



# Student Affairs Fee Advisory Board

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

## Funding Request Form FY2027

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:**

Office of the Vice President for Student  
Affairs

**Program, Service or Operation Requested:**

Special Situations Team (threat assessment/intervention team) operating funds

**General Description:**

The Special Situations Team (SST) is Texas A&M's multi-disciplinary behavioral intervention and threat assessment team. The team is charged with reviewing, assessing, and responding to students of concern, potential threats to campus safety, and complex cases that require coordinated care and intervention. SST is comprised of professionals across Student Affairs, the University Police Department, University Health Services, Academic Affairs, and other critical areas.

To ensure preparedness, consistency, and effectiveness in managing cases, the SST engages in ongoing professional development - including quarterly tabletop exercises, an annual retreat and training, and membership in the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP). This funding will also provide minimal support for occasional working lunches when extended meetings or training overlap with the lunch hour, recognizing the volunteer nature of many SST members.

**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?***

This funding directly enhances student safety and well-being by ensuring SST remains a highly trained, coordinated, and effective team. Professional development and tabletop exercises improve readiness for critical incidents, ensure consistent use of best practices, and strengthen the university's ability to provide early intervention and care to students, staff and faculty of concern. By supporting SST, the university reduces risk, improves coordinated responses, and ultimately fosters a safer, more supportive environment for all students.

***What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?***

This request supports the Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan priorities:

- (1) Inclusive and Caring Communities by ensuring at-risk students, staff, and faculty are identified early, connected to resources, and supported through coordinated interventions.
- (2) Well-being by promoting campus safety, health, and security through best-practice threat assessment and behavioral intervention approaches.
- (3) Leveraging Resources by investing in cross-divisional collaboration and ensuring campus experts are aligned in responding to complex situations.

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

(1) Caseload growth: SST reviews hundreds of reports annually (2024–2025 saw 2,000 Tell Somebody Reports), with increasing complexity and intensity of student needs. (2) National best practices: ATAP membership ensures Texas A&M aligns with nationally recognized standards for threat assessment, an expectation for large universities. (3) Campus safety: Tabletop exercises and annual retreats improve response readiness for emergencies and reinforce lessons learned from past cases. (4) Volunteer recognition: Providing occasional working lunches supports the retention and engagement of SST members who dedicate significant time beyond their primary roles. (5) Benchmarking: Peer institutions fund professional development and training for their behavioral intervention/threat assessment teams to ensure legal compliance, effectiveness, and risk mitigation.

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

SST has historically operated with minimal to no dedicated budget, relying on the contributions of individual offices – and heavily on reserves from Student Life. While that collaboration will continue, a dedicated and recurring funding stream is necessary to sustain core professional development activities and team functionality. These collaborative partners (UPD, UHS, Student Affairs units, etc.) can still be leveraged in the future if increased costs arise or expanded features/trainings are deemed necessary.

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

Success will be evaluated through:

(1) Training & Development Metrics: Number of tabletop exercises completed annually, number of SST members participating in the summer retreat/training, and percentage of members maintaining active ATAP membership. (2) Team Effectiveness Measures: Post-training evaluations and feedback surveys measuring increases in confidence, knowledge, and preparedness among SST members. (3) Engagement & Retention: Continued participation and commitment of SST members, particularly volunteer members, supported by the investment in professional development and recognition.

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

Yes. In the past, SST activities have relied on the goodwill of individual offices to contribute time and resources. However, this approach has limited sustainability, creates inequities in contributions, and makes long-term planning difficult. Fundraising and sponsorship are not appropriate given the sensitive and confidential nature of SST's work. Limited one-time funds (e.g., reserves) have occasionally covered specific needs, but this is not a sustainable model. To ensure consistency and preparedness for this critical safety function, a recurring, dedicated funding stream is required.

**Total Estimated Cost**

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Association of Threat Assessment Professionals annual memberships (\$100/person)	\$700
Professional Development (i.e. annual retreat speakers/facilitators/trainers)	\$5,000
Monthly Meeting Support	\$800
Supplies (i.e. threat/risk rubric worksheets; branded apparel for team members)	\$3,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
<b>TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>