

Constitutional Amendment C-#-20
The University of Alabama
24th Senate 2019-2020

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Sponsors Speaker of Kathryn Hayes, Senator Sam Rickert, Senator Will Stiers, Senator Olivia Davis, Senator Jamison Hanley, Senator Jillian Fields, Senator Ford Mozingo

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AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION CREATING A BETTER FYC FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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

Section 1. Findings:

- A. The Judicial Board has ordered for a clarification to the First Year Council (FYC) selections process.
- B. As the Constitution stands now, the Executive Secretary is designated with blinding all FYC applications. In order to ensure fairness for FYC applications the Executive Vice President should have discretion to appoint someone to blind all applications.
- C. With over a thousand applications there will need to be a committee in place to help with the selection process. This committee needs to be properly defined, so from year to year there is consistency.
- D. FYC is designed to mirror the Senate in regards to representation. Currently, the selection system is set up to take the highest scoring applicants from each residence hall. This does not give each applicant an equal playing field as some residence halls are more competitive than others. It is important to maintain residence hall representation; however, some type of merit-based criterion should be implemented.

Section 2. Amendment to the Constitution: **changes in red**

ARTICLE VI - FIRST YEAR COUNCIL

Section 1: Purpose.

- A. The First Year Council, abbreviated hereafter as FYC, shall represent first year students at The University of Alabama. The FYC shall provide first year students with experiences in the legislative branch of the SGA.

Section 2: Composition and allocation of seats.

- A. The FYC shall be a body of sixty-five first year students.
- B. Members will be selected from their respective campus residence halls. **Thirty-three of the sixty-five seats The council seats** shall be allocated in proportion to the first year student populations within the residence halls. Each residence hall with a first year population shall be allocated at least one council seat. **At least one seat in the FYC shall be designated as a representative for students who do not live in the residence halls.**
 - 1. **The First Year Council Selections Committee will have discretion over determining the number of seats given to each residence hall based on population numbers provided by the Residence Hall Association.**
- C. **Three seats in the FYC shall be designated as "At-Large Seats." These seats will serve the purpose of representing first year students who do not live in residence halls.**
- D. **The remaining thirty two seats shall be allocated strictly by merit, based on the scoring system of applications and interviews designed by the Executive Vice President and Director of First Year Council.**

Section 3: Duties and responsibilities of the FYC.

- A. The FYC shall function as a member of the legislative branch through:
 - 1. Developing and passing resolutions that express the sentiment of first year students;
 - 2. Developing and passing Acts or Bills of the First Year Council.
 - a) The FYC shall function as a lower chamber to the SGA Senate when passing Acts or Bills of the First Year Council.

Section 4: Selection.

- A. FYC members shall be selected no earlier than the fourth week of class during the fall semester and no later than the sixth week of class during the fall semester.
- B. **The Executive Vice President shall appoint a student or UA staff member to blind all applications received for the First Year Council. This person shall not be permitted to participate in the formal selection process. The Executive Vice President, along with at least two former First Year Councilors, shall review blinded applications and reduce the number to an amount appropriate for interviewing.**
- C. **The First Year Council Selections Committee will be composed of the Director of First Year Council, Assistant Director of First Year Council, the Executive Vice President, the Speaker of the Senate, the First Year Council Judicial Liaison, and up to three additional members appointed by and at the discretion of the Executive Vice President.**

1. The role of the Selections Committee will be to read and grade the First Year Council applications and participate in deliberations that will determine what applicants are interviewed and selected.
- D. Interviews shall be conducted by a committee composed of two designates from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as one representative from the Residence Hall Association and the Dean of Students Office.
1. The President shall designate the representatives from the executive branch.
 2. The Speaker of the Senate shall designate the representatives from the legislative branch.
 3. The Chief Justice shall designate the representatives from the judicial branch.
 4. The President of the Residence Hall Association shall designate the representative from the Residence Hall Association.
 5. The Executive Vice President shall serve as a non-voting member except in the case of a tie amongst the votes cast by the eight voting members of the committee.
- E. Those selected to serve as members of FYC shall be certified by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the SGA Senate.
- F. In the case of vacant seats in the First Year Council, the Executive Vice President shall appoint the next highest scoring applicant(s) to said vacant seat(s) to be certified by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote) of the SGA Senate.

Section 5: Organization and FYC procedures.

- A. The FYC shall organize through provisions in the Code of Laws.
- B. The FYC shall follow procedures for passing legislation as specified in the Code of Laws.

Section 6: Reporting channel.

- A. The Executive Vice President shall oversee FYC and coordinate executive branch interactions.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate shall empower a staff member of the Senate to coordinate FYC legislative branch interactions.