



**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

¹ Cheung, Anne and Schulz, Wolfgang. “[Reputation Protection on Online Rating Sites.](#)” SSRN, Stanford Technology Law Review, vol. 21, no. 310, 27 Sept. 2018.

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 resolution⁴ 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.

³ Felton, James, et al. “[Attractiveness, Easiness, and Other Issues: Student Evaluations of RateMyProfessors.com.](#)” SSRN, *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, vol. 33, no. 1, 2008, pp.45-61.

⁴ UGA SGA, [Resolution 33-05](#)