Resolution R-24-20
The University of Alabama
25th Senate 2020-2021

Authors: Senator Robert Alexander, Senator Ruth Ann Terry, Senator Dylan Brown


Endorsements: Demarcus Joiner, President; Jason Rothfarb, Executive Vice President; Sam Rickert, Vice President of Student Affairs; Daniel Perkins, Vice President for Financial Affairs; William Royal, Director of Programming for the Executive Vice President’s Cabinet; Price Dukes, Vice President of Academic Affairs

A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST CONSIDERATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF FOR INTRODUCING A PASS/FAIL OPTION FOR COURSES COMPLETED DURING THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

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

WHEREAS, in these unprecedented times, the University of Alabama family has rallied and adapted to ensure that students maintain access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS, the shift in course delivery methods has required students to be in online and/or hybrid environments when they otherwise would have chosen face to face courses; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of students have had the added stress of necessary quarantine during the course of this semester; and

WHEREAS, data demonstrates that these situations empirically have negative impacts on student grades in courses; and

WHEREAS, in the current system many students, due to external factors beyond their control, may face the choice of withdrawing from courses or face harm to their GPA; and
WHEREAS, student financial aid, scholarships, etcetera, may be lost due to these conditions and thus may jeopardize students’ opportunity to complete their education at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, other universities have adopted a pass/fail option to minimize the negative impact upon students GPA during this unique situation; and

WHEREAS, University of Alabama students will be in direct competition with students from these other universities for internships, employment, and graduate school admissions; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting for the Student Government Association to voice this significant concern of the student body;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Student Government Association does hereby recommend that The University of Alabama administration revisit the option to once again provide a pass/fail option for the Fall 2020 semester.

Be it further resolved that University administration should allow students the opportunity to choose the pass/fail option up until December 4, 2020.

Be it further resolved, The University must act in a timely manner so as to provide students with the opportunity to assess their options and make a decision on whether or not they will utilize the pass/fail option.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this Resolution be sent to: Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. James Dalton, Executive Vice President and Provost; Dr. Myron Pope, Vice-President for Student Life; Stephanie Shamblin, The University of Alabama Student Government Advisor; Rebecca Griesbach, The Crimson White Editor-in-Chief; and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.