

STUDENT FEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SFAC)
FY2027 PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the questions below. The totality of your responses should give the members of the Committee a comprehensive understanding of the role and function of your unit(s).

Questionnaire completed by (please include name, title, email, and phone number):

Kyle Mutz, Director, kjmutz@cougarnet.uh.edu, 713-743-7366

- 1. Please provide in brief terms: your unit's mission, goals that support your mission, and a justification of your unit's student fee allocation in terms of benefits for students.**

The Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) **mission works to empower students with disabilities** by fostering equity in learning, discovery, and engagement to help promote self-advocacy, inclusion, and ultimately student success. Justin Dart Jr. was instrumental in helping pass legislation that led to the adoption of the ADA or Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA gave foundational rights to people with disabilities so they could have opportunities to thrive and flourish. Justin Dart Jr. was all about supporting people with love, support, and education to empower people. Our staff and team work to be a positive advocate and voice to help students chase their academic and professional goals.

Access is a campus wide responsibility, and the Dart Center works to focus on goals including strong departmental collaborations, outreach, presentations, interactive workshops, and taking a solution focused approach to addressing access barriers for students and environmental concerns. In addition to academic and accommodation support, the Dart Center also **values student wellbeing** and helping our students flourish.

Student Fee Allocation Justification

The Dart Center team provides essential support services—including accommodations, assistive technology, alternative testing environments, alternative formats, communication access, educational workshops, and programming—to reduce access barriers and foster an inclusive campus environment.

Beyond services, we advocate for disability representation across campus and celebrate this vital aspect of our campus community. These efforts work to ensure that students with disabilities experience a welcoming, accessible, and equitable university journey. Our work spans all areas of campus life and contributes to the University's Tier One status and the Chancellor's goal of becoming a top 50 institution.

To deliver timely, effective, and meaningful services, we rely on critical resources such as staff salaries and benefits, technology, supplies, facility enhancements, and equipment. We are committed to using our budget creatively and responsibly to maximize impact. As demand for our services continues to grow, we are actively

pursuing additional funding sources, including grants, foundations, donors, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations—to meet evolving needs.

Over the past year, the Dart Center has prioritized key initiatives to enhance student support, access, retention, and timely graduation. Recognizing that access extends beyond students, we've strengthened partnerships with faculty and departments to expand programming and improve access. Building meaningful relationships with students, staff, faculty, and the broader community ensures that students have a strong network and access to the resources they need to thrive.

We continue to advance efforts in physical and digital accessibility, including increasing access to accessible furniture and improving campus infrastructure to foster greater engagement and inclusion. Stronger partnerships this past year with facilities, UHPD, campus life, admissions, recruitment, and auxiliary services has helped improve the academic environment for students with disabilities on campus.

The Dart Center team is deeply grateful for the support of the SFAC committee. Your commitment helps us make the University of Houston a more inclusive and empowering place for all students. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication.

Benefits

Collaboration & Outreach

The Dart Center promotes a campus-wide commitment to accessibility, encouraging collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and departments to raise awareness and develop creative solutions that enhance student wellbeing.

Supportive Committees

Partners in Access – is a committee chaired by Dart dedicated to building meaningful relationships with faculty across colleges, keeping open discussions regarding accommodations, course accessibility, disability topics, digital and physical accessibility and working collaboratively to improve course design.

Cougar Accessibility Team (CAT) – is a committee chaired by Dart which consist of auxiliary services, facilities, UHPD, academic departments, students with disabilities, CASA, parking & transportation services, housing, and Equal Opportunity Services. This committee works to keep an open dialogue across the university regarding accessibility issues and concerns. It also works to make sure students with disabilities have a voice and are able provide meaningful input to ongoing university projects and events.

Student Support Services

The Dart Center works to ensure equitable access for students with disabilities across all university experiences. Services include accommodations for courses, events, communication access, assistive

technology, alternative testing environments and residence life, with a student-centered approach that empowers individuals to define and navigate their access needs.

Educational Opportunities

Students receive personalized orientation and training on disability-related topics. The Dart Center also provides educational sessions for faculty, staff, and community partners on topics like service animals, universal design, digital access, and advocacy.

Resources & Referrals

The Dart Center connects students to internal and external resources to address barriers to independence, fostering relationships across campus and beyond. Leadership remains actively engaged in university committees and boards.

Programming

The Dart Center hosts and supports events that promote disability awareness and mental health support, including White Cane Safety Day, Career Symposia, adaptive athletics, weeks of welcome events, and accessible social programming. These efforts also help to honor the legacy of Justin Dart Jr. and advocate for positive change.

Commitment to Excellence

The Dart Center team is grateful for the continued support from the SFAC committee. Our services help with retention, timely graduation, belonging, and ultimately with the goal of supporting student success. With support from SFAC, the Dart Center continues to serve all students—disabled and non-disabled—by promoting better design, access, and inclusion across the University of Houston.

- 2. Please discuss the means that you are utilizing to evaluate your success in achieving the DSA strategic initiatives as well as action steps in contributing to the retention of students. Where data exists, discuss any assessment measures and/or learning outcomes used to evaluate program success. Please provide the method for collecting this data.**

The Dart Center utilizes AIM or Access Information Management database, feedback, and Qualtrics for primary data collection. Below are some of the high-level impacts and success from our semesterly data collection from this past academic year.

Improved access can be shown through utilization and engagement of support services from data to help evaluate whether our students are able to gain access to what they need. The goals and outcomes are focused on student success, access, and academic impact.

Meaningful Impact and data:

- **Increased Utilization of Services:** More students are actively using their approved accommodations through our streamlined support systems.
- **Expanded Classroom Support:** Each semester, a growing number of classes are being served ensuring equitable access across campus.

- **Enhanced Student Engagement:** Access Coordinators met with more students than ever, guiding them through the registration process and connecting them to essential support services.
- **Stable Communication Access:** Consistent support for captioning and interpreting services continues to play a key role in student retention for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing.
- **Robust Alternative Testing Support:** Over 2,000 classes and more than 1,000 students were supported through our testing accommodations offered at the Dart Center.
- **Academic Success:** The average GPA for Fall 2024 rose to 3.12, up from 3.07 in Fall 2023.
- **High-Achieving Students:** 734 students registered with the Dart Center earned GPSs between 3.5 and 4.0
- **Impactful Programming:** Our academic events and initiatives continue to make a meaningful difference in student success and engagement.

Dart Center Fall 2024 Data – Obtained from AIM database

Comparative data from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024:

Support Service Utilization -

The data reveals a consistent upward trend in student engagement with accessibility services at the Dart Center:

Category	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change	Trend
Accommodation Letters Sent	4,614	5,156	+542	 Increased
Classes Served	2,277	2,437	+160	 Increased
Student Requests	3,522	3,885	+363	 Increased
Total Accommodation Requests	4,625	5,210	+585	 Increased

Key Insights

- **Growth Across All Metrics:** Every category saw a measurable increase, indicating stronger student engagement and broader service reach.
- **Most Significant Growth:** The largest increase was in **total accommodation requests**, suggesting more students are seeking comprehensive support.
- **Operational Impact:** These trends reflect the Dart Center’s expanding role in fostering academic access and inclusion.

 Trend Analysis: Access Coordinator In-Person Meetings (Fall 2023 vs Fall 2024)

Access Coordinators – work to ensure access for students with disabilities reviewing applications, disability documentation,

- **Overall Increase:** There is a noticeable upward trend in the number of in-person meetings from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024, indicating greater student engagement or service utilization.
- **Month-by-Month Comparison:**
 - **August:** Slight decrease (28 → 26 meetings)
 - **September:** Significant increase (50 → 61 meetings)
 - **October:** Moderate increase (42 → 51 meetings)
 - **November & December:** No recorded meetings in either year
- **Key Insight:** The most substantial growth occurred in **September and October**, suggesting a stronger start to the semester in Fall 2024. This may reflect improved outreach, scheduling efficiency, or increased student demand.

Communication Access Services

Trend Analysis: Communication Access (Fall 2023 vs Fall 2024)

The data shows a consistent upward trend across all key service categories, indicating growth in both demand and support for communication access services:

Category	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change
Classes Served	102	105	↑ +3%
Students Served	22	26	↑ +18%
Captioning/CART Services	68	88	↑ +29%
Interpreting Requests	34	48	↑ +41%

Key Impact

- **Interpreting Requests** saw the largest increase, suggesting a growing need for ASL or other language support.
 - **Captioning/CART Services** also rose significantly, reflecting expanded accessibility efforts.
 - **Student Engagement** increased notably, with 4 more students served—a nearly 20% jump.
 - **Class Coverage** remained stable with a slight increase, showing consistent integration of services into the curriculum.
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Alternative Testing Support Services

Alternative testing ensures students with disabilities have fair access to assessments through accommodations such as extended time and distraction-reduced environments. These supports remove barriers, boost confidence, and improve performance and retention. This aligns with UH’s mission to foster success for every learner.

Fall 2023 vs Fall 2024 Alternative Testing Data:

Trend Analysis: Alternative Testing Services (Fall 2023 vs Fall 2024)

Metric	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change
Total Alternative Testing Requests	4,026	4,678	↑ +16%
Sugar Land Campus Requests	12	0	↓ -100%
Number of Classes Served	2,043	2,247	↑ +10%
Number of Students Served	982	1,117	↑ +14%
Total Exam Requests	2,255	2,574	↑ +14%
Students Requesting Exams	449	519	↑ +16%
Total Minutes Proctored	153,834	163,635	↑ +6%
Return Method: Picked Up	168	99	↓ -41%
Return Method: Scanned & Emailed	1,046	909	↓ -13%
Return Method: Submitted Online	389	847	↑ +118%
Return Method: Uploaded to Instructor Portal	0	0	→ No change

Key Insights

- **Overall growth** in testing requests, students served, and classes supported reflects increased demand and improved service delivery.
- **Online submission** of exams more than doubled, indicating a shift toward digital workflows.
- **Physical pickups and email returns** declined, suggesting streamlined processes or changing faculty preferences.
- **Sugar Land campus** requests dropped to zero, possibly due to operational changes or centralized services.
- **Total minutes proctored** increased, showing higher testing volume and/or longer exam durations.

Alternative Testing Summary: Spring 2024 vs Spring 2025

Metric	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	Change
Total Alternative Testing Requests	4,091	4,383	 +292
Sugar Land Campus Requests	0	0	 No change

Number of Classes	2,097	2,184	↑ +87
Number of Students	995	1,041	↑ +46
Total Exam Requests	2,594	2,527	↓ -67
Students Requesting Exams	470	510	↑ +40
Total Exam Time (Minutes)	179,066	174,935	↓ -4,131
Total Exam Time (Hours)	2,984.43	2,915.58	↓ -68.85
Return Method: Picked Up	161	142	↓ -19
Return Method: Scanned & Emailed	1,133	1,059	↓ -74
Return Method: Submitted Online	666	661	↓ -5

1. Increase in Total Alternative Testing Requests

- **2024:** 4,091 → **2025:** 4,383 (↑ +292)
- **Impact:** There's a growing demand for alternative testing accommodations. This could be due to increased awareness, more students registering with disability services, or broader eligibility criteria.

2. More Classes and Students Involved

- **Classes:** 2,097 → 2,184 (↑ +87)
- **Students:** 995 → 1,041 (↑ +46)
- **Impact:** More instructors are offering accommodations, and more students are utilizing them. This suggests improved outreach or support systems.

3. Slight Decrease in Total Exam Requests

- **2024:** 2,594 → **2025:** 2,527 (↓ -67)
- **Impact:** Despite more students, the number of exams requested dropped slightly. This could mean:
 - Fewer exams per student.
 - More use of alternative assessments (e.g., projects, take-home exams).
 - Better exam scheduling reducing the need for separate accommodations.

4. Decrease in Total Exam Time

- **Minutes:** 179,066 → 174,935 (↓ -4,131)
- **Hours:** 2,984.43 → 2,915.58 (↓ -68.85)
- **Impact:** Exams may be getting shorter, or fewer extended-time accommodations are being used. This could reflect changes in exam design or student needs.

5. Return Methods Shift

- **Picked Up:** 161 → 142 (↓ -19)
- **Scanned & Emailed:** 1,133 → 1,059 (↓ -74)
- **Submitted Online:** 666 → 661 (↓ -5)
- **Impact:** All return methods saw a slight decline, possibly due to:
 - More exams being administered and submitted digitally.
 - Streamlined processes reducing the need for manual returns.

Overall Takeaways

- The system is supporting more students and classes.
- There's a slight shift toward efficiency (fewer exams, shorter durations).
- Digital processes may be increasingly replacing manual ones.

Trend Analysis: Alternative Testing Services (Spring 2023 vs Spring 2024)

The data reflects a strong upward trend in most key metrics, indicating expanded service delivery and increased student engagement.

Metric	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Change
Return Exams Submitted Online	389	847	↑ +118%
Physical Exam Pickups	168	99	↓ -41%
Total Exam Requests	2,255	2,574	↑ +14%
Students Served	982	1,117	↑ +14%
Classes Served	2,043	~2,100+	↑ Slight increase
Sugar Land Test Requests	12	0	↓ -100%
Total Alternative Test Requests	4,026	4,678	↑ +16%
Minutes Proctored	153,834	163,635	↑ +6%

Key Insights

- **Online exam submissions more than doubled**, suggesting a shift toward digital exam formats.
 - **Physical pickups declined**, possibly due to improved online systems or reduced need.
 - **Student and class coverage increased**, showing broader reach and utilization.
 - **Total minutes proctored rose**, reflecting higher testing volume and longer exam durations.
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Assistive Technology & Multipurpose Room Impact Summary

The Dart Center continues to enhance academic accessibility through its **Assistive Technology Lab** and **Multipurpose Room**, both designed to support students with disabilities in meaningful and practical ways.

Assistive Technology Lab

Provides students with access to specialized tools that support engagement with:

- Digital documents
- Multimedia content
- Testing platforms
- Alternative formats
- Textbooks

Students also benefit from **individualized training**, ensuring they can fully utilize the technology to meet their academic needs.

Multipurpose Room

Established last year, this space offers:

- A quiet area for course preparation
- Free printing
- Access to assistive technology
- Adjustable furniture for physical comfort

Key Trends & Impact

- **Increased Utilization:** Fall 2024 data shows a clear rise in student use compared to Fall 2023.
- **Enhanced Visibility:** The Dart Center has actively promoted the Multipurpose Room through social media, boosting awareness and engagement.
- **Consistent Lab Use:** The Assistive Technology Lab continues to serve students regularly, with many receiving personalized support.
- **Student Retention:** These resources contribute to student success and retention by providing the tools, training, and environment needed to thrive.
- **Cutting-Edge Tools:** Students have access to the latest assistive technologies available, ensuring they are equipped for academic success.

Here’s a **trend analysis** based on the *Fall 2023 vs Fall 2024 Assistive Technology Lab Usage* chart:

 Trend Analysis: Assistive Technology Lab Usage

Month	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change
August	16	13	↓ -19%
September	14	14	→ No change
October	14	16	↑ +14%
November	5	5	→ No change

Month	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change
December	0	3	↑ New activity

Key Insights

- **October and December** saw increased usage, suggesting growing awareness or demand later in the semester.
- **August usage declined**, possibly due to delayed student engagement or onboarding.
- **September and November remained stable**, indicating consistent but modest use.
- **December activity**, previously absent, shows new engagement—possibly due to finals preparation or increased promotion.

GPA Academic Impact Data

Trend Analysis: GPA Performance (Fall 2022–Fall 2024)

Average GPA Over Time

- **Fall 2022:** 2.96
- **Fall 2023:** 3.07
- **Fall 2024:** 3.12

Trend: Steady improvement in average GPA over three consecutive fall terms, indicating positive academic outcomes among Dart Center students.

GPA Range Breakdown

GPA Range	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Change
3.5 – 4.00	674 students	734 students	↑ +9%
2.50 – 3.49	553 students	550 students	↓ Slight decline
2.00 – 2.49	123 students	105 students	↓ -15%
0.00 – 1.99	173 students	163 students	↓ -6%

Key Insights

- **High-achieving students (3.5–4.0 GPA)** increased significantly, showing strong academic performance.
- **Lower GPA ranges (below 2.5)** saw a reduction in student numbers, suggesting improved academic support and retention.

- The **overall GPA trend is upward**, reflecting the impact of targeted services, accommodations, and student engagement efforts.
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Points of Pride and Highlights

Scholarships

- The Dart Center provided \$4,000.00 in scholarships to help support students with disabilities in need this past year in supporting student retention.
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Events and Programming

Adaptive Athletic Week – Spring 2025

Partnership between the Dart Center and Campus Recreation

- The event helped give all UH students a chance to experience adaptive athletics.
- Students got to experience playing wheelchair basketball and learn about each sport.
- Students with and without disabilities got to work together.

ADAPTIVE WEEK

04/7 - GOALBALL
04/8 - VOLLEYBALL
04/9 - WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

6 - 9PM
REC CENTER

UH
Campus Recreation
Division of Student Affairs

Register at MYREC.UH.EDU!

*Accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling the Intramural Sports office at (713) 743-8041 by 12pm day prior to the event.

Do Well
Do Well



2024 Fall White Cane Safety Day –

This year the Dart Center partnered with the blind/low vision community to hold the 3rd Annual White Cane Safety Day. This event is significant in educating the campus community in celebrating independent travel and the achievement of people who are blind and visually impaired.



Event Impact Summary

The Dart Center hosted a highly successful and inclusive event that showcased the University of Houston's commitment to accessibility, community engagement, and innovation. Below are key highlights and outcomes:

Key Statistics

- **Official Recognition:** Received proclamations from both the **Mayor of Houston** and the **Harris County Attorney's Office**.
- **Strong Attendance:** Over **600 attendees** participated at the UH Student Services South Building.
- **March Participation:** Approximately **250 individuals** joined the march from the Dart Center to the Student Center.
- **School Engagement:**
 - **Conroe ISD** brought over **50 students**.
 - **14 school districts** attended, including **HISD**, which brought students from multiple campuses.
- **Campus & Community Support:**
 - The **UH Marching Band** participated and supported the event.
 - **48 exhibitors and resource organizations** attended, including **NASA**.
- **Satisfaction Rating:** The event received an outstanding **4.93 out of 5**, the highest satisfaction score to date.

Innovation Highlight

For the first time, the event featured **cutting-edge wayfinding technology** provided by the **Lighthouse of Houston**. This mobile application offered **auditory navigation cues** to help attendees locate restrooms, entrances, elevators, and other key areas within the Student Center—enhancing accessibility for blind and low vision participants.

Community Impact

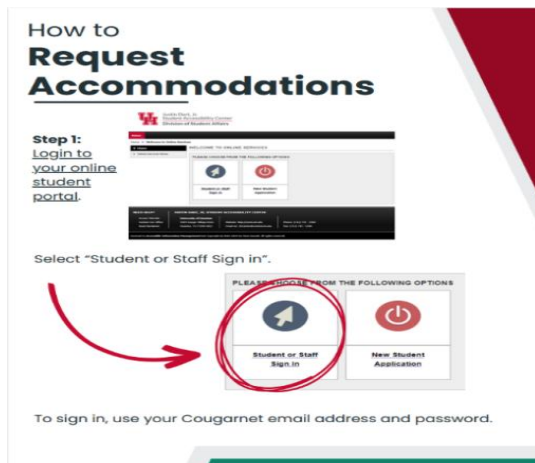
Blind and low vision communities face significant barriers in education, employment, and access to resources. This event helped:

- Raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities within these communities.
- Showcase how the University of Houston supports disability inclusion.
- Build bridges between students, families, educators, and professionals.
- Reinforce UH's identity as a **Top 50 University** committed to equity and innovation.

AIM Student Guide – New for Fall 2024

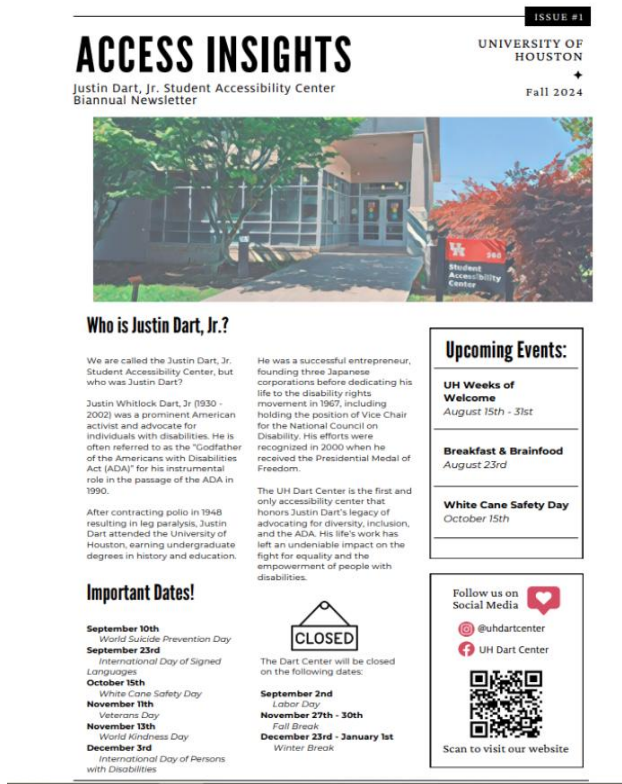
Dart Team implemented a new student guide to help students better understand the process to request accommodation each semester.

Impact: helps provide better clarity and guidance to new and existing students on how to access the resources available to them and as a result improves access.



The Dart Center team created the first newsletter helping to create:

- Improved awareness of important dates
- Event promotion
- How to register with the Dart Center
- Disability facts and history



Awards

The Dart Center received an award from the National/Local Houston White Cane Safety Day community for its support and resources to helping the blind/low vision community.

Impact:

- *The Dart Center was recognized for supporting the event for the 3rd year in a row.*
- *The White Cane Safety Event over the past 3 years has had an estimated 2000+ attendees.*



Breakfast and Brainfood (Weeks of Welcome)– The Dart Center partnered with the Healthy U Committee, UH Wellness, Campus Recreation, Student Health Center, A.D. Bruce Religion Center, Cougars in Recovery, CAPS, and Dean of Students office for the event.



Event Impact Summary

This event made a meaningful contribution to student engagement, inclusion, and awareness on campus. Key outcomes include:

- **Served meals to over 200 students**, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.
- **Connected students to vital campus resources and support services**, helping both new and returning students build community and navigate their academic journey.
- **Fostered peer connection**, encouraging students to engage with one another and build lasting relationships.
- **Helped de-stigmatize disability** by facilitating direct interaction with Dart Center staff, who provided information, answered questions, and encouraged open dialogue.

This event not only met immediate student needs but also contributed to a more inclusive campus culture—supporting retention, belonging, and awareness.

Fresh Check Day Collaboration

November 6th - 2024

Fresh Check Day – The Dart Center partnered with the A.D Bruce Religion Center, Campus Recreation, Center for Student Empowerment, College of Pharmacy, Cougars in Recovery, CAPS, Dean of Students, Diversity, SGA, SHRL, and Women and Gender Resource Center to help increase students' awareness of UH mental Health resources.



Impact:

- Empower peers to have knowledge and education on how to look for signs and knowing what to do if a friend is exhibiting signs of suicide or mental health concern
- Reduce stigma and misconceptions around mental health and suicide

Improved Physical Access on Campus

- The Dart Center in Fall 24 collaborated with facilities and the College of Engineering to help advocate for better access for an engineering student who uses a wheelchair to the Engineering Bldg. to a place called "The Pit"
- This effort took several months but finally was completed and now the student has the same access to this resource as other students.



Cougar Walk and Roll – The Dart Center collaborated for the 1st time with UHPD and Facilities to walk through the campus identifying areas of the University that have accessibility concerns.



Overall Impact:

- During walk and roll through the Fixit team from facilities put in work orders to address concerns identified.
- Students with and without disabilities participated, including staff.
- Dart Center staff attended
- 20 people attended this critical 1st time event.

3. Please discuss any budget or organizational changes experienced since your last (FY2026) SFAC request, their impact on your programs, and your reason for implementing them. SFAC recognizes that some programs did

not receive the funds that they requested, that some programs were impacted by additional expenses after the conclusion of the budget cycle, and that some programs may be ahead of or behind their self-generated income projections.

The Dart Center received funding this past year to help us hire 2 program managers for alternative testing and assistive technology support. These positions were critical in helping us to better manage and support the higher volume of students requesting and needing services. Alternative and Assistive Technology work very close together to help support accommodations for exams. Prior to receiving these 2 positions, these services relied on only one staff in each area to support the growing demand for services. The impact of these positions was substantial.

Funding for the White Cane Safety Day event provided by SFAC definitely helped our office reach over 600 people. We are grateful for the continued support of our position and programming request. The Dart Center also worked close with donors this past year to provide students with disabilities \$4,000 in scholarships.

The Dart Center is extremely thankful and appreciates the support SFAC has provided us and the impact of the support is evident in the services, support, and programming we were able to provide students this past year.

4. Please use the following file naming conventions when submitting your pdf files to the Dean of Students:

FY27Q_DepartmentName	Questionnaire
FY27AOT25a_DepartmentName	Add'l One time request - change "a" to "b", "c", etc. for additional one-time requests
FY27WS_DepartmentName	Excel worksheet
FY27OTa_DepartmentName	One time request - change "a" to "b", "c", etc. for multiple one-time requests
FY27PRES_DepartmentName	Presentation