

**RESOLUTION R-23-16**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**21st Student Senate 2016-2017**

Author: Senators Gonzalo E. Rodriguez and Robert Pendley

Sponsors: Senators Pablo Ramos Ferrer, Jenna Graham, and Lita Waggoner

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ADHERENCE TO THE SGA  
CONSTITUTIONAL GRANTS OF POWER**

*WHEREAS*, a central purpose of the Student Government Association, as stated by the Preamble to the SGA Constitution, is to “train ourselves in democratic government;” and,

*WHEREAS*, the notion of separation of powers, and the system of checks and balances that it creates, are fundamental to a democratic, constitutional government; and,

*WHEREAS*, each branch of government may only exercise such powers as expressly granted to that body by the Constitution and any subservient codes of law promulgated pursuant to said Constitutional grant; and,

*WHEREAS*, Art. III § 7(A) of the SGA Constitution states that the power and duty to “develop and pass legislation on behalf of students of The University of Alabama” rests with the Legislative branch; and,

*WHEREAS*, Art. III § 8(A)(2) of the SGA Constitution states that amendments to the SGA Code of Laws shall be enacted via Legislative Bills of Law; and,

*WHEREAS*, Chapters 101.1-4 of the SGA Code of Laws, while granting limited jurisdiction to the Judicial and Executive branches to propose amendments to the Code of Laws, grant ultimate jurisdiction over the Code of Laws upon the Legislature; and,

*WHEREAS*, Chapter 101.3, which grants limited jurisdiction to the Executive title over Titles I, II, V, VIII, IX and X of the SGA Code of Laws, ultimately requires that any amendments proposed by the Executive Council to the aforementioned Titles be approved by a majority of the Senate; and,

*WHEREAS*, Title VI of the SGA Code of Laws contains the Senate Standing Rules, which establishes certain obligations of the Legislative branch such as office hours and the Senate formal dress code; and,

*WHEREAS*, Title VI of the SGA Code of Laws lays entirely outside the limited jurisdictional grant of the Executive Council over the SGA Code of Laws; and,

*WHEREAS*, on Sept. 23, 2016, Senators were notified that the SGA President “decided after much consideration to institute a new attire policy for SGA members while they are in the SGA office;” and,

*WHEREAS*, the power to dictate a dress code for the Senate lays entirely outside the powers granted by the SGA Constitution and the Code of Laws to the Executive; and,

*WHEREAS*, October 4 2016, Senators were notified via e-mail that failure to attend the mandatory SGA-Wide Meeting would result in a double-office hour requirements on the following week; and,

*WHEREAS*, the power to determine the issuance of Senate office hours and the power to penalize Senators for failure to attend mandatory events lays entirely outside of the powers granted to the Executive by the SGA Constitution and the Code of Laws.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT*, the 21st Senate of the University of Alabama Student Government Association strongly impresses upon all branches of the SGA the importance of respecting Constitutional grants of power;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*, the Student Government Association encourages the Executive to work with the Senate in order to implement any initiatives, whether to encourage participation or to discourage the lack thereof, which lay outside of the Constitutional grant of powers to the Executive;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*, copies of this resolution be sent to the following: Lillian Roth, SGA President; Haley Loflin, SGA Attorney General; Claire Parker, SGA Executive Secretary; The Crimson White Media Group; and any other copies deemed necessary.