

**The University of Alabama**

**22nd Student Senate 2017-2018**

**Agenda for September 21st, 2017**

**Regular Session**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Recitation of the SGA Mission statement and the Capstone Creed by Senator Heatley and Senator Gaddis
3. Announcements: Mayor Maddox will be at the next Senate Meeting
4. Old Business:
   1. R-03: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RELEASE RECORDS PERTAINING TO CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS BY JARED HUNTER AND SUBSEQUENT CASE DETERMINATIONS **Michael Smith**
   2. A-05 AN ACT TO ADOPT OPEN TEXTBOOKS **Michael Smith**
   3. B-03: A BILL TO IMPROVE PROCEDURAL INTEGRITY **Senator Clay Gaddis**
5. New Business: No New Business
6. Adjourn

**RESOLUTION R-03-17**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

**22nd SENATE 2017-2018**

Authored by: Senator Michael Smith

Sponsored by: Senator Harris Bolus

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RELEASE RECORDS PERTAINING TO CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS BY JARED HUNTER AND SUBSEQUENT CASE DETERMINATIONS**

WHEREAS, the SGA campaign season of the spring of 2017 were thrown into chaos by the revelation of numerous campaign violations committed by the presidential campaign of current SGA President Jared Hunter; and

WHEREAS, according to the August 28th, 2017 edition of *The Crimson White*, the Elections Board in charge of overseeing the election cycle voted unanimously to disqualify Hunter from holding the office of SGA President; and

WHEREAS, the case was sent to the Office of Student Conduct for further investigation, they deliberated over the spring and summer of 2017 and made a ruling prior to the current fall semester, but have not released the ruling to the public; and

WHEREAS, according to a different article in the same August 28th, 2017 edition of *The Crimson White*, university officials have claimed that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (henceforth abbreviated FERPA) prevents the ruling in Hunter’s case from being made available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the author of FERPA, former US Senator James Buckley of New York, told *The Crimson White* in October of 2011 regarding a similar situation pertaining to former SGA President Grant Cochran, that records regarding student government dealings “[do] not sound like an educational record to me ... it’s what the kids do outside of the classroom,” and thus should not be repressed under the guise of FERPA compliance; and

WHEREAS, after the University of Alabama continued repressing SGA

related documents under the guise of FERPA, SGA Senators responded by explicitly adding terms pertaining to the disclosure of SGA records to the 2017 Spring Candidate Application, which every candidate for SGA office must complete in order to run; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the 2017 Spring Candidate Application, which states in part: “ I hereby give my consent to and authorize the Elections Board, Elections Review Board, and the University of Alabama, including its Office of Student Conduct, to disclose to the media, including The Crimson White and the general public, with permission to re-disclose all records of any type maintained by the University and containing any personally identifiable information about me concerning or related to my candidacy for SGA office including, without limitation, election information, violation of campaign and other SGA election rules and/or provisions of the University’s Code of Student Conduct, hearing results, and sanctions imposed;” and

WHEREAS, presumably, since Hunter must have filled out the 2017 Spring Candidacy Application and agreed to its terms, Hunter has waived the claimed right to keep said records and determinations private; and

WHEREAS, in the sake of transparency and the respect for our democratic process, it is clear that records of investigations, deliberations, and determinations made by the Office of Student Conduct and any other University files pertaining to the Hunter campaign be made available to the general public.

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that The Senate of the Student Government Association hereby encourages the University to release, without limitation, any and all records pertaining to election information, violation of campaign and other SGA election rules and/or provisions of the University’s Code of Student Conduct, hearing results, and sanctions imposed by or on the Hunter campaign created or held by the Elections Board, Elections Review Board, and the Office of Student Conduct, or any other part of the University of Alabama, specifically all investigations, deliberations, and determinations made by the Office of Student Conduct during the summer of 2017.

*Be it further resolved,* that copies of these released documents and records be sent to *The Crimson White* and any media organization who requests copies.

*Be it further resolved,* that copies of this resolution be sent to the following: Dr. Stuart Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Jared Hunter, SGA President; Elizabeth Elkin, Editor-in-Chief of *The Crimson White*; and Will Jones, SGA coverage writer for *The Crimson White.*

**ACT A-05-17**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

**22nd SENATE 2017-2018**

Authored by: Senator Michael Smith

Sponsored by: Senator Rob Harrington

**AN ACT TO ADOPT OPEN TEXTBOOKS**

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

Section 1. Findings - The Senate finds the following:

a. Research conducted by the College Board has found that the average student should budget more than $1200 per year for books and supplies.

b. Open textbooks offer an affordable, comparable and flexible alternative to expensive, commercial textbooks.

c. An “open textbook” is defined as: a textbook written by education professionals and released online under an open license permitting that everyone can freely use, print, share and adapt.

d. It is appropriate to seek and consider low- and no-cost options, including open textbooks, as long as there is no reduction in educational quality.

e. OpenStax.org runs a Open Education Resource Institutional Partnership Program which provides institutional support up to $20,000 in value.

f. Universities like Auburn University, Ohio State University, and the University of Georgia have all joined the Institutional Partnership Program this past year.

g. The Senate should therefore act to adopt open textbooks in academic classes to lower the financial burden on students, specifically focusing on high enrollment classes where effort is best utilized.

h. The University should therefore apply to join the OpenStax Institutional Partnership Program.

i. This act was unanimously passed under the previous Senate but was not acted on by the previous Vice President of Academic Affairs.

j. The Senate should therefore act to recommit to adopting open textbooks through a new directive.

Section 2. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby directed to work with the Office for Academic Affairs to specifically targets high enrollment, general education classes where an open textbook may be suitable in the curriculum.

Section 3. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby directed to immediately establish a committee to collaborate with the Office of Academic Affairs to focus on starting an initiative to adopt peer-reviewed open textbooks in subjects including, but not limited to, introductory level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Sociology, Psychology, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, and US History classes at the university.

Section 4. Directions to the Vice President of Academic Affairs - The Vice President of Academic Affairs is hereby directed to work with the committee, which was established in section 3, to create and deliver a progress report to the Senate on the following dates: November 15th, 2017, February 15th, 2018 and March 15th, 2018. The report should include, but is not limited to, how many faculty members are willing to adopt open textbooks for their classrooms, progress on finding a program head with the University’s administration, and a strategic plan on how to properly implement the OpenStax Textbooks Program.

Section 5. Effective Date - This Act shall take effect upon its signature by the President or its otherwise becoming law.

Section 6. Distribution of Copies - Dr. Stuart Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Kevin W. Whitaker, Provost; Jared Hunter, SGA President; Ross D’Entremont, SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs; Elizabeth Elkin, Editor-in-Chief of *The Crimson White.*

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Jared Hunter

SGA President

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Matthew Childress

Speaker of the Senate

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Molly Stalter

Secretary of the Senate

**BILL B-03-17**

**The University of Alabama**

**22nd SGA Senate 2017-2018**

Author(s): Senator Clay Gaddis

Sponsor(s): Senators Matthew Childress, Molly Stalter, and Robert Pendley

Endorsement(s): Senate Parliamentarian Colin Bennett

**A Bill to Improve Procedural Integrity**

Section 1. Findings:

A. Most Senate resolutions in the past session did not make it to committee due to the rules being immediately considered upon the first reading.

B. Nearly all Senate resolutions are passed without dissent from the voting body.

C. *Senate Rules and Regulations* Chapter 400.3.4 : “Resolutions which encourage specific actions will be considered non-binding, unless the encouraged action was an initiative to be undertaken exclusively by the Senate.”

D. Immediate consideration of a resolution requires a motion to *Suspend the Rules*, which is a powerful procedure that should, ideally, be used only in odd circumstances. The frequent use of this motion threatens the integrity of the Senate standing rules.

E. The Senate’s currently accepted procedure to immediately consider a motion is regarded as informal and improper by the Parliamentarian of the Senate.

F. Motions which should normally be committed, such as Acts compelling the action of the entire Student Government Association, have been immediately considered because of this dangerous trend away from committee involvement.

G. Debating and amending resolutions upon first reading will encourage overall Senator participation during meetings.

Section 2. Legislation

Chapter 400.3.9 Resolutions shall not be subject to automatic committee referral by the Speaker of the Senate and may be immediately considered following the first reading. This shall not be true for resolutions including financial allocations.

And strike the words, “under the suspension of the rules.” From Chapter 401.1 of the Senate Rules and Regulations which would read:

“Chapter 401.1 No amendments may be considered until its referral to a committee, or if the legislation is immediately considered under the suspension of the rules”

Therefore, be it resolved that copies be sent to the following upon this Bill being signed by the President, or otherwise becoming law:

Attorney General Lance McCaskey, SGA President Jared Hunter, and *The Crimson White Media Group*