

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Sponsor(s): Vice President Luc, Speaker Wilson, Sen. Jaleel, Sen. Johnson, Chair Dhanani, Sen. Onuorah, Sen. Ijaz, Sen. McClure, Chair Szell, Sen. Lubben, Sen. Ballesteros, Sen. Morehouse, Sen. Landa

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Final Read

Vote of Confidence in Fiscal Year 2025 SFAC Recommendations and Student Government Solidarity with SFAC

Whereas, the Student Service Fee (SSF) was established under the authority of Section 54.5061 of the Texas Education Code to be used for the support of student services;

Whereas, the Student Service Fee funds programs that are integral to fostering a vibrant connection between students and the University of Houston;

Whereas, the Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC) is a University Committee established under the authority Committee of Section 54.5062¹ of the Texas Education Code to advise the board of regents, the president, and the administration of the University of Houston on the type, level, and expenditure of compulsory fees for student services under Section 54.5061²;

Whereas, the University of Houston Student Government Association passionately advocates for transparency, responsibility, and ethical practices in the discernment of how student fee dollars are utilized;

¹ uh.edu/sfac/_files/sfac-code.pdf

² texas.public.law/statutes/tex._educ._code_section_54.5061

Whereas, students at the University of Houston rightfully possess representation through the Student Fees Advisory Committee, empowered to act in the best interests of the student body and ensure that every dollar contributes meaningfully to the student experience;

Whereas, the Student Service Fee, while constituting a modest fraction of the overall budget, is exclusively composed of student-contributed funds, essential for payment to the university, thereby preserving our financial autonomy;

Whereas, not including the \$45 fee that is applied to the stadium debt service, the Athletics department has failed to produce data on the use of student fee dollars for the previous (20) twenty years and their direct contribution to the student experience with the money allocated to Athletics³;

Whereas, a comprehensive examination of athletic competitiveness reveals the need for further strategic planning to elevate our program to a level competitive in a Power 5 Conference;

Whereas, the Athletics department, under the direction of Chris Pezman, has failed to provide sufficient reasoning and data to support the continued annual funding of \$4.2 million from the Student Service Fee⁴;

Whereas, the Fiscal Year 2025 SFAC Report formally recommends a \$1.5 million (17%) decrease in Student Service Fee support to athletics to be reduced over the next several years and reallocated to other fee-funded units;

Whereas, the Fiscal Year 2025 SFAC Report formally recommends that Athletics undergo an external review to aid Athletics with being more competitive in a Power 5 Conference, perform due diligence on the vast student investment in the department, and enhance Athletics' presence in the UH community;

Whereas, it is imperative that we take immediate action to address these issues and ensure the future success of our Athletic program and university;

³ uh.edu/sfac/unit-requests/

⁴ uh.edu/sfac/unit-requests/fy25/questionnaires/athleticsq.pdf

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

The recommendations of the FY25 SFAC be submitted, respected by President Khator the University of Houston System Board of Regents without modification;

Be it further enacted, the students of the University of Houston demand that Student Service Fee funds be further scrutinized, and further investigation be carried out to ensure that every dollar is used in the best interest of the student body, fostering a transparent and responsible allocation of funds;

Be it further enacted, a review committee shall be formed to conduct a comprehensive external review of the institution's department of Intercollegiate Athletics;

Be it further enacted, the review committee shall work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, and athletic department personnel to develop key performance indicators (KPIs) that will guide the enhancement of our athletic programs;

Be it further enacted, the Student Government Association Senate urges the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics to allocate resources and support necessary for the successful implementation of the external review recommendations and achievement of the identified KPIs;

Be it further enacted, annual progress reports on the implementation of the external review's recommended strategic plan and achievement of KPIs shall be separately presented by the department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the External Review Committee to the Senate beginning with the completion of the external review.

APPROVED

Benjamin Rizk

Benjamin Rizk
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 02-18-2024

Sophia Wilson

Speaker Wilson
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 02-18-2024

