



## **Constitutional Amendment C-01-23**

**The University of Alabama**

**28<sup>th</sup> Senate 2023-2024**

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### **AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY ARTICLES II AND III**

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

#### **Section 1. Findings:**

- A. Several errors, grammatical, formatting, and other, have been found in Articles II and III of the Constitution that need to be corrected.
- B. There are references to Articles or Sections in the Constitution that are incorrect or nonexistent.
- C. Select wording needs to be modified to correct contradictions and use more specific, intentional, clarifying, and efficient language.

- D. These inconsistencies create confusion, miscommunications, and can prevent the SGA from functioning efficiently.
- E. No material within Article II Sections 1, 3, or 4 is in need of change.
- F. No material within Article III Sections 1, 2, or 8 is in need of change.

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

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

**Section 2:** Qualified members may become justices, senators, executive officers, first-year councilors or any other appointed office holder.

A. Members that hold positions within SGA shall not hold multiple positions within the different branches as identified in Article III, Article IV, and Article VI of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE III - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Section 3:** Eligibility. Eligibility requirements of all candidates intending to run for a position in the Senate must be met prior to filing a statement of candidacy.

- A. Members of the Senate shall be elected from full-time students at The University of Alabama.
- B. Candidates for the Senate must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with The University of Alabama and must remain in this status during his or her term unless there are mitigating circumstances in which the student can request a review for an exemption by the Dean of Students who shall assign appropriate sanctions in addition to whatever requirements are already in place by the Office of Student Conduct.
- C. All undergraduate students seeking a position in the Senate must have a **minimum** cumulative Grade Point Average (abbreviated hereafter as GPA) from The University of Alabama of **not less than** 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. Undergraduate candidates must have earned at least 12 (twelve) credit hours in undergraduate coursework at The University of Alabama.
- D. All law students seeking a position in the Senate must have a **minimum** overall cumulative GPA from The University of Alabama of **not less than** 2.50 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 10 (ten) credit hours in law school coursework from The University of Alabama.
- E. All graduate students seeking a position in the Senate must have a **minimum** 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.

- F. 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.
- G. All elected members of the Senate shall be elected according to the procedures stated in ~~Article IX~~ Article VIII, Sections 2 and 3.
- H. The requirements listed in this section (Section 3 of Article III), in conjunction with Article ~~IX-VII~~, Section ~~III 3~~ subsection 1, are the only requirements for eligibility in the Legislative Branch of the SGA.

**Section 4:** Vacancies in the Senate. Vacancies in the Senate shall be elected using the following procedure:

- A. A special election to fill a vacant Senate seat will be held in the college or school where the vacancy occurred; procedures for voting and identifying the successor senator will be those utilized in regular elections as specified in ~~Article IX-VIII~~, Sections 2 and 3.
- B. Special elections for Senate vacancies ~~will be held~~ can be held every twenty full class days beginning from the first day of the fall semester until forty class days prior to spring SGA elections.
- C. At forty class days prior to spring SGA elections, vacant Senate seats will remain unfilled and shall only be filled by candidates that qualify to run in the regular spring SGA election as specified in Article ~~IX VII~~, Section 3.

**Section 5:** Officers of the Senate. Officers of the Senate shall include the Speaker of the Senate, the Parliamentarian, and the Secretary.

- A. The Executive Vice President shall preside over the Senate prior to the election of the Speaker of the Senate by the members of the Senate.
  - 1. The Executive Vice President shall have no vote except to break a tie.
  - 2. The Executive Vice President shall serve as the ceremonial leader of the Senate.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate shall preside over the Senate immediately upon his or her election during the second session of the Senate.
  - 1. The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected by a majority, fifty percent plus one vote, of the senators.
  - 2. The Speaker of the Senate must have been elected and served a full term as a senator in order to qualify to run as a candidate for Speaker of the Senate. If no senators fulfill this requirement or if only one senator meets this requirement, then any regularly elected senator may run for Speaker of the Senate.

3. The Senate may hold a new election for Speaker of the Senate if three- fifths of the Senate's voting members support a motion of no-confidence in the Senate's leadership.
- C. The Parliamentarian of the Senate shall advise the Senate of all matters of parliamentary procedure according to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and any rules of order adopted by the Senate. The Parliamentarian may not be a Senator and may have no vote.
1. The Parliamentarian of the Senate shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate.
  2. The Senate shall confirm the appointment of the Parliamentarian by a majority, fifty percent plus one vote of the senators.
- D. The Secretary of the Senate shall:
1. Be elected from within the membership of the Senate by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate.
  2. ~~Shall~~P prepare legislation for senators to review.
  3. ~~Shall~~M maintain a record of all proceedings of the Senate and attendance of its members.
  4. ~~Shall~~R receive any petitions regarding the impeachment and removal of any officer of the SGA.
- E. The Senate shall **have the ability to** create administrative staff as seen fit by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate.

**Section 6:** Duties of Senators. Senators shall:

- A. Address the academic and non-academic concerns of the students of The University of Alabama by acting as student representatives.
- B. Make themselves accessible and accountable to their constituents.
- C. Attend all regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate unless excused **as defined in the Student Government Association Code of Laws Chapter 302.3.2.**

**Section 7:** Powers and Duties of the Senate. The Senate shall:

- A. Develop and pass legislation on behalf of students of The University of Alabama.
- B. Approve the funding recommendations for student activities and programs as proposed by the Financial Affairs Committee within the executive branch of the SGA. The Financial Affairs Committee shall be composed as outlined in Article IV, Section 9, subsection ~~DE~~(2)b of this Constitution.
- C. Pass an SGA budget for the fiscal year by no later than September 30th in order for the SGA to be financed.
- D. Confirm or reject Executive Council appointments, including Executive Cabinet officials and Executive Council officers appointed to fill vacancies.

- E. Select officers of the Senate, set the day and time for meetings of the Senate, and establish and enforce an attendance policy for members of the Senate.
- F. Be responsible for approving the allocation of its members among the colleges and schools of The University of Alabama in accordance with this Constitution not later than 45 days prior to the annual SGA elections.
- G. Establish a pay scale for the following year.
- H. Establish legislative committees as needed. The Senate shall maintain the following permanent committees: Committee on Academic Affairs, Committee on External Affairs, Committee on Finance, Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Committee on Rule, and Committee on Ethics. 1. Senators elected by special election shall sit on the committee of the Senator they are replacing. 2. Committee chairs will be selected by a vote within **the** committee.
- I. Hold special sessions of the Senate. The Senate shall hold special sessions when deemed necessary by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or when deemed necessary by the SGA President.
- J. Participate in the impeachment and removal process as described in Article IX, Section 2, subsection **DB**.
- K. Allocate additional money to meet the needs of individual students and student organizations.

### Section 3. Copies

Copies of this Constitutional Amendment shall be sent to: Collier Dobbs, SGA President; and any others that are deemed necessary at a later date.