

**Constitutional Amendment C-02-19**

**The University of Alabama**

**23rd Student Senate**

**A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO UPDATE THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL  
ADDRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE CABINET**

**Author:** President J. Price McGiffert, Jr., Assistant to the Chief of Staff Madeline Turner & Advisor to the President Sierra Stockley

**Co-Sponsors:** Senator Allison Bailey, Senator Bennett McGehee & Senator Brooks Payne

**Endorsements:** Attorney General Matthew R. Childress & Director of Media Relations Josh Britt

**Section 1. Findings**

The purpose of this amendment is to add the Executive Cabinet Positions to the Constitution, update the Executive Cabinet requirements, and to designate the date of the State of the School Address. Currently, only two of the Executive Cabinet positions (Treasurer and Attorney General) are noted in the Constitution. There are also minor updates to the constitution that are included and highlighted in red.

## **Section 2. Constitution and Updates**

### PREAMBLE

We, the students of The University of Alabama, in order to preserve and defend the rights and privileges of student self-governance, to guarantee a student voice and involvement in University decisions, to serve the common interests of all students, to train ourselves in democratic government, and to promote citizenship on campus and in the community, do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association.

### ARTICLE I - NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of The University of Alabama, abbreviated hereafter as SGA.

### ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1:** The membership of this organization shall consist of all currently enrolled students of The University of Alabama.

**Section 2:** Qualified members may become justices, senators, executive officers, first year councilors or any other appointed office holder.

A. Members that hold positions within SGA shall not hold multiple positions within the different branches as identified in Article III, Article IV, and Article VI of this Constitution.

B. However, SGA members may also serve on Homecoming Committees and as Directors, with the exception of Executive Homecoming Director, while also serving in another position within the SGA.

**Section 3:** Members of this organization shall be entitled to vote in SGA elections.

**Section 4:** In SGA school or college elections, members may vote only for candidates from the school or college in which they are enrolled.

### ARTICLE III - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Section 1:** Legislative power. All Legislative powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Student Senate, abbreviated hereafter as Senate.

**Section 2:** Composition. The Senate shall consist of 50 senators. Senators shall be elected from each college as follows:

A. One undergraduate Senate seat shall be apportioned to each degree-awarding college based on each full two percent of undergraduate enrollment in that college.

1. Each college containing an undergraduate or graduate population shall have at least two Senate seats.

2. Graduate students from each college containing a graduate enrollment shall together be represented by a number of graduate Senate seats apportioned based on each full two percent of graduate enrollment in the University, excluding the Law School.

3. Students of the Law School shall be represented by a number of law Senate seats apportioned based on each full two percent of enrollment in The Law School of The University of Alabama and shall have at least two seats.

B. If the number of Senate seats distributed in accordance with Section 2, subsection A of this Article does not total 50, the remaining seats will be distributed by allocating one additional seat to those colleges coming closest to having an additional two percent until the total number of Senate seats allocated is 50.

**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 unless there are mitigating circumstances in which the student can request a review for an exemption by the Dean of Students who shall assign appropriate sanctions in addition to whatever requirements are already in place by the Office of Student Conduct.

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.

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.

**Section 4:** Vacancies in the Senate. Vacancies in the Senate shall be elected using the following procedure:

A. A special election to fill a vacant Senate seat will be held in the college or school where the vacancy occurred; procedures for voting and identifying the successor senator will be those utilized in regular elections as specified in Article IX.

B. Special elections for Senate vacancies will be held every twenty full class days beginning from the first day of the fall semester until forty class days prior to spring SGA elections.

C. At forty class days prior to spring SGA elections, vacant Senate seats will remain unfilled and shall only be filled by candidates that qualify to run in the regular spring SGA election as specified in Article IX.

**Section 5:** Officers of the Senate. Officers of the Senate shall include the Speaker of the Senate, the Parliamentarian, and the Secretary.

A. The Executive Vice President shall preside over the Senate prior to the election of the Speaker of the Senate by the members of the Senate.

1. The Executive Vice President shall have no vote except to break a tie.

2. The Executive Vice President shall serve as the ceremonial leader of the Senate.

B. The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over the Senate immediately upon his or her election during the second session of the Senate.

1. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by a majority, fifty percent plus one vote, of the senators.

2. The Speaker of the Senate must have been elected and served a full term as a senator in order to qualify to run as a candidate for Speaker of the Senate. If no senators fulfill this requirement or if only one senator meets this requirement, then any regularly elected senator may run for Speaker of the Senate.

3. The Senate may hold a new election for Speaker of the Senate if three-fifths of the Senate's voting members support a motion of no-confidence in the Senate's leadership.

C. The Parliamentarian of the Senate shall advise the Senate of all matters of parliamentary procedure according to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and any rules of order adopted by the Senate. The Parliamentarian may not be a Senator and may have no vote.

1. The Parliamentarian of the Senate shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate.
2. The Senate shall confirm the appointment of the Parliamentarian by a majority, fifty percent plus one vote of the senators.

D. The Secretary of the Senate shall

1. Be elected from within the membership of the Senate by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate.
2. Shall prepare legislation for senators to review.
3. Shall maintain a record of all proceedings of the Senate and attendance of its members.
4. Shall receive any petitions regarding the impeachment and removal of any officer of the SGA.

E. The Senate shall create administrative staff as seen fit by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate.

**Section 6:** Duties of Senators. Senators shall:

- A. Address the academic and non-academic concerns of the students of The University of Alabama by acting as student representatives.
- B. Make themselves accessible and accountable to their constituents.
- C. Attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate unless excused. The SGA Code of Laws shall define the excused **absence** policy.

**Section 7:** Powers and Duties of the Senate. The Senate shall:

- A. Develop and pass legislation on behalf of students of The University of Alabama.
- B. Approve the funding recommendations for student activities and programs as proposed by the Financial Affairs Committee within the executive branch of the SGA. The Financial Affairs Committee shall be composed as outlined in Article IV, Section 9, subsection D(2)b of this Constitution.
- C. Pass an SGA budget for the fiscal year by no later than September 30th in order for the SGA to be financed.
- D. Confirm or reject Executive Council appointments, including Executive Cabinet officials and Executive Council officers appointed to fill vacancies.
- E. Select officers of the Senate, set the day and time for meetings of the Senate, and establish and enforce an attendance policy for members of the Senate.
- F. Be responsible for approving the allocation of its members among the colleges and schools of The University of Alabama in accordance with this Constitution not later than 45 days prior to the annual SGA elections.

- G. Establish a pay scale.
- H. Establish legislative committees as needed. The Senate shall maintain the following permanent committees: Committee on Academic Affairs, Committee on External Affairs, Committee on Finance, Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on Rule, and Committee on Ethics.
  - 1. Senators elected by special election shall sit on the committee of the Senator they are replacing.
  - 2. Committee chairs will be selected by a vote within committee.
- I. Hold special sessions of the Senate. The Senate shall hold special sessions when deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or when deemed necessary by the SGA President.
- J. Participate in the impeachment and removal process as described in Article IX, Section 2, subsection D.
- K. Allocate additional money to meet the needs of individual students and student organizations.

**Section 8:** Presentation and passage of legislation. Two-thirds of the Senate's voting members shall constitute a quorum to conduct business.

- A. All legislation of the Senate shall be categorized as follows:
  - 1. Acts of Senate: Acts which authorize or mandate the Executive Branch to begin a new SGA program, project or initiative that requires SGA budget allocations. All Acts of Senate are subject to presidential veto as outlined in Article IV, Section 5, subsection J.
  - 2. Bills of Law: The SGA Budget and amendments to the SGA Code of Laws. All Bills of Law are subject to presidential veto as outlined in Article IV, Section 5, subsection J.
  - 3. Resolutions: Expressions of sentiment of the Senate, which are not subject to presidential veto outlined in Article IV, Section 5, subsection J(3).
- B. Acts of Senate and Bills of Law which pass the Senate by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of senators present shall be presented to the SGA President.
  - 1. If the President approves, the President shall sign the Act of Senate or Bill of Law.
  - 2. If the President does not approve, he or she has the right to either veto within five full class days of receipt and submit such a veto to the Secretary of the Senate, accompanied by a written explanation for the decision, or choose not to sign the act or bill. Choosing not to sign the Act of Senate or Bill of Law is not a veto.
  - 3. The Senate may reconsider vetoed Act of Senate or Bills of Law. After reconsideration, the Senate may override the President's veto by a two-thirds vote of those members of the Senate who are present and voting. After five full class days following the President's initial receipt of the Act of Senate or Bill of Law, it will be considered passed with or without the President's signature.

#### ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

**Section 1:** Executive power. All executive powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Executive Council.

**Section 2:** Composition. The Executive Council shall be composed of the elected offices of President, Executive Vice President, Executive Secretary, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for External Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Vice President for Financial Affairs. The Executive Council shall also include an appointed Chief of Staff.

**Section 3:** Eligibility. Eligibility requirements of all candidates intending to run for an executive office must be met prior to the election day.

A. Members of the student executive branch shall be elected or appointed, as outlined in this Constitution or as outlined in the Code of Laws, from full-time students at The University of Alabama.

B. All undergraduate students seeking an Executive Office must have an overall GPA from The University of Alabama of not less than 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. Undergraduate candidates must have earned at least 36 credit hours with at least 12 of them from The University of Alabama.

1. Candidates for Executive Vice-President must be rising seniors with undergraduate graduation scheduled during the academic year of the conclusion of their term of office.

2. An elected Executive Vice-President that fails to graduate at the end of their term of office will be ineligible from running or serving in another executive office.

3. Candidates for Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion must have demonstrated interest in matters pertaining to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the campus community as a whole.

C. All law students seeking an executive office must have a cumulative overall GPA from The University of Alabama of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 12 credits from The University of Alabama.

D. All graduate students seeking an executive office must have an overall 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 from The University of Alabama.

E. 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. If elected, an SGA executive officer must earn a minimum GPA equal to his or her qualifying GPA each semester he or she is in office.

F. All elected members of the executive branch shall be elected according to the procedures stated in Article IX.

**Section 4:** Vacancies. In case of any vacancies which may occur in the executive branch of the SGA, the Executive Council shall nominate a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy. Vacancies in elected offices and members of the Executive Cabinet shall be approved by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate. The following procedure shall be used for appointment:

- A. The applications shall be made available to all students at least ten full class days before the qualifications review process is to begin.
- B. The qualifications review for executive officers shall be held by the Executive Council.
- C. Interviews of qualified candidates must be held by the appropriate executive branch official.
- D. The nomination shall be made and presented to the Senate for approval within ten full class days of the qualifications review and interview process.
- E. In the absence of the President and the Executive Vice President, the line of succession shall be Speaker of Senate, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President for External Affairs, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Executive Secretary.
- F. The new president together with the remaining officers of the Executive Council will interview and appoint individuals to fill any remaining vacant Executive Council positions in accordance with Article IV, Section 4, Subsections A-D.

**Section 5:** Executive Powers and Duties of the President. The President of the Student Government Association shall:

- A. Lead the SGA in achieving the objectives of this Constitution.
- B. Serve as chairperson of the Executive Council.
- C. Appoint the Chief of Staff within ten full class days of the beginning of his or her term of office.
- D. Notify the Senate, in writing, of any vacancies which may occur in the Executive Council or Executive Cabinet, within ten full class days of receiving notice of such vacancy. If the Senate by its adjournment prevents such notice, the notice shall be given at the first meeting of the Senate after its adjournment.
- E. Call special sessions of the Senate when deemed necessary.
- F. Reappoint any appointed officials of the executive branch who serve at the will of the President according to the provisions of Article IV, Section 4.
- G. Form new committees as needed and assign them to the appropriate executive branch officials.
- H. Serve as a member or an ex-officio member of all executive committees.
- I. Deliver the "State of the School Address" each semester



1. The State of the School Address shall take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of November each year.

J. Possess a limited veto power.

1. The SGA President shall exercise veto power as he or she sees fit over all Acts of Senate and Bills of Law passed by the Senate.

a. A veto of Acts of Senate and Bills of Law must be done within five full class days after the President's receipt of said legislation.

b. After five full class days following the President's initial receipt, all Acts of Senate and Bills of Laws will be considered passed with or without the President's signature unless vetoed.

2. The SGA President shall not possess the right to exercise a line-item veto over all Acts of Senate and Bills of Law passed by the Senate.

3. The SGA President shall not possess the right to exercise a veto or line-item veto on Resolutions passed by the Senate.

K. Serve as chief liaison between the SGA and organizations internal and external to The University of Alabama.

L. Serve as the student representative to The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees, or if unable to attend, ensure the Executive Vice President is able to attend.

M. Schedule Executive Council meetings.

N. Instruct the incoming SGA President on all matters pertaining to the office of President before leaving office.

#### **Section 6: Duties of the Executive Council.**

A. The Executive Council shall:

1. Enforce this Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution, all Acts of Senate and Bills of Law passed by the Senate, and all rulings of the Student Judicial Board.

2. Nominate the replacements for any vacancies that may occur in any elected office of the executive branch within ten full class days of Senate notification.

3. Delegate duties to the Vice Presidents as may be necessary in the administration of the responsibilities of their offices.

4. Acquire quorum of its membership (three-fourths) before conducting business.

B. The Chief of Staff shall serve as the chief administrative officer for the President by

1. Advising the President.

2. Overseeing the Executive Cabinet.

3. Recommending the creation of executive committees.

4. Performing duties as the President may assign.

5. Overseeing presidential projects at the discretion of the SGA President.

6. Instructing the incoming Chief of Staff on all matters pertaining to the office of Chief of Staff before leaving office.

**Section 7:** Duties of the Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall:

- A. Assume the office of the President if the office becomes vacant for any reason, or if the President request the Executive Vice President to serve in the President's absence.
- B. Preside over the Senate prior to the election of the Speaker of the Senate by the members of the Senate.
- C. Preside over meetings of the Senate for ceremonies of the SGA through status as a member ex-officio of the Senate.
- D. Serve as a liaison between the First Year Council and the Faculty Senate by advising the First Year Council and Faculty Senate meetings or, if unable to attend, appoint an officer of the SGA to serve in his or her place.
- E. Aid and oversee Executive Council projects at the discretion of the SGA President.
- F. Perform other such activities as the President may assign.
- G. Cast a vote in the case of a tie in the Senate.
- H. Lead and assist the Vice Presidents of SGA in execution of projects, programs, and initiatives at the discretion of the SGA President.
- I. Propose and execute policies of the SGA that foster healthy relations between students and faculty.
- J. Instruct the incoming Executive Vice President on all matters pertaining to the office of the Executive Vice President before leaving office.

**Section 8:** Duties of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall:

- A. Maintain a permanent record of all executive business.
- B. Keep records of all Executive Council meetings and make these records available to students within three full class days after the meetings. The records of the meetings shall indicate all Executive Council members present at the meetings.
- C. Keep and make available a permanent record of this Constitution, SGA rules and regulations, and the structure of all SGA departments and offices and take responsibility for distributing them to all newly elected officers of the SGA.
- D. Act as historian of the SGA by recording all SGA events.
- E. Make available the "State of the School Address." each semester.
- F. Perform other such duties as the President or Executive Council may assign.
- G. Instruct the incoming Executive Secretary on all matters pertaining to the office of the Executive Secretary before leaving office.

**Section 9:** Duties of the Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents of the Student Government Association shall include the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for

External Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the Vice President for Financial Affairs.

A. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall propose and execute the policies of the SGA in such areas as academic programs, curriculum, instructional support, registration, advising, tutorial programs, exam schedules, and other projects, programs and initiatives related to academic affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to academic affairs of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;
6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law;
8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Academic Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Academic Affairs before leaving office.

B. The Vice President for External Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in such areas as student concerns and issues in the Alabama Legislature, Tuscaloosa City Council, alumni organizations, national organizations, other colleges and universities, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to external affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for External Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to external affairs of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to decide office sizes and establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;
6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law

8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for External Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for External Affairs before leaving office.

C. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in such areas as social policies, recreation and entertainment, athletic events, Homecoming, spirit **spirit** events, special campus events, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to student affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Student Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to student affairs of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to decide office sizes and establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;
6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law.
8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Student Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Student Affairs before leaving office.

D. The Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall propose and execute the policies of the SGA insuring the inclusivity of all students, regardless of gender identity or expression, ability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, language, religious beliefs or any and all backgrounds, while simultaneously serving as the SGA's liaison to students of cultural, racial, or ethnic minority, international students, LGBTQIA+ students, veteran students, students with disabilities, and students who may feel underrepresented or marginalized at any point in their time on campus. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall:

1. Establish appropriate Executive Branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;

6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
  7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law;
  8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion before leaving office.
- E. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in areas of financial management such as financial aid (student loans, scholarships, employment, work study programs, insurance), tuition, SGA expenses, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to student affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Financial Affairs shall:
1. Select the Treasurer, as outlined in Article IV, Section 10, subsection B, based upon application, merit, and qualifications, with confirmation by the Executive Council and a majority Senate vote;
  2. Establish and serve as Chairperson of the Financial Affairs Committee;
    - a. The Financial Affairs committee shall meet at least monthly during the academic year to allocate funds as deemed appropriate in accordance with the Financial Affairs Committee's established rules and regulations.
    - b. The Financial Affairs Committee shall be composed of the Vice President for Financial Affairs, who chairs the committee; the SGA Treasurer; five members of the Senate Committee on Finance; three members from the coordinating body of student organizations; and two members from the heads of student organizations selected by the University of Alabama's Vice President for Student Affairs in conjunction with the administration of The University of Alabama.
      - i. Quorum constitutes two-thirds of the committee's membership and shall be required in order to conduct business.
      - ii. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall exercise voting privileges on the Financial Affairs Committee when the voting of the regular members of the Financial Affairs Committee results in a tie. The SGA Treasurer shall serve as a non-voting member ex-officio on the Financial Affairs Committee.
    - c. The Vice President for Financial Affairs must present the proposed allocations to the Senate for approval within two Senate sessions following the Financial Affairs Committee meeting.
  3. Oversee all financial transactions of the Student Government Association;
  4. Collect and disburse funds of the SGA using accounting standards that are accepted and practiced by The University of Alabama System and keep a permanent record that is available to any student of The University of Alabama;

5. Render an account of current finances to the Senate quarterly and upon request;
6. Compile and post on the SGA website a financial statement of all SGA operations at least once monthly during the fall and spring semesters;
7. Prepare the SGA budget annually and present such budget to the Senate;
  - a. The budget must be presented to the SGA Senate by fifteen calendar days prior to the new fiscal year.
8. Aid SGA offices in preparing budgets;
9. Establish the appropriate offices to consider matters relating to financial affairs of The University of Alabama and suspend offices as may be required with the approval of the Executive Council;
10. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
11. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
12. Present records to the incoming SGA President and Vice President for Financial Affairs at the end of each administration;
13. Oversee disbursement of money from the SGA Emergency Loan Fund;
14. Advise and manage the Treasurer in the fulfillment of his or her duties;
15. Perform other such duties as the Executive Council may assign;
16. Instruct the incoming officers on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Financial Affairs before leaving office.

**Section 10:** Executive Cabinet. The President shall create appointed positions within the Executive Branch that serve the President in the administration and facilitation of the duties of his or her office. These appointed positions shall be created in the Executive title of the SGA Code of Laws. **listed below, and their duties shall be enumerated in the Code of Laws.** The Treasurer and the Attorney General shall be permanent Executive Cabinet positions. The Executive Cabinet application will be opened one week **day** after the spring general election, and it will close after ten school days. **The Executive Cabinet shall only have one student per position. The only exception shall be the Deputy Chief of Staff.**

- A. The Chief of Staff shall oversee the Executive Cabinet.
- B. The Treasurer shall serve as a member on the Executive Cabinet that assists the Vice President for Financial Affairs in achieving the duties of his or her office. The Treasurer shall be enumerated with the following duties at the discretion of the Vice President for Financial Affairs. The Treasurer shall:
  1. Organize and file all paperwork that comes through the financial affairs office;
  2. Assist in processing all paperwork;
  3. Serve as a secretary during Financial Affairs Committee meetings;

4. Appear and speak on behalf of the Vice President for Financial Affairs in his or her absence;

5. Assist in the planning and execution of fundraising events;

6. Record allocations of SGA funds and give advice on SGA expenditures;

7. Succeed the Vice President for Financial Affairs if the Vice President for Financial Affairs vacates his or her office;

8. Possess other duties as delegated in this Constitution and the Code of Laws.

C. The Attorney General shall serve as a member of the Executive Cabinet. The Attorney General shall:

1. Be responsible for the upkeep of the SGA Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution;

2. Write executive orders at the discretion of the SGA President;

3. Clearly communicate the duties of office to SGA officials;

4. Advise the Executive Council on lawful procedure;

5. Issue legal opinions on matters pertaining to this Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution;

6. Advise SGA officials on the requirements outlined in the SGA Code of Laws;

7. Possess other duties delegated in this Constitution and the SGA Code of Laws;

8. Be nominated through letters of recommendation submitted by faculty and staff members at The University of Alabama.

a. Candidates shall be interviewed by an inter-governmental committee composed of the SGA President, Chief of Staff, and the Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Board.

b. The committee shall recommend a candidate to be appointed Attorney General. The Senate shall either confirm or reject the committee's recommended candidate by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote).

D. The remaining Executive Cabinet positions shall consist of:

1. Deputy Chief of Staff (may be more than one person)

2. Chief Advisor

3. Chief Administrative Officer

4. Chief Legislative Officer

5. Chief Implementation Officer

6. Director of Programming and Advancement

7. Director of Engagement

8. Director of Environmental Affairs

9. Director of Communications

10. Director of IT and Webmaster

11. Press Secretary

## 12. Chief Justice

## 13. Speaker of Senate

### ARTICLE V - JUDICIAL BRANCH

**Section 1:** Judicial Power. All judicial power of the SGA shall be vested in the Student Judicial Board, abbreviated hereafter as Judicial Board.

A. The Judicial Board shall be delegated judicial power by the administration of The University of Alabama.

B. The Judicial Board shall be vested judicial power by this Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution.

**Section 2:** Jurisdiction. The Judicial Board shall have jurisdiction to consider the following matters:

A. All controversies arising under this Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution;

B. All student parking violations cited by The University of Alabama Office of Transportation Services as that responsibility is delegated **being that the responsibility is designated** by the appropriate University administrative officials or standing committee;

C. All controversies arising under the Code of Student Conduct for which the Judicial Board has been designated as a "Judicial Body" or an "Appellate Board" within the meaning of the Code of Student Conduct;

D. All controversies arising under the Code of Academic Conduct as designated by the administration at The University of Alabama;

E. All appeals arising under student elections regulations;

F. The impeachment and removal proceedings as outlined in Article IX of this Constitution.

**Section 3:** Composition. The Judicial Board shall consist of up to one justice for every 1,200 students enrolled at The University of Alabama with a minimum of 15 justices and up to one clerk for every 6,000 students enrolled.

**Section 4:** Chief Justice. The Judicial Board shall elect a Chief Justice from its membership.

A. The Chief Justice for the upcoming academic year shall be elected from its current membership prior to the selection of new members.

B. The Chief Justice-elect shall remain a member of the Judicial Board for the upcoming term; he or she shall also be a member of the selection committee for the upcoming term.

1. If the sitting Chief Justice seeks and is granted re-election, he or she shall remain in office, remain a member of the Student Judicial Board, and serve upon the selection committee for Associate Justices for the upcoming term.



2. If the sitting Chief Justice seeks and is denied re-election, he or she shall not serve upon the selection committee for Associate Justices or Clerks for the upcoming term if he or she chooses to submit to the selection process as an Associate Justice or Clerk.

a. In said event, the President shall appoint a member of the Executive Branch to fill the vacancy on the selection committee.

3. If the sitting Chief Justice chooses not to seek re-election or chooses not to submit to the selection process for Associate Justice or Clerk then he or she shall serve upon the selection committee.

**Section 5: Hearings.** Justices shall receive assignments through a rotation system assigned by the Chief Justice.

A. A minimum of three justices must be in attendance in order to hear a case presented by a student before reaching a decision.

B. For parking appeal hearings, if a student chooses not to appear before the board but would like an appeal to be considered, only one justice must be in attendance to reach a decision on that case.

**Section 6: Eligibility.** Judicial Board Justices and Judicial Board Clerks shall be selected in the spring semester of each school year from full-time students at The University of Alabama.

A. Academic requirements.

1. Undergraduate students. All undergraduate students seeking judicial office must have an overall cumulative GPA of not less than 2.30 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 12 credit hours from The University of Alabama.

2. Law students. All law students seeking judicial office must have an overall cumulative GPA of not less than 2.50 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 12 credit hours from The University of Alabama.

3. Graduate students. All graduate students seeking judicial office must have an overall cumulative GPA of not less than 3.00 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 9 credit hours from The University of Alabama.

B. Selection.

1. Candidates for justice and clerk shall submit blind applications.

2. The blind review of each application will be made by the Chief Justice and two non-returning justices selected by the non-returning in good standing justices of the Judicial Board and the Chief Justice.

a. In the event there are no non-returning justices, the Attorney General and a Senator selected from the membership of the Senate Rules Committee will assist the Chief Justice in the blind application review.

b. In the event that the Chief Justice is a returning justice, a staff member from the Office of Judicial Affairs at The University of Alabama will lead in the blind review of each application. A Judicial Selection Panel will conduct a personal interview of applicants.

3. The Judicial Selection Panel shall consist of the following:

a. One representative from Judicial Affairs;

b. Three non-returning justices selected by the non-returning members in good standing of the Judicial Board;

i. In the event there are not three non-returning members in good standing of the Judicial Board, then one non-returning justice shall be selected by the non-returning members in good standing of the Judicial Board.

1. In the event there is not one non-returning justice in good standing of the Judicial Board, then the Executive Council shall select two members of the executive branch to serve on the selection panel and the Senate shall select one member of the Senate to serve on the selection panel.

c. The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board.

i. In the event that the Chief Justice is a returning justice, then a staff member from the Office of Judicial Affairs at The University of Alabama shall serve on the selection panel.

C. Confirmation. Candidates for Judicial Board justices and clerks shall be confirmed or denied confirmation individually by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the Senate.

D. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the student Judicial Board, the Chief Justice shall have sole responsibility and full discretion to initiate the application process. Applications for the vacant office shall be available on the SGA website for a period, the minimum of which is 5 academic days, and chosen applicants shall submit to an interview conducted by the Chief Justice, an Associate Justice, and one representative of the Executive Branch identified by the President. Said committee shall be responsible for selecting the applicant(s) qualified to submit to the interview process, as well as those who shall fill the vacancy. The SGA President, Student Senate, and Judicial Advisor must approve the members selected to fill the vacancies. For vacancies that occur forty days prior to the spring SGA elections, those vacant Judicial Board seats shall remain vacant until the selections process for the next Judicial Board begins.

**Section 7: Duties and Responsibilities of the Chief Justice.** The Chief Justice of the Judicial Board shall:

A. Preside over the Judicial Board;

B. Assign cases and appeals for panels fairly and equitably among justices;

C. Ensure that the attendance policy of the Judicial Board is maintained;

D. Establish and implement an intensive training program for all newly-appointed justices and clerks;

- E. Certify that newly appointed justices or clerks have successfully completed the intensive training program prior to assigning duties to these justices and clerks;
- F. Regularly schedule meetings of the Judicial Board to hear appeals and cases;
- G. Schedule panels to hear campaign violations and issue sanctions as necessary.

**Section 8:** Duties and Responsibilities of justices. The justices of the Judicial Board shall:

- A. Hear cases and make rulings;
- B. Recommend to the Chief Justice methods for the fair and equitable assignment of cases and appeals;
- C. Recommend rules of procedure to the Chief Justice
- D. Carefully consider and fairly decide all cases and controversies coming before them as members of the Judicial Board;
- E. Recuse themselves from participating in any proceeding in which their impartiality may be compromised, in which they have knowledge of a disputed fact, or in which they have an interest, other than as a student, in the outcome. Failure to recuse oneself shall be grounds for impeachment and removal from office.

**Section 9:** Duties and Responsibilities of the Judicial Board Clerks.

- A. Judicial Board Clerks shall be appointed by the Chief Justice to administratively process each case or appeal coming before the Judicial Board.
- B. Judicial Board Clerks shall be responsible for the docketing, scheduling, and other administrative functions established by the rules of procedure adopted in accordance with this Article.

## ARTICLE VI - FIRST YEAR COUNCIL

**Section 1:** Purpose.

The First Year Council, abbreviated hereafter as FYC, shall represent first year students at The University of Alabama. The FYC shall provide first year students with experiences in the legislative branch of the SGA.

**Section 2:** Composition and allocation of seats.

- A. The FYC shall be a body of sixty-five first year students.
- B. Members will be selected from their respective campus residence halls. The council seats shall be allocated in proportion to the first year student populations within the residence halls. Each residence hall with a first year population shall be allocated at least one council seat.
- C. Three seats in the FYC shall be designated as "At-Large Seats." These seats will serve the purpose of representing first year students who do not live in residence halls.

**Section 3:** Duties and responsibilities of the FYC.

- A. The FYC shall function as a member of the legislative branch through

1. Developing and passing resolutions that express the sentiment of first year students;
2. Developing and passing Acts or Bills of the First Year Council.
  - a. The FYC shall function as a lower chamber to the SGA Senate when passing Acts or Bills of the 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 representative 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 vacated seats in the First Year Council, the Executive Vice President shall appoint a first year student from the residence hall having said vacant seat to be certified by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the SGA Senate.

**Section 5: Organization and FYC procedures.**

- A. The FYC shall organize through provisions in the Code of Laws.
- B. The FYC shall follow procedures for passing legislation as specified in the Code of Laws.

**Section 6: Reporting channel.**

- A. The Executive Vice President shall oversee FYC and coordinate executive branch interactions.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate shall empower a staff member of the Senate to coordinate FYC legislative branch interactions.

**ARTICLE VII - THE CODE OF LAWS**

**Section 1:** Definition and jurisdiction of the Code of Laws.

- A. The Code of Laws shall be a record of all rules, procedures, and by-laws adopted and practiced by all branches and members of the SGA with the lone exception of the Student Elections Board Elections Manual.
- B. Anything within the Code of Laws that contradicts this Constitution shall be considered null-and-void.
- C. The Code of Laws shall be the highest authority in the SGA, with the exception of this Constitution and the Student Elections Board Elections Manual.

**Section 2:** Composition of the Code of Laws.

- A. All items in the Code of Laws must be supported by an article of legislation that has been passed under the terms of Article III of this Constitution.
- B. Only new Bills of Law may amend the Code of Laws.
- C. If a Bill of Law is nullified, then the section of the Code of Laws that was added by that Bill of Law shall be removed.
- D. The Senate shall have full jurisdiction over the organization of the Code of Laws.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS

**Section 1:** Student Elections Board.

A. All SGA elections shall be overseen by the Student Elections Board.

B. Composition and Qualifications.

1. The Student Elections Board shall be composed of:

a. At least one student representative from each degree-granting college, totaling twelve (12) members.

b. The faculty advisor for the Student Government Association.

2. Undergraduate candidates must have a GPA from the University of Alabama of at least a 2.30 on a 4.00 scale. Undergraduate candidates must have earned at least twelve credit hours from the University of Alabama.

3. Law School candidates must have a GPA from the University of Alabama of at least a 2.50 on a 4.00 scale. Law School candidates must have earned at least twelve credit hours from the University of Alabama.

4. Graduate School candidates must have a GPA from the University of Alabama of at least a 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Graduate School candidates must have earned at least nine credit hours from the University of Alabama.

5. If a candidate previously worked as one of the top five campaigners on a campaign, they are disqualified from serving on the Student Elections Board.

6. If a candidate has been found responsible for any past elections violations, whether as a candidate or as a part of a campaign team, they will not be allowed to serve on the Student Elections Board.

C. Selections. Student Elections Board members shall serve terms of at least one year and shall be selected as follows:

1. An application will be posted to the SGA website the day following the Spring election, and will remain open for ten (10) full academic days.

2. A review panel comprised of the outgoing SGA President, Speaker of Senate, Chief Justice, Executive Vice President, and Attorney General will convene to review applicants and select the first six students to the new Student Elections Board, according to the guidelines outlined in subsection B.

3. The Vice-President of Student Life will appoint the remaining six applicants to the Student Elections Board.

4. Names of the twelve (12) selected students will be forwarded to the Dean of Students office for approval.

a. The Dean of Students will review academic and disciplinary records of selected students.

b. Students who have open Student Non-Academic Misconduct or Academic Misconduct cases, or if they have unfinished sanctions from previous cases, are ineligible for the Student Elections Board.

c. If a selected student has a past academic or disciplinary record, it is up to the discretion of the Dean of Students whether or not to approve the selected student.

5. Once approved, the Student Elections Board will elect a Chair of Elections Board from within its membership. The Student Elections Board will also elect an Assistant Chair from within its membership, who will till take the place of the Chair should the Chair be absent for any reason.

6. The Student Elections Board will serve their one-year term once selected until the following spring elections results are deemed final.

D. Jurisdiction. The Student Elections Board shall regulate SGA elections and campaigns. All rules and regulations of the Student Elections Board shall reside in the Elections Manual, which

shall be pursuant to only this Constitution. The Student Elections Board shall hear elections and campaign violation cases and issue decisions.

1. The Student Elections Board shall issue decisions in accordance with this Constitution and any rules and regulations created by the Student Elections Board that reside in the Student Elections Board manual.

a. Panels of six (6) members and the Chair will preside over elections violations hearings and decisions.

b. Should a member of the Student Elections Board have a conflict of interest with the candidate responsible for a violation, i.e. be members of the same organization, etc., that member must recuse themselves from hearings.

i. Should the Chair of the Student Elections Board need to recuse themselves from a hearing, the Assistant Chair will preside over the hearing.

2. The Elections Manual is to be revised once per term, and must be completed one month prior to the date of the spring election.

3. The Senate, the Executive Council, or both student bodies have the power to review the rules and regulations of the Student Elections Board and may request any opinion from the Attorney General on the constitutionality of those rules and regulations.

4. Rulings and regulations of the Student Elections Board may be appealed to the SGA Judicial Board by any students at the University of Alabama. If the Judicial Board finds rulings and regulations of the Student Elections Board not in accordance with provisions of this Constitution or the Elections Manual, then the Judicial Board shall declare such rulings or regulations unconstitutional.

5. A ruling or regulation of the Student Elections Board that has been ruled unconstitutional by the Judicial Board shall declare such rulings or regulations unconstitutional.

6. The Student Elections Board shall forward hearings of elections and campaign violations that have issues pertaining to the Code of Student Conduct at The University of Alabama to the Office of Student Conduct.

## **Section 2: Voting.**

A. Any Student currently enrolled at The University of Alabama may vote in SGA elections.

B. Students may cast one vote for the Senate in their primary college of enrollment. Students may vote once for each elected executive official.

C. All SGA elections shall be conducted by secret ballot, via the voting portal on myBama.

D. Write-in votes shall be permitted in any SGA election.

E. Absentee ballots shall not be permitted in any SGA election.

F. Candidates for any executive office shall be elected by a majority of votes cast.

1. A majority of votes cast is equal to fifty percent of the votes cast plus one additional vote.

2. In the event that candidates for any executive office fail to receive a majority of votes cast, a run-off election shall be conducted no sooner than two days following the election, but not later than ten full academic days after the election, for the two candidates that receive the largest percentage of votes cast.

G. Candidates for Senate in each school or college shall be ranked in order of votes received from highest to lowest.

1. Based upon this ranking, candidates for Senate receiving the most votes shall be elected to represent their school or college.

2. The number chosen shall be equal to the apportioned senate seats for each school or college as defined in Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution.

3. In the event of a tie in the number of votes received by candidates for Senate seats that results in a school or college surpassing the apportioned seats for that school or college, a tie will be broken by a run-off election that shall be on a date determined by the Student Elections Board.

H. Any student wishing to contest the results of a SGA election shall file a petition in writing with the Executive Secretary of the SGA within three full class days after the elections results are available.

1. The Executive Secretary must notify the Student Judicial Board and the Student Elections Board within two full class days that a petition contesting the results of a SGA has been filed.

2. The hearing must be conducted by the Student Elections Board. If the student believes they have grounds to appeal the Student Elections Board decision, they may file an appeal of the decision with the Student Judicial Board.

3. The following shall be grounds for contesting election results:

a. Misconduct, fraud, or irregularity by any election official sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of a SGA election;



- b. Ineligibility of any person election **elected** to the office in dispute;
- c. Receipt of illegal votes or rejection of legal votes in an amount sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of a SGA election.
- d. An error in the counting of votes or in the declaration of the result of an election sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of a SGA election;
- e. Any other cause sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of a SGA election.

### **Section 3: Candidates**

A. Candidates for elected SGA office shall be full-time students at The University of Alabama, meeting established qualification before the election day.

#### 1. Legislative branch requirements

- a. Undergraduate candidates for 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 from The University of Alabama.
- b. Law School candidates for legislative seats must have at least a 2.50 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 12 credit hours from The University of Alabama.
- c. Graduate student candidates for 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 from The University of Alabama.

#### 2. Executive branch requirements

- a. Undergraduate candidates for Executive Branch positions must have at least a 2.30 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 36 credit hours from The University of Alabama.
- b. Law School candidates for legislative seats must have at least a 2.50 GPA on a 4.0 scale (University of Alabama points only) and have earned 12 credit hours from The University of Alabama.
- c. Graduate student candidates for 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 from The University of Alabama.

3. Write-in candidate requirements. Write-in candidates must meet the minimum certification qualifications set for candidates whose names appear on the ballot.

B. All candidates shall maintain records showing the amount and source of campaign contributions as well as the amount and recipient of any expenditure or expenditures.

1. Candidates shall file a report with the Student Elections Board listing campaign contributions and expenditures once a week, each week, from the day they announce candidacy and ending the morning of the election.

2. The Student Elections Board shall make the weekly campaign contribution and expenditure form available publicly on the elections website within two day of receiving the weekly campaign contribution and expenditure form.

C. Students reserve the right to organize themselves into factions.

D. Each candidate for executive or legislative office shall file a Statement of Candidacy on a date specified by the Student Elections Board in order to have his or her name appear on the election ballot.

## ARTICLE IX - IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

**Section 1:** Grounds for Removal. All elected and appointed position holders of the SGA shall be subject to removal from office for any one or more of the following reasons:

- A. Incompetence, malfeasance, or misfeasance in office;
- B. Failure, at the time of election, to possess the academic qualifications for office;
- C. Willful violation of any express provision of this Constitution;
- D. Abandonment of office or, in the case of a Senator, change of school or college;
  - 1. If a senator changes the school or college he or she is representing, removal from office is automatic;
- E. Failure, for any other cause, to perform the duties of office;
- F. Failure to maintain academic standing at a level consistent with the minimum GPA required of candidates for the position in question;

**Section 2:** Procedure for Removal

- A. Initiating proceedings.
  - 1. Any student wishing to remove any elected or appointed position holder of the SGA shall file a petition for impeachment and removal with the Secretary of the Senate setting forth in writing one or more of the grounds found in Section 1 of this Article that the stated position holder within SGA has violated.

2. This petition must include the signatures of ninety-nine additional students wishing to remove the stated position holder within SGA.

3. All signatures on the petition must be confirmed as students at The University of Alabama.

B. Preliminary investigation.

1. Upon filing of a petition with the Secretary of the Senate, a panel composed of the Attorney General and two Student Judicial Board Justices elected by the members in good standing of the Student Judicial Board shall review the claim or claims stated in the petition for impeachment and removal.

2. If a petition for impeachment and removal has been filed against the Attorney General, then the Attorney General shall be ineligible from serving on the panel.

3. In the event that the Attorney General is ineligible or recuses **recuses** him or herself from serving on the panel, the Executive Council will vote on a representative from the executive branch to serve on the panel.

4. If a petition for impeachment and removal has been filed against a member of the Student Judicial Board, then the accused Justice or Justices shall be ineligible from serving on the panel and from voting on the Justices to serve on the panel.

C. Panel decision.

1. If the panel finds that the claims stated in the petition for impeachment and removal meet the grounds for removal found in this Constitution, then they shall vote to send the petition for impeachment and removal to the Senate for a formal impeachment hearing by the body of the Senate.

2. The panel shall make a decision no later than ten full class days after receiving the petition for impeachment and removal from the Secretary of the Senate.

D. Senate impeachment and removal procedure.

1. The Senate shall consider the claims for impeachment and removal during the three regularly scheduled consecutive Senate sessions immediately following the release of the panel's decision.

2. The Attorney General or the designate of the executive branch on the panel shall notify all accused position holders and the filer of the petition for impeachment and removal of the dates, times and procedure for the Senate impeachment and removal procedure.

3. A Senator who is accused in the petition for impeachment and removal shall not vote in the Senate impeachment and removal process.

4. In the first Senate session following the release of the panel's decision, the Senate shall formally hear the claims for impeachment and removal through a presentation of the facts and evidence.

5. In the second Senate session following the release of the panel's decision, the accused position holder or holders, the filer of the petition, and any necessary witnesses shall appear before the Senate to answer questions.

6. The accused and the filer of the petition shall be allowed to make brief statements to state their case at the end of this Senate session.

7. In the third Senate session following the release of the panel's decision, the Senate shall vote to impeach and remove the accused position holder or holders from their office.

a. A three-fifths majority of the full membership of the Senate must vote to impeach and remove in order for the position holder to be removed from office; however, the Senate must only have quorum to hold proceedings.

b. If the Senate lacks quorum, then the Senate shall stand in recess until quorum is reached. Immediately upon reaching quorum, the Senate must vote on the impeachment and removal of the accused position holder or holders.

c. A three-fifths majority of the full membership of the Senate is thirty of the fifty members of the Senate for the impeachment and removal process.

d. If three-fifths of the full membership of the Senate votes to impeach and remove the accused position holder from office, then the accused position holder or holders shall immediately lose their SGA office and all the rights and privileges afforded that office.

#### ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS AND CONVENTION

**Section 1:** Process for altering the Constitution. The self-government and organization of this SGA may only be altered through the available processes outlined in this Article of this Constitution.

**Section 2:** Amendments to this Constitution.

A. Amendments to the Constitution may be initiated by a petition of 5 percent of the student body or by a vote of two-thirds of the Senate.

B. Amendments must be ratified by a vote of two-thirds of the students voting on the amendment.

C. Referenda on amendments shall be held only during the spring SGA election or the fall Homecoming election.

D. The full text of the amendment or amendments shall be published online at the website of the SGA at least two weeks prior to the referendum.

a. The full text of the amendment or amendments may also be published in the campus newspaper at the discretion of the President on the condition that the President signs his or her name to the bill that proposes any amendment or amendments.

**Section 3:** Convention.

Constitutional conventions may be assembled only for the express purpose of writing a new constitution for the SGA. The calling of the constitutional convention must adhere to the following procedure:

- A. Convention Resolution calling for the writing of a new constitution must pass both the Senate and the First Year Council by a nine-thirteenths majority vote;
- B. The SGA President signs his or her name to this Convention Resolution, expressing the full sentiment of the members of the Executive Council;
- C. The students at The University of Alabama approve this Convention Resolution by a nine-thirteenths majority vote of those voting in either the spring SGA election or the fall Homecoming election.
- D. A constitutional convention that has been called must be composed of elected delegates from each of the schools and colleges at The University of Alabama so as to equal two times the apportionment of Senate seats among the schools and colleges as outlined in Article III, Section 2 of this Constitution. Delegates must stand for election in a campus-wide vote thirty full-class days after the spring SGA election or fall Homecoming election that calls the constitutional convention as outlined in Section 3, subsection A of this Article.
- E. A constitutional convention that has been called and for which delegates have been selected shall not assemble for longer than the duration of the academic year in which the constitutional convention is called. A convention that fails to produce a proposed constitution within the academic year of its calling shall be dissolved.
- F. A convention that produces a constitution shall submit their proposed constitution to the students at The University of Alabama in a referendum twenty full school days after the formal proposal has been produced.
- G. The students at The University of Alabama must approve this proposed constitution by a nine-thirteenths majority vote of those voting in order for that constitution to be ratified into law.

#### ARTICLE XI - SUPREMACY

**Section 1:** Legal supremacy. This Constitution shall be the supreme Law of the SGA. All position holders within SGA shall be bound to the requirements of this Constitution. All rules and regulations issued by the SGA or any of its bodies must be pursuant to this Constitution.

**Section 2:** Oath or Affirmation. All position holders within SGA shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation to support this Constitution.

**Section 3:** Rules and regulations pursuant. All other rules and regulations pursuant to this Constitution shall reside in the Code of Laws, outlined in Article VII of this Constitution, Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law, outlined in Article III of this Constitution, and the Students Elections Board Manual, outlined in Article VIII of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XII – RATIFICATION

**Section 1:** Referendum. This Constitution shall be ratified by the students at The University of Alabama in a referendum on the First day in February in the year Two- Thousand and Eleven if a majority of the students voting in said referendum approve this Constitution.

**Section 2:** Enactment. This Constitution shall be enacted so as to concur with the SGA that governs for the 2011-2012 academic year at The University of Alabama, including all candidates seeking elected or appointed offices for that same academic year, and all subsequent years thereafter if approved by a majority of the students voting in the referendum on the First day in February in the year Two-thousand and Eleven. This Constitution shall remain the supreme Law of the SGA unless a constitutional convention assembles for the express purpose of writing a new constitution and that convention follows the procedures outlined in Article XI, Section 3 of this Constitution.

**Section 3:** Testament. The members of the Constitutional Revision Committee, convened on the Twelfth day in January in the year Two-Thousand and Eleven and under the administration of James C. Fowler as SGA President, do hereby attest that this Constitution represents the unanimous spirit of the committee's efforts in creating accountable, functional, inclusive, and transparent student self-government at The University of Alabama by subscribing our names to this Constitution.

**Section 4.** Ratification. This amendment will become law upon vote by 2/3rds vote of the SGA Senate and referendum of the student body.

**Section 5..** 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.