

BILL B-06-16
The University of Alabama
21st Student Senate 2016-2017

Author: Senator Lita Waggoner

Co-sponsors: Secretary of Senate Megan Wingbermuehle, Senator Katie Buhai, Senator Sarah Hasse, Senator Robert Pendley, Senator Gonzalo Rodriguez, Senator Win Watson, Senator Joshua Taggart, Senator Lauren Forrest, and Senator Rutland Patterson

**A BILL TO OPEN THE FLOOR TO STUDENT CONCERNS AND
PETITIONS
AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SENATE SESSION**

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.

Section 1. Findings of the Senate – The Senate finds the following:

- A. Chapter 604.4 of the Code of Laws mandates that the Speaker of the Senate open the floor to members of the public for the purposes of voicing the concerns and the opinions of the student body and the presentation of petitions, prior to the adjournment of each Senate session.
- B. The purpose of this requirement is to allow members of the public to voice their concerns regarding issues before the Senate.
- C. However, by not opening the floor until the end of the Senate session, members of the public are unable to timely share their opinions on matters pending before the Senate.
- D. Opening the Senate floor before the commencement of legislative business to members of the public allows the Senate to effectuate its maxim: “Students serving students.”

Section 2. Amendments to the Code of Laws Regarding Student Concerns and Petitions

Chapter 604.4 shall be amended as follows:

Chapter 604.4 Prior to the ~~adjournment of Senate meetings~~ **commencement of legislative business**, the Speaker of the Senate shall open the floor to members of the public for the purposes of voicing the concerns and the opinions of the student body and the presentation of petitions.

Chapter 604.4.1 Members of the public will be permitted at least but not exceeding three minutes per person for a total of thirty minutes.

Section 3. Effective Date – This bill shall become effective upon signature of the President or otherwise becoming law.

Section 4. Distribution of Copies – Copies of this bill shall be sent to the following: Lillian Roth, Student Government Association President; Ben Leake, Student Government Association

Executive Vice President; Dr. Mary Lee Caldwell, Director of Student Governance and Citizenship; The Crimson White Media Group; and any deemed necessary at a later time.