

Date Introduced: September 3, 2019Date Voted Upon: October 1, 2019

A Bill to be Entitled  
**Updating the Code of Laws**

1 WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government Association  
2 has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student voice; and  
3  
4 WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body toward positive and  
5 relevant changes; and  
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7 WHEREAS updating the Code of Laws is a positive and relevant change that helps USGA act in  
8 accordance with its guiding documents; and  
9  
10 WHEREAS the Code of Laws Committee was established to update the Code of Laws; and  
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12 WHEREAS the Code of Laws Committee unanimously recommended the following changes to the Code  
13 of Laws; and  
14  
15 WHEREAS the committee recommends the deleting the Section 201.1 clause “Any appointed member  
16 may be removed at will by the President.” to prevent the President from overriding a demerit system; and  
17  
18 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 201.3 from “The Chief of Staff shall  
19 serve as the chief administrative officer of the USGA, serving all branches and departments at  
20 the advice and consent of the USGA President after appointment by the USGA Senate.” to  
21 “The Chief of Staff shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the USGA, serving all  
22 branches and departments at the advice and consent of the USGA President after appointment  
23 by the President and approval by the USGA Senate.” to clarify the selection of the Chief of Staff; and  
24  
25 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 201.4 from “The Chief of Staff shall  
26 specifically...Ensure that members of the Executive Cabinet are fulfilling the requirements of their job...”  
27 to “The Chief of Staff shall...Preside over Cabinet meetings and ensure that members of the Executive  
28 Cabinet are fulfilling the requirements of their job...” to clarify a significant responsibility of the Chief of  
29 Staff; and  
30  
31 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing 201.5 (1) from “(1) Publicity/Communications Staff  
32 and Committees (2) Finance Committee and Chairperson (3) Travel Grants Chairperson (4)  
33 Emergency Student Loan Chairperson (5) STARS Coordinator (6) Candidate Orientation  
34 Coordinator (7) Freshman Forum Director(s) (8) Student Services Staff and Committees “ to  
35 ““Finance division members, Student Services division members, Communications division members,  
36 Executive Vice President division members, Chief Justice, and Associate Justices” to update the titles of  
37 USGA positions; and  
38  
39 WHEREAS the committee recommends moving Section 202.0 (202.1-202.2), which covers the Executive  
40 Discretionary Fund to Title V - Funding Guidelines for better organization; and  
41  
42 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 203.3 from “The Vice President of Finance  
43 shall evaluate scholarship allocations every semester during the creation of the semester USGA Budget”  
44 to “The Vice President of Finance shall evaluate scholarship and stipend allocations every semester  
45 during the creation of the semester USGA budget” to more accurately represent the stipend and  
46 scholarship application process; and  
47

48 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 204.1 from "All members of the  
49 Executive Branch are bound to the guidelines listed in the Executive Branch Policies and  
50 Procedures, and are subject to the sanctions therein." to "All members of the Executive Branch  
51 are bound to the guidelines listed in the Executive Branch Policies and Procedures, and are  
52 subject to their respective demerit policies." to clarify that members are subject to sanctions found in  
53 their demerit policies; and

54  
55 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 301.0.2 "The Executive Vice President presides  
56 over both formal and informal Senate meetings." to clarify a significant responsibility of the Executive Vice  
57 President; and

58  
59 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.1 from "Beginning the first full week of  
60 each semester, the Senate shall convene every other week to conduct the Order of Business of  
61 the Senate." to "Beginning the first or second full week of each semester, the Senate shall  
62 convene approximately every other week during a formal Senate meeting to conduct the Order of  
63 Business of the Senate." to allow Senate meetings to be held at flexible times; and

64  
65 WHEREAS the committee recommends altering the Order of Business as dictated in Section 301.1.2 to  
66 move Reports of the Executive Branch and Reports of the Judicial Branch before the Guest Speaker to  
67 allow members of these divisions to give their own updates in person without requiring them to stay  
68 through a guest speaker presentation; and

69  
70 WHEREAS the committee recommends altering the Order of Business as dictated in Section 301.1.2 to  
71 replace reports of the Freshman Forum Director to reports of the Campus Relations Director to better  
72 utilize the Senate's time and inform the Senate on student concerns brought to the attention of the  
73 Campus Relations Director; and

74  
75 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.3 from "The Senate may, by a  
76 majority vote, revise the Order of Business to take a section out of its proper order" to "The  
77 Senate may, by a majority vote revise the Order of Business to take a section out or adjust the proper  
78 order" for clarification; and

79  
80 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.4 from "Standing Committees of the  
81 USGA shall meet at least every alternate week, being the week that the Senate is not in  
82 session." to "Standing Committees of the USGA shall meet in an informal Senate meeting at least  
83 every alternate week, being the week that the Senate is not in session." to clarify that committee  
84 meetings are considered informal Senate meetings; and

85  
86 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.2.2. from "As set forth in Article IV of  
87 the USGA Constitution, the elected Executive Vice President of the USGA shall serve as the  
88 Chairperson of the Senate unless the Vice Chairperson of the Senate is serving in the  
89 Chairperson's absence. The Chairperson may leave the Chair to participate in debate or  
90 discussion, wherein the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the Senate until the close of the  
91 debate or discussion. The Chairperson shall then resume in presiding over the Senate" to "The  
92 elected Executive Vice President of the USGA shall serve as the Chairperson of the Senate. The Vice  
93 Chairperson of the Senate shall serve in the Chairperson's absence. The Chairperson may leave the  
94 Chair to participate in debate or discussion, wherein the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the Senate  
95 until the close of the debate or discussion. The Chairperson shall then resume in presiding over the  
96 Senate" for clarification; and

97  
98 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.1 (2) from "All bills and resolutions  
99 shall be titled. Bills and resolutions may be titled in either of the following two manners:" All bills  
100 and resolutions must be titled in either of the following two manners:" for clarification; and

101  
102 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 301.3.2 "A bill shall be defined as a change to the  
103 Code of Laws and a resolution shall be defined as a formal expression of support by USGA." to

104 distinguish between bills and resolutions and renumbering the sections in 301.3 (e.g. the current Section  
105 301.3.2 will become Section 301.3.3 and the current section 301.3.3 will become 301.3.4); and  
106

107 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.2 from "All bills and resolutions must  
108 have an author, sponsor, and contact." to "All bills and resolutions must have an author, sponsor, and  
109 contact. The author is defined as the writer of the bill or resolution, the sponsor is defined as the USGA  
110 Senators who support the bill or resolution, and the contact is defined as the individual relevant to the bill  
111 or resolution." to outline the definitions of author, sponsor, and contact; and  
112

113 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.4 from "All bills and resolutions shall be  
114 sponsored by a senator" to "All bills and resolutions shall be sponsored by a senator, and only senators  
115 may sponsor bills and resolutions" for clarification; and  
116

117 WHEREAS the committee recommends removing section Section 201.3.5 stating "All financial bills shall  
118 follow the USGA Funding Guidelines as set forth in Title V of this Code of Laws. All bills  
119 pertaining to money shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate in accordance with §  
120 301.5.7" because financial bills is not a defined term; and  
121

122 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.7 from "In accordance with §  
123 301.5.7, all other bills and resolutions shall require a majority vote of the Senate." To  
124 "In accordance with § 301.5.7, all other bills and resolutions shall require a majority vote of the  
125 Senate in special sessions or formal Senate meetings." to clarify when bills and resolutions can be voted  
126 on; and  
127

128 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.4.1 from "Passage of Amendments to the  
129 USGA Code of Laws" to "Passage of Bills to Amend the USGA code of laws" to clarify that amendments  
130 involve changes to the Constitution and bills involve changes to the Code of Laws; and  
131

132 WHEREAS the committee recommends substituting every instance of the word "amendment" in Section  
133 301.4 to "bill" because "bill" applies to changes to the Code of Laws; and  
134

135 WHEREAS the committee recommends removing Section 301.4.5 stating "All financial amendments shall  
136 be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate in accordance with § 301.5.8" because the term "financial  
137 amendment" is not defined; and  
138

139 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.5.7 from "A simple majority vote shall  
140 be required:" to "As required by parliamentary procedures according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly  
141 Revised (RONR) a simple majority vote shall be required:" and removing bullet (3) from the following list  
142 for clarification; and  
143

144 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.5.8 (6) from "To approve amendments to  
145 the Budget Bill or any other legislation pertaining to money;" to "To approve the RSO Budget and  
146 pertinent amendments to the RSO Budget" to more accurately describe the RSO Budget approval  
147 process; and  
148

149 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.7.1 from "When in session, senators  
150 and officers of the USGA shall adhere to a dress code consisting of business casual attire" to  
151 "When in session, senators and officers of the USGA shall adhere to a dress code consisting of  
152 business casual attire, unless the Executive Vice President indicates otherwise" to allow for more  
153 flexibility in dress code; and  
154

155 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the clause of Section 301.8.1 reading "There shall be  
156 four Standing Committees of the USGA" to "There shall be at least four Standing Committees of the  
157 USGA" to allow for more flexibility in the Senate structure as new student concerns arise; and  
158

159 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the clause of Section 301.8.1 reading The Standing

160 Committees of the USGA shall be structured by the Executive Vice President who will present  
161 this structure to the President and Vice Presidents for approval by majority vote” to The Standing  
162 Committees of the USGA shall be structured by the Executive Vice President who will present this  
163 structure to the Senate for approval by 2/3 majority vote” to more appropriately assign responsibilities;  
164 and

165  
166 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 301.8.5 reading “A Committee Chairperson  
167 shall be required to attend all committee meetings and shall be removed from his or her position  
168 upon missing two meetings during any given semester” for clarification with new demerit policy  
169 procedures; and

170  
171 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting section 302.2 reading “Freshman Forum shall be  
172 defined as a program with the purpose of developing skills such as: identification of issues on  
173 campus, innovation of solutions, and interaction with peers who have differing opinions.  
174 Programming will prepare freshman for leadership, specifically for a future within USGA” because  
175 it does not set up structure nor give direction for Freshman Forum; therefore, it is not appropriate  
176 information for the Code of Laws; and

177  
178 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 302.3 from “Members of the Freshman Forum  
179 will elect their own officers” to “Members of the Freshman Forum may elect their own officers” to allow for  
180 more flexibility; and

181  
182 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 302.4 from “A previous member of the  
183 Forum will be appointed by the USGA President and be confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of  
184 the Senate. He or she will act the Director(s) of the Freshman Forum and serve on the USGA  
185 President’s Executive Branch” to “Freshman Forum Director(s) will be appointed by the USGA  
186 President and confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. They will act as the Director(s) of the  
187 Freshman Forum and serve on the USGA President’s Executive Branch” to allow for more flexibility in  
188 Freshman Forum Director selection; and

189  
190 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.1 from “All actions against any party will  
191 commence by filing a written complaint with the Student Court, which shall in turn notify the  
192 Student Advocate.” to “All actions against any party will commence by filing a written  
193 complaint with the Student Court, which shall in turn notify the Student Advocate and Attorney  
194 General.” to allow the Attorney General to be more involved in the processes of the Student Court; and

195  
196 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.3 from “The decision for Dismissal of a  
197 complaint may be appealed by written request submitted to the USGA Advisor within five  
198 business days after a decision to dismiss by the Student Court. The decision of the USGA  
199 Advisor shall be rendered at least ten business days from receipt of written request. Upon  
200 receipt of appeal of a dismissal, the USGA Advisor may either affirm the Student Court’s  
201 decision or direct the Student Court to entertain the complaint, following the procedure set forth  
202 in Title IV of the USGA Code of Laws. The decision of the USGA Advisor shall be considered  
203 final.” to “The decision for Dismissal of a complaint may be appealed by written request  
204 submitted to the USGA Advisor(s) within five business days after a decision to dismiss by the  
205 Student Court. The decision of the USGA Advisor(s) shall be rendered at least ten business  
206 days from receipt of written request. Upon receipt of appeal of a dismissal, the  
207 USGA Advisor(s) may either affirm the Student Court’s decision or direct the Student Court to  
208 entertain the complaint, following the procedure set forth in Title IV of the USGA Code of Laws.  
209 The decision of the USGA Advisor(s) shall be considered final.” to allow important decisions to be  
210 made by all of the USGA Advisors and not just one; and

211  
212 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.6 from “The USGA Student Court shall  
213 not have jurisdiction over any matters of violation of Alabama Criminal Laws (Title 13A) and will  
214 result in the dismissal of a filed complaint.” to “The USGA Student Court shall not have

215 jurisdiction over any matters of violation of Alabama Criminal Laws (Title 13A) and such filed  
216 complaints will be dismissed.” to improve the wording of this section; and

217  
218 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.7 from “The President shall appoint an  
219 attorney to represent the USGA and act as its spokesperson.” to “The President shall appoint the  
220 Attorney General to represent the USGA and act as its spokesperson.” to clarify the mention of  
221 attorney; and

222  
223 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 404.1 from “Both the Plaintiff and  
224 Defendant’s respective counsel shall deliver a five minute opening statement.” to “Both the  
225 Plaintiff and Defendant’s respective counsel are eligible to deliver a five minute opening  
226 statement.” to not force the Plaintiff and Defendant to deliver opening statements; and

227  
228 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 405.1 from “In the event there are no  
229 witness to be called on both sides, the Student Court will entertain arguments from the Plaintiff,  
230 Defendant or respective counsel for one hour, with thirty minutes to be divided between both  
231 sides. Counsel may reserve the balance of their remaining time if they wish for a rebuttal  
232 argument. It will be the responsibility of both sides to keep track of their remaining argument  
233 time” to “In the event there are no witness to be called on both sides, the Student Court will  
234 entertain arguments from the Plaintiff, Defendant or respective counsel” to remove the strict time  
235 restriction and allow for more freedom in arguments; and

236  
237 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding the clause “Note that the definition of Justices includes  
238 both Associate Justices and Chief Justice.” to the end of Section 406.5 to clarify that “Justices” includes  
239 the Chief Justice; and

240  
241 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 408.2 from “Justices shall disqualify  
242 themselves from any case, which involves parties that may influence or enjoy their favor. In the event a  
243 recusal prevents quorum from being held by the Student Court, the Chief Justice shall request the input  
244 from all parties involved entertaining a decision of whether or not said Justice shall recuse themselves. If  
245 there is no objection, then the Justice may continue to sit through arguments. If objections are raised and  
246 quorum unable to be held, the Justice shall not be considered as a part of the total number of judges for  
247 such case and their absence shall not affect the ability of the Student Court to reach quorum. The trial  
248 shall be allowed to proceed with a majority of qualified judges” to “Justices must disqualify themselves  
249 from any case which involves parties that may influence or enjoy their favor. If the Chief Justice has  
250 reason to believe that an Associate Justice is not recusing themselves when appropriate, then the rest of  
251 the Judicial Branch may vote on a decision to force the Associate Justice in question to recuse  
252 themselves. The Chief Justice alone cannot force Associate Justices to disqualify themselves from a  
253 case” to more clearly communicate the process for Justice recusal; and

254  
255 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.1 from “Appeals must be submitted by  
256 written request to the USGA Advisor within 5 business days of a decision by the Student Court.”  
257 to “Appeals must be submitted by written request to the USGA Advisor(s) within 5 business days  
258 of a decision by the Student Court.” to clarify that USGA has multiple advisors; and

259  
260 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.2 from “An Appeal Hearing shall be  
261 scheduled by the USGA Advisor within five business days of receipt of appeal request.” to “An  
262 Appeal Hearing shall be scheduled by the USGA Advisors or individual(s) the USGA Advisors  
263 delegate within five business days of receipt of appeal request.” to clarify that USGA has multiple  
264 advisors and to allow the Advisors to delegate the responsibility of scheduling hearings to another  
265 individual; and

266  
267 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding the statement “as determined by the USGA Advisors” to  
268 the end of the clause reading “All appeals must be given the right to a hearing unless the appeal does not  
269 show clear grounds of error, law or procedure by the USGA Student Court” of Section 409.3 to clarify  
270 who is responsible for identifying “error;” and

271  
272 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.6 from “The Court of Appeals shall  
273 consist of three students from the Student Body, to be selected by the USGA Advisor. Students  
274 selected must not be affiliated with either party in the proceedings. The Assistant Vice President  
275 of Student Life shall appoint two more individuals to serve on the Student Court.”  
276 to “The Court of Appeals shall consist of three students from the Student Body, to be selected  
277 by the USGA Advisor, and approved by a 2/3 majority vote by the Senate. Students selected must not  
278 be affiliated with either party in the proceedings. The Assistant Vice President of Student  
279 Experience shall appoint two more individuals to serve on the Student Court” in order to place a  
280 student check on Advisor power; and

281  
282 WHEREAS the committee changing Section 409.7 from “All decisions may be appealed upon request  
283 to the Assistant Vice President of Student Life, whose decision shall be final.” to  
284 “All decisions may be appealed upon request to the Assistant Vice President of Student  
285 Experience, whose decision shall be final.” because AVP of Student Life is no longer a position title;  
286 and

287  
288 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 412.2 from “The Court shall also send a  
289 notice to the Kaleidoscope and the USGA President, who shall inform the Senate regarding  
290 submission of the question before the discussion of the question can occur in a formal meeting  
291 of the Student Court. The Student Court shall issue an advisory opinion within ten business  
292 days of the original request.” to “The Court may publish advisory opinions as needed or upon request  
293 by students.” to remove the requirement of sending notices to the Kaleidoscope, which is not involved  
294 with internal matters of USGA and allow various students to receive such notices if they so desire; and

295  
296 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 412.3 “Upon consideration of the  
297 question, the Student Court shall issue an opinion, in writing to the student making the  
298 request. A copy shall also be sent to the Kaleidoscope and the USGA President who shall  
299 inform the Senate.” to remove the requirement of sending notices to the Kaleidoscope, which is not  
300 involved with internal matters of USGA; and

301  
302 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 413.1 from “Any Court Justice who  
303 misses more than two scheduled meetings, or judicial hearings, during any given semester, shall  
304 submit a written excuse to the Court explaining the absence before the next regularly scheduled  
305 meeting. The Student Court shall review the excuse and vote to accept or reject the absence  
306 as excused.” to “Any member of the Judicial branch shall be subject to a demerit system approved for  
307 the Judicial Branch.” to reflect the use of demerit policies typically enacted for USGA members; and

308  
309 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 413.2 “If the excuse is accepted by a  
310 majority vote of members present, then the Justice shall retain their position with the  
311 Student Court, however, their attendance record will note said absence as excused.” since  
312 demerit policies account for excuses; and

313  
314 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 413.3 “After two unexcused absences, a  
315 Justice shall forfeit their seat on the court.” since demerit policies account for unexcused absences;  
316 and

317  
318 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the last sentence of Section 500.1 from “Therefore, the  
319 following guidelines and definitions shall be used for the finances of the USGA” to ““Therefore, it is the  
320 responsibility of the Vice President of Finance to use the following guidelines and definitions for the  
321 finances of the USGA” to clarify the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance in allocating funding;  
322 and

323  
324 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 500.2 from ““Student Organizations” are  
325 defined as any departmental or special interest club, group, or organization with UAB

326 Undergraduate Academic Unit membership or affiliation. A "University-recognized organization" is  
327 defined as a student organization that:

328 1. Is currently meeting all criteria delineated in The University of Alabama at  
329 Birmingham Division of Student Affairs Policy Statement on "Criteria for  
330 Recognition of Organizations/Privileges and Recognition" and,

331 2. has an active registration on the OrgSync™-licensed "BSync" portal." to "A Registered  
332 Student Organization (RSO)" is defined as a club or organization whose purposes and activities  
333 enhance the social, cultural, recreational, and educational functions of the University. An RSO must meet  
334 all of the criteria delineated in the RSO Handbook." to clarify the definition of an RSO and its  
335 requirements; and

336  
337 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 500.3 "The majority of the members of the  
338 organization must be undergraduate students." to allow for flexibility in organization membership; and  
339

340 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 500.4 "Any organization that is applying for  
341 funding must provide a general date for their most heavily USGA-funded event. Four  
342 weeks prior to the actual date of the event, the organization must provide the Vice President of  
343 Finance of the USGA a concrete date, time, and location of the event." since organizations must  
344 submit one funding request for all their events in a semester instead of submitting individual funding  
345 requests for each event; and

346  
347 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 500.3 "The "USGA Budget" is defined as the  
348 operating budget of the USGA. The "RSO Budget" is defined as the budget allocated to RSOs. The RSO  
349 Budget is created each semester. The USGA budget may be presented at the first senate meeting of the  
350 start of the academic year." to distinguish between the USGA Budget and RSO budget; and

351  
352 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.4 from "There shall be no after-the-  
353 fact allocation of USGA funds. This clause does not conflict with Emergency Allocations as  
354 outlined in Section 503.17." to "Reallocation of USGA funds may take place if necessary." to allow for  
355 flexibility in the reallocation of funds; and

356  
357 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.4 from "USGA funds shall not be used  
358 to fund programs or services which conflict with the Constitution, the Code of Laws, or  
359 established and permanent programs and services of the USGA. Permanent programs shall be  
360 defined as a program or service planned by the Finance Committee, the Student Services  
361 Committee, or the Programs Committee which is to occur at least two consecutive semesters  
362 of the University's academic year." to "USGA funds shall not be used to fund programs or  
363 services which conflict with the Constitution or the Code of Laws." to remove unnecessary language  
364 from the Code of Laws; and

365  
366 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.9 from "The USGA shall not fund  
367 any program, service, or organization, which is not open to all Undergraduate Academic Unit  
368 students." to "The USGA shall not fund any program, service, or event, which is not open to all  
369 Undergraduate Academic Unit students." to allow the USGA to fund exclusive organizations such as  
370 honor societies; and

371  
372 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 501.10 "The USGA will not fund  
373 operational expenses of a group outside of the USGA." to give the USGA greater flexibility in  
374 funding; and

375  
376 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.12 from "USGA allocation of money  
377 for programs, activities, or material items shall be determined by: 1. Overall student  
378 appeal and/or need; 2. Significance of the program/service; and, 3. Appeal and significance priority."  
379 to "USGA allocation of money for programs, activities, or material items shall be determined by  
380 the Vice President of Finance." to allow the Vice President of Finance to a more specific rubric that  
381 evaluates the size of the organization, the feasibility and impact of the event, historical funding usage

382 data, and other information that the Vice President of Finance and the budget allocation committee deem  
383 necessary to allocate funds to an organization; and  
384

385 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting the clause "The funding of external or co-  
386 sponsored events shall not exceed seventy percent of each semester budget for the USGA."  
387 from Section 501.13 to give the USGA greater flexibility in funding; and  
388

389 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.2 from "The Finance Committee shall be  
390 responsible for initial letters or emails to be sent to funding-eligible student organizations at least  
391 one month before budget hearings via BSYNC." to "The Division of Finance shall be  
392 responsible for initial letters or emails to be sent to funding-eligible student organizations at least  
393 one month before budget hearings via Engage." to update the names of the division that allocates  
394 funds and the portal used by the division; and  
395

396 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.3 from "Budget Request Forms shall be  
397 designed by the Finance Committee Chairperson and approved by a two-thirds vote of the  
398 Finance Committee." to "Budget Request Forms shall be designed by the Vice President of Finance."  
399 since no finance committee exists and because the creation and management of the budget request  
400 process falls under the existing duties and responsibilities of the Vice President of Finance; and  
401

402 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.4 from "All funding requests  
403 for programs and services from student organizations and divisions must be submitted by  
404 Budget Request form no later than five days before the Budget Hearing." to "All funding requests  
405 from RSOs must be submitted via the Budget Request form within the Budget Request Period. The Vice  
406 President of Finance will set the Budget Request Period each semester." to allow for greater flexibility in  
407 setting the Budget Request Period; and  
408

409 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting the clauses "Requests for funding attempting to be  
410 made at the Budget Hearing without following the format herein outlined may be made if  
411 the group did not receive Notice of the Hearing on time or the Committee did not follow the  
412 guidelines herein outlined. Under these circumstances, the Committee may consider the request  
413 if the majority of the committee members present approve." from Section 502.6 to ensure that the  
414 organizations requesting a budget follow the set budget request process guidelines that are created and  
415 disseminated by the Vice President of Finance prior to the semesterly budget request process; and  
416

417 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.7 from "The Budget must be read to  
418 the Senate by the third-to-last meeting of the semester and approved by the Senate by the  
419 second-to-last meeting of the semester." to "The RSO Budget must be sent to the Senate by the last  
420 formal meeting of the semester and approved by the Senate by the last meeting of the semester." to  
421 clarify the process typically used for approving the RSO Budget; and  
422

423 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.8 from "Once the Budget Bill becomes  
424 Law, the Finance Committee shall contact each organization, committee, or group having made  
425 a Budget Request and notify them of the USGA decision on their request." to "Once the RSO  
426 Budget has been approved, the Vice President of Finance shall contact each RSO that submitted a  
427 Budget Request and notify them of the USGA decision on their request." to describe a specific role of the  
428 Vice President of Finance; and  
429

430 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 502.10 "Ten (10%) percent of the  
431 Undergraduate Student Government Association allocation for each semester will be placed in a  
432 Reserve Account, to be used for Emergency Allocation. Should the balance exceed \$10,000,  
433 any amount over \$10,000 will be returned to the General Account." since a separate emergency  
434 reserve fund containing \$10,000 already exists and cannot be used by USGA unless an emergency  
435 arises, and thus, the USGA Budget need not contain a line item allocation for an emergency reserve; and  
436



437 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.11 from “An Emergency Allocation  
438 shall be defined as an unforeseen allocation that is necessary for the maintenance of the  
439 USGA or a Special Program/Service. It will take a two-thirds vote of members present of the  
440 Senate to approve the Emergency Allocation.” to “An Emergency Allocation from the USGA Budget  
441 shall be defined as an unforeseen allocation that is necessary for the maintenance of the  
442 USGA or a Special Program/Service. It will take a two-thirds vote of members present of the  
443 Senate to approve the Emergency Allocation.” to clarify the source of the Emergency Allocation; and  
444

445 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Sections 503.2 “All amendments to the Budget  
446 Bill shall require a majority vote of the USGA Senate.” and 503.3 “Only an amendment may be  
447 used to allocate money, except for the original Budget Bill” and replacing these deleted sections  
448 with section 503.1 ““The Budget Allocation Process will be determined by the Vice President of Finance.  
449 The process may utilize a rubric for evaluation. The Allocation Committee will be headed by the Vice  
450 President of Finance and will consist of members of the Division of Finance, Executive Council, Cabinet,  
451 Senate, and Judicial. The Committee will be created by the Vice President of Finance.” to provide more  
452 relevant information about the Budget Allocation process; and  
453

454 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 505.0, which covers violations of funding  
455 guidelines, which are not possible given USGA’s current funding structure; and  
456

457 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting section 506.0, which covers sanctions imposable for  
458 violations (there is no need for sanctions if the violations cannot actually be committed); and  
459

460 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 507.1 from “The Finance Chairperson shall  
461 be held responsible for the carrying out of this Title and the actions of his/her Committee toward  
462 this Title. The Finance Chairperson and/or Vice President of Finance shall be responsible to  
463 represent the USGA on funding matters within the University as assigned by the President.” to  
464 “The Vice President of Finance shall be held responsible for the carrying out of this Title and the  
465 actions of his/her Committee toward this Title. The Vice President of Finance shall be  
466 responsible to represent the USGA on funding matters within the University as assigned by the  
467 President.” to remove the use of “Finance Chairperson,” which is an outdated title; and  
468

469 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 508.0 and 508.1, which state “The Finance  
470 Committee, when dealing with the Vice President of Finance, shall:  
471 1. Provide him/her with copies of amendments to the Budget Bill within a week of passage.  
472 2. Help the Vice President of Finance with the semester report.  
473 3. Have the Vice President of Finance as an Ad Hoc member of the Finance Committee.”;  
474 since the finance committee no longer exists and the members of the Division of Finance are  
475 responsible for assisting the Vice President of Finance with the budget hearing and allocation  
476 processes; and  
477

478 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 509.2 from “If there are events in which not  
479 enough committee members are available to audit, it is at the discretion of the Vice President of Finance  
480 to seek assistance from the Executive Cabinet or the Senate” to “If there are events in which not enough  
481 committee members are available to audit, it is at the discretion of the Vice President of Finance to seek  
482 assistance from the Executive Cabinet, the Senate, or the Judicial Branch”; and  
483

484 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 510.1 from “Student organizations requesting  
485 to receive their allocated funds as a reimbursement shall do so using the approved form as  
486 soon as possible after the event.” to “RSOs requesting to receive their allocated funds as a  
487 reimbursement shall do so using the approved form within 7 days of the event, with exceptions granted by  
488 the Division of Finance.” to provide a clear deadline on requesting reimbursements; and  
489

490 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 510.2 from “The last day to  
491 request reimbursement is one (1) month after the last day of final exams for each semester.” to

492 “The last day to request reimbursements and accompanying documents is 1 week after the last  
493 day of final exams for each semester.” to reduce the long timeline of requesting reimbursements; and  
494

495 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 601.2 from “ The Election Timetable shall  
496 be distributed by the Election Coordinator and Election Manager by the end of January.” to “ The  
497 Election Timetable shall be distributed by the Election Coordinator and Election Manager by the  
498 end of the January immediately preceding the election.” for clarification; and  
499

500 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 602.5 “The Election Manager and assistants  
501 may receive a stipend for election activities of an amount to be determined by the Vice  
502 President of Finance.” since the responsibilities of the Election Manager and assistants do not warrant  
503 stipends ; and  
504

505 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.2 from “If complaint is valid,  
506 the commission shall instruct the candidate to correct any issues or disqualify the candidate.” to  
507 “If complaint is valid, the commission shall instruct the candidate to correct any issues, issue  
508 sanctions, or disqualify the candidate. Candidates who filed a complaint or are the subject of a  
509 complaint have the right to request counsel from the Attorney General or the Student Advocate.” to allow  
510 the Election Commission to issue sanctions and clarify how candidates can request the Attorney General  
511 and Student Advocate; and  
512

513 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.4 from “Shall work with the USGA  
514 Publicity Coordinator to provide publicity for the elections.” to “Shall work with the USGA  
515 Communications Division to provide publicity for the elections.” to allow more than just one member of  
516 the Communications Division to help in publicizing elections; and  
517

518 WHEREAS the committee recommends moving Section 604.6 “Shall certify the ballot (or ballots  
519 in the event a run-off election is needed) and the election results.” to Section 603.0 so that  
520 certifying the ballot would be a duty of the Election Coordinator (usually one of the USGA Advisors) and  
521 not the Election Commission (composed of students); and  
522

523 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.7 from “Shall not endorse any candidate  
524 seeking office” to “Election Commission members, including alternates, shall not endorse any candidate  
525 seeking office.” to prevent Election Commission alternates from endorsing candidates; and  
526

527 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 605.1 from “The Spring General Election  
528 timetable shall be determined by the Election Coordinator and the Election manager to be  
529 released in January.” to The Spring General Election timetable shall be determined by the  
530 Election Coordinator and the Election manager to be released in the January immediately preceding  
531 the election.” for clarification purposes; and  
532

533 WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 605.8 “All executive council candidates must  
534 participate in the debate unless there are extenuating circumstances.” to allow the student body to hear  
535 from candidates for significant positions in a public forum; and  
536

537 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.2 from “While polls are open, all  
538 campaigning must be done at least 50 feet from all facilities.” to “While polls are open, candidates  
539 are prohibited from campaigning in person and online. Online promotion of the election by candidates  
540 must be limited to general statements that do not promote a specific candidate.” to clarify what candidates  
541 can do when polls are open; and  
542

543 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.8 from “There shall be no  
544 deliberate destruction of one candidate's campaign materials by another candidate or their  
545 campaign staff.” to “There shall be no deliberate destruction, obstruction, or removal of  
546 one candidate's campaign materials by another candidate or their campaign staff.” to outline the  
547 various actions considered election violations; and

548

549 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.11 from "Any candidate who  
550 commits voter fraud will automatically be disqualified from elections." to "Any candidate who  
551 commits voter fraud will be subject to sanctions, including disqualification, determined by the Election  
552 Commission." to give the Election Commission greater flexibility in assigning sanctions; and

553

554 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 608.3 from "Fall enrollment the semester  
555 prior to the spring general election as determined by the UAB Registrar's Office shall be used to  
556 determine the number of seats available to each school or college." to "Fall enrollment the  
557 semester prior to the spring general election as determined by the UAB Registrar's Office shall  
558 be used to determine the number of Senate seats available to each school or college." for  
559 clarification; and

560

561 WHEREAS the committee recommends removing Section 609.0, which covers Absentee Ballots, which  
562 are no longer needed since voting is now online; and

563

564 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 610.2 from "Senators, the Chief Justice, and  
565 Associate Justices shall take an oath of office no later than the second meeting after their  
566 election/confirmation." to "Senators, the Chief Justice, and Associate Justices shall take an oath of  
567 office." to allow for greater flexibility in taking the oath; and

568

569 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 700.1 from "The purpose of this program is to  
570 provide a better understanding of the USGA for those preparing to serve in the organization. It shall be  
571 mandatory for all individuals to complete the orientation prior to appointment to USGA." to "The purpose  
572 of this program is to provide a better understanding of the USGA for those preparing to serve in the  
573 organization. Individuals may complete the orientation prior to appointment to USGA." to allow for more  
574 flexibility in transitions; and

575

576 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 702.2 "Only after completing all of the  
577 requirements of the Candidate Orientation Program may candidates be appointed to USGA positions to  
578 all for more flexibility in transitions; and

579

580 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 800.2 from "The Travel Grant  
581 Coordinator shall be appointed by the USGA President from a list of willing prospects." to  
582 "The Travel Grant Coordinator shall be appointed by the Vice President of Finance from a list of  
583 willing prospects." to allow the Vice President of Finance to appoint a member of the Finance division;  
584 and

585

586 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 803.1 from "All Applications for funding  
587 should be received by the first Monday of each month for the months of September, October,  
588 November, January, February, March and April in order to receive consideration for funding for  
589 the current month. All requests received after the set deadline for that month must receive a  
590 two-thirds vote of acceptance by the Travel Grant Committee." to "Applications for funding must be  
591 received at least 2 weeks before the departure date of the conference or convention. The Travel Grant  
592 Program Coordinator may allow applications submitted less than 2 weeks before the departure date at  
593 his/her discretion." to provide clearer deadlines for submitting applications for funding; and

594

595 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 804.1 from "All applicants must be  
596 undergraduate students enrolled in the UAB Undergraduate Academic Unit at both the time of  
597 request and the time of the conference or convention." to "All applicants must be full-time  
598 undergraduate students enrolled in the UAB Undergraduate Academic Unit at both the time of  
599 request and the time of the conference or convention." to ensure that the funding allocated for travel  
600 grants is only used by full-time undergraduate students due to the funding structure of USGA; and

601

602 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 805.2 from "Transportation expenses  
603 eligible for reimbursement include airfare, train fare (coach class only), rental car (applicants

604 must give justification for why rental car was used instead of public transportation), taxi/van,  
 605 parking in host city, and parking in Birmingham (if by air or by train was the method of  
 606 transportation).” to “Transportation expenses eligible for reimbursement include but are not limited  
 607 to airfare, train fare (coach class only), rental car (applicants must give justification for why rental  
 608 car was used instead of public transportation), taxi/van, parking in host city, and parking  
 609 in Birmingham (if by air or by train was the method of transportation).” to allow for greater  
 610 flexibility in deciding which expenses are reimbursable; and

611 WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Title IX (Sections 900.0 – 911.0), which covers the  
 612 Andrew M. Sands Emergency Student Loan Program, which is no longer housed in USGA; and

613  
 614  
 615 WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 1000.0 from “Errors are defined as  
 616 the following:

- 617 1. Spelling errors
- 618 2. Grammatical errors
- 619 3. Other typing errors
- 620 4. Numeration errors
- 621 5. Continuity and consistency errors
- 622 6. Other Errors as defined by the USGA Advisor” to

623  
 624 “Errors are defined as the following:

- 625 1. Spelling errors
- 626 2. Grammatical errors
- 627 3. Other typing errors
- 628 4. Numeration errors
- 629 5. Continuity and consistency errors” to prevent the USGA Advisors from deciding alone what  
 630 constitutes an error; and

631  
 632 Whereas the committee recommends adding Section 1000.3 “The Code of Laws may be reviewed and  
 633 updated by a Code of Laws Committee every year.” to encourage the USGA to update the Code of Laws  
 634 each year through a Code of Laws Committee

635  
 636 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UAB USGA supports the above changes to the Code of Laws.

637  
 638  
 639 Author: Siddhu Srikakolapu, President 2018-19 and CoL Committee Chair  
 640 Ankit Bansal, Vice President of Finance 2018-19 and CoL Committee Member  
 641 Hanh Huynh, Senator 2018-19 and CoL Committee Member  
 642 Chris Lorimer, Associate Justice 2018-19 and CoL Committee Member  
 643 Sunya Reddy, Chief Justice 2019-20 and CoL Committee Member  
 644 Hana Habchi, President 2019-20 and CoL Committee Member  
 645 Sunna Savani, Vice President of Finance 2019-20 and CoL Committee Member  
 646 Eli Tylicki, Attorney General 2019-20 and CoL Committee Member

647  
 648 Sponsor: Hanh Huynh, USGA College of Arts and Sciences Senator

649  
 650  
 651 Contact: Hanh Huynh, College of Arts and Sciences Senator  
 652 Sunya Reddy, Chief Justice