Resolution R-19-22
The University of Alabama
26th Senate 2021-2022

Authored By: Senator Justin McCleskey

Sponsored By: Senator John Richardson; Senator John Dodd; Senator Drew St. Charles

Endorsed By: Jillian Fields, SGA President

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA TO IMPLEMENT AN OBJECTIVE COURSE EVALUATION WEBSITE HOSTING GRADE DISTRIBUTION DATA

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

WHEREAS, students rely on feedback in the course registration process to make informed decisions regarding the classes that they take; and

WHEREAS, major ranking platforms, including Rate My Professors, were found by an article in the Stanford Technology Law Review1 to be “unfair evaluations of personal information taken out of context,” which can “lead to misjudgments or misunderstandings, potentially causing serious harm;” and

WHEREAS, institutional grade distribution data provides a more objective scale for students to evaluate classes and professors; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Institute of Technology published2 grade distribution data by course code and professor, gaining over 8,000 site visits in 90 days; and

2 https://critique.gatech.edu/
WHEREAS, a journal analysis conducted for *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*\(^3\) found quantitative institutional feedback to be “more valid assessments of instructor performance;” and

WHEREAS, a similar resolution\(^4\) was passed on 26 January 2021 by the University of Georgia Student Government Association, finding 94.5% of surveyed students indicating being “extremely likely” or “very likely” to use the grade distribution service; and

WHEREAS, such a system would simultaneously provide students with more relevant data to make registration decisions while providing fair, objective criteria for professors and courses; NOW

THEREFORE, **be it RESOLVED**, that the University of Alabama Student Government Association expresses its support for the University of Alabama implementing a webpage publishing grade distribution data sorted by course code and professor.

**Be it further resolved**, that copies of this resolution be to: Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Steven Hood, Interim Vice President of Student Life; Tonjanita Johnson, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Christine Taylor, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Meagan Bennett, Director of Customer Relations for the University of Alabama’s OIT Department; Dr. Stacy Jones, Interim Dean of Students; Jim Dalton, Executive Vice President and Provost; Donald Elswick, Executive Director in the Director’s Office; Keely Brewer, Editor-In-Chief of The Crimson White; Jillian Fields, President of the Student Government Association; Chapman Greer, President of Faculty Senate; Angel Narvaez-Lugo, Advisor of the Student Government Association; Dr. Ruperto Perez, Associate Vice President for Student Health and Well-being.

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\(^4\) UGA SGA, *Resolution 33-05*