



**The University of Alabama Student Government Association  
Office of the Attorney General**

September 5th, 2023

Dear Student Government Association Elections Board and Senate:

This opinion of the Attorney General is issued in response to your request on behalf of The University of Alabama SGA.

**QUESTION**

Does the cumulative GPA from The University of Alabama specified in Article III Section 3.E. of the SGA Constitution required for graduate students intending to run for a position in the Senate, refer only to a student's Graduate GPA or if first time graduate students with no Graduate GPA can also use their UA undergraduate GPA as is allowed with the 9-credit hour exemption?

**FACTS AND ANALYSIS**

Article III, Section 3, Subsection E of the SGA Constitution states as follows:  
“All graduate students seeking a position in the Senate must have a cumulative GPA from The University of Alabama of not less than 3.00 on a 4.0 scale. Graduate candidates must have earned at least 9 credit hours in graduate level coursework from The University of Alabama.”

In this case, Section 3, Subsection E does not reference the undergraduate GPA required. Article III, Section 3 Subsection F of the SGA Constitution states as follows:

"Any graduate or law school candidate whose undergraduate degree was earned from The University of Alabama is exempted from the credit hour requirement, provided his or her undergraduate GPA at The university of Alabama was at least 2.30 on a 4.0 scale."

If the candidate were a first time graduate student with no GPA and also graduated from The University of Alabama, the minimum GPA required would be "2.30 on a 4.0 scale." as mentioned above.

### **CONCLUSION**

Any first time grad school student, intending to run for senate with no cumulative GPA who attend The University of Alabama as a undergraduate student is subject to the required minimum of GPA of 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. Failure to meet this minimum GPA in undergrad would disqualify the graduate student from being eligible to run.

Sincerely,

**John McLendon**

Attorney General; Student Government Association

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®**