



Student Affairs Fee Advisory Board

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Funding Request Form FY2026

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Music Activities

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Student Choir Support – Increase current accompanist hours to support the two new choirs in Music Activities.

General Description:

This will provide additional hours to (2) existing accompanists to meet the need created by student demand for the formation of (2) new choirs at Texas A&M

Request Type:

Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

There are currently more students on a standby list than we have openings for in Music Activities choirs. Funding was made in FY25 for a new director for (2) new choirs. This is a request for funding in FY26 to increase the hours of the (2) accompanists that we currently have on staff.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

Enrich Student Learning Experience + Meets the needs and goals identified in the Capacity Study

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

The need for these additional hours represents the increasing number of student participants and incoming freshmen auditions that we have experienced. Furthermore, the new Texas A&M School of Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts begins their new Music Degree offering in FY25 with an anticipated music degree size of 500 students. Many of those (guestimate is 25% based on staffing hires and offerings being made) will want (and need) to participate in a choral ensemble to meet their degree requirements creating even more demand than we are currently facing.

FY25 at a glance:

Century Singers (107 members) – optimal size of choir is 74

Women's Chorus (106 members) – optimal size of choir 80

Singing Cadets (70 members) – optimal size of choir is 60

Students Waitlisted for an opening - 42

Total: 327 either in choir or waiting for an opening

AUDITIONS LAST TWO YEARS - We auditioned 192 new people for FY25 and 185 new people for FY24.

HISTORICAL GROWTH AND DEMAND FOR CHORAL ACTIVITIES

FY21 – 176 Students Total

Century Singers – 76
Women’s Chorus – 44
Singing Cadets – 56

FY22 – 188 Students Total

Century Singers – 82
Women’s Chorus – 47
Singing Cadets 56

FY23 – 214 Students Total

Century Singers – 83
Women’s chorus – 78
Singing Cadets – 53

FY24 – 314 Students total

Century Singers – 107
Women’s Chorus – 106
Singing Cadets – 72
Waitlisted – 42

FY25 – 327 Students Total

Century Singers – 107
Women’s Chorus – 106
Singing Cadets – 66
Waitlisted – 35

We currently have two accompanists for choirs. Rather than make a request for an additional accompanist it is more cost affective to increase the hours of the existing accompanists. We have not added an additional accompanist since 1979. We must make staffing changes to meet the changing size of Texas A&M University and the documented demand from students.

- Texas A&M University 1979 Enrollment – 31,331
- Texas A&M University 2024 Enrollment – 75,000+

Furthermore this request meets with the goals and vision of the newly released capacity study by President Welsh

“Over the last decade (2013-2023), the institution grew by almost 18,000 students, matching the increase in student population experienced 40 years ago (1973-1983). The rapid boost in students at Texas A&M has caused a strain on foundational student services, the academic experience, infrastructure systems, and space on campus. Students feel that the quality of their student experience has been negatively impacted by the rise in enrollment. Employees in some departments, particularly those that serve students, are struggling to keep up with job duties and expectations, leading to widespread feelings of being overworked and under-supported.”

The last time we added a new choir was in 1979 during this time of rapid expansion. Due to recent

expansion in the last year it is time to add again and that includes providing accompanists for these two new choirs to meet the needs of students at Texas A&M. The capacity report further states “the capacity to meet that growth is certainly present.”

Adding additional hours to existing staff does several things

- Helps in retention of staff which is also one of the goals from the capacity study – “retention of faculty and staff”
- Is a cheaper alternative than requesting an additional staff member
- Provides continuity between existing choirs and new choirs with same level of support

The Capacity Report also states “the university has a significant number of areas that must be improved in order to best serve the current enrollment.” The first one that is mentioned is “student support infrastructure.”

We are asking for these additional hours for these two accompanists for all of the above reasons and believe it is in the best interest of students to meet these needs.

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

We have enlarged all of our choirs far beyond an optimal number and when we ran out of room in our rehearsal space in our new Music Activities Center Choral Rehearsal Hall we started a waitlist.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

The number of students that audition and sing in all of our choir and the student demand/need for more choirs and more spaces for students to sing as well as audiences that come and hear these students sing.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

There are no other sources for recurring salaries

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
Increase existing (2) accompanist hours (salary + benefits)	\$29,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	0
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$29,000