



Constitutional Amendment C-02-23

The University of Alabama

28th Senate 2023-2024

Authors: Senator Mia Ford, Senator Jenni Page, Senator Ella Brown

Sponsors: Senator Cassidy Matwyioff, Senator Peyton Abbott, Senator Katherine Gray, Senator Chloe Pickle, Senator Walker Parsons, Senator Hidy Kirkpatrick

Endorsements: Collier Dobbs, President; John McLendon, Attorney General; Bella Loia, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Andrew Fairburn, Vice President of Student Affairs

**AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY ARTICLE
IV**

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 the Constitution that need to be corrected.
- B. Certain wording needs to be modified to correct contradictions and provide clarification.
- C. The State of the School Address has moved from November to January.

- D. The President's power to propose legislation to the Senate has not been codified in the Constitution, but the power is listed in the Code of Laws.
- E. The Vice President for Student Affairs' power to oversee block seating has not been codified in the Constitution, but the power is listed in the Code of Laws.

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

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 3: Eligibility. Eligibility requirements of all candidates intending to run for an executive office must be met prior to the election day.

A. Members of the student executive branch shall be elected or appointed, as outlined in this Constitution ~~or as outlined in the Code of Laws~~, from full-time students at The University of Alabama.

B. All undergraduate students seeking an Executive Office must have **an minimum** overall GPA from The University of Alabama of ~~not less than~~ 2.30 on a 4.0 scale. Undergraduate candidates must have earned at least 36 credit hours with at least 12 of them from The University of Alabama.

1. Candidates for Executive Vice-President must be rising seniors with undergraduate graduation scheduled during the academic year of the conclusion of their term of office.

2. An elected Executive Vice-President that fails to graduate at the end of their term of office will be ineligible from running or serving in another executive office.

3. Candidates for Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion must have demonstrated interest in matters pertaining to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the campus community as a whole.

C. All law students seeking an executive office must have a **minimum** cumulative overall GPA from The University of Alabama of ~~not less than~~ 2.50 on a 4.0 scale and earned at least 12 credits from The University of Alabama.

D. All graduate students seeking an executive office must have **an minimum** overall 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 from The University of Alabama.

E. 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 and he or she currently has the appropriate graduate or law school GPA. If elected, an SGA executive officer must earn a minimum GPA equal to his or her qualifying GPA each semester he or she is in office.

F. All elected members of the executive branch shall be elected according to the procedures stated in Article ~~IX~~ VII, Section 3, subsection 1.

Section 4: Vacancies. In case of any vacancies which may occur in the executive branch of the SGA, the Executive Council shall nominate a qualified candidate to fill the vacancy. Vacancies in elected offices and members of the Executive Cabinet shall be approved by a majority vote, fifty percent plus one vote, of the Senate. The following procedure shall be used for appointment:

A. The applications shall be made available **on the SGA website via the SGA Webmaster** to all students at least ten full class days before the qualifications review process is to begin.

B. The qualifications review for executive officers shall be held by the Executive Council.

C. Interviews of qualified candidates must be held by the appropriate executive branch official.

D. The nomination shall be made and presented to the Senate for approval within ten full class days of the qualifications review and interview process.

E. In the absence of the President and the Executive Vice President, the line of succession shall be Speaker of Senate, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President for External Affairs, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Executive Secretary.

F. The new president together with the remaining officers of the Executive Council will interview and appoint individuals to fill any remaining vacant Executive Council positions in accordance with Article IV, Section 4, Subsections A-D.

Section 5: Executive Powers and Duties of the President. The President of the Student Government Association shall:

A. Lead the SGA in achieving the objectives of **the SGA Constitution governing documents.**

- B. Serve as chairperson of the Executive Council.
- C. Appoint the Chief of Staff within ten full class days of the beginning of his or her term of office.
- D. Notify the Senate, in writing, of any vacancies which may occur in the Executive Council or Executive Cabinet, within ten full class days of receiving notice of such vacancy. If the Senate by its adjournment prevents such notice, the notice shall be given at the first meeting of the Senate after its adjournment.
- E. Call special sessions of the Senate when deemed necessary.
- F. Reappoint any appointed officials of the executive branch who serve at the will of the President according to the provisions of Article IV, Section 4.
- G. Form new committees as needed and assign them to the appropriate executive branch officials.
- H. Serve as a member or an ex-officio member of all executive committees.
- I. Deliver the "State of the School Address" ~~each semester~~.
 - 1. The State of the School Address shall take place in January of each year.
- J. Possess a limited veto power.
 - 1. The SGA President shall exercise veto power as he or she sees fit over all Acts of Senate and Bills of Law passed by the Senate.
 - a. A veto of Acts of Senate and Bills of Law must be done within five full class days after the President's receipt of said legislation.
 - i. The process of vetoing an Act of Senate or Bill of Law is outlined in Article III, Section 8, subsection B(2).
 - b. After five full class days following the President's initial receipt, all Acts of Senate and Bills of Laws will be considered passed with or without the President's signature unless vetoed.
 - 2. The SGA President shall not possess the right to exercise a line-item veto over all Acts of Senate and Bills of Law passed by the Senate.
 - 3. The SGA President shall not possess the right to exercise a veto or line-item veto on Resolutions passed by the Senate.

K. Serve as chief liaison between the SGA and organizations internal and external to The University of Alabama.

L. Serve as the student representative to The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees, or if unable to attend, ensure the Executive Vice President is able to attend.

M. Schedule Executive Council meetings.

N. Instruct the incoming SGA President on all matters pertaining to the office of President before leaving office.

O. Propose legislation to the Student Senate.

Section 8: Duties of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall:

A. Maintain a permanent record of all executive business.

B. Keep records of all Executive Council meetings and make these records available to students within three full class days after the meetings. The records of the meetings shall indicate all Executive Council members present at the meetings.

C. Keep and make available a permanent record of this Constitution, SGA rules and regulations, and the structure of all SGA departments and offices and take responsibility for distributing them to all newly elected officers of the SGA.

D. Act as historian of the SGA by recording all SGA events.

E. Make available the "State of the School Address" to the SGA Webmaster each semester.

F. Perform other such duties as the President or Executive Council may assign.

G. Instruct the incoming Executive Secretary on all matters pertaining to the office of the Executive Secretary before leaving office.

Section 9: Duties of the Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents of the Student Government Association shall include the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for External Affairs, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the Vice President for Financial Affairs.

A. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall propose and execute the policies of the SGA in such areas as academic programs, curriculum, instructional support, registration, advising, tutorial programs, exam schedules, and other projects, programs and initiatives

related to academic affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to academic affairs of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;
6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law;
8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Academic Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Academic Affairs before leaving office.

B. The Vice President for External Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in such areas as student concerns and issues in the Alabama Legislature, Tuscaloosa City Council, alumni organizations, national organizations, other colleges and universities, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to external affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for External Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to external affairs of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to decide office sizes and establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;

6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;

7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law

8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for External Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for External Affairs before leaving office.

C. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in such areas as social policies, recreation and entertainment, athletic events, spirit events, special campus events, **block seating**, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to student affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Student Affairs shall:

1. Establish appropriate executive branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to student affairs of The University of Alabama;

2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to decide office sizes and establish the director selection process;

3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;

4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;

5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;

6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;

7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law.

8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Student Affairs on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Student Affairs before leaving office.

D. The Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall propose and execute the policies of the SGA insuring the inclusivity of all students, regardless of gender identity or expression, ability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, language, religious beliefs or any and all backgrounds, while simultaneously serving as the SGA's liaison to students of cultural, racial, or ethnic minority, international students, LGBTQIA+ students, veteran students, students with disabilities, and students who may feel underrepresented

or marginalized at any point in their time on campus. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall:

1. Establish appropriate Executive Branch offices and committees to consider matters relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of The University of Alabama;
2. Collaborate with the SGA President, office directors, and committees to establish the director selection process;
3. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;
4. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
5. Establish or suspend offices and committees as may be required;
6. Perform the above-mentioned duties as well as other such duties at the discretion of the SGA President;
7. Carry out the requirements of passed Acts of the Senate and Bills of Law;
8. Instruct the incoming Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion before leaving office.

E. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall propose and execute policies of the SGA in areas of financial management such as financial aid (student loans, scholarships, employment, work study programs, insurance), tuition, SGA expenses, and other projects, programs, and initiatives related to student affairs. In carrying out the duties of this office the Vice President for Financial Affairs shall:

1. Select the Treasurer, as outlined in Article IV, Section 10, subsection B, based upon application, merit, and qualifications, with confirmation by the Executive Council and a majority Senate vote;
2. Establish and serve as Chairperson of the Financial Affairs Committee;
 - a. The Financial Affairs committee shall meet ~~at least monthly during the academic year~~ **once per every full 30 class days** to allocate funds as deemed appropriate in accordance with the Financial Affairs Committee's established rules and regulations.
 - b. The Financial Affairs Committee shall be composed of the Vice President for Financial Affairs, who chairs the committee; the SGA

Treasurer; five members of the Senate Committee on Finance; three members from the coordinating body of student organizations; and two members from the heads of student organizations selected by the University of Alabama's Vice President for Student Affairs in conjunction with the administration of The University of Alabama.

i. Quorum constitutes two-thirds of the committee's membership and shall be required in order to conduct business.

ii. The Vice President for Financial Affairs shall exercise voting privileges on the Financial Affairs Committee when the voting of the regular members of the Financial Affairs Committee results in a tie. The SGA Treasurer shall serve as a non-voting member exofficio on the Financial Affairs Committee. c. The Vice President for Financial Affairs must present the proposed allocations to the Senate for approval within two Senate sessions following the Financial Affairs Committee meeting.

3. Oversee all financial transactions of the Student Government Association;
4. Collect and disburse funds of the SGA using accounting standards that are accepted and practiced by The University of Alabama System and keep a permanent record that is available to any student of The University of Alabama;
5. Render an account of current finances to the Senate quarterly and upon request;
6. Compile ~~and post on the SGA website~~ a financial statement of all SGA operations at least once monthly during the fall and spring semesters ~~and forward to Webmaster for posting on the SGA website~~;
7. Prepare the SGA budget annually and present such budget to the Senate;
 - a. The budget must be presented to the SGA Senate by fifteen calendar days prior to the new fiscal year.
8. Aid SGA offices in preparing budgets;
9. Establish the appropriate offices to consider matters relating to financial affairs of The University of Alabama and suspend offices as may be required with the approval of the Executive Council;
10. Maintain consistent communication with the SGA President;

11. Maintain consistent communication on a monthly basis during the academic year with the staff of his or her office;
12. Present records to the incoming SGA President and Vice President for Financial Affairs at the end of each administration;
13. Oversee disbursement of money from the SGA Emergency Loan Fund;
14. Advise and manage the Treasurer in the fulfillment of his or her duties;
15. Perform other such duties as the Executive Council may assign;
16. Instruct the incoming officers on all matters pertaining to the office of Vice President for Financial Affairs before leaving office;
17. Prepare a pay scale for the upcoming Fiscal Year that will be presented to the incoming officers as their pay scale. In the event that a position is added, modified, or deleted in the SGA Code of Laws or SGA Constitution, the incoming VPFA will retain the ability to modify the pay scale for that office.

Section 10: Executive Cabinet. The President shall create appointed positions within the Executive Branch that serve the President in the administration and facilitation of the duties of his or her office. **The Speaker of the Senate and the Chief Justice shall be appointed by their respective branches.** These appointed positions shall be listed below, and their duties shall be enumerated in the Code of Laws. All executive cabinet positions with the title of “Chief” shall be permanent Executive Cabinet positions. Furthermore, the Treasurer and the Attorney General shall be permanent Executive Cabinet positions. The Executive Cabinet application shall be opened one day after the spring general election, and it shall close after ten school days. The Executive Cabinet shall only have one student per position. The only exception shall be deputy appointments.

A. The Chief of Staff shall oversee the Executive Cabinet.

B. The Treasurer shall serve as a member ~~on~~-of the Executive Cabinet that assists the Vice President for Financial Affairs in achieving the duties of his or her office. The Treasurer shall be enumerated with the following duties at the discretion of the Vice President for Financial Affairs. The Treasurer shall:

1. Organize and file all paperwork that comes through the financial affairs office;
2. Assist in processing all paperwork;
3. Serve as a secretary during Financial Affairs Committee meetings;

4. Appear and speak on behalf of the Vice President for Financial Affairs in his or her absence;
5. Assist in the planning and execution of fundraising events;
6. Record allocations of SGA funds and give advice on SGA expenditures;
7. Succeed the Vice President for Financial Affairs if the Vice President for Financial Affairs vacates his or her office;
8. Possess other duties as delegated in this Constitution and the Code of Laws.

C. The Attorney General shall serve as a member of the Executive Cabinet. The Attorney General shall:

1. Be responsible for the upkeep of the SGA Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution;
2. Write executive orders at the discretion of the SGA President;
3. Clearly communicate the duties of office to SGA officials;
4. Advise the Executive Council on lawful procedure;
5. Issue legal opinions on matters pertaining to this Constitution and any rules or regulations which may be established pursuant to this Constitution;
6. Advise SGA officials on the requirements outlined in the SGA Code of Laws;
7. Possess other duties delegated in this Constitution and the SGA Code of Laws;
8. Be nominated through letters of recommendation submitted by faculty and staff members at The University of Alabama.
 - a. Candidates shall be interviewed by an inter-governmental committee composed of the SGA President, Chief of Staff, and the Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Board.
 - b. The committee shall recommend a candidate to be appointed Attorney General. The Senate shall either confirm or reject the committee's recommended candidate by a majority vote (fifty percent plus one vote).

D. The remaining Executive Cabinet positions shall consist of:

1. Chief Administrative Officer

2. Chief Advisor
3. Director of Programming and Advancement
4. Director of Engagement
5. Director of Environmental Affairs
6. Director of Communications
7. Director of IT and Webmaster
8. Director of Strategic Initiatives
9. Press Secretary
10. Chief Justice
11. Speaker of the Senate
12. Deputy Chief of Staff (may be more than one person)

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.