



**The University of Alabama Student Government Association
Office of the Attorney General**

August 22, 2022

Dear Student Government Association Elections Board and Senate:

This opinion of the Attorney General is issued in response to your request on behalf of The University of Alabama SGA.

QUESTION

When should special elections for Senate vacancies be held based on the Constitution's writing?

FACTS AND ANALYSIS

Article III, Section 4, Subsection B of the SGA Constitution states as follows:

“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.”

In this case, the word “every” does not imply that special elections for Senate vacancies should be held every twenty full class days starting the first day of the fall semester up until forty class days prior to spring elections. Instead, it refers to the time period in which special elections for Senate vacancies are eligible to be held each year.

Furthermore, your request states that the online voting software currently used by the Student Government Association requires more than three weeks to successfully post and operate an election. As this is more than twenty days, and the role of SGA is to facilitate elections where the entire student body has access to voting, it is unreasonable to expect special elections for Senate vacancies to be held every twenty full class days.

CONCLUSION

Special elections for Senate vacancies should be held sometime between twenty full class days after the first day of the fall semester and forty class days prior to spring SGA elections; they should not be held every twenty full class days during that time period. I hope this opinion answers your question. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David Strickland

Attorney General; Student Government Association

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