



Bill B-05-22
The University of Alabama
26th Senate 2021-2022

Authors: Senator Justin McCleskey

Sponsors: Senator John Dodd; Senator Jennifer Baggett; Senator Luke Dille; Senator Alison Gaston; Senator Cameron Doyle; Senator Sarah Beth Corona; Senator CJ Pearson; Senator Deborah Oberkor

Endorsements: Graduate Student Association

**A BILL TO AMEND THE SENATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ALLOW
ONLINE AUDIO/VIDEO PLATFORM PARTICIPATION IN SENATE MEETINGS**

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

Section 1. Findings:

- A. On Campus Accessibility - The Forum Room, used for a majority of Senate Meetings, has a maximum occupancy of 65, preventing students from being able to fully participate to the extent students are allotted. Further, alternative room options are not feasible with the current SGA budget.
- B. Distance Learning - As graduate students and distance learners often have less access to the physical campus, alternate modes of engagement are simultaneously beneficial and necessary. Audio/Video platform participation allows students who cannot physically attend the ability to actively participate. This (a) reduces the number of unnecessary proxies,(b) boosts student representation, and (c) allows for a larger section of the student population a means of participation. Additionally, distance students have readily had the desire and willingness to participate more actively in student life/extracurricular activities.
- C. Feasibility - The Forum Room already has the capacity to do this, and Senate (currently, though not mandated to) allows Audio/Video platform participation for Senators. That same accessibility can be extended to the campus through a public access link.

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

Chapter 500 Senate Meetings

Chapter 500.1 Senate will meet every Thursday at 18:30 at a designated location.

Chapter 500.1.1 A link to participate in Senate Meetings over Audio/Video platforms shall be distributed via the SGA website homepage at least an hour before the designated meeting.

Chapter 500.2 Senate will operate on a biweekly schedule, alternating between Formal Meetings and Committee Meetings.

Chapter 500.2.1 Formal Meetings

Chapter 500.2.1.1 Formal Meetings will occur once every two (2) weeks.

Chapter 500.2.1.2 Old Business of the Senate may only be scheduled during Formal Meetings of the Senate.

Chapter 500.2.2 Committee Meetings

Chapter 500.2.2.1 Committee Meetings will occur once every two (2) weeks, alternating with Formal Meetings.

Chapter 500.3 In the event that the location or time is an issue such that a meeting cannot be held, or if the University of Alabama has suspended operations some time on the day of the meeting, the Speaker of the Senate shall be vested with the authority to cancel the meeting and shall notify all Senate members should he or she decide to take such action.

Chapter 500.4 Formal Senate Dress Code

Chapter 500.4.1 Senators must wear business attire for all formal Senate meetings and all special sessions of the Senate.

Chapter 500.4.2 The requirement of business attire shall not be construed such that it applies to proxies.

Chapter 500.5 Prior to the commencement of legislative business, the Speaker of the Senate shall open the floor to members of the public for the purposes of voicing the concerns and the opinions of the student body and the presentation of petitions.

Chapter 500.5.1 Members of the public will be permitted at least but not exceeding three minutes per person for a total of thirty minutes.

Section 3. Copies:

Copies of this bill shall be sent to Jillian Fields, SGA President; Katie Beth Crowe, SGA Attorney General; Matthew Curl, SGA Chief Justice; Darius Thomas, Speaker of the Senate; Nathan Yamaguchi, SGA Chief of Staff; Angel Narvaez-Lugo, Student Government Association Advisor; The Crimson White and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.