

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 59th Administration Accomplishes Our Mission:

The 59th 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 and initiatives, or by making appointments to the University committees. Furthermore, the 59th administration interacts with the student body and hears their voice through direct communication, social media platforms, and their attendance in public events.

The 59th SGA continues to work with University administrators on crucial issues such as improving safety on campus, providing resources for victims of sexual misconduct and assault, registering students to vote, holding roundtables with student groups to voice their concerns, working directly with the International Student and Scholar Services office (ISSSO) to improve student life for international students, working with athletics to improve school spirit, and fighting to reduce 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).

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 the student experience at the University of Houston.

The 59th Student Government Association serves its mission through advocating for policy changes, events, and collaborations with other organizations. Some of these initiatives are the Voter Registration tablings, food drives in partnership with Athletics and Auxiliary Services,

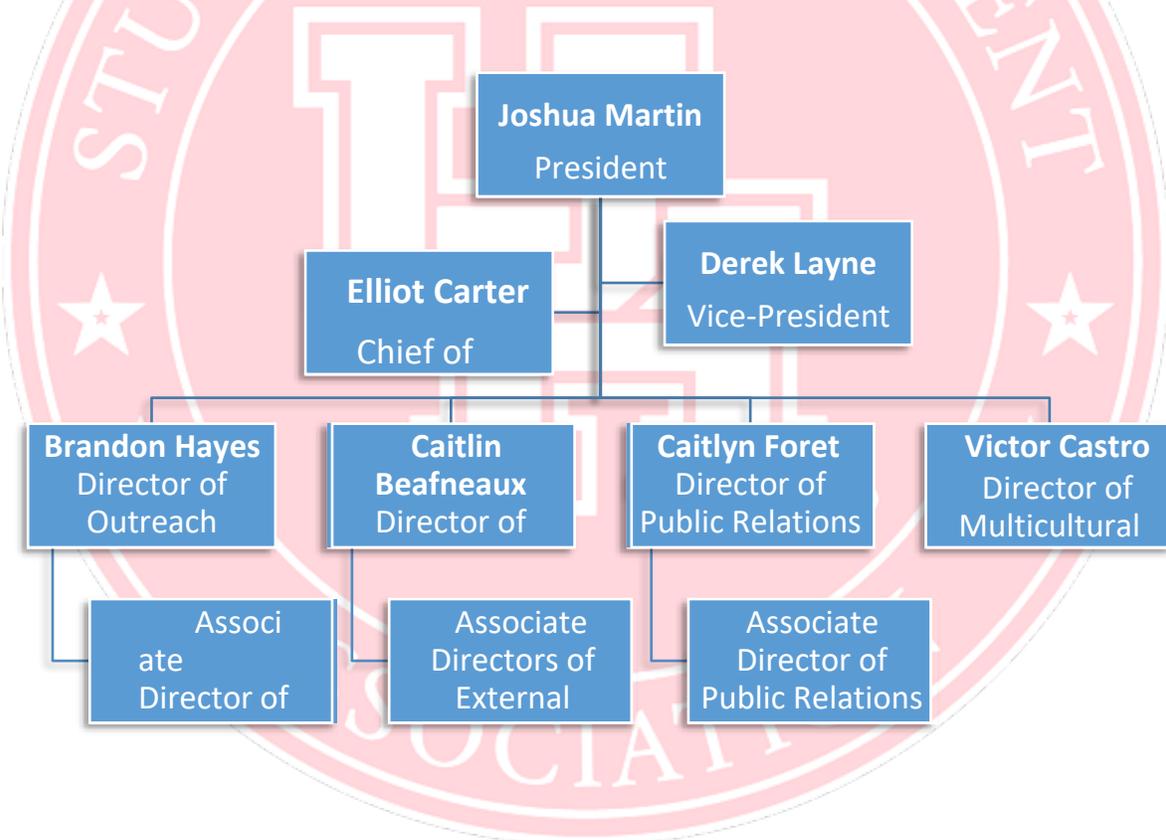
collaboration with International Student and scholar services office (ISSSO) to carry out the International Student Mentorship Program.

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 Judicial Branch 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 decides the results of election complaints. The Election Commission is led by the Chief Election Commissioner.

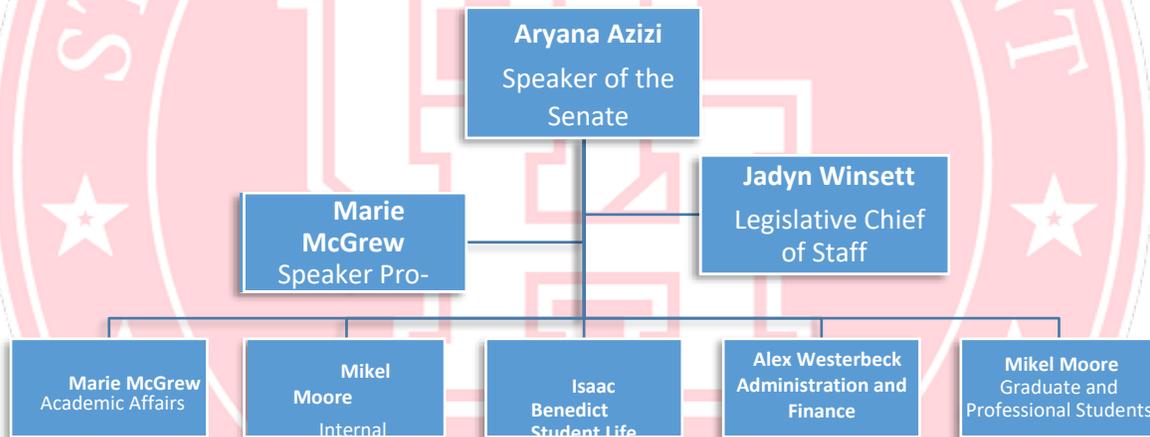
Executive Branch



Department of Justice



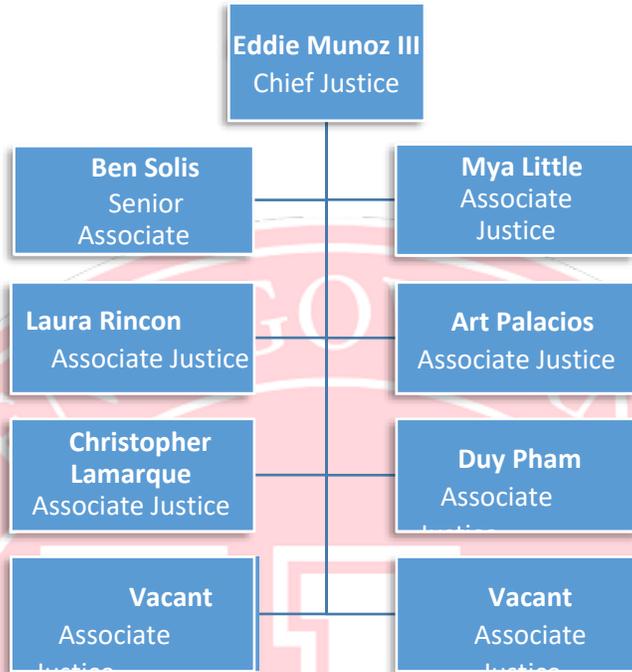
Legislative Branch



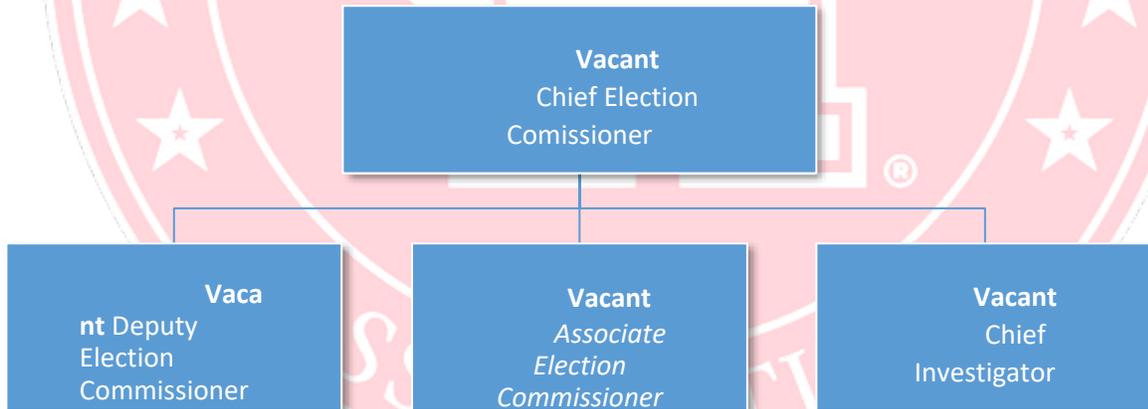
Senate Seats

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



The Election Commission



3. List your unit's strategic initiatives and action steps identified for the 2022-2023 academic year and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs (DSA) 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 2022-2023:

Student Support:

Main Goals:

- Creation of an SGA Greek Relations Department
- Creation of a Listen First agenda
- Expansion of the Emerging Leaders 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:

- Hosting roundtables with leaders from student organizations so they can take their concerns directly to SGA
- The creation of a Greek relations department so that SGA can form a better relationship with CFSL to push initiatives with the multiple Greek chapters
- Working with parking and transportation services to educate students on different resources they provide with the hopes of expanding them with a potential referendum
- Hosting bi-weekly meetings with the emerging leaders to expose them to different life skills as well as internships and different involvement opportunities within SGA and on-campus.

Green Campus:

Main Goal:

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

University Goal:

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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
- Creation of a sustainability department so that SGA can evaluate the sustainability of the University of Houston so that we can work with auxiliary services to enhance the sustainability efforts on our campus.

Sexual Assault Reform:

Main Goal:

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

University Goals:

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

Action Steps:

- Continuing talks with the office of the Provost and EOS to educate the student body on the numerous sexual assault resources available to them
- Hosting workshops to educate students about consent
- Working with student affairs to potentially create a system to make more students mandated reporters

Campus Safety:

Main Goals:

- Creation of SGA’s Safety-First Agenda. In partnership with UHPD, students will be educated on First Aid Training, CPR Training, as well as Active Shooter Training in a push to improve campus safety.

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- University Goals:

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Action Steps:

- Collaborating with UHPD and Cougar Medics to host first aid training, CPR training, and active shooter training
- Working with Parking and Transportation Services to enhance Cougar Rides as well as other services



- 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.**

Community Impact

In the previous years, past SGA administrations have discussed wanting to enlarge their community impact. The 59th administration has put this idea into action. We have created an initiative that has registered over 1000 students to vote reported by the Harris County Elections Office and will be putting this into action with events centered around bringing students to the polls. Additionally, we have created a partnership with the Texas Southern University Student Government Association centered around a yearly Community Clean Up Day, exposing students to volunteer hours and community outreach.

Consistent Emerging Leaders Agenda

In the 59th Administration, we understand that previous SGA administrations have had a lot of tension. We understand that the best way to create an effective organization is by grooming successors to create a professional and productive standard. The 59th administration has completely revamped the Emerging Leaders program, hosting bi-weekly meetings each focused around a different professional skill that can be applied. Additionally, Emerging Leaders also provide partakers with different internship opportunities to grow and expand their network. Members are also paired with mentors so they can become educated on the different departments within the Student Government Association.

Attending Meetings with University Administrators

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 (FY2023) 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.**

With our continued effort to improve the function of Student Government, the FY23 budget was developed considering the programs and activities taking place during the semester:

- The executive budget was changed from each director having a certain amount of line item funding to all of the executive cabinet sharing the same fund. With this change we will plan events as normal and apportion our budget accordingly to use the funds we receive in the most efficient manner possible.
- This does not change the total amount of funding allocated to the executive budget, just changes it so the fund is shared by all members.

- 6. If your unit concluded FY2022 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 \$14,237 at the end of FY22. The reasoning behind this is the pauses that took place during the last administration where they were unable to hold events and spend money. Each administration is supposed to end with \$5,000 at the end of their terms, however our administration was left with \$30,000 from FY22.

7. Please list your 2023-2024 strategic initiatives and action steps in priority order and cite the specific Division of Student Affairs 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 JED campus partnership
- Continuation of JED campus partnership and assessment of CAPS effectiveness on campus

University Goals:

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

Action Steps:

- The creation and development of the JED campus partnership
- Working with CAPS to market services to students on campus and make sure they understand the resources available
- Identifying and meeting with student organizations that could participate in the mental health focus groups
- Work with campus departments and student organizations to increase collaboration on events, programs, and referrals

Affordable Parking Passes:

Main Goals:

- Creation of a Transit Fee Referendum to take away the burden of paying for the Cougar Line and Sugarland shuttles off of students who purchase a parking pass.

University Goals:

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Action Steps:

- Creation of a survey to gauge the popularity of adding a student fee while reducing the price of parking passes
- Work with Parking and Transportation Services to develop and introduce the new Transit Fee Referendum
- Creation and passage of a legislation outlining any relevant information about the initiative and supporting the creation of new parking passes/ zones and and getting approval from the board of regents

Increasing Student Involvement:

Main Goals:

- Foster campus spirit and promote a sense of belonging in students
- Continued work with Athletics to improve student

attendance at Athletic games

- Making sure students voices are empowered

University Goals:

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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
- Tailgates and partnerships with Athletics to create excitement and hype around our players and teams
- Sending SGA representatives to student org meetings and attending other campus events to interact with the community

8. Recognizing that the potential to generate additional Student Service Fee income for FY2024 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 3.5, 5.0 or 7.5% in your total FY2024 base Student Service Fee budget request and provide a line-item explanation of where budgetary cuts would be made. A spreadsheet has been created to assist in this process. Please include a copy of the spreadsheet with your questionnaire submission.

- A reduction of 3.5% from the total FY 2023 base budget would be \$6,020, and it would come from our Programs/Events budget. While this would significantly impact SGA's overall impact on campus, many of our other budget line items can't be reduced due to our bylaws. (ex: salaries and wages, election commission)
- A reduction of 5% from the total FY 2023 base budget would be \$8,600, and it would come from our Programs/Events budget. While this would significantly impact SGA's overall impact on campus, many of our other budget line items can't be reduced due to our bylaws. (ex: salaries and wages, election commission)
- A reduction of 7.5% from the total FY 2023 base budget would be \$12,899, and it would come from our Programs/Events budget. While this would significantly impact SGA's overall impact on campus, many of our other budget line items can't be reduced due to our bylaws. (ex: salaries and wages, election commission)

- 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.

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 but seeks out partnerships to work alongside various campus departments and organizations.