

FY26 Base Augmentation Request – University Bands/Spirit Travel

The Spirit of Houston has been grateful for the continued support from SFAC particularly in the form of our base budget. The Base Budget received from SFAC is the primary funding source for the University Band and Spirit Department.

For this cycle, the recently issued 5% budget cut has taken effect moving our base budget from \$336,400 to \$319,580. We are requesting the restoration of the 5% cut into the base budget for the department.

Our area completely recognizes the difficulty in any changes to the base budget, both for the budget as a whole and as an individual area. We are grateful to the students and faculty within SFAC for allowing the chance to show the importance of this portion of our budget.

In our questionnaire, in question 3, we describe in detail changes experienced by our area over the last year. This includes the 5% reduction of the SFAC budget, the Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands salary being moved into the band budget from the School of Music (non-SFAC funding but still a part of our overall budget), the loss of the Associate Director of Bands/Director of Winds Studies position with no plan for re-hire, and the transition of the Band and Spirit Assistant Staff Position into a split-position with the School of Music that does not fully serve band and spirit. At our current stage, this has forced us to reevaluate plans for the future, including student activity growth and the hire of a full-time spirit position.

The restoration of the cut 5% would be transformational for us at this moment. The additional \$16,820 would provide a significant change from this year that would allow us to move forward in many of the ways the area had been planning prior to all changes. We also realize that this is a significant request for the committee and understand that you must balance the needs for all areas which also share a significant need for funding. We thank you for your consideration of this request.