

Newsletter

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



**ADVOCATING FOR STUDENT INTERESTS
EMPOWERING THE STUDENT VOICE**



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USGA NEWSLETTER 2025-2026



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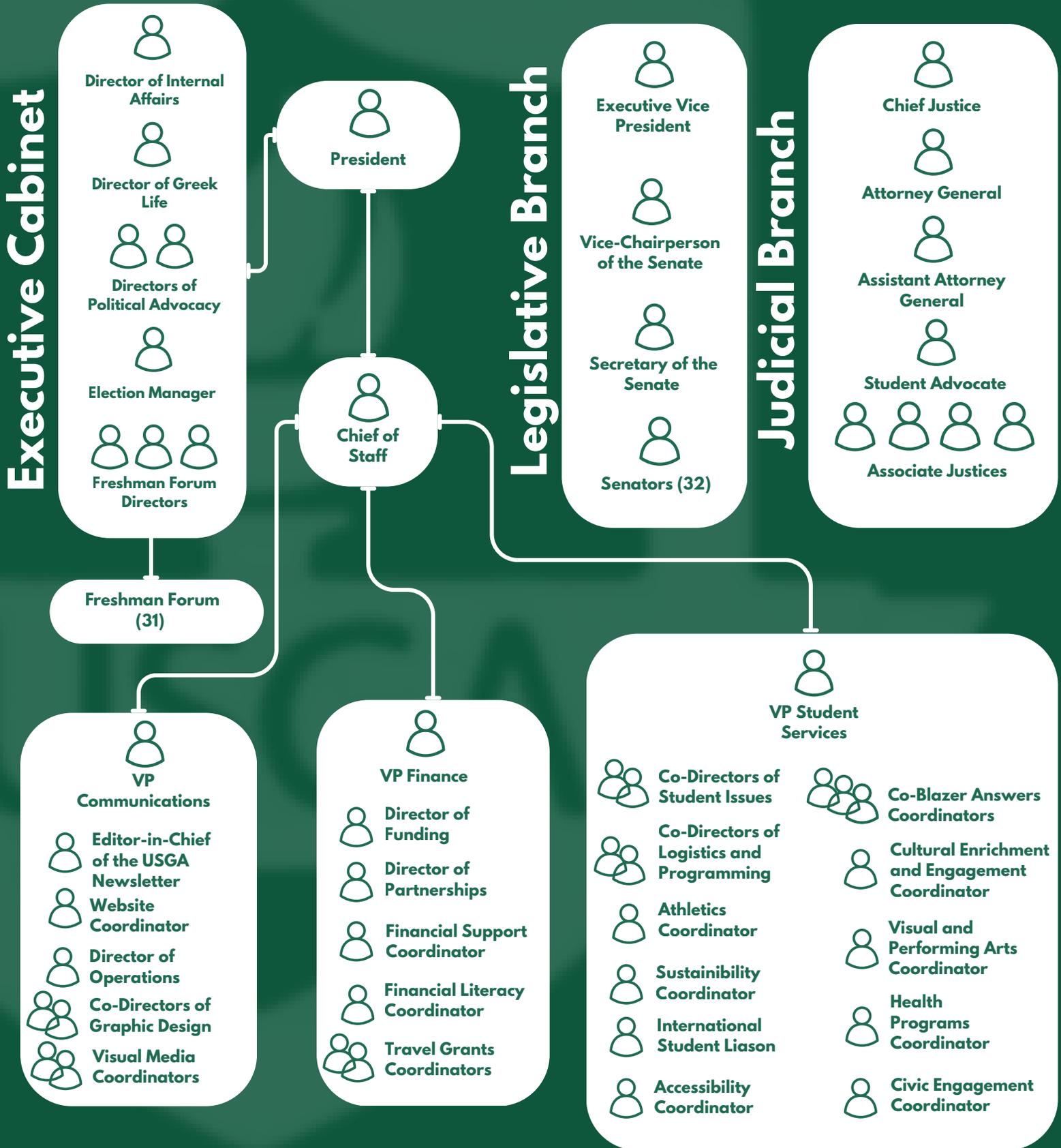


Diya Patel
Website Coordinator

USGA Structure



2025-2026



Saad's Statements

February 2026



Monthly Updates

President
Saad Khan

USGA has started off the 2026 year strong! At the beginning of this semester, I met with representatives from UAB's Departments of Housing and Facilities to discuss the Winter Break Fee implemented by Housing late in the Fall semester as well as the Resolution that USGA passed in response to the situation. The meeting minutes along with the Survey data that USGA received and the data from Housing regarding the number of students who stayed on campus should be publicized soon! I have also had the opportunity to speak to the Provost, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the UAB President, and the UA System Board of Trustees to share the incredible work USGA has been doing and provide updates on the state of the student body! We anticipate on having a constitutional amendment for the student body to vote on to change RSO Funding requests from a semesterly to a yearly timeline! I have a meeting on Wednesday February 11th with Dr. Scott Phillips, the Vice Provost, to rediscuss having Undergraduate majors on diplomas. Furthermore, USGA will advocate for a larger operating budget for the next academic year so that we can better support our students! For the Blazer Punch Card Initiative, the Division of Finance has taken over the initiative and we hope to get it completed by the end of the semester!

It's...

ELECTION SEASON

Monthly
Updates

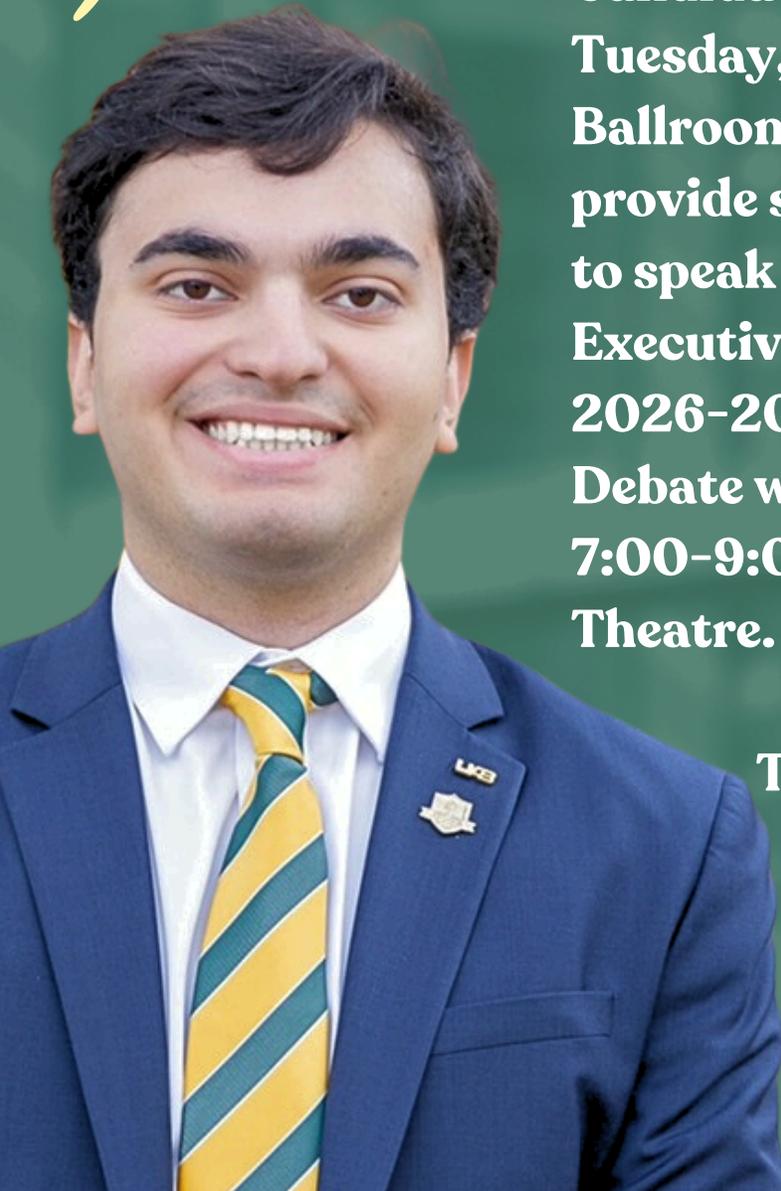


Election Chair
Samir Abouhaider



USGA Elections!

The USGA Election is fast approaching! Campaigning for Executive Council and Senate Positions began Monday February 16th. The "Meet the Candidates" Event will be held on Tuesday, February 24th in the HSC Ballrooms from 4:00-6:00 PM and will provide students with the opportunities to speak with all of their Senate and Executive Council candidates for the 2026-2027 year. The Executive Council Debate will immediately follow it from 7:00-9:00 PM in the HSC Alumni Theatre.



The USGA Election is Monday, March 2nd to Tuesday, March 3rd! For any election questions or complaints, contact Samir Abouhaider (snabouha@uab.edu)!

Catchin' Up With **COMMS**

Monthly Updates

Editor-in-Chief
of the Newsletter
Thirishaa Pothini
Balaji



USGA Follow Frenzy

Are you following the USGA Instagram? The Division of Communications has launched an internal USGA initiative to encourage social media growth. This initiative encourages USGA members to seek out new followers on our social media!

Fall Legislation Publicized!

Four pieces of legislation went into effect by the end of the Fall Semester, which have been publicized on the Instagram/Facebook. If you'd like to take a look at the specifics, check out the USGA Website to see all passed and signed legislation documents.

Formal Meeting Minutes Schedule

USGA has publicized its formal meeting schedule! Check it out on the USGA Website, Instagram, or Facebook. We encourage members of the Undergraduate Student Body to come and take an active role by attending these meetings and voicing their concerns.

Fun With Finance

Finance!

Monthly Updates

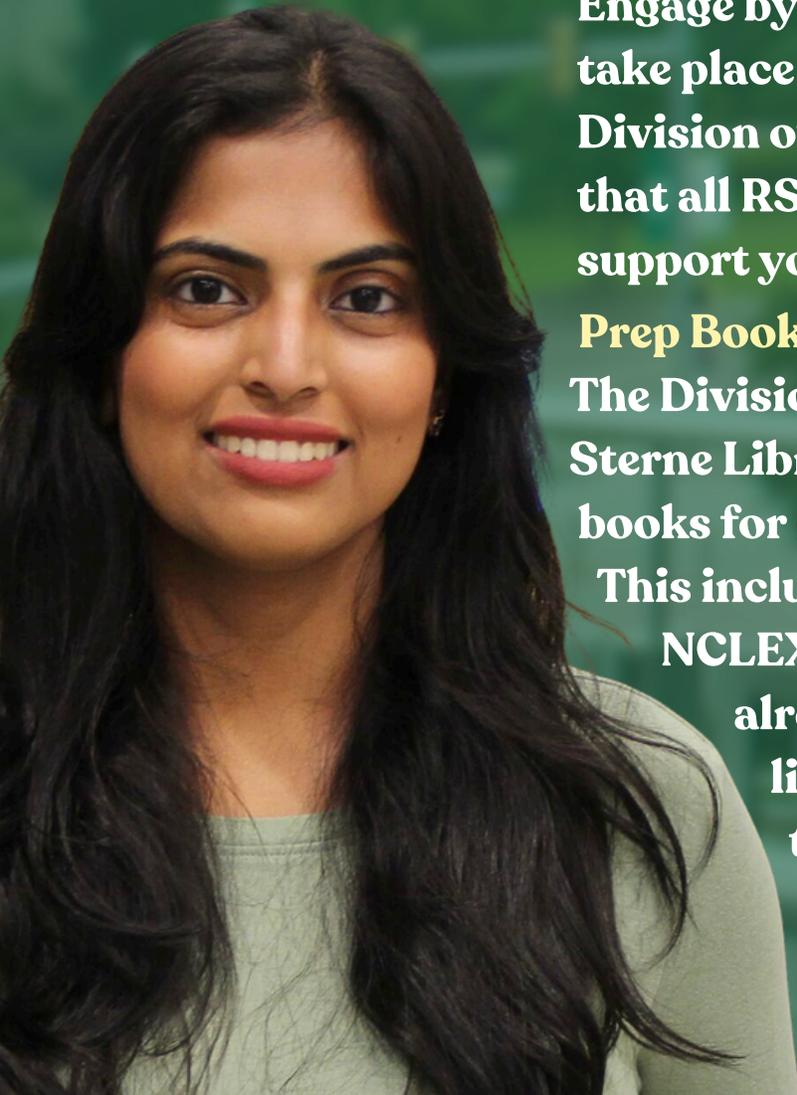
Co-Travel Grants
Coordinator
Afsheen Fatima

Fall 2026 Budget Process

The Division of Finance has started the Fall 2026 Budget Process! The USGA RSO Affiliate Application should have been submitted by February 6th. This will let the Division of Finance know that your organization is interested in receiving funds for the upcoming semester. RSOs should've complete their Budget Request through Engage by February 13th. Budget Hearing will take place from February 16th - 27th. The Division of Finance working hard to ensure that all RSOs are receiving their funds to support your events!

Prep Book Program

The Division of Finance has worked with Sterne Library to provide students with prep-books for graduate school entrance exams. This includes, but not limited to GRE, MCAT, NCLEX, LSAT books. Several student have already check out these books from the library. The Division of Financhoping to expand this program to more students by providing more resources, so please check out this program at Sterne Library!



Sit Down with

STUDENT SERVICES

Monthly Updates

Health Programs

Coordinator

David Delk

Student Forum

The Division of Student Services is excited to be hosting Student Forum, a semesterly event meant to engage and connect students with UAB departments. Come enjoy delicious cheesecake and cookies for free on February 25th on the Campus Green.

Sock Monkeys and Slime

Take a moment to head over to Sterne Plaza on February 18th for a moment of self-care. Student Services will be hosting an event where you can make sock monkeys and slime. This event is meant to promote self care as a reminder for students to prioritize health and well being.



Election Commission

Sticker Competition!

The Election Commission is excited to bring back the "I Voted" Sticker Competition!

The last day to submit any artwork for this was on Feb. 16... keep tuned for the results to see the winner!



Freshman
Forum Member
Matthew Ngo



Student Advocate
Isabel Blevins



Just Chillin' with JUDICIAL

Higher Ed Day!

USGA will represent UAB at Higher Education Day on Thursday, February 19th! Higher Education Day is an annual advocacy event held in Montgomery to provide students with the opportunity to speak with local legislators about the importance of UAB and Higher Education in the state of Alabama.



Freshman Forum

2025-2026

Initiatives Are In The Making!

Over the past month, Freshman Forum has picked up great momentum, with students staying engaged and moving forward within their initiative groups. Each team has been actively working to bring their ideas into fruition. The initiatives that are on going are career and internship opportunities for freshman who want to start early, health and wellness, community and student engagement, advocacy and representation, and campus improvement.



Freshman Forum
Co-Director
Darrius Bushe



Freshman Forum
Member
Cat Wright



Lobby Board

Tabling and Other Events!

Lobby Board is excited to have various tabling events this semester to encourage civic engagement and foster a healthy discourse about issues important to students. Lobby Board is also planning to host several events this semester with the Sociology Club, the Pre-Law Club, and the ACLU of Alabama, all focusing on different aspects of our annual theme of VOTING. Don't forget to check your voter registration in time for the Midterm Elections later this year!





Speak Out with the SENATE

Monthly Updates

School of Public Health Senator
Ameena Momand



Legislation!

In this month, Senate has passed legislation intending to increase transparency and accountability within USGA. These include Bills outline processes to publicize funding reports and define committees.

Events!

Student Life senators are planning an event to on 2/26 to engage students in a conversation regarding their experiences on campus. Engineering senators are also partnering with the Women Society of Engineers to host an event on 2/26, so please be on the lookout for both of these!

Initiatives

The campus recreation improvements survey is still open and senators are collaborating with the Recreation center to incorporate the responses. Senators In Academic Affairs committee are pushing to get their last 50 responses for the Diplomas on Majors survey to reach 10% of the undergraduate population.

Members of the Month



February 2026



Sydney Testman
Freshman Forum
Director



Aadhya Kankipati
Director of
Operations



Sarah Jerry
Director of Funding



Avery Fishbach
School of Nursing
Senator



Juhi Arora
Freshman Forum
Member



William Knox
Freshman Forum
Member



Mohammed Elimam
School of Engineering
Senator



Vibha Chandra
Blazer Answers
Coordinator



Lily Nguyen
Blazer Answers
Coordinator

See You Soon!

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

