

# Beyond Residential Life: Why You Need a Housing Operations Graduate Assistantship



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# Learning Objective

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- Reimagine graduate assistantships in order to meet the needs of a dynamic and developing Graduate Student population
- Learn the how other institutions in the region utilize graduate assistants
- Participate in a workshop that will contribute to the future development of Graduate Assistantships at UH and their own institution

# Who's In the Room

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## Discussion Questions:

- For those who do?
  - What is the focus of the position?
  - How do you tie their work into their academic curriculum?
- For those who don't...
  - When you dream of having graduate student(s) how would they fit into your current staff? In other words – what would you want the focus of their position to be?
- If you don't have grads, and you don't dream of grads...
  - Why not?

# University of Houston

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Third largest public university in Texas with over 46,000 students



# SHRL Department Overview

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Circa 2011



31 Pro-Staff Members



4 Residence Halls



~ 4,000 Managed Bed Spaces

# SHRL Department Overview

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Circa 2020



45 Pro-Staff Members



8 Residence Halls + 2  
Partnership Communities



~ 8,400 Managed Bed Spaces

# Facilities and Conference Services Overview

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Circa 2011



2 Pro-Staff Members



4 Residence Halls



Facilities

~ 4,000 Managed Bed Spaces

Conferences

~2000 Conference Beds



# Facilities and Conference Services Overview

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Circa 2020



3 Pro-Staff Members  
1 Graduate Assistant  
4 Summer Interns



7 Residence Halls



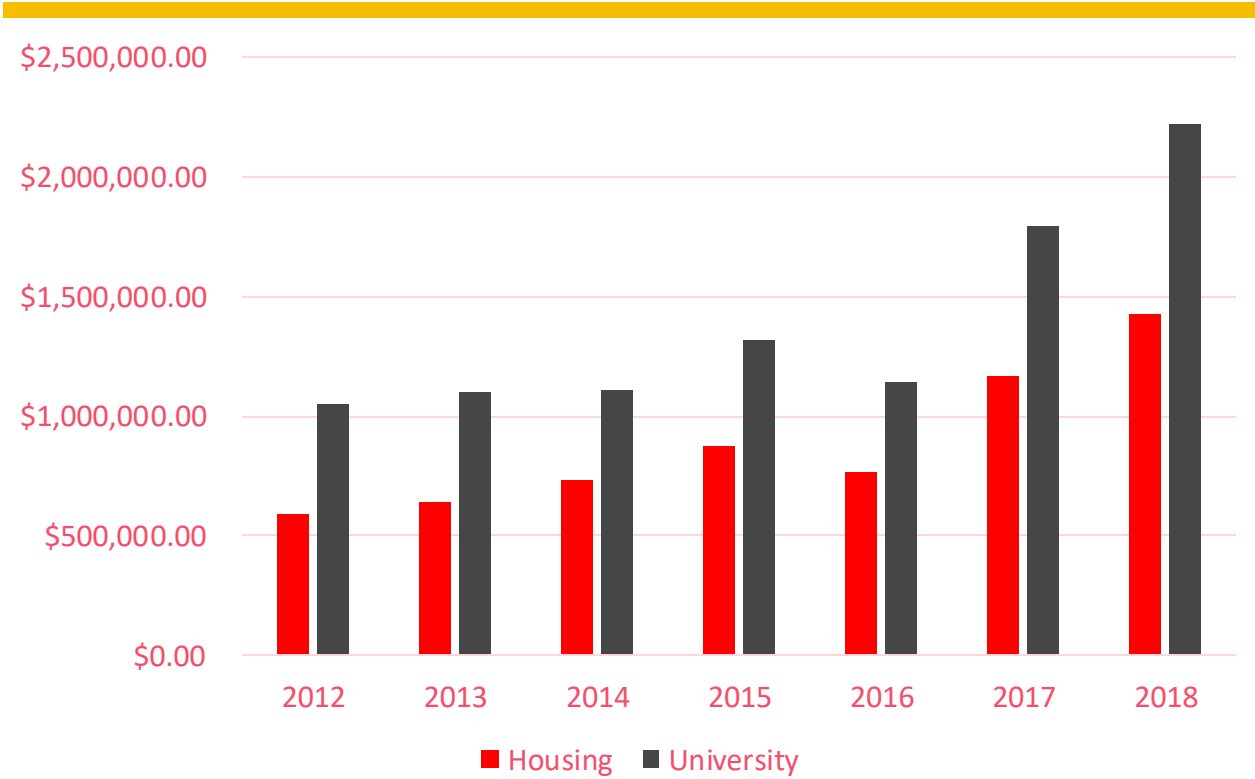
Facilities

~ 6,800 Managed Bed Spaces

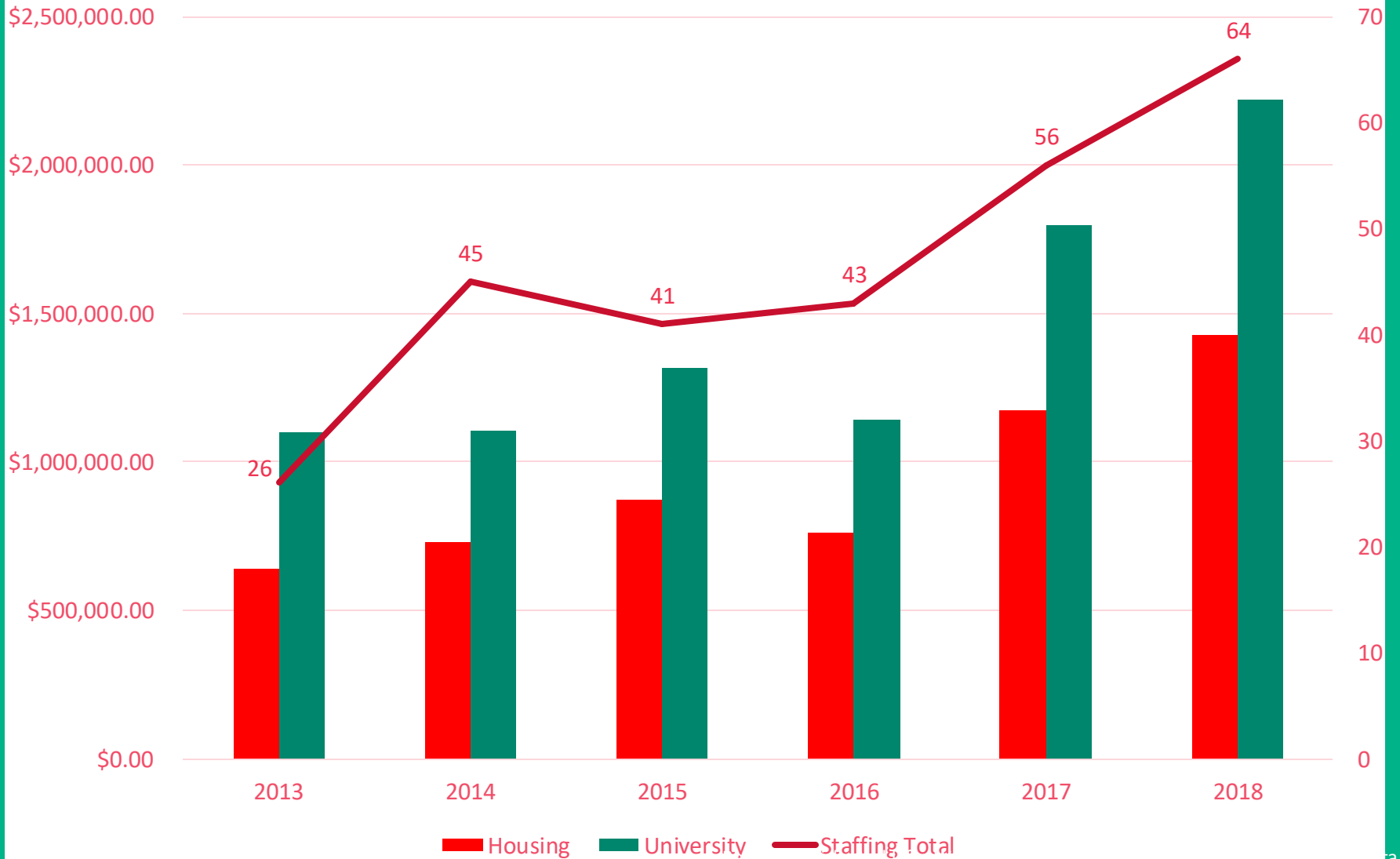
Conferences

~3650 Conference Beds

# Revenue Growth



# Six Year Progress Report



# Reimagining Staffing

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The Graduate Assistant for Outreach will work closely with the Associate Director to enhance existing programs and create new opportunities for student learning. Additionally, this position will have the ability to work in conjunction with both internal and external constituents.

## Duties:

- Coordinate and participate in all phases of **recruitment, selection and training** for over 50 student employees.
- Manage the Guest Housing program including reservations, payments and **assessment** initiatives.
- Responsible for multiple publications in various media (print, online, etc) as they relate to Guest and Conference Services
- Collaborate with **student organizations to plan and implement programming** focused on sustainability.
- Participate in the planning and contract negotiations for a major summer program
- Assist with other special projects and other duties as assigned

# Megan Hill

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## Opportunities

- SWACUHO-U
- SWACUHO Attendance
- Committee Work
- Divisional Mentorship

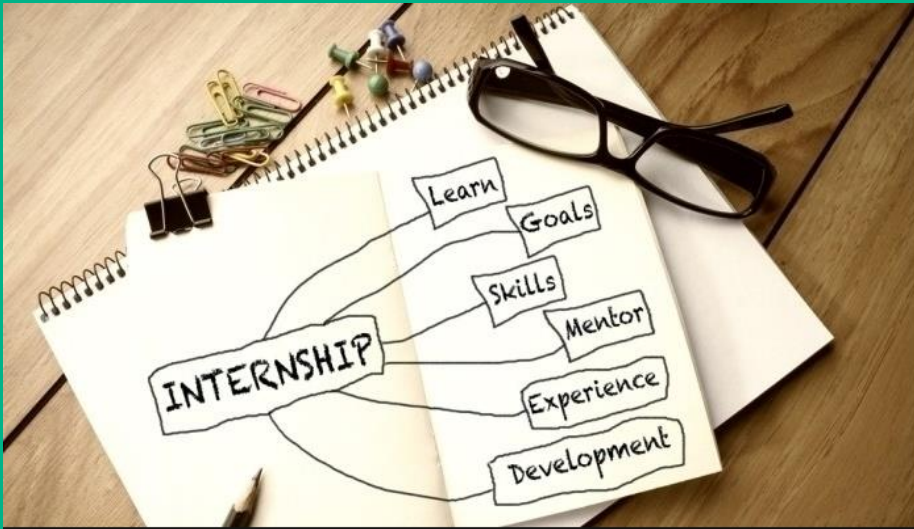


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“I was not sure what to expect when coming into this position. Most of the other graduate assistantships focused on student interaction so I assumed I would be doing the same. Although I do not work closely with students, I found myself really loving the administrative, behind the scenes tasks that I get to take on. It is fulfilling to be a part of processes that benefit students and the university as a whole. I have gained a wide range of skills in this position and I have a very unique experience compared to some of my other peers. I really love how there are many different avenues to take when it comes to higher education and student success and this position has really helped me see that.”

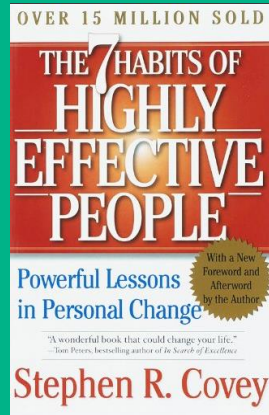
# Areas for Growth

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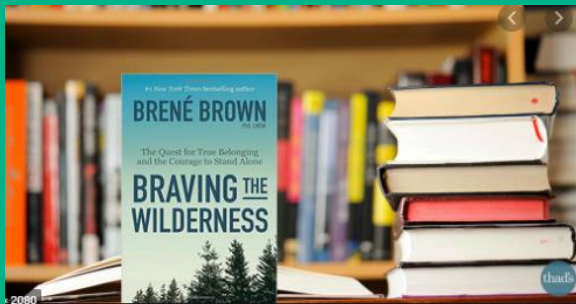


- ACUHO-I Competencies
- Increased student interaction
- Operations focus
- Course connection
- Building upon learning

# Pro Devo



## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



The screenshot shows a OneNote application window with the following content:

- Browser tabs: Megan
- Address bar: [https://uofh-my.sharepoint.com/personal/stayatuh\\_cougarnet\\_uh\\_edu/\\_layouts/1](https://uofh-my.sharepoint.com/personal/stayatuh_cougarnet_uh_edu/_layouts/1)
- OneNote title bar: UH Conference Housing > Megan
- File menu: Home, Insert, Draw, View, Help
- Font settings: Calibri Light, 20, Bold, Italic, Underline, Color, Background Color, Bullets, Numbered List, Indent, Paragraph, Styles
- Navigation pane (left): Foundational Materials, Conference Prep, Summer Intern Resour..., Guest Housing Resour..., Summer Conference R..., Projects, Resources, Pro Devo (selected), Megan\_2019
- Section title: Articles
- Date and time: Thursday, September 5, 2019 3:52 PM
- Article list:
  - Chronicle of Higher Education: A Jury Suicide. Here's What That Could Mean  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/cid=db&source=ams&sourceid=4>
  - Food insecurity on college campuses  
<http://www.uh.edu/education/feature/https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/>  
<https://www.usnews.com/news/health/food-insecurity-hunger-on-college-c>
  - Low-Income College Student Experience  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/fbclid=IwAR1iNtYHGefYnGEaCIYVru0B48I&mtref=m.facebook.com&gwType=REGIWALL>
  - From an author you may know...  
[http://read\\_nxtbook.com/acuhoi/talent\\_times.html](http://read_nxtbook.com/acuhoi/talent_times.html)
  - Coaching For Leaders Podcast, Ep 1 (searchable on Apple Podcasts) I thought there were a few takeaways on how employees can better frame their helpful outcomes



# Group and Discussion Activity

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- **Advantages** of your program that would contribute to learning and appealing to a grad. What's unique?
- What unique **challenges** or opportunities are you not acting upon where a grad could help.
- Are there **obstacles** you may need to consider in the creation and formation of a graduate assistantship position.
- Ultimately, what are the **benefits** you could offer to a graduate student?

# Group Discussion – Share Out

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# Thank you!

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