

# University of Houston Clear Lake

To: Dr. Richard Walker; President

Dr. Tina Powellson; Vice President for Student Affairs  12.6.24

Via: Matthew Perry; Interim Dean of Students and SFAC Advisor

From: Jocelyn Smith; Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) Chair

CC: Student Fee Advisory Committee Members

All Fee Funded Units and University Sponsored Student Organizations

Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs

Date: November 22, 2024

Re: SFAC Funding Priorities Ranking/Rationale for FY26

Per Executive Order of Governor Abbott issued on 11/13/2024, an increase of tuition (and mandatory fees) has been prohibited for the next biennium.

## I. General Process and Considerations

The FY2025 SFAC conducted budget hearings for Fee Funded units, including University Sponsored Student Organizations, within the Division of Student Affairs (DSA), on **Friday, October 11, 2024**. Deliberations were held on **Friday, October 25, 2024**.

SFAC deliberated on three key questions:

- 1. Student Service Fee Increase** – The VPSA recommended making an up to a 10% increase in the Student Service Fee. A 10% increase would result in an effective \$4.41 per credit hour increase, capped at \$291.06 (6 SCH), for a total of \$5,346,932.00 in projected revenue. Rationale was based on flat/a decline in student enrollment, a lack of available base funding dollars in the division of student affairs, the need to fund high-impact student engagement and retention initiatives and campus traditions, and rising utilities costs for FY25.
- 2. Budget Reauthorizations** – Fee Funded Departments within DSA made requests for budget reauthorizations.
- 3. One-Time Fund Requests** – Fee funded departments and University Sponsored Student Organizations made one-time funding requests for FY25 and FY26. No base funding requests were permitted.

## II. SFAC Executive Summary

SFAC is committed to advocating for UHCL to remain focused on affordable tuition and fees while expanding and enhancing current services and student engagement opportunities to allow students to connect and thrive within the university and campus community. SFAC recommends that all departments present detailed breakdowns of how funding is utilized and how students were impacted and benefited from the one-time

funding requests and fee-funded support services.

While holding deliberations, significant themes and areas of concern emerged including the following topics:

- SFACs commitment to ensure that students are supported with adequate resources to meet their physical, mental, and social needs
- To ensure future success of UHCL students and services offered, SFAC deems it appropriate and necessary to increase student fees at this time
- SFAC strongly recommends student voices to be at the forefront of any decisions affecting their experience at UHCL, whether it is in matters of policy, campus infrastructure, or educational offerings, students must have a clear and accessible platform to express their opinions and advocate for their needs
- Additional outreach was requested for large scale events where sponsorships and community connections could be used to support the need
- The committee's desire to support students and amplify student voices and concerns when deciding how to allocate financial resources remains the primary goal of SFAC
- Data should be gathered after each semester to assess how each department or area has supported student success with intentionality and care

As the student body and UHCL campus continue to grow, there is a clear demand for larger scale events that can foster a sense of belonging and school spirit across the campus. Students have expressed a desire for more engaging and inclusive activities that cater to a wide variety of interests. To meet this need, the university must not only expand its event offerings but also work to strengthen the connection between these activities and the institution itself. The university's existing student services such as but not limited to – counseling, career services, academic advising, health services, student involvement – are fundamental to supporting students' personal and academic success. However, as enrollment numbers fluctuate, there is an urgent need to expand and amplify these services to meet current students' needs while increasing retention. Maintaining high-quality services is crucial, but equally important, challenging accessibility and relevance to our UHCL study body. Whether through additional staffing, expanded hours, online resources, or events, the university must invest in scaling up these services to ensure that every student has the support they need to thrive both academically and personally.

### **III. Student Service Fee Rate Schedule**

#### **Current Fee Rate for Fall/Spring/Summer FY25**

Per Credit Hour: \$44.10

Students Enrolled in 6 hours or more: \$264.60

Total Projected Revenue: \$4,860,848.00

#### **Proposed Fee Rate for Fall/Spring/Summer FY26**

Per Credit Hour: \$48.51

Students Enrolled in 6 hours or more: \$291.06 per student

Total Projected Revenue: \$5,346,932.00

## **One-Time Funding Balance Available FY25 and FY26: \$500,000.00**

The Division of Student Affairs maintains a reserve fund for student fees, for unforeseen circumstances. This allows the Division to respond to unexpected and unforeseen circumstances without direct impact on student opportunities, programs, and services. At the end of each fiscal year, student fee budgets are swept and used for addressing enrollment-based deficits and/or projections, identifying critical student needs, and providing one-time funding for divisional departments/units and University Sponsored Student Organizations. For this year, SFAC was entrusted to recommend the reallocation of \$500,000.00 of unspent funds returned to SFAC as one-time funding (non-base funding) allocations for FY25 and FY26.

### **IV. Funding Decisions for FY25**

#### **A. Student Service Fee Increase – Approved (Division of Student Affairs)**

SFAC has decided to increase the Student Service Fee by 10% as requested by the Vice President of Student Affairs.

SFAC based their decision to increase the Student Service Fee on the following criteria: the financial state of the university, student enrollment projections and trends, sustaining key student services, supporting student employee wages, and investing in large-scale student engagement initiatives. SFAC understands that to enhance student life and promote connection and belonging amongst UHCL students, it is crucial to invest in community-building engagement initiatives, while also ensuring long-term sustainability for essential services that foster a well-rounded campus environment.

Overall, the committee's recommendation reflects a commitment to maintaining and enhancing student retention programs and services at UHCL. The proposed 10% increase in student fees is a strategic move to address immediate financial challenges while investing in the future of student services, campus engagement, and the overall student experience at UHCL.

#### **B. One-Time Fund Requests**

Of a total of 19 requests for FY25, SFAC voted by consensus to one-time fund 14 initiatives. SFAC was allocated \$500,000.00 in available funds and recommended funding for \$223,325.00 from the FY25 one-time funding requests.

##### **Approved Requests**

##### **1. M&O Funding (Activities Funding Board)**

Requested for FY25: **\$750.00**      Approved FY25: **\$750.00**

SFAC has approved the request for M&O Funding for FY25. M&O Funding helps to stabilize the financial foundation of the organization and ensures that the organization can operate consistently throughout the academic year. SFAC recommends providing a detailed list of expenses for the next funding request period.

##### **2. Hawk Pantry (Center for Student Advocacy and Community)**

Requested for FY25: **\$18,000.00**      Approved FY25: **\$18,000.00**

SFAC has approved the request for FY25 for the Hawk Pantry. SFAC recognizes the importance of the Hawk Pantry and feels it is a pivotal resource for students at UHCL. By addressing food insecurity, promoting

student well-being, and fostering a caring and connected campus environment. The growing utilization of the Hawk Pantry by students across various demographics emphasizes the importances of this resource on campus. It is not just an investment in the immediate needs of the students but also in their long-term success at this institution and beyond.

**3. Togetherall Peer Support Platform (Counseling and Mental Health Center)**

Requested for FY25: **\$13,500.00**      Approved FY25: **\$13,500.00**

Based on the data presented SFAC has approved the request for FY25. The Togetherall Peer Support Platform is a crucial resource for student mental health. Based on usage and data, there is a true need for this 24/7 virtual service. This round-the-clock availability ensures that students in crisis or experiencing emotional distress can find support at any time. Continuing to fund and maintain Togetherall is essential in addressing the growing mental health needs of students and fostering an accessible, supportive campus environment.

**4. ASD Assessment Tools (Counseling and Mental Health Center)**

Requested for FY25: **\$4,500.00**      Approved FY25: **\$4,500.00**

SFAC has approved the one-time funding request for FY25. SFAC believes these assessment tools will be highly beneficial to supporting students on campus, particularly those who may not have access to formal testing resources. Many students with autism may face significant challenges accessing appropriate diagnostic services, either due to financial barriers, limited availability of testing resources, or the complexities of seeking an autism diagnosis as an adult. This tool will provide an essential resource for students who may otherwise go undiagnosed or struggle to navigate the diagnostic process. Given the growing data showing students with Autism within our campus community, this investment is a proactive step toward ensuring that all students have the resources and support they need to thrive.

**5. Medical Supplies and Equipment (Health Services)**

Requested for FY25: **\$6,037.35**      Approved FY25: **\$4,400.00 (partial)**

After careful review, SFAC has decided to approve partial funding for this request. SFAC is unable to approve funding for the Hyfrecator machine at this time. The decision to deny funding for this machine and associated parts is based on the lack of sufficient data regarding student usage or demonstrated need for this particular service. SFAC recommends gathering data, feedback, and usage tracking to better assess the actual demand for this service. The partial funding approved is recommended to be used for other items requested that show a clearer benefit to students and align with more pressing needs.

**6. Wellness Exams and Testing (Health Services)**

Requested for FY25: **\$8,675.00**      Approved FY25: **\$8,675.00**

SFAC approved the funding request for FY25 due to the increasing student health needs on campus, providing cost-effective access to healthcare is essential in addressing public health challenges and ensuring all students, including those from underserved populations, receive the care and resources they need. By directly supporting students' health and well-being, offering vital services and programs like HIV testing, health education for managing health conditions, while also reducing barriers to care for vulnerable groups on campus. SFAC recommends including data on programing, testing, and diagnostic usage.

**7. Student Worker Wages (Office of Military & Veteran Services)**

Requested for FY25: **\$14,000.00**      Approved FY25: **\$14,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY25 as student employees are essential to departmental support. This support is essential in ensuring that veteran students receive key services and resources they need to succeed. Student workers will play a key role in helping to coordinate programs, maintain daily departmental functions, and foster a welcoming environment for veterans, dependents and others impacted by the OMVS office. This investment in student workers not only enhances the services provided but also supports veteran student success and integration into the campus community.

**8. Anthology (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY25: **\$30,164.00**      Approved FY25: **\$30,164.00**

SFAC has approved the request for FY25 based on the clear need for compliance, safety, and effective engagement with faculty, staff, and students utilizing the services. This service is needed in order to maintain and increase programming and engagement efforts. Which is critical for fostering a dynamic campus community, student experience and promoting meaningful interactions between students, faculty, and staff. SFAC recommends that should there be a transition to a new system or platform in the future, it is essential that we ensure the necessary resources and support are set in place to guide student organizations and advisors through the transition.

**9. Get Involved/Student Engagement Software (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY25: **\$86,836.00**      Approved FY25: **\$86,836.00**

SFAC has approved the request for FY25 for software that will enhance student engagement, connection, and a sense of belonging on campus. The aim is for streamlined communication, access to facilitate participation in student organizations, and create a more integrated campus experience. By fostering easier access to resources and opportunities, the software may help students become more involved, strengthening their connection to the university community. This investment supports the university's mission to increase student engagement, promote a sense of belonging, and improve overall student satisfaction and retention.

**10. Pearland Programming (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY25: **\$7,500.00**      Approved FY25: **\$7,500.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY25 to assist in bringing core programming and services to the Pearland Campus. SFAC recognizes the need to increase student involvement and engagement at UHCL at Pearland campus. A vibrant and engagement student body is essential for creating a thriving campus community and fostering a sense of belonging and connection among students to increase their academic success and retention. By supporting initiatives that promote student engagement, we help strengthen ties to the university, build school spirit, and create a supportive environment that values student participation.

**11. Portable Cricket Pitch (Campus Recreation & Wellness Center)**

Requested for FY25: **\$7,200.00**      Approved FY25: **\$7,200.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY25. Due to the increased demand and usage from

students, with increased engagement from our international student population, it provides a dedicated portable space for sport and has shown a justifiable need. This will enhance the campus experience and promote inclusivity, while encouraging physical activity community building, and a space for students to connect and engage in extracurricular activities. This investment aligns with the university's commitment to supporting a healthy and active student body.

**12. Cricket Pitch Storage Unit (Campus Recreation & Wellness Center)**

Requested for FY25: **\$9,300.00**      Approved FY25: **\$9,300.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for a Portable Cricket Pitch for FY25 and therefore has approved the funding request for the Cricket Pitch Storage Unit. SFAC recognizes that the storage unit is a necessary investment to the success and maintenance of the Cricket Pitch.

**13. Signature Events and Programs (Student Government)**

Requested for FY25: **\$3,500.00**      Approved FY25: **\$3,500.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY25 as it aligns with UHCL's commitment to continue engaging with and supporting the student body. Student Government plays a large role in advocating for student needs, ensuring their voices are heard, and standing up for student interest. SFAC encourages Student Government to continue their signature events and programs. SFAC recommends that Student Government focus on filling all positions within student government to ensure that all areas of student advocacy are represented, and that the study body's needs are effectively addressed.

**14. Camera Equipment (4 – 5 units) (Student Media/Marketing)**

Requested for FY25: **\$15,000.00**      Approved FY25: **\$15,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY25 based on this program's long history and the desire to bring back a valued tradition that has been a significant part of campus culture. SFAC recognizes the direct student importance and impact of this technology for this area. This program has consistently provided students with a platform to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Reviving this tradition will help reconnect the campus community to its legacy, while also empowering current students to continue shaping their university experience. By supporting the revival of this program, we honor the student voice or image and strengthen the sense of tradition and continuity on campus.

**Denied Requests**

**1. Hawk Tunes Program (Campus Activities Board)**

Requested for FY25: **\$5,000.00**      Denied for FY25

After careful consideration, SFAC is unable to approve the funding request for the Hawk Tunes Program for FY25. The primary reason for this decision is the lack of sufficient student data indicating clear interest or demand for the proposed program. Without strong evidence that students will engage with or benefit from the program, it is difficult to justify allocating funds for an initiative that may not align with student needs. Additionally, with the current semester already well underway, it is too late to gather meaningful feedback or conduct the necessary outreach to gauge interest for the upcoming spring semester. As the executive board will be

undergoing a transition period due to graduating student leaders, SFAC recommends utilizing the upcoming spring semester to assess and collect relevant student feedback and to ensure that the program aligns with the interest and needs of the broader campus community.

## 2. **Promotional Items** (Student Government)

Requested for FY25: **\$1,000.00**      Denied for FY25

After reviewing the funding request SFAC has denied the request for additional one-time funding for promotional items at this time. Student Government has already spent a significant portion of its allocated budget on promotional materials for this year. While SFAC understands the desire to further promote events or activities, it is important to adhere to budget limits and ensure that funding is being used effectively and in alignment with the organization's overall priorities. Given that the organization has already allocated ample resources to promotional items, SFAC recommends exploring alternative, cost-effective methods of promotion moving forward, such as digital marketing, leveraging all social media platforms, or partnering with other campus departments and organizations for cross promotion.

## 3. **Table Covers** (Student Government)

Requested for FY25: **\$800.00**      Denied for FY25

SFAC has denied the request for one-time funding for table covers for FY25. While SFAC understands that new table covers may enhance the appearance of events, there is currently no demonstrated need for or indication that replacing current table covers would have a significant impact on student engagement or advocacy. Additionally, SFAC recommends for Student Government wait until the new branding has been approved to secure new table covers.

## 4. **Grammarly Software (25 seats)** (Student Media/Marketing)

Requested for FY25: **\$3,600.00**      Denied for FY25

After thorough review, SFAC has denied approving the request for Grammarly Software for FY25 at this time. The department is currently undergoing a restructuring, which includes reassessing priorities and resource allocation to ensure alignment with the broader goals for the upcoming year. Given this transition, the identified need for Grammarly Software does not appear to be essential at this moment, especially as the department is in the process of re-establishing its core functions and focus areas.

## 5. **Social Pilot Scheduling Tool** (Student Media/Marketing)

Requested for FY25: **\$2,000.00**      Denied for FY25

After consideration, SFAC has denied the request for the Social Pilot Scheduling Tool for FY25 at this time due to the lack of demonstrated need. While SFAC recognizes the potential benefits, current data and feedback do not indicate an urgent or widespread demand that would warrant the allocation of resources for this initiative. SFAC recommends Student Media to reach out to other departments or units on campus to explore existing technology solutions like Slate or services that may already address the desired outcomes.

## V. Funding Decisions for FY26

### A. One-Time Fund Requests

Of a total of 27 requests for FY26, SFAC voted by consensus to one-time fund 21 initiatives. SFAC was allocated \$500,000.00 in available funds and recommended funding for \$242,865.50 from the FY26 one-time funding requests.

#### Approved Requests

##### 1. Executive Board Student Wages (Activities Funding Board)

Requested for FY26: **\$13,042.50**      Approved FY26: **\$13,042.50**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as the executive board members play a critical role in contributing to RSO engagement and awareness. These student leaders are key to organizing, planning, and informing initiatives that drive high levels of registered student organization involvement. Their leadership and dedication help create meaningful experiences for students and compensating them ensures that their efforts are recognized and valued, fostering continued commitment to the success of campus events and belonging.

##### 2. M&O Funding (Activities Funding Board)

Requested for FY26: **\$1,500.00**      Approved FY26: **\$1,500.00**

SFAC has approved the request for M&O Funding for FY25. M&O Funding helps to stabilize the financial foundation of the organization and ensures that the organization can operate consistently throughout the academic year. SFAC recommends providing a detailed list of expenses for the next funding request period.

##### 3. Film Series (Campus Activities Board)

Requested for FY26: **\$10,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$7,500.00** (partial)

SFAC has approved partial funding of \$7,500.00 for FY26. SFAC recognizes the potential value of this initiative while needing more data to justify full funding. This partial support will allow SFAC to assess the event's effectiveness and impact on the campus community. SFAC recommends that the \$7,500.00 be used in collaboration with registered student organizations to maximize the event's reach and impact. In addition, SFAC wants to see how Campus Activities Board can collaborate with other organizations and the supporting data.

##### 4. Hawk Tunes Program (Campus Activities Board)

Requested for FY26: **\$10,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$7,500.00** (partial)

After further consideration, SFAC has approved a partial funding request for the Hawk Tunes Program for FY26. As this will be the pilot year, SFAC would like to see data and feedback on the overall success of the program. SFAC recommends utilizing the Spring 2025 semester to promote and increase awareness of the initiative to ensure that the program aligns with the interest and needs of the broader campus community.

**5. Executive Board Student Wages (Campus Activities Board)**

Requested for FY26: **\$7,903.00**      Approved FY26: **\$7,903.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as the executive board members play a critical role in contributing to campus programming and events. These student leaders are key to organizing, planning, and executing initiatives that drive high levels of student and campus community engagement. Their leadership and dedication help create meaningful experiences for students and compensating them ensures that their efforts are recognized and valued, fostering continued commitment to the success of campus events and belonging.

**6. Hawk Pantry (Office of Student Advocacy and Community)**

Requested for FY26: **\$20,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$20,000.00**

SFAC has approved the request for FY26 for the Hawk Pantry. SFAC recognizes the importance of the Hawk Pantry and feels it is a pivotal resource for students at UHCL. By addressing food insecurity, promoting student well-being, and fostering a caring and connected campus environment. The growing utilization of the Hawk Pantry by students across various demographics emphasizes the importances of this resource on campus. It is not just an investment in the immediate needs of the students but also in their long-term success at this institution and beyond.

**7. Peer Wellness Ambassadors – Student Wages and M&O (Counseling and Mental Health Center)**

Requested for FY26: **\$26,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$15,000.00 (partial)**

SFAC has partially approved \$15,000 of the original funding request for FY26. SFAC recognizes the importance of supporting “whole body” care for students, which includes mental, physical, and emotional well-being. Peer-to-peer engagement is a proven strategy for promoting health and wellness, and this program has the potential to empower students to take an active role in supporting their peers’ well-being. However, given that this is a pilot program for this campus, SFAC recommends monitoring its progress in the first year. Collecting data on its effectiveness and student engagement to determine its impact on the campus community and whether it warrants further funding or expansion. This approach allows the campus to support this new initiative while ensuring that it aligns with student needs and produces measurable outcomes.

**8. Psychiatry Contract (Counseling and Mental Health Center)**

Requested for FY26: **\$24,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$24,000.00**

SFAC approved the request for FY26 because the Psychiatric services assist in directly addressing the mental health needs of students. Research and statistics indicate a significant increase in mental health concerns among Gen Z and Alpha generations, emphasizing the urgency of providing accessible, effective mental health support at a discounted rate for students. Additionally, by approving this funding request, it ensures that students from marginalized backgrounds also have access to the essential mental health resources they need to thrive personally and academically.

**9. Togetherall Peer Support Platform (Counseling and Mental Health Center)**

Requested for FY26: **\$13,500.00**      Approved FY26: **\$13,500.00**

Based on the data presented SFAC has approved the request for FY26. The Togetherall Peer Support

Platform is a crucial resource for student mental health. Based on usage and data, there is a true need for this 24/7 virtual service. This round-the-clock availability ensures that students in crisis or experiencing emotional distress can find support at any time. Continuing to fund and maintain Togetherall is essential in addressing the growing mental health needs of students and fostering an accessible, supportive campus environment.

**10. Student Wages (Office of Military & Veteran Services)**

Requested for FY26: **\$25,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$25,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as student employees are essential to departmental support. This support is essential in ensuring that veteran students receive key services and resources they need to succeed. Student workers will play a key role in helping to coordinate programs, maintain daily departmental functions, and foster a welcoming environment for veterans, dependents and others impacted by the OMVS office. This investment in student workers not only enhances the services provided but also supports veteran student success and integration into the campus community.

**11. Pearland Programming (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY26: **\$15,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$10,000.00** (partial)

SFAC has approved a partial funding request of \$10,000.00 for FY26. SFAC recognizes the need to increase student involvement and engagement at UHCL at Pearland campus. A vibrant and engagement student body is essential for creating a thriving campus community and fostering a sense of connection among students to increase their academic success and retention. By supporting initiatives that promote student engagement, we help strengthen ties to the university, build school spirit, and create a supportive environment that values student participation. This, in turn, improves retention rates and ensures that students feel a meaningful connection to their campus experience and are able to utilize services offered. SFAC has requested to see supporting data for the next funding request cycle.

**12. Homecoming Tradition Program (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY26: **\$15,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$15,000.00**

SFAC approved the funding request for FY26 as the event aligns with the University's goals of creating lasting campus traditions, fostering student values, and supporting retention. This event provides an important opportunity to engage students, strengthen campus culture, and enhance their connection to the university in addition to spreading community awareness. SFAC recommends showcasing detailed data for how FY25 funding was used with a breakdown of all expenses and what resources were needed for FY25. SFAC recommends exploring potential sponsorships within the university and external campus community.

**13. Year-End Celebration/Signature Program (Office of Student Involvement & Leadership)**

Requested for FY26: **\$10,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$10,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as students have requested large scale campus traditions and events that provide a meaningful opportunity to connect with students, celebrate their achievements, and create a long-lasting signature spring semester event. Not only will this celebration foster a sense of community, but it will also offer a memorable moment for students as they soar off on their next adventure.

**14. Hawk Launch Extended Orientation Program (Orientation & New Student Programs)**

Requested for FY26: **\$15,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$15,000.00**

SFAC approved the funding request for FY26 as the event aligns with the University's goals of creating lasting campus traditions, fostering student values, strengthening campus culture, and enhancing their connection to the university. This event provides an important opportunity for students to engage with campus partners and peer to peer connections. With positive feedback and data from students, SFAC recommends that data be presented for FY25 to show how consistent engagement data is. SFAC recommends showcasing detailed data for how FY25 funding was used with a breakdown of all expenses and maintaining a core orientation program.

**15. Family Weekend (Orientation & New Student Programs)**

Requested for FY26: **\$8,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$8,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as this event supports the creation of lasting traditions, fosters a sense of belonging, and serves as a signature event that enhances student engagement. The event has been specifically requested by students and family members, demonstrating a strong need. SFAC recommends exploring potential sponsorships with University Advancement, Alumni Relations, and excursion partners to expand resources and further elevate the event's impact. Additionally, SFAC would like to request detailed data on how funding is spent for this event.

**16. Signature Events and Programs (Student Government)**

Requested for FY26: **\$4,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$3,500.00 (partial)**

SFAC has partially approved the funding request for FY26 as SFAC recommends providing data to showcase engagement levels for signature programs and events. Additionally, SFAC wants to see how funding is used for advocacy and their role, making sure that programming initiatives are directly correlated to Student Government. SFAC recommends that for future programming and signature events, Student Government connects or collaborates with associated area partners like UHCL PD, CSAC, and Student Rights groups.

**17. Executive Council Student Wages (Student Government)**

Requested for FY26: **\$12,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$12,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26 as the student government executive board members play a vital role in student advocacy and leadership. Their work involves representing student interests, organizing campus initiatives, and engaging with the administration to drive positive and impactful change. Compensation for these positions ensures that they are recognized for their time and efforts, which are essential to maintaining a strong, active student government and supporting the broader student community.

**18. Professional Development (Student Government)**

Requested for FY26: **\$10,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$10,000.00**

SFAC has approved the funding request for FY26. SFAC understands that it is imperative that our student leaders are given professional development opportunities to provide pivotal insight in student advocacy, enhance leadership skills, improve governance effectiveness, and insights on how to better serve the student body. Professional development equips student leaders with the tools and knowledge to navigate complex issues, engage

with diverse campus communities, and advocate effectively. Investing in their growth ensures that they can make informed decisions, foster a positive campus culture, while strengthening student governance and engagement on campus.

**19. Promotional Items (Student Government)**

Requested for FY26: **\$4,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$2,000.00** (partial)

SFAC has approved partial funding of \$2,000.00 for FY26. SFAC recognizes that promotional items can be useful for raising awareness of the organization's mission. However, SFAC believes that the primary focus of the organization should be on advocacy and direct student engagement, rather than promotional materials. By approving partial funding, SFAC is encouraging the organization to prioritize its core goals and ensure that resources are allocated to advocacy efforts that have a more significant impact on the student body.

**20. Executive Council Parking Passes (Student Government)**

Requested FY26: **\$420.00**      Approved FY26: **\$420.00**

SFAC approved the funding request for FY26 based on the significant time commitment and nature of their roles. Executive Council members are required to attend numerous meetings, events, and campus functions, that includes late-night and weekend commitments. Providing parking passes ensures that they can meet the demands of their positions, support student initiatives, and continue to advocate for the student body.

**21. Student Employee Wages (Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs)**

Requested FY26: **\$22,000.00**      Approved FY26: **\$22,000.00**

SFAC has approved the request for FY26 as it is essential to the daily operations of the VPSA office. Student employees play a crucial role in supporting the daily operations and assist Student Affairs with their everyday goals. Without student employees, the office would face significant operational challenges that could impact its ability to provide timely and quality support to students and the campus community. Supporting student employees also provides valuable professional development opportunities and allows them to gain practical skills while contributing to the campus environment.

**Denied Requests**

**1. USO Funding to make up 1% of Student Service Fee Revenue (Activities Funding Board)**

Requested for FY26: **\$26,108.48**      Denied for FY26

After further review, SFAC is unable to approve the request at this time. SFAC would like the Activities Funding Board to first assess how registered student organizations (RSO's) are utilizing their current allocated funding before approving any new requests. It is important to ensure that existing funds are being effectively used to support student activities and that RSOs are making full use of the resources available to them. Additionally, SFAC would like to better understand how the Activities Funding Board plans to engage with student organizations to promote awareness of and encourage the utilization of the available funding.

**2. Outdoor Fitness Zone – Renovations (Campus Recreation & Wellness Center)**

Requested for FY26: **\$38,829.00**      Denied for FY26

SFAC is unable to approve the funding request for Outdoor Fitness Zone Renovations at this time. The primary reason for this decision is the lack of sufficient data on the current usage of the outdoor fitness area. Without clear evidence of demand or consistent use, the committee does not feel that funding for renovations is justified. Additionally, given the climate in Houston, Tx, where extreme temperatures and frequent inclement weather can limit the usability of outdoor fitness equipment. The outdoor setting presents a significant challenge for year-round use. These weather-related constraints further reduce the overall practicality and effectiveness of investing in outdoor fitness renovations at this location. SFAC recommends revisiting the idea with more data on usage patterns and potential alternatives that may better serve the needs of the campus community.

**3. Outdoor Fitness Zone – New Equipment (Campus Recreation & Wellness Center)**

Requested for FY26: **\$25,242.00**      Denied for FY26

SFAC is unable to approve the funding request for Outdoor Fitness Zone Equipment at this time. The primary reason for this decision is the lack of sufficient data on the current usage of the outdoor fitness area. Without clear evidence of demand or consistent use, the committee does not feel that funding for renovations is justified. Additionally, given the climate in Houston, TX, where extreme temperatures and frequent inclement weather can limit the usability of outdoor fitness equipment, the outdoor setting presents a significant challenge for year-round use. These weather-related constraints further reduce the overall practicality and effectiveness of investing in outdoor fitness equipment at this location. SFAC recommends revisiting the idea with more data on usage patterns and potential alternatives that may better serve the needs of the campus community.

**4. Senator Parking Passes (Student Government)**

Requested for FY26: **\$840.00**      Denied for FY26

The request for parking passes for Senators has been carefully reviewed. While SFAC recognizes the valuable role that senators play within Student Government, SFAC is unable to approve the request at this time. Senators, while integral to the governance structure, do not have the same level of responsibility or same frequency of required on-campus presence as executive board members. As such, SFAC recommends that Senators continue to utilize existing campus parking options, in alignment with current university policies for students/student organizations, until further assessment of parking needs can be indicated by data or necessity. SFAC encourages Senators to engage with Student Government leadership to discuss any additional support that may be necessary to carry out their duties effectively.

**5. Grammarly Software (25 seats) (Student Media/Marketing)**

Requested for FY26: **\$3,600.00**      Denied for FY26

After thorough review, SFAC has denied approving the request for Grammarly Software for FY26 at this time. The department is currently undergoing a restructuring, which includes reassessing priorities and resource allocation to ensure alignment with the broader goals for the upcoming year. Given this transition, the identified need for Grammarly Software does not appear to be essential at this moment, especially as the department is in the process of re-establishing its core functions and focus areas.

6. **Social Pilot Scheduling Tool (Student Media/Marketing)**

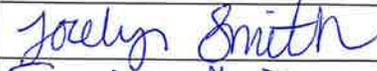
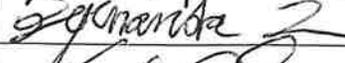
Requested for FY26: **\$2,000.00**      Denied for FY26

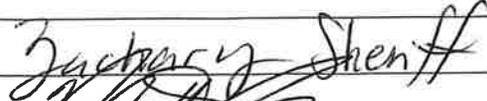
After consideration, SFAC has denied the request for the Social Pilot Scheduling Tool for FY26 at this time due to the lack of demonstrated need. While SFAC recognizes the potential benefits, current data and feedback do not indicate an urgent or widespread demand that would warrant the allocation of resources for this initiative. SFAC recommends Student Media to reach out to other departments or units on campus to explore existing technology solutions like Slate or services that may already address the desired outcomes.

**B. Reauthorizations of FY 2025 Base budgets for FY 2026**

Dept ID	Dept Name	Base Budget Allocations in FY 2025
C0001	COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 952,163
C0002	HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 381,265
C0003	DIV LEVEL-VPSA OFFICE	\$ 588,863
C0018	CENTER FOR STUDENT ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY	\$ 477,634
C0064	ACTIVITIES FUNDING BOARD (AFB)	\$ 22,500
C0064	CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD (CAB)	\$ 17,000
C0064	OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP	\$ 653,299
C0128	DEAN OF STUDENTS	\$ 567,887
C0128	STUDENT GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	\$ 2,000
C0150	MILITARY & VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE	\$ 57,640
C0156	ORIENTATION & NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS	\$ 238,025
C0160	CAREER SERVICES	\$ 604,437
C0167	CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS CENTER	\$ 142,231
C0188	STUDENT MEDIA/PUBLICATIONS	\$ 155,904
<b>3049-STUDENT SERVICES FEE TOTAL ALLOCATION TO DEPARTMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 4,860,848</b>

**VI. SFAC Committee Signatures**

Jocelyn Smith, Student Chair	
Sanika Dutta, Student Vice-Chair	
Kennedy Ezeani, Student Appointment	
Emir Fernandez, Student Appointment	
Fernanda Zamora, Student Appointment	
Dr. Jason Murasko, Faculty Appointment	
Dr. Kent Divoll, Faculty Appointment	
Dolce Perez, Staff Appointment	
Miguel Venegas, Staff Appointment	

Zachary Sheriff, Student Government President	
Matthew Perry, Interim Dean of Students	
Cindy Saltzman, Student Affairs Business Administrator	

