

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Committee: Student Life

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Creation of the *Charles Haston Cougar Spirit Award Determination*
Award

Whereas, the 51st Administration Student Body President, Charles Haston, placed a profound commitment to upholding Cougar culture and pride during his tenure;

Whereas, Haston ran for office under the “REDvolution” party banner, with the intention to promote campus culture, increase night and weekend programming on campus, and advance the university’s Tier-One status¹;

Whereas, Haston served as a Graduate-At-Large Senator, the Chair of the Student Life Committee, and the Chair of the Student Fees Advisory Committee during the 50th administration, and served as the 51st Administration Student Body President;

Whereas, Haston served as a visionary in creating and executing events students celebrate as part of Weeks of Welcome, including but not limited to Cage Rage, Glow Party, and the Student Government Association football tailgates²;

Whereas, Haston, during his tenure as the Chair of Student Life, before running for Student Body President, served as an integral mover in the creation of Cub Camp, a tradition for extended student orientation to imbue

¹ <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/03/12/redvolution-claims-presidency-and-most-of-senate/>

² <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/08/26/wow-weeks-of-welcome/>

students with Cougar Pride before arriving on campus to start their tenure as students³;

Whereas, Haston's senatorial tenure additionally involved the betterment of student veteran experience including but not limited to the relocation of the Veterans Service Office (VSO) to an ideal location within the newly renovated Student Center and the creation of the Veteran's Service Advisory Committee to aid in policy development and promotion of resources for the newly located VSO⁴⁻⁵;

Whereas, Haston instituted the recital of the University of Houston Alma Mater by all officials of the student government following the call to order at senate meetings⁶;

Whereas, Haston established the modern shell of the Student Government Association logo to formalize its identity among student organizations and university departments⁷;

Whereas, Haston addressed the then-controversial subject of transgender identification head-on by authoring and passing UB-51001 The Josephine Tittsworth Act, allowing for students, staff, and faculty to "apply their preferred first name, title and personally discerned gender in all applicable standard forms of documentation or record keeping"⁸;

Whereas, the enforcement of this legislation served to prevent situations of public "out-ing" of university constituents' previous gender identity and decreased discrimination and harassment on the basis of their gender⁹;

Whereas, Haston's administration made substantial strides in improving academic advising in pursuit of the National Academic Advising Association's recommendations of lowering the student-to-advisor ratio to an average of 250 students to every one advisor throughout the university¹⁰;

Whereas, the 51st administration's efforts furthermore led to the implementation of mandatory advising holds throughout certain points of students' academic progression, post-advising surveys across colleges in

³ https://uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/50/_files/ub-50002-cub-camp.pdf

⁴ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/50/_files/ub50004.pdf

⁵ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/50/_files/ub-50003.pdf

⁶ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/51/_files/sgab-51002.pdf

⁷ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/51/_files/sgab-51008.pdf

⁸ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/51/_files/ub-51001.pdf

⁹ <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/04/10/equal-representation-a-right-not-a-debate/>

¹⁰ <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/08/21/sga-bill-proposes-massive-advising-reform/>

order to collect data on the content, quality, efficiency, and productivity of academic advising, in addition to the centralization of relevant course information and degree requirements, and the standardization of booking advising appointments across majors and colleges, among other reforms to increase graduation rates and academic performance¹¹;

Whereas, Haston did not hesitate to defend President Khator in light of then-State Senator John Whitmire's rebuke of a policy that would have required all freshmen to live on campus starting in the fall of 2015, on the basis of pushing our university forward in national and academic prominence¹²;

Whereas, the efforts by the 51st administration executive leadership to revise the freshmen housing policy resulted in the creation of the Cougar Experience Scholarship which awards thousands of dollars in funds annually to students to be applied towards UH residence hall expenses for their first year in college housing¹³;

Whereas, the 51st administration started the 'Coogs Vote' campaign, a student-led voter registration and education initiative in which the student government over the course of the fall 2014 semester successfully accumulated over 1,000 filled-out voter registration forms and pledge-to-vote cards from students, which is still carried forth by present administrations¹⁴;

Whereas, Haston led the charge in ensuring the University of Houston's Division of Administration and Finance stayed in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding in regard to the construction and contracting of services for TDECU Stadium¹⁵;

Whereas, Haston's administration set a new precedent for a wide-array of initiatives to be achieved and heavily expanded the influence of the student government in university and local-Houston political affairs, leading the Cougar to create a new report-card system to grade the achievements of administrations moving forward¹⁶;

¹¹ https://www.uh.edu/sga/legislative/legislation/51/_files/sgab-51004.pdf

¹² <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/us/questioning-an-ambitious-chancellors-vision.html>

¹³ <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/11/20/breaking-uh-announces-on-campus-living-scholarship/>

¹⁴ <https://thedailycougar.com/2014/10/01/coogs-vote-2/>

¹⁵ <https://thedailycougar.com/2015/02/12/sga-votes-oust-administration-finance-vp-carlucci-deputies/>

¹⁶ <https://thedailycougar.com/2015/04/01/sga-report-card/>

Whereas, during Haston's tenure, SGA earned one of the highest administration report card ratings with an overall effectiveness rating of B, a testament to the impactful and effective leadership demonstrated by the 51st administration;

Whereas, the Student Government Association Senate wishes to recognize the involvement and leadership of students who exemplify the character of Cameron Barrett's contributions in a prominent and privileged form.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

A recognition award, administered through the Center for Student Involvement, shall be issued on a discretionary basis to honor students and alumni who demonstrate exemplary Cougar spirit and pride during their tenure at the university.

Be it further enacted, this award shall not be bound by an annual cycle but shall be distributed as warranted by the submission of compelling cases for eligible applicants. To be considered for this recognition, recipients must be nominated by currently enrolled students, who shall submit a letter of recommendation not exceeding three (3) pages in length;

Be it further enacted, the letter should highlight the nominee's significant contributions to school spirit and campus culture, including but not limited to interactions with students, staff, and alumni. In addition to the recommendation letter, a copy of the nominee's resume shall be attached;

Be it further enacted, applicants must maintain good academic standing or have graduated in good academic standing and have no prior offenses against the Student Code of Conduct;

Be it further enacted, the Center for Student Involvement will nominate an individual to the Senate, requiring a majority vote of the senate present and voting for the approval of the nominated recipient;

Be it further enacted, the Award shall read following:

"Charles Haston's tenure in the Student Government Association was characterized by a profound commitment to upholding Cougar pride and culture, ensuring that these values were celebrated and upheld across the university community.

“Haston, served as a Graduate-At-Large Senator, the Chair of the Student Life Committee, and the Chair of the Student Fees Advisory Committee during the 50th administration and served as the 51st Administration Student Body President.

“As a visionary leader, he created and executed memorable events during Weeks of Welcome, including the immensely popular Cage Rage, Glow Party, and Student Government Association tailgates, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie among students.

“Prior to assuming the role of Student Body President, Haston served as the Chair of Student Life, where he played a pivotal role in the creation of Cub Camp, a cherished tradition designed to instill Cougar Pride in incoming students before they began their academic journey at UH.

“Haston’s administration made substantial strides in improving academic advising in pursuit of the National Academic Advising Association’s recommendations of lowering the student-to-advisor ratio to an average of 250 students to every one advisor throughout the university;

“The efforts by the 51st administration executive leadership to revise the freshmen housing policy resulted in the creation of the Cougar Experience Scholarship which awards thousands of dollars in funds annually to students to be applied towards UH residence hall expenses for their first year in college housing

“During his term as the 51st Administration Student Body President, Haston led a student-driven initiative aimed at ensuring UH Administration's accountability regarding the Memorandum of Agreement concerning what is now TDECU Stadium, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to transparency and accountability.

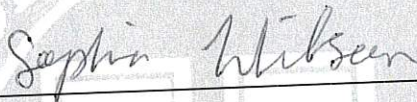
“Haston's vision for the stadium aimed to improve campus culture while maintaining its integrity, reflecting his commitment to enhancing the student experience without compromising the university's values.

“Haston’s administration set a new precedent for a wide-array of initiatives to be achieved and heavily expanded the influence of the student government in university and local-Houston political affairs, leading the

Cougar to create a new report-card system to grade the achievements of administrations moving forward.

“Under Haston's transformative leadership, the 51st administration achieved the highest SGA administration report card overall effectiveness rating of B, a remarkable accomplishment that speaks volumes about the impactful and effective leadership demonstrated by Haston and his team.

“His term in office has been characterized by the motto ‘Strengthening the Pride’, and is an embodiment of our University of Houston Alma Mater, ‘All hail to thee, Our Houston University. Our hearts fill with gladness, When we think of thee. We’ll always adore thee, Dear old varsity. And to thy memory cherished, True we’ll ever be.’”



Sophia Wilson

Sophia Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 3-28-2024



APPROVED

