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Committee(s): Student Life

Draft: 1st Reading

Bill in Support of *Cub Camp*

Whereas, the University of Houston aspires to foster a student body with a strong sense of school spirit; and

Whereas, the University of Houston seeks to be a residential campus with a strong emphasis on community; and

Whereas, the University of Houston desires to increase student academic success and graduation rates; and

Whereas, the University of Houston is behind other prominent Texas institutions of higher education, such as the University of Texas and Texas A&M University, in graduation rates, student retention and alumni giving rates; and

Whereas, research from multiple sources, including a 2012 study by the National Survey of Student Engagement, has shown that there is a direct correlation between student engagement and student retention and graduation; and

Whereas, the Student Government Association believes that incoming freshmen who are exposed to University traditions and made aware of expectations to display school spirit prior to their arrival on campus will have a greater chance of becoming successful students and alumni.

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the 50th Administration of the University of Houston Student Government Association:

That the UH SGA strongly supports the development of *Cub Camp* for incoming freshmen, beginning in Fall 2015. Such an event would consist of the following:

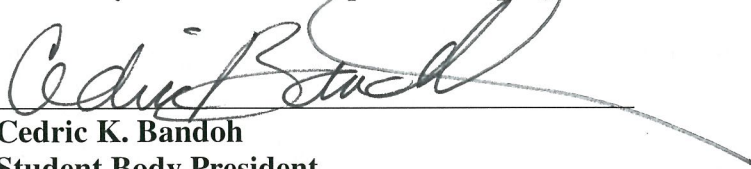
1. Incoming freshman will travel to an off-campus location under the guidance of staff and student volunteers.
2. *Cub Camp* should be filled with various activities that promote friendship, fun, and foster a love for the University of Houston.

3. During the festivities, students should learn a great deal about UH traditions and Student Government Association activities, including but not limited to: Cougar Red Friday, the UH Fight Song, the importance of attendance at UH sporting events, and Frontier Fiesta.
4. It should be conveyed to students that there is an expectation for them to be engaged in the UH community, both as students and eventually as alumni.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the UH SGA recognizes that not all incoming freshmen will be willing or able to attend *Cub Camp*. However, in order to incentivize participation in *Cub Camp*, a fee to cover the cost of *Cub Camp* should be added to the compulsory fees paid by all incoming freshmen. The UH SGA believes that *Cub Camp* will benefit all students at the university, including students who choose not to participate.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the UH SGA would encourage this event to be named *Cub Camp* to enable use of the slogan, "Cubs They May Come, but Cougars They Shall Leave."

BE IT FINALLY ENACTED that the 50th administration of the University of Houston Student Government Association firmly believes that *Cub Camp* is crucial to developing a more engaged and more successful student body. By targeting each new freshmen class and encouraging them to become excited about their university, they will perform better academically and create a more spirited student body. Over the next several years, with each new incoming freshman class, this will gradually improve the university's academic performance and student engagement as a whole. In the long term, *Cub Camp* will develop a more active alumni base, thus increasing alumni giving rates. *Cub Camp* will assist in attaining a prestigious academic reputation for our institution, while creating a more active student body. This will lead to the university offering a better quality of life to our students. The UH SGA firmly believes that the progression of the University of Houston is dependent on programs such as *Cub Camp*.


Cedric K. Bandoh
Student Body President
University of Houston

APPROVED