



FY23 SFAC One-Time Request

Speech & Debate

10/13/2022

1. Executive Summary

The University of Houston has been selected as the host site for this year's Cross Examination Debate Association's (CEDA) National Championship Tournament. Hosting this tournament, which is the largest of its kind and serves as the capstone to the competitive year, is considered a tremendous honor for any program. It brings hundreds of competitors from roughly a hundred schools across the country to compete in a four day tournament that ends with two crowned national champions, in Varsity and Novice debate.

This tournament comes with many direct benefits to the university. Along with the national prestige and attention such an event carries with it, there are direct economic benefits to the campus (for instance, the hotel rooms alone will bring tens of thousands of dollars directly to the University Hilton), competitive benefits that come with 'home field advantage', and benefits of accrued good will from the community.

The program is also hoping to use this as a springboard for future cost-savings. In the next fiscal year there are openings for potential new hosts in both the 'regional' and 'national' calendar. If the University is able to show itself to be a hospitable site for future tournaments then the program should be able to attract programs to future tournaments it hosts, which will effectively reduce travel and other costs of hosting that tournament to zero (over time potentially allowing a reduction of as much as 10% of the program's travel budget with no loss of competitive opportunities or impact, but with increased national prestige.)

Along with this, the team is also working with the University's Advancement office to arrange an alumni reunion event during the tournament, bringing seventy years of alumni of the speech and debate program back to campus to show off the campus, the team, the tournament, and much more. The end-goal is to use this as a prime fundraising moment to help add support to the program in times ahead.

This does not come without costs. For the CEDA National Championship the host school is expected to provide food, refreshments, 'swag', and competition rooms, amongst other things. The treasurer of the Cross Examination Debate Association has estimated that the average cost of the tournament for host schools is \$30,000 (see: the appended letter.)

As such, the program is asking SFAC for a supplemental one-time increase for the 2023 Fiscal Year of \$15,000. While this amount does not cover the entire cost of hosting the tournament, it will be sufficient to almost eliminate the impact of hosting on the team's travel budget. It will also serve as a good baseline to help other arms of the University (e.g. the Honors College, the Provost's office, etc.) supplement this amount.

2. Rough Budget Breakdown

Per discussions with CEDA leadership, and contracts with the tournament hotel, this represents a rough breakdown of costs:

Cost Center	Amount
Hotel competition Rooms (contracted with the University Hilton)	\$11,500
Food for competitors and awards banquet.	\$12,500
Administrative costs + Hosting Gifts	\$6,000