Constitutional Amendment C-06-18
The University of Alabama
23rd Student Senate

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO RESTRUCTURE THE PROCESS OF VACANCIES WITHIN FIRST YEAR COUNCIL,

Co-Authors: Executive Vice President, Lauren Forrest; Senator, Brooks Payne
Co-Sponsors: Senator, Kathryn Hayes; Senator, Harris Bolus
Endorsement: FYC Advisor, Mary Lee Caldwell; Chief Justice, Justin Cenname; Associate Justice, Clayton Lawing; Associate Executive Vice President, Hunter Crawford; Director of FYC, Caitlyn Johnson

Section 1: Findings

The purpose of this amendment is to restructure the selection process for First Year Councilors in the case of vacant Council seats. By current constitutional mandate, in the case of a vacant seat on the First Year Council, the Executive Vice President is tasked with finding a first year student that lives in the residence hall that was originally allocated to the seat. The Constitution does not require that the student chosen to fill the vacant seat be a part of the original applicant pool. During the 2018-2019 First Year Council selections process, it was found once the applications were unblinded that there were several residence halls that did not have enough applicants to meet their minimum allotment of seats. This is even after 1,005 first year students, roughly 15% of the total freshman class, applied. Per the Constitution, in this situation the First Year Council class will be confirmed with vacant seats and the Executive Vice President will be tasked with recruiting members from said residence halls that did not meet the minimum number of qualified applicants. This would be disregarding the 951 qualified applicants that did apply for this position but were not selected simply because they do not live in the correct dorm. Therefore, this amendment is meant to allow the Executive Vice President to choose from the original applicant pool and will further allow the Senate to confirm a truly qualified, cohesive First Year Council class that will work for the betterment of the class of 2022 and future classes following.

Section 2: Constitution and Updates

Changes to text have been highlighted in red.
ARTICLE VI - FIRST YEAR COUNCIL

Section 4: Selection
A. FYC members shall be selected no earlier than the fourth week of class during the fall semester and no later than the sixth week of class during the fall semester.
B. The Executive Secretary shall blind all applications received for First Year Council. The Executive Vice President, along with at least two former First Year Councilors, shall review blinded applications and reduce the number to an amount appropriate for interviewing.
C. Interviews shall be conducted by a committee composed of two designates from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as one representatives from the Residence Hall Association and the Dean of Students Office.
   1. The President shall designate the representatives from the executive branch.
   2. The Speaker of the Senate shall designate the representatives from the legislative branch.
   3. The Chief Justice shall designate the representatives from the judicial branch.
   4. The President of the Residence Hall Association shall designate the representative from the Residence Hall Association.
   5. The Executive Vice President shall serve as a non-voting member except in the case of a tie amongst the votes cast by the eight voting members of the committee.
D. Those selected to serve as members of FYC shall be certified by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the SGA Senate.
E. In the case of vacant seats in the First Year Council, the Executive Vice President shall appoint the next highest scoring applicant(s) to said vacant seat(s) to be certified by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the SGA Senate.

Section 3: Ratification
This amendment will become law upon an affirmative vote from 2/3rds of the SGA Senate and referendum of the student body.

Section 4: Legitimacy and Awareness
This amendment, if passed in the Senate by the appropriate margins, will be posted at least two (2) weeks in advance of the Fall Homecoming Elections on the SGA website for students to review.