

FY 27 One-Time Allocation Request – Uniform Purchase for Marching Band

Throughout recent history, the Spirit of Houston has received considerable support from the Student Fees Committee that has allowed for the purchase of equipment for the programs in the organization. This has included uniforms for all groups (band, spirit, mascots), performance equipment for all groups, and select musical instruments for the marching band.

It is in the current time in our uniform cycle to begin the request for new uniforms for the marching band. The ask is for a one-time allotment for uniforms that would cost \$260,000. This is based on current costs for uniforms and based on purchasing 350 uniforms.

The process goes in cycles with an average time frame of 6-8 years (we are currently in year 7 of the current cycle). There are several factors that go into the process and consideration. All uniforms have a shelf life based on wear and tear, materials, etc. While we take great pride in our uniform maintenance- we have an industrial strength washing machine in our facility and students wash all uniforms regularly in addition to maintenance- they are also worn in the Texas heat and weather which has obvious effects from sweat, rain, and other outdoor elements.

In addition to the uniforms being at the point of needing major repair, our program has also grown within the time frame of these uniforms. When purchased initially, our program sat in the 225-250 member range. We currently have grown to consistently fielding a 280-person marching band, and while we have enough uniforms for the group it is a tight fit. When you take into account that we lose in our rotation a certain number of uniforms due to wear and tear each year, that becomes more difficult to fit the group.

The process to design and order uniforms would start this year, including design consultations with uniform companies at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and the Texas Music Educators Conference this winter/spring. If funded, the plans would be put into place throughout the spring, with the production beginning upon payment in the FY27. Placing the request at that point (fall 2026) would allow for successful and completion of the uniforms for the fall of 2027 football season, also aligning with the centennial year of the university.

This ask is a major ask and we do understand that, which is why we try to be as cost efficient and conscious as possible in addition to taking great care of the uniforms we receive. If funded, these uniforms would not only be a part of a debut season in the centennial year but would also help carry the band forward past 2030.