

BILL B-11-17
The University of Alabama
21st Student Senate 2016-2017

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A BILL TO AMEND THE SGA CONSTITUTION

Section 1. Findings

All students of the University of Alabama deserve and need strong, ethical representation in the Student Government Association (SGA). The legislative branch of the SGA, the Senate, is an example of this important representation on campus. However, a portion of the constitution is ambiguous, so much so that the Elections Board has made conflicting rulings in the previous years. There should be as little room for interpretation on eligibility in order that any student who wishes to run, may run, and that all constituents understand the qualifications of their representatives.

Article III, Section 3 of the SGA Constitution, the Eligibility Clause, defines the terms of eligibility for Senate Candidates. Several points throughout Section 3 could be interpreted differently, and thus could lead to conflicting and potentially erroneous rulings by the Elections Board. The section must be amended to read more clearly, thus leaving as little room for interpretation as possible and provide equity to all students.

In addition to Article III, Section 3, there also exist possible discrepancies in Article IX, Section 3, of the SGA Constitution. The Eligibility Clause goes into much more detail than does Article IX, Section 3, and thus both must be amended to not provide conflicting statutes within the constitution.

Section 2. Amendment

(Article III) Section 3: Eligibility. Eligibility requirements of all candidates intending to run for a position in the Senate must be met prior to filing a statement of candidacy.

- A. Members of the Senate shall be elected from full-time students at The University of Alabama.
- B. Candidates for the Senate must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with The University of Alabama and must remain in this status during his or her term.
- C. All undergraduate students seeking a position in the Senate must have a cumulative Grade Point Average (abbreviated hereafter as GPA) from The University of Alabama of not less than 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. Undergraduate candidates must have earned at least 12 (twelve) credit hours in undergraduate coursework at The University of Alabama.

- D. All law students seeking a position in the Senate must have an overall cumulative GPA from The University of Alabama of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least **10 (ten) credit hours in law school coursework** from The University of Alabama.
- E. All graduate students seeking a position in the Senate must have a cumulative GPA from The University of Alabama of not less than 3.00 on a 4.0 scale. Graduate candidates must have earned at least 9 credit hours **in graduate level coursework** from The University of Alabama.
- F. Any graduate or law school candidate whose undergraduate degree was earned from The University of Alabama is exempted from the credit hour requirement, provided his or her undergraduate GPA at The University of Alabama was at least 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. ~~and he or she currently has the appropriate graduate or law school GPA.~~
- G. All elected members of the Senate shall be elected according to the procedures stated in Article IX.
- H. **The requirements listed in this section (Section 3 of Article III), in conjunction with Article IX, Section III, are the only requirements for eligibility in the Legislative Branch of the SGA.**

(Article IX) Section 3: Candidates

- A. Candidates for elected SGA office shall be full-time students at The University of Alabama, meeting established qualifications before the Election Day.
 - 1. Legislative branch requirements
 - a. ~~Undergraduate candidates~~ **Candidates for undergraduate** legislative seats must have at least a 2.30 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 12 credit hours **in undergraduate coursework** from The University of Alabama.
 - b. ~~Law School candidates~~ **Candidates for law school** legislative seats must have at least a 2.50 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 10 credit hours **in law school coursework** from The University of Alabama.
 - c. ~~Graduate student candidates~~ **Candidates for graduate** legislative seats must have at least a 3.00 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 9 credit hours **in graduate coursework** from The University of Alabama.
 - d. **The requirements listed in this section (Section 3 of Article IX), in conjunction with Article III, Section 3, are the only requirements for eligibility in the Legislative Branch of the SGA.**

Section 3. Ratification

This bill will become law upon vote by 2/3rds vote of the SGA Senate and referendum of the student body.