



Bill B-02-22
The University of Alabama
26th Senate 2021-2022

Authored by: Senator Drew St. Charles

Sponsored by: Senator John Dodd, Senator Rachel Cordry, Senator Justin McCleskey, Senator Katie Morris

Endorsed by:

A BILL TO AMEND THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF THE SENATE

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

Section 1. The Senate finds the following:

- A. Statistics on pieces of legislation passed by the 26th Senate of the University of Alabama Student Government Association (2021-2022), not including those sent to committee, provide the following results:
 - a. Endorsements by members of Student Government Association display a highly significant positive impact on the outcome of Senate legislation
 - b. Endorsements by organizations/students outside of SGA display a less significant, but negative effect on the outcome of legislation
 - c. When lumped together by total endorsements, the results essentially empirically show that endorsements have no impact on the outcome of legislation, which can be traced back to the addition of a considerably smaller group of non-SGA endorsers
 - d. The average amount of SGA endorsements on legislation is 4.5, while the average amount of Non-SGA endorsements is only 0.5
 - e. The results show that the Senate has failed to adequately involve student organizations, a strong lobbying branch of the student body, in the legislative process this year

- B. Student organizations possess elements of expertise that are essential to keeping the Senate informed on certain topics
- C. Political theory notes that lobbying is an essential component of any democracy, as it permits more constituent oversight over electorally-accountable public officials, which we operate as in this form of Student Government, which is built on democratic ideals
- D. Appropriate changes must be made so that the Senate and its processes are equitably accessible to students for the coming year

Section 2. Legislation: **Changes in red**

Chapter 300 Committees

Chapter 300.1 The Senate will maintain the Committee on Academic Affairs, the Committee on Oversight, the Committee on External Affairs, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Rules, the Committee on Resolutions, and the Committee on Student/**Student Organization** Affairs.

Chapter 300.1.1 The Academic Affairs Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.1.1 Represent the University of Alabama student body in academic affairs.

Chapter 300.1.1.2 Seek opinions from the student body, faculty and administration regarding issues of academic policy.

Chapter 300.1.1.3 Receive and analyze senate legislation regarding academic affairs.

Chapter 300.1.1.4 Make recommendations to the Student Senate regarding academic policy legislation.

Chapter 300.1.1.5 Work with Student Government Association Executive Council, specifically the Vice President of Academic Affairs and his/her cabinet.

Chapter 300.1.2 The Senate Finance Committee's duties and composition shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.2.1 The review of legislation dealing with Student Government Association program funding.

Chapter 300.1.2.2 The review of the Student Government Association Pay Scale.

Chapter 300.1.2.3 The review of the annual Student Government Association budget.

Chapter 300.1.2.4 The approval of financial allocations to individual students and student organizations as outlined by the Student Government Association Constitution.

Chapter 300.1.2.5 The dealing with any other financial issues so designated by the Student Government Association

Chapter 300.1.2.6 The participation in Financial Affairs Committee meetings as designated by the Student Government Association Constitution.

Chapter 300.1.2.7 Review all projects whose costs exceeds \$700.

Chapter 300.1.2.8 The Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance shall review any SGA expenditure in excess of \$1,000.00.

Chapter 300.1.2.8.1 Upon the request of any Senator, the chair of the Senate Committee on Finance must present in writing the findings of this review to the Senate upon its completion.

Chapter 300.1.2.8.2 This review shall include the power to initiate a Bill to disallow the expenditure, which must be upheld by a majority vote of the Senate.

Chapter 300.1.2.8.3 This review shall include the power to officially recommend further investigation by the SGA Attorney General.

Chapter 300.1.2.9 Work with Student Government Association Executive Council, specifically the Vice President of Financial Affairs and his/her cabinet.

Chapter 300.1.3 The Resolutions Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.3.1 Handling issues that commend faculty, staff and students for enhancing various aspects of The University of Alabama.

Chapter 300.1.3.2 Deals with issues that express urgency for action to take place at the University of Alabama dealing with: Student Opinion, Campus Safety, and Student/Faculty Relations.

Chapter 300.1.4 The Rules Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.4.1 Enforcing and monitoring the standing rules of the Student Senate.

Chapter 300.1.4.2 Review of any Acts originating in the First Year Council.

Chapter 300.1.4.3 Reviewing and recommending bills to set standards, guidelines and rules for the Student Senate.

Chapter 300.1.5 The Student Affairs Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.5.1 Dealing with issues that encourage student development outside of the classroom and support the Academic mission of the University of Alabama.

Chapter 300.1.5.2 Student Policy, Student Opinion, Student Relations, and concerns dealing with life outside of academics.

Chapter 300.1.5.3 Work with Student Government Association Executive Council, specifically the Vice President of Student Affairs and his/her cabinet.

Chapter 300.1.5.4 Provides an official branch of communication within the Senate with any students/student organizations interested in legislation or a legislative topic, while providing resources or references within SGA that may be helpful to those organizations

Chapter 300.1.5.5 Maintains a directory of student organization contact information, which is accessible to Senators in the event they would like to get in contact with that organization

Chapter 300.1.6 The External Affairs Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.6.1 Handling issues that pertain to matters outside of The University of Alabama.

Chapter 300.1.6.2 Receive and analyze Senate legislation regarding external affairs.

Chapter 300.1.6.3 Represent the University of Alabama student body in external affairs.

Chapter 300.1.6.4 Work with Student Government Association Executive Council, specifically the Vice President of External Affairs and his/her cabinet.

Chapter 300.1.7 The Oversight Committee's duties shall include but are not limited to:

Chapter 300.1.7.1 Enforcing the Senate's attendance policy.

Chapter 300.1.7.2 Hearing of any ethical issues which may arise due to the actions of Senate members.

Chapter 300.1.7.3 Issuing penalties to Senate members for ethical infractions, when necessary.

Chapter 300.1.7.4 Receive after-action reports of projects executed by the Executive and/or Judicial branches, and presenting resolutions to the Senate floor for adopting such reports.