student body at large by representing their opinion and voicing their concerns to the administrators. As the result, the Student Government budget is utilized to (1) facilitate the normal functioning of the organization, and (2) fund the programs and initiatives with the goal of enhancing their experience at the University.
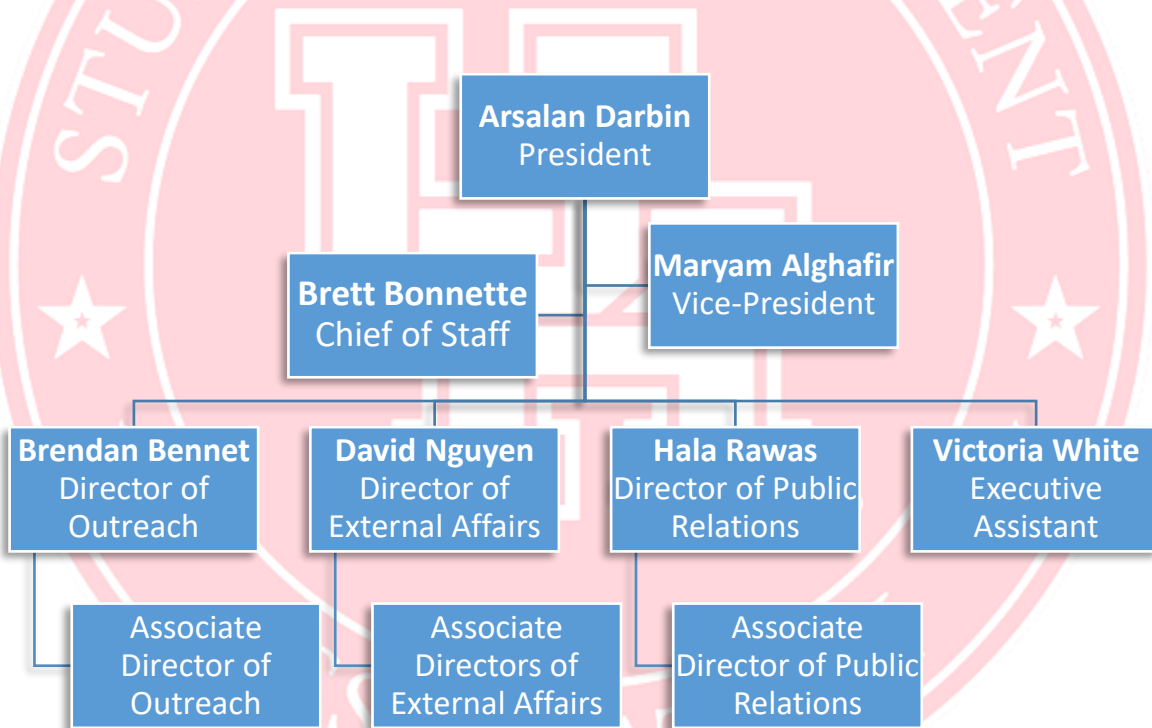
The 58th Student Government Association serves its mission through advocating for policy changes, events, and collaborations with other organizations. Some of these initiatives are the End the Stigma, Voter Registration tablings, food drives in partnership with Athletics and Auxiliary Services, collaboration with International Student and scholar services office (ISSSO) to carry out the International Student Mentorship Program.

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.**
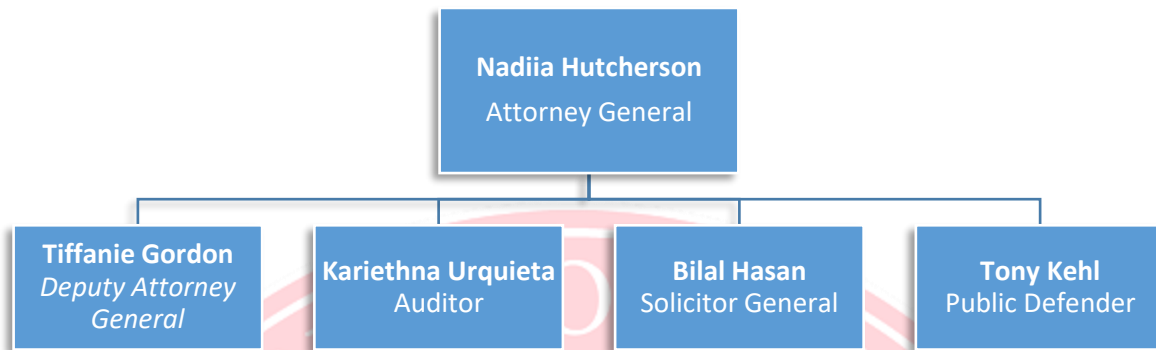
Overview:

The Student Government Association is made up of three branches; the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. The Executive branch is led by the Student Body President, advised by the cabinet. The Legislative Branch is led by the Speaker of the Senate who presides over the bi-weekly Senate meetings. The Justice Department is headed by the Chief Justice and made up of eight Associate Justices, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Together, they make up the Court of Appeals that hears matters involving the constitutionality of legislation, disputes between branches and decide the results of election complaints. The Election Commission is led by the Chief Election Commissioner.
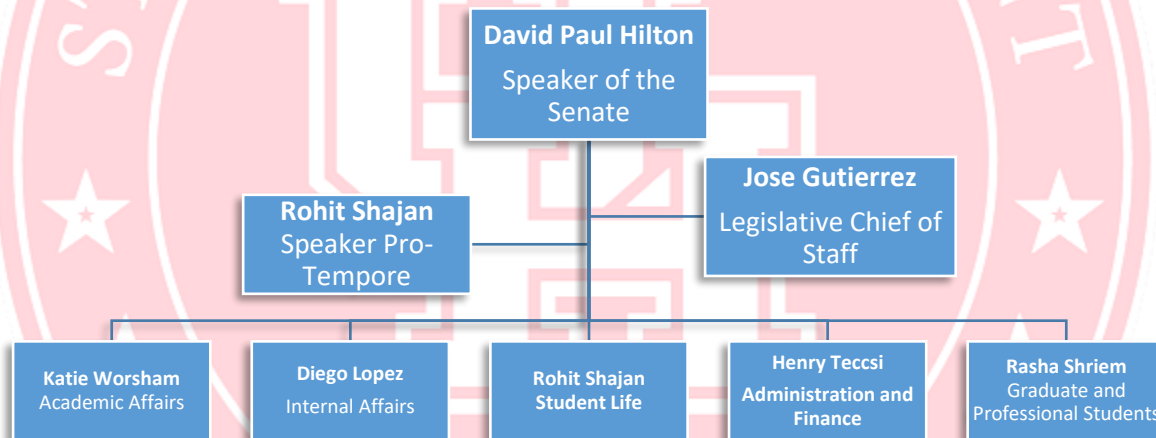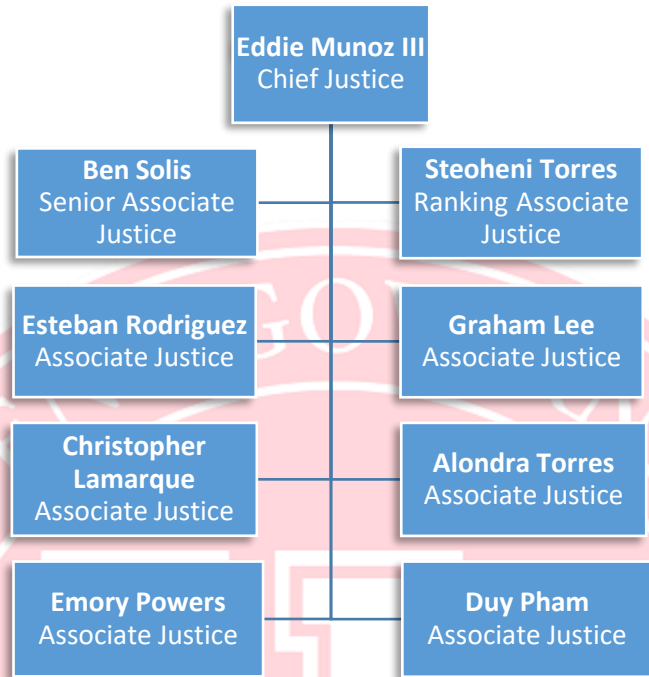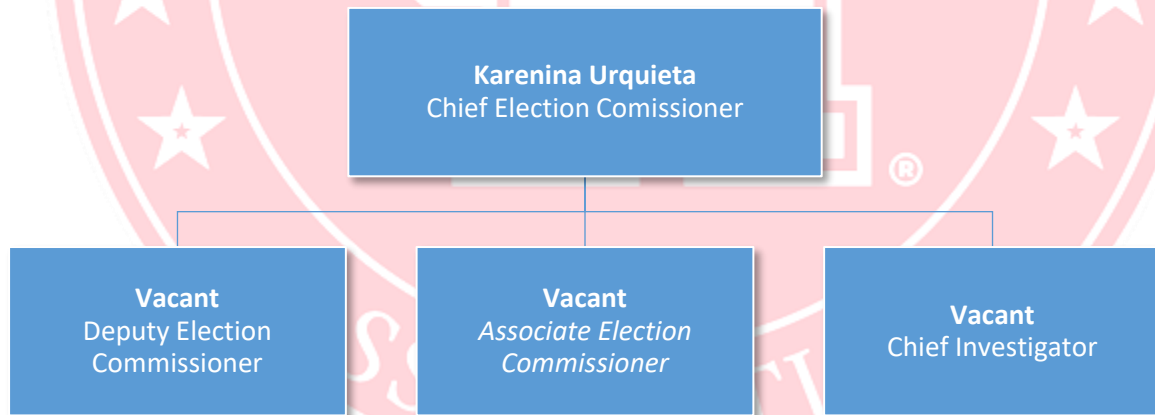
Executive Branch

Department of Justice

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                    Nadiia Hutcherson
                    Attorney General

  Tiffanie Gordon    Kariethna Urquieta    Bilal Hasan        Tony Kehl
  Deputy Attorney    Auditor               Solicitor General  Public Defender
  General
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Legislative Branch

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                    David Paul Hilton
                    Speaker of the
                    Senate

         Rohit Shajan              Jose Gutierrez
         Speaker Pro-              Legislative Chief of
         Tempore                   Staff

  Katie Worsham    Diego Lopez     Rohit Shajan    Henry Teccsi      Rasha Shriem
  Academic Affairs Internal Affairs Student Life   Administration and Graduate and
                                                   Finance           Professional Students
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Senate Seats

Undergraduate at Large (6)	College of Law (1)
Graduate at Large (4)	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (7)
College of Architecture (1)	College of Natural Science and Mathematics (4)
College of Arts (1)	College of Pharmacy (1)
College of Business (4)	Graduate College of Social Work (1)
College of Education (2)	College of Technology (4)
College of Engineering (3)	Honors College (2)
College of Hotel and Restaurant Management (1)	College of Optometry (1)
College of Nursing (1)	Hobby School of Public Affairs (1)

Supreme Court

```
                    Eddie Munoz III
                    Chief Justice
```

Ben Solis	Steoheni Torres
Senior Associate Justice	Ranking Associate Justice

Esteban Rodriguez	Graham Lee
Associate Justice	Associate Justice

Christopher Lamarque	Alondra Torres
Associate Justice	Associate Justice

Emory Powers	Duy Pham
Associate Justice	Associate Justice

The Election Commission

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                Karenina Urquieta
                Chief Election Comissioner
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Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Deputy Election Commissioner	*Associate Election Commissioner*	Chief Investigator

3. **List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2020-2021 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.**

Strategic Initiatives and Action Steps 2020-2021:

Inclusive Student Support:

Main Goals:

- Increasing ADA Accessibility
- Creation of an International Student Mentorship Program
- Creation of a Transfer Student Mentorship Program

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- The creation of the Equity for Students with Disabilities and CSD Support Act
- The creation of a Disabled Students Demand Justice petition
- The creation of a workgroup to review university policy related to various areas of concern for students with disabilities including the Provost Office, Campus Facilities and Administration and Finance
- The passage of the International Student Support Act that piloted the University of Houston's first International Student Mentorship Program to be continued in Spring 2020
- The creation of a Transfer Student Program proposal and the piloting of the Transfer Student Mentorship program in Spring 2020

Green Campus:

Main Goal:

- To decrease the use of single-use plastics on all dining locations on campus, including the student centers

University Goal:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Bi-weekly meetings with Auxiliary Services
- Student Representation on the Student Centers Sustainability Committee
- The creation of a survey to measure the amount of single-use plastic currently consumed on campus

Affordable Housing:

Main Goal:

- To ensure that the University of Houston maintains a low-cost Housing option for students

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Meeting with the Executive Director of Student Housing and Residential Life
- Meeting with Residence Halls Association Leadership
- Creation and passage of a Resolution in Support of maintaining the affordability of Moody Towers

Academic Support:

Main Goal:

- Academic Support Groups for Students

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

<u>Action Steps:</u>

- The creation of an Improve UH Online Learning Petition
- The creation of a survey to assess student academic need amidst the pandemic

Campus Safety:

<u>Main Goals:</u>

- Increasing Awareness of Sexual Assault and Mental Health on Campus
- Continued Support and Expansion of the Cougar Pack

<u>University Goals:</u>

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

<u>Action Steps:</u>

- Meeting with UH CAPS to continue the End the Stigma Event virtually
- Creation of Marketing and videos to promote UH CAPS resources for students
- The holding of a virtual event to increase awareness of sexual assault
- The creation of a re-opening plan for Cougar Pack by the Vice President

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.**

<u>**Accessibility of Agenda Items to the students**</u>

In the previous years, the Speaker used to send the Senate agenda directly to Student Government members a day prior to the bi-weekly meetings. At the end of the Summer 2021, we set up a list serve on the SGA website, were any student can sign up to receive our agenda along with other updates at the same time as other SGA members. This feature, on one hand, allows the students to have access to our agenda, and on the other hand, gives us the number of people that are interested to follow our activities.

<u>**Consistent and Goal Oriented Meetings**</u>

In the 58th Administration, Executive cabinet meetings take place consistently every week and stay focused on the tasks and goals usually defined in advance. If there is a task defined in previous meetings, we are able to track the progress during the week and defined the goals and tasks for the future. Meetings minutes are recorded for each meeting to make sure this process happens as accurately as possible. Furthermore, distractions are identified and put off for more apt time to be reviewed.

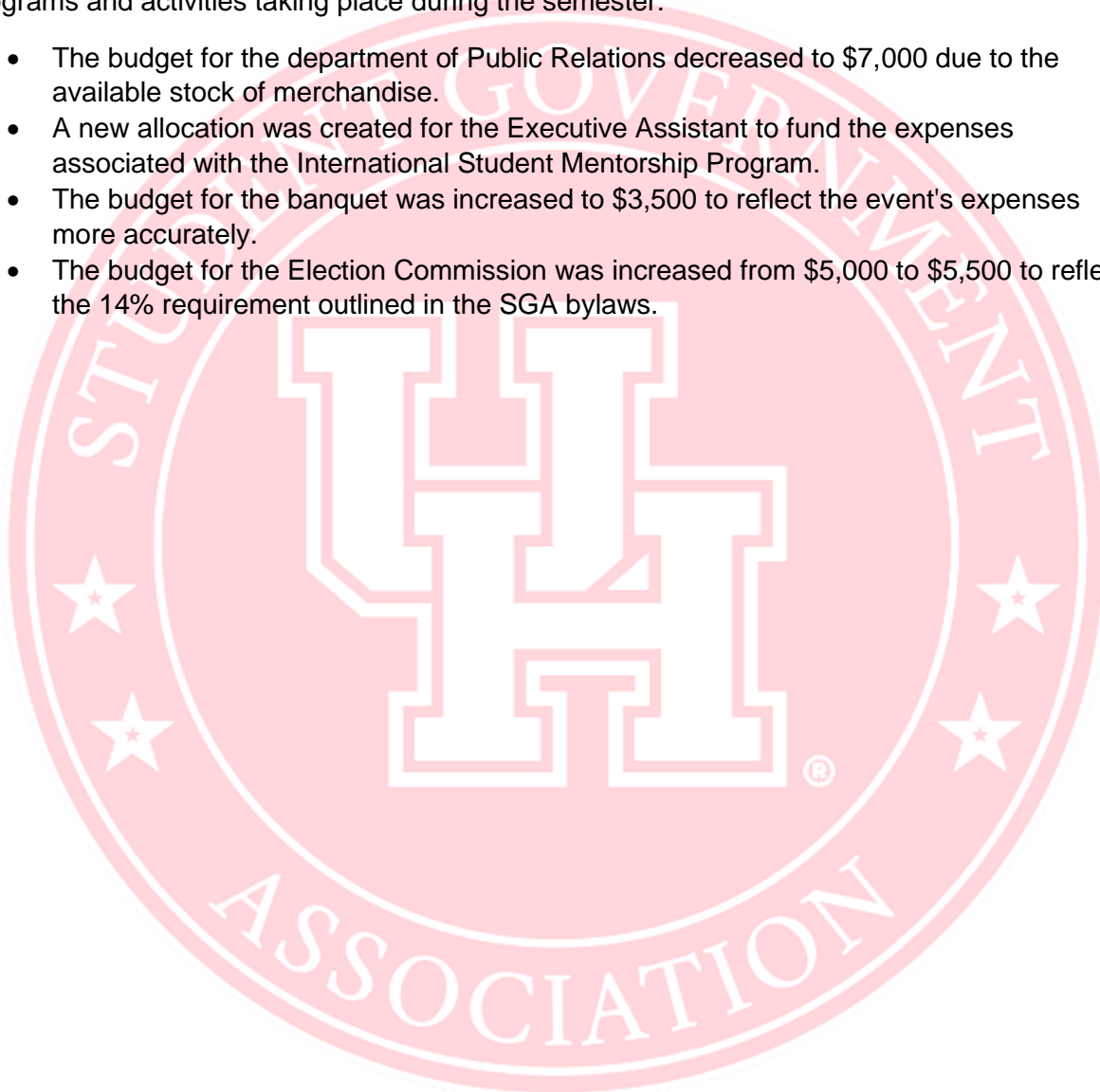<u>**Attending Meetings with University Administrators**</u>

One of the most important tools for the Student Government to achieve its goals is through communication and connection with University Administrators. This happens through direct meetings scheduled with the administrators or different University Committees that need representation. University Committee meetings and meetings with university administration are always attended by at least one member of the Executive Branch. The Vice President appoints appropriate student members throughout the year to various University Committees to ensure that a student voice is always represented.

5. **Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2022) 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.**
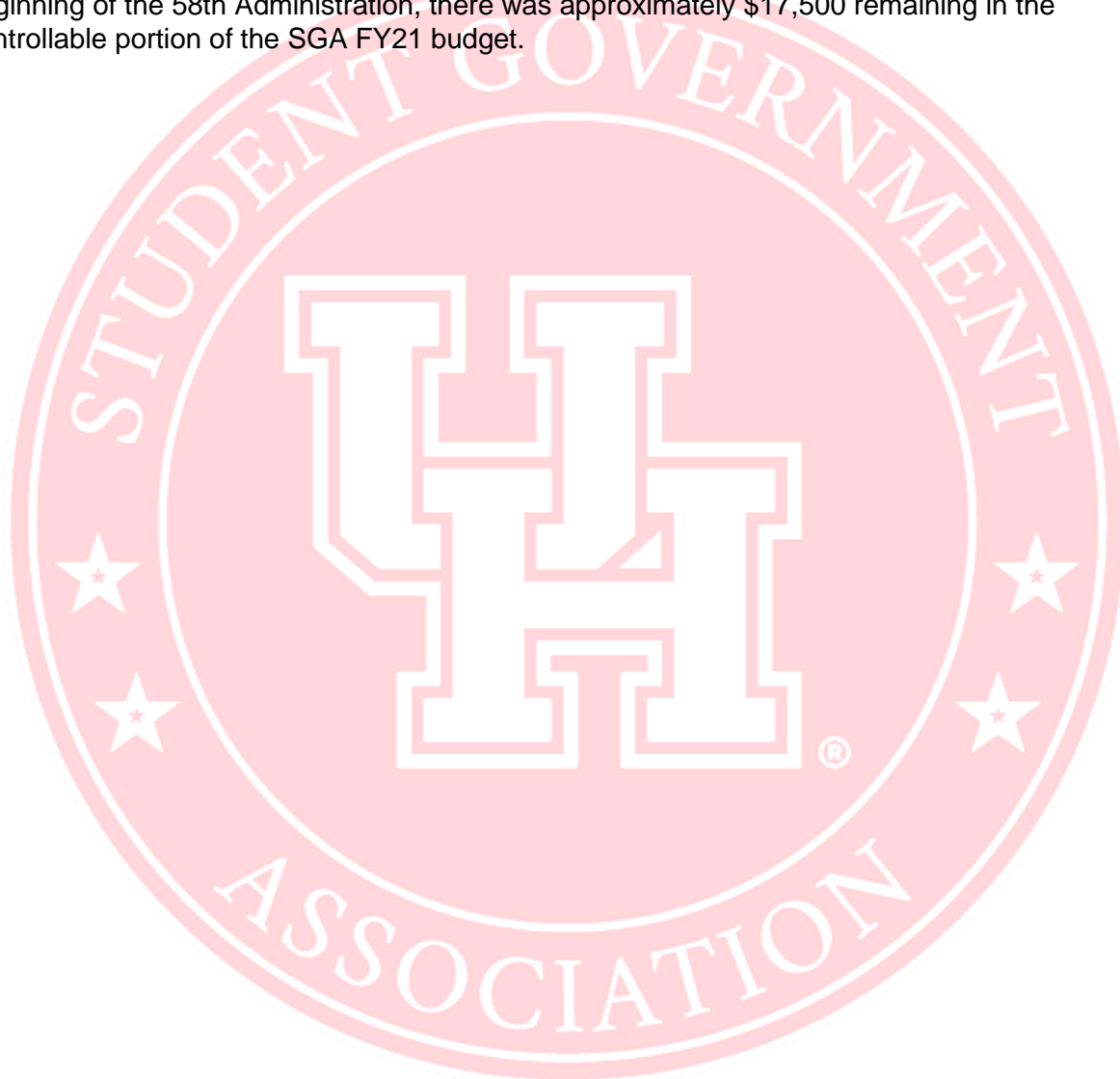
As a result of returning to in-person classes, the FY22 budget was developed considering the programs and activities taking place during the semester:

- The budget for the department of Public Relations decreased to $7,000 due to the available stock of merchandise.
- A new allocation was created for the Executive Assistant to fund the expenses associated with the International Student Mentorship Program.
- The budget for the banquet was increased to $3,500 to reflect the event's expenses more accurately.
- The budget for the Election Commission was increased from $5,000 to $5,500 to reflect the 14% requirement outlined in the SGA bylaws.

6. **If your unit concluded FY2021 with a Fund 3 addition to Fund Equity 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.).**

The Student Government Association returned $12,225 at the end of FY21: $5,503 student salaries (during the 57th administration) and $6,721 was in the Maintenance and Operations. SGA budgets $5,000 in controllable expenses for the new administration each year, which runs from April 1st to August 31st. Primarily due to limited in-person activities and events, at the beginning of the 58th Administration, there was approximately $17,500 remaining in the controllable portion of the SGA FY21 budget.

7. **Please list your 2022-2023 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 strategic initiative, please state the specific action steps (programs, activities, services, policies/procedures, etc.) that you intend to implement to accomplish your stated initiative.**

Mental Health:

Main Goals:

- Improving and expanding mental health services on campus
- Creation of a Peer-to-peer Support Group
- Initiation of a Mental Health Awareness Speaker Series

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- The introduction of the Counselling and Psychological Services Expansion Act
- Creation of a Mental Health Task Force charged with overseeing the planning and marketing of the speaker series
- Identifying and meeting with student organizations that could participate in the mental health support group
- Work with campus departments and student organizations to increase collaboration on events, programs, and referrals

Affordable Parking Passes:

Main Goals:

- Creation of new parking passes for commuter students that visit campus on specific days at a lower price

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."

DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Creation of a survey to gauge the popularity of specific days and types of parking passes amongst commuter students
- Work with Parking and Transportation Services to develop and introduce the new parking passes
- Creation and passage of a legislation outlining any relevant information about the initiative and supporting the creation of new parking passes

Increasing Student Involvement:

Main Goals:

- Foster campus spirit and promote a sense of belonging in students
- Make funding more accessible to student organizations

University Goals:

#1 "Student Success: UH will have a student profile consistent with a nationally competitive public research University by creating an environment in which student success can be ensured."
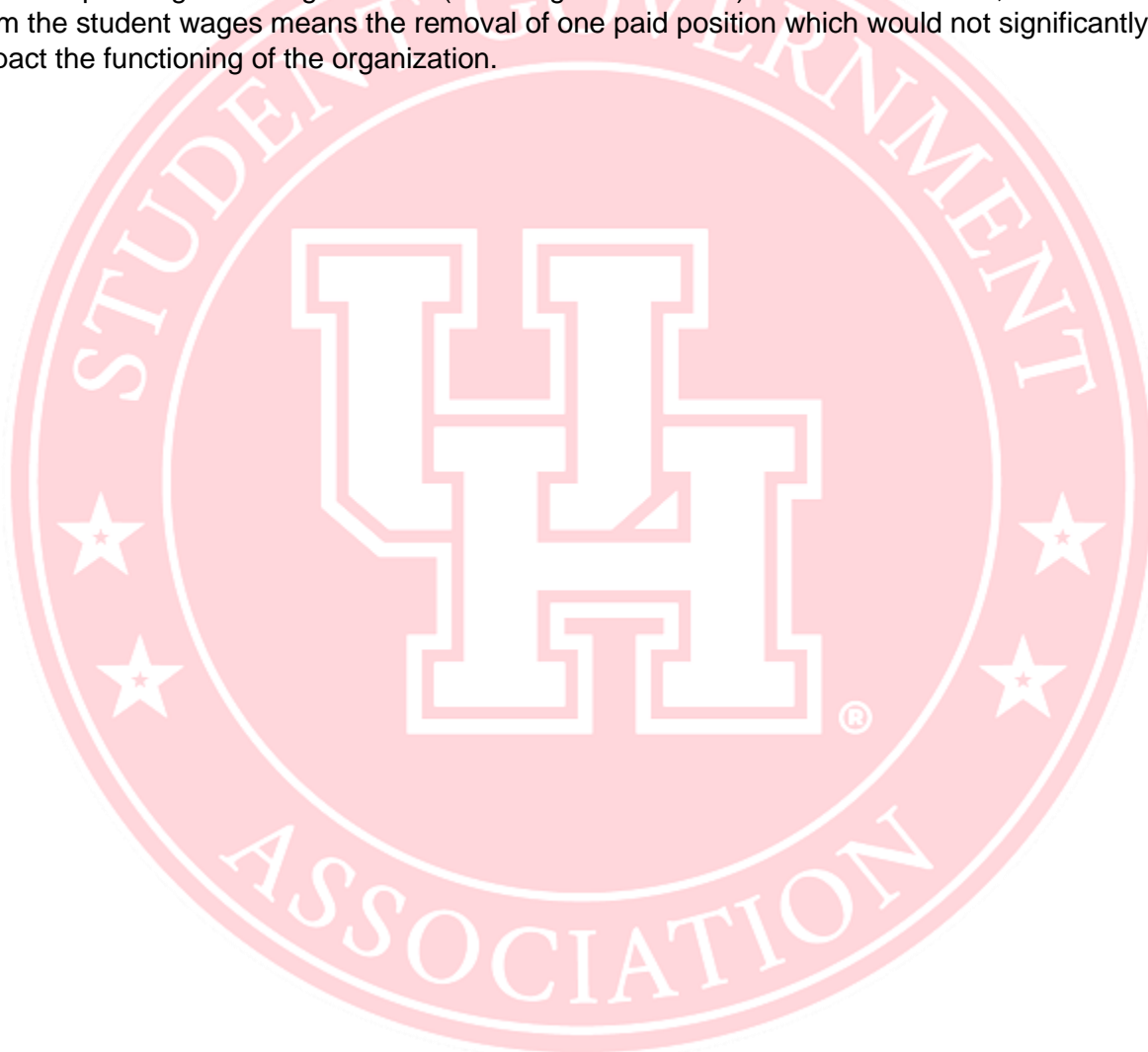
DSAES Strategic Goals: "Student Success: ...Foster the holistic well-being of all students through coordinated, intentional services and processes."

Action Steps:

- Passage of an Executive Order in support of the Cougar Red Friday Campaign, including social media posts and giveaways to encourage students to wear red on Fridays
- Using social media platforms to inform the student body about campus events and activities
- Passage of the Activities Funding Board Reform Bill to add a new 'Operating Funds' for Registered Student Organizations along with policy changes to facilitate an easier funding process
- Work with Activities Funding Board officers and help with the implementation of the proposed changes

8. **Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2023 base funding is extremely limited and recognizing that it is likely that some units will not be allocated the new base budget and/or one-time funds requested. Please provide a narrative of how your unit would accommodate a reduction of 5% in your total FY2023 base Student Service Fee budget request and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made.**

A reduction of 5% from the total FY 2022 base would be $8,023.75 and it would come from the $60,013 allocated to the Student Workers Wages (NCWS). This is because a 5% decrease would result in a 21% decrease in the controllable budget of $39,009 and interfere with the general operating of the organization (including the elections). On the other hand, a reduction from the student wages means the removal of one paid position which would not significantly impact the functioning of the organization.

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.**

The Student Government Association does not receive any additional funding, nor is it able to accept donations at this time.

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 is an advocacy organization and its overlap, if applicable, is contingent on the initiatives that each administration undertakes. Currently, the Student Government Association does not overlap with any other unit's service.