The Constitution of the Student Government Association of The University of Alabama in Huntsville

WE The Students Of THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE, hereinafter referred to as UAH, in order to provide ourselves with organization through a governing body; to provide a forum for the free and open expression of student ideas and opinions; to foster a better understanding between University administration, faculty, and students; to train ourselves in the basic tenets of democratic government; to prepare ourselves to be active and engaged citizens; and to create an atmosphere conducive to academic achievement, do hereby establish this Constitution of The Student Government Association.

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Name

1) The name of this organization shall be “The Student Government Association of The University of Alabama in Huntsville,” hereinafter referred to as the SGA.

Section 2. Membership

1) All enrolled, degree-seeking students of UAH shall be considered members of the SGA.

Section 3. Distribution of Powers

1) The SGA shall divide its delegated powers, duties, and functions between three distinct branches to be referred to as the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch.

2) Legislative powers shall be vested in the Senate of The Student Government Association of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, hereinafter referred to as the Senate. Executive powers shall be vested in the Student Body President, hereinafter referred to as the President. Judicial powers shall be vested in the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the Chief Justice.

Section 4. Recognition of Authority

1) It is recognized that general authority over UAH is vested by law in The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama, hereinafter referred to as The Board of Trustees. Therefore, any part of this Constitution or of any law passed under the authorization thereof which is found to conflict with any law of the State of Alabama, or with any rule set by The Board of Trustees, or of The University of Alabama System Chancellor or their representatives, or policies set by the President of the University or the Dean of Students, shall be null and void from the time of its enactment.

2) The funds in the SGA’s accounts are state funds and are collected from student fees. Expenditures of the SGA’s funds are therefore subject to the same kind of controls and limitations as are applicable to other University expenditures. (refer to UAH Expenditure Guidelines) (https://www.uah.edu/images/administrative/finance/accounting-financial-reporting/UAH-expenditure_guidelines.pdf)

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ARTICLE II – QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD OFFICE AND VOTE

Section 1. Eligibility

1) Members of the SGA who meet the eligibility requirements for election, as outlined in Article IX, Section 2, are hereby permitted to hold and seek offices within the SGA.

Section 2. Voting Rights

1) All members of the SGA, including its officers, shall be entitled to vote in all external elections of the SGA.

Section 3. College and Class Voting

1) In the election of Senators representing a specific college or class, members are only permitted to vote for candidates from the college or class in which they are enrolled.

Section 4. Duties of all Officers

1) It shall be the duty of any elected or appointed officers of the SGA to abide by this Constitution, the policies of UAH, the policies of The Board of Trustees, the laws of the state of Alabama, and those of the national government of the United States of America.

ARTICLE III – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. The Powers and Duties of the Executive Branch

1) The Executive Branch shall be responsible for the enforcement and execution of the will of the SGA.

Section 2. The President

1) The President shall be elected through an annual election, by a simple-majority (refer to Glossary) of the Student Body voting in the election.

2) The President shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To preside over the Executive Branch of the SGA.
   b) To serve as the official representative of the Student Body in all matters of direct relevance to the University.
   c) To call for special sessions of the Senate, with a minimum of ninety-six (96) hours’ notice to be given to the members of the body prior to the proposed beginning of the meeting.
   d) To address the Student Body annually during the Spring Semester of their term concerning the “State of the Student Body.”
   e) To recommend to the Senate for their consideration such measures as he or she shall judge necessary and expedient.
   f) To propose the creation or dissolution of Cabinet positions within the Executive Branch, hereinafter referred to as Executive Cabinet, subject to the confirmation of the Senate.
   g) To nominate individuals to serve as Directors of the specific Executive Cabinet positions, or to ask for the recall thereof, with the confirmation of all nominations to be approved by a simple-majority of the Senate.
   h) To schedule meetings of the Executive Branch, facilitate the coordination thereof, and
provide a means of excusal for members who are unable to attend such meetings.

i) To function as co-signatory on the withdrawal of funds from any and all financial accounts held and maintained by the SGA.

j) To veto Senate legislation within thirteen (13) days of passage to include, at a minimum, a written explanation for the action.
   i) If no action on the legislation is taken by the President within the thirteen (13) days of passage, the action shall be taken as a veto, which can be overridden by the Senate with a supermajority (refer to Glossary) vote in the negative against the veto at the following meeting.

k) To serve as a member of the SGA Executive Council, as defined in Article III, Section 10.

l) To maintain a minimum of fifteen (15) office hours per week.

Section 3. The Vice President of the Senate

1) The Vice President of the Senate shall be elected in conjunction with the President by a simple-majority of the Student Body voting in the election. The Vice President of the Senate shall function as the chief voice of the Executive Branch in the Senate of the SGA. In addition, the Vice President of the Senate shall be responsible for the coordination of legislation and managing a system whereby legislation may be introduced for debate to the Senate, subject to the Bylaws of the Senate.

2) The Vice President of the Senate shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To attend and serve as the presiding officer at all meetings of the Senate.
   b) To serve in the capacity of President, in the event of the temporary absence, removal, or resignation of the President.
   c) To attend all meetings of the Executive Branch, except those sessions to which he or she has received excusal from the President.
   d) To propose the creation of special committees within the Senate for the purpose of pursuing a singular or temporary interest, subject to simple-majority confirmation by the Senate, and upon the condition that the committee’s charter will expire at the end of the Vice President of the Senate’s term in office.
   e) To serve as a member of the SGA Executive Council, as defined in Article III, Section 10.
   f) To work in conjunction with the Secretary of the SGA to distribute all necessary copies of legislation and documentation to the members of the Senate.
   g) To maintain a minimum of ten (10) consistent office hours per week.

Section 4. The Chief of Staff

1) The Chief of Staff shall be nominated by the President and Vice President of the Senate and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The Chief of Staff functions as the liaison between the President and the Executive Branch.

2) The Chief of Staff shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To fulfill the tasks delegated to them by the President.
   b) To report all demeritable actions (see Article VIII, Section 7) of members of the Executive Branch to the Chief Justice.
   c) To maintain a minimum of eight (8) consistent office hours per week.
Section 5. The Vice President of Finance

1) The Vice President of Finance shall be nominated by the Executive Council and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The Vice President of Finance functions as the chief financial officer of the SGA and should be familiar with a wide variety of accounting principles and practices. In addition, it is the duty of the Vice President of Finance to oversee all financial accounts maintained by the SGA.

2) The Vice President of Finance shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To oversee the finances of the SGA.
   b) To work with the President in the creation of a budgetary proposal to be submitted by October 15 to the Dean of Students and ultimately to the Senate for its approval.
   c) To maintain and update the SGA’s official budget.
   d) To submit a monthly report on the status of all of the SGA’s financial accounts to the Executive Cabinet.
   e) To have co-signature authority on all of the SGA’s financial accounts.
   f) To work with the Director of Organizational Funding on financial matters.
   g) To maintain a minimum of eight (8) consistent office hours per week.

Section 6. The Director of Organizational Funding

1) The Director of Organizational Funding shall be nominated by the Executive Council and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The Director of Organizational Funding functions as the chief financial officer for the SGA’s funding for student organizations and should be familiar with a wide variety of accounting techniques and practices. In addition, it is the duty of the Director of Organizational Funding to assist the Vice President of Finance with the oversight of all student organization financial accounts maintained by the SGA.

2) The Director of Organizational Funding shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To report directly to the Vice President of Finance.
   b) To maintain and update the SGA Student Organizational Funding Budget.
   c) To submit a report on the status of all student organization funding transactions to the Vice President of Finance to be included in the SGA budget.
   d) To have co-signature authority on all of the SGA’s student organization financial accounts.
   e) To handle application and paperwork for registered student organization funding requests.
   f) To serve as chair of the Registered Student Organization Funding Committee.
   g) To maintain a minimum of seven (7) consistent office hours per week.

Section 7. The Secretary

1) The Secretary shall be nominated by the Executive Council and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The purpose of the Secretary is to act as the official clerk of the Senate, to create a record of the events that have transpired on the floor of the Senate, and to distribute all meeting materials and official correspondence of the SGA.

2) The Secretary shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To attend all meetings of the Senate, excepting those instances of absence for which he or
she has been provided an excusal.

b) To record and produce minutes for each meeting of the Senate, which shall include at a minimum: the order in which motions were made, the individual(s) responsible for a given motion, and the voting record thereof. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to compile and distribute a copy of the minutes, pending articles of legislation, and any official correspondence of the SGA to the general membership of the Senate, prior to the subsequent meeting of the body.

c) To serve in conjunction with the Vice President of the Senate as the consenting officer in all cases of excusal from attendance.

d) To assist the Vice President of the Senate in calling roll at the beginning and conclusion of all Senate meetings to ensure quorum is present and that all Senators have not exceeded their permitted number of absences.

e) To read aloud to the entire Senate all minutes, articles of legislation, and other general business items brought before the body, excepting those instances in which the reading of a given item has been waived.

Section 8. The Parliamentarian

1) The Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the Executive Council and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The Parliamentarian is the internal expert on issues arising under the established floor procedures of the Senate. It is also the duty of the Parliamentarian to coordinate external elections of the SGA as an unbiased party.

2) The Parliamentarian shall have the following powers and duties:

   a) To attend all meetings of the Senate.

   b) To be responsible for the coordination and management of all external elections of the SGA.

   c) To preside over a committee composed of the Associate Justices of the Judicial Council (refer to Article VI, Section 4) for the purpose of assisting with all external elections of the SGA.

   d) To be familiar with all issues arising under the Constitution of the SGA, the Bylaws of the Senate, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

   e) To serve as the source of interpretation should disagreements arise during meetings of the Senate on issues relating to the floor procedures thereof.

   f) To maintain order in accordance with the rules in place during all meetings of the Senate and during all elections of the SGA, internal and external.

   g) To assist the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee with issuing warnings for rules violations that occur during meetings of the Senate.

3) In the event that the Parliamentarian wishes to run for election, they must resign their position before the election occurs.

Section 9. The Freshmen Forum Director

1) The Freshmen Forum Director shall be nominated by the Executive Council (defined in Article III, Section 10) and confirmed by a simple-majority of the Senate. The Freshmen Forum Director shall be the presiding officer of the Freshmen Forum (defined in Article V).
2) The Freshmen Forum Director shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To open an application for Freshmen Forum no later than August 1.
   b) To maintain a minimum of seven (7) consistent office hours per week.

Section 10. The Executive Council

1) The SGA Executive Council shall be composed of the President, the Vice President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Senate (defined in Article IV, Section 5).

2) It is the responsibility of the Executive Council to nominate qualified individuals to serve in any vacated positions within the Executive Branch, excepting those of the President and Vice President of the Senate. It is also the duty of the Executive Council to nominate qualified individuals to serve in open positions in the Senate.

3) In order for an individual to be nominated by the Executive Council, the Executive Council must vote by a simple-majority in the affirmative for the nomination.

4) All decisions of the Executive Council shall be recorded and made public upon request.

ARTICLE IV – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Powers and Duties of the Legislative Branch

1) All legislative powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Senate.

Section 2. Membership

1) The membership of the Senate shall be composed of a total of forty-two (42) Senators representing the Colleges and Student Class Standings.

2) The seats of the College Senators shall be composed of twenty-seven (27) Senators allocated by proportional representation, to be based upon the relative spring enrollments of the Colleges of Business; Education; Engineering; Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Nursing; and Science, with no College having fewer than two (2) Senators.

3) Proportional allocations of the College Senators are to be adjusted for the Spring election of every even-numbered year.

4) Senators from the class standings shall be composed as follows: three (3) Freshmen, three (3) Sophomores, three (3) Juniors, three (3) Seniors, and three (3) Graduate students.

5) The three (3) Freshmen referenced in Article IV, Section 2.4 shall be considered as normal vacancies until nominated by the Executive Council by October 31. Applications for this nomination shall open by October 1, with the application closing by October 15. Freshmen Forum shall be selected through an application process at the beginning of the academic year at the discretion of the the President, Freshmen Forum Director, and Speaker of the Senate (defined in Article IV, Section 5).

Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Senate

1) The Senate shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To have regular meetings presided over by the Vice President of the Senate.
   b) To construct a working set of Bylaws of the Senate that shall, at a minimum, contain the functions and duties of the specific committees of the Senate and provisions for operation
thereof. This shall serve as a part of the Code of Laws.
c) To pass articles of legislation of both the binding and nonbinding varieties.
d) To override presidential vetoes, with passage of the motion requiring a supermajority.
e) To elect a Speaker of the Senate (defined in Article IV, Section 5) by simple-majority of the membership, with the vote required to be at the beginning of the term of office of the Senators.
f) To create and delegate enumerated powers to standing committees.
g) To appropriate the seats of the College Senators amongst the various colleges.
h) To confirm nominations made by the Executive Council, with passage of such nominations requiring a simple-majority, except for those instances in which it has been enumerated otherwise.
i) To confirm the SGA Budget as proposed and amended by the President, the Vice President of Finance, and the Dean of Students.
j) To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution, the University, or by any Department or Officer thereof to the SGA.

Section 4. Powers and Duties of Senators

1) Each Senator shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To attend all regular, scheduled meetings of the Senate, except in those instances in which the Senator has received excusal from attendance.
   b) To have one (1) vote in all legislative matters.
   c) To sponsor articles of legislation.
   d) To serve as a member of at least one (1) standing committee.
   e) To attend all scheduled meetings of the standing committee(s) on which he or she serves, except in those instances in which the Senator has received excusal from attendance.
   f) To hold at least one (1) office hour per week.

Section 5. Speaker of the Senate

1) The Speaker of the Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Speaker, shall be an internally elected member of the Senate, by a simple-majority of the membership.
   a) The Speaker must be nominated and chosen at the first meeting of the legislative year, which shall occur on the day of inauguration of the Senate (refer to Article VII).

2) The Speaker shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To nominate the chairs of the various Senate committees, both standing and special, with confirmation dependent on a simple-majority of the Senate.
   b) To preside over the Senate in the absence of the Vice President of the Senate.
   c) To hold at least six (6) office hours per week.

ARTICLE V – FRESHMEN FORUM

Section 1. Purpose

1) The Freshmen Forum, hereinafter referred to as the Forum, shall provide first year students with an opportunity to get involved in the SGA, as they are not eligible to run for office prior to
enrollment.

2) The members of the Forum shall be required to shadow Senators during the Spring semester. They may also fulfill this requirement by applying to shadow members of the Executive Branch or the Judicial Branch, excluding the President, Vice President of the Senate, Vice President of Finance, Secretary, Director of Organizational Funding, Freshmen Forum Director, and Chief Justice. It shall be an option for members of the Forum to apply to shadow one of the Senate leaders, including the Speaker, Committee Chairs, and Assistant Committee Chairs.

Section 2. Membership

1) The membership of the Forum shall be capped at the size of the Senate, as defined in Article IV, Section 2.

2) Applicants shall be selected by the President, Forum Director, and Speaker. Forum members’ terms end after the last meeting of the legislative year.

3) Members of the Forum may be removed by a unanimous decision by the President, Forum Director, and Speaker.

ARTICLE VI – Judicial Branch

Section 1. All judicial powers of the SGA are hereby vested in the Judicial Branch.

Section 2. The Judicial Council

1) The membership of the Judicial Council shall consist of the Chief Justice, four (4) Associate Justices, and four (4) corresponding Alternate Justices. Only five (5) of the Justices shall have voting power at any meeting or hearing.

2) The Judicial Council shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To create a Judicial Handbook as part of the Code of Laws to serve as the governing rules of the body.
   b) To hear cases brought to the body by the Attorney, as defined in Article VI, Section 7.
   c) To interpret any part of the Constitution or Code of Laws at written request.
   d) To provide a written Opinion to all parties involved in cases or interpretations within one (1) week of making any ruling or interpretation.
   e) To hear appeals on cases of impeachment after a Bill of Impeachment has been passed in the Senate.
   f) To maintain a record of all demerits recommended by the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee Chair and the Chief of Staff.
   g) To act on demerit charges, as required in the Judicial Handbook.
   h) To assist in education and advise during the transitional period of the Executive and Legislative Branches.
   i) To each hold at least five (5) office hours per week.

Section 3. The Chief Justice

1) The Chief Justice shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a supermajority of the Senate. The Chief Justice shall function as the expert on all internal rules of the SGA.

2) The Chief Justice shall have the following powers and duties:
   a) To call and preside over meetings of the Judicial Council.
b) To attend meetings of the Judicial Council, including Preliminary Hearings and Formal Hearings, and cast a vote in these meetings.

c) To uphold the responsibilities of the Judicial Council.

d) To call a Preliminary Hearing of the Judicial Council to determine whether a Formal Complaint should be considered at a Formal Hearing by a simple-majority vote in the affirmative.

e) If the Chief Justice ruled with the majority of the Judicial Council, they may assign the task of writing the Judicial Council’s Opinion to an Associate Justice or to complete the task independently. If the Chief Justice is in the dissenting opinion, they must delegate the task of writing the Judicial Council’s Opinion to an Associate Justice who ruled with the majority of the Judicial Council.

f) To ask questions of each party during a Formal Hearing and to ensure that all questions are relevant and appropriate.

g) To determine whether a question asked by an Associate Justice is to be considered inappropriate, in which case the Chief Justice may ask the Associate Justice to elaborate on the question. If the question is still to be considered inappropriate, the parties shall be informed of their right to choose not to answer the question.

h) To serve as a member of the Combined Council, as defined in Article VI, Section 8.

Section 4. The Associate Justices

1) The Associate Justices of the Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the Associate Justices, shall be nominated by the Combined Council, as defined in Article VI, Section 8, and confirmed by a supermajority of the Senate. The Associate Justices shall serve as assistants to the Chief Justice and as sources of knowledge for all internal rules of the SGA.

2) The Associate Justices shall have the following powers and duties:

   a) To attend meetings of the Judicial Council, including Preliminary Hearings and Formal Hearings, and cast a vote in these meetings.

   b) To assist in any task assigned by the Chief Justice.

   c) To ask relevant and appropriate questions of each party during a Formal Hearing.

   d) If needed, to cooperate with other dissenting Justices to produce a dissenting Opinion.

Section 5. The Clerk of the Judicial Council

1) The Clerk of the Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as the Clerk, shall be elected from within the membership of the Judicial Council.

2) The Clerk shall have the following powers and duties:

   a) To have all of the powers and duties as Associate Justices, as defined in Article VI, Section 4.

   b) To keep a permanent record of all meetings of the Judicial Council, to include complaint or reason for the meeting, evidence presented, any relevant documents, motions made, vote counts, and Opinions that are to be later released.

   c) To serve in the capacity of the Chief Justice in the event the Chief Justice is removed or otherwise incapacitated.

   d) To notify the Justices, the SGA Advisor, the Attorney (as defined in Article VI, Section 6).
7), and all parties of interest at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to any meeting or Hearing.

e) To present each Justice within forty-eight (48) hours of the Formal Hearing with a copy of the Formal Complaint or Question of Interest; Formal Response, if required; and any investigation to be presented by the Attorney, as defined in Article VI, Section 7.

3) The Clerk shall assign at the beginning of their term another Associate Justice to complete the above duties in their absence.

Section 6. The Alternate Associate Justices

1) The Alternate Associate Justices of the Judicial Council, hereinafter referred to as Alternate Justices, shall be Senators chosen by each Associate Justice to serve as their alternate when the Associate Justice is unable to attend a meeting of the Judicial Council.

2) The Alternate Justice shall have the same powers and duties as the Associate Justices, as defined in Article VI, Section 4, only when attending a meeting in place of the corresponding Associate Justice.

Section 7. The Attorney

1) The Attorney shall be a Senator or a member of the Executive Branch nominated by a supermajority of the Judicial Council and confirmed by a supermajority of the Legislative Branch and of the Executive Branch.

2) On accepting the position of Attorney, the member shall be required to relieve themselves of their current position within the SGA.

3) The Attorney shall have the following powers and duties:
   a. To attend all meetings of the Senate, Executive Branch, and Judicial Council.
   b. To be in charge of presenting any cases, other than those dealing with demerits, and any relevant information to the Judicial Council for a decision to be made based on the investigation provided and all rules in place, including the Constitution and Code of Laws.
   c. To petition the Chief Justice for a certain amount of time to investigate a complaint.
   d. To not release any information regarding any ongoing investigations or any cases that have not been made public until the investigation is completed and the case is made public.
      i. Any breach of this responsibility will result in a recommendation of a Bill of Impeachment to the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee.
   e. To report all demeritable actions (see Article VIII, Section 7) of members of the Judicial Branch to the Chief Justice.

Section 8. The Combined Council

1) The Combined Council shall be composed of the members of the Executive Council, the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee Chair, and the Chief Justice.

2) It is the responsibility of the Combined Council to nominate qualified individuals to serve in any vacated positions within the Judicial Branch, excepting that of the Chief Justice.

3) In order for an individual to be nominated by the Combined Council, the Combined Council must vote by a simple-majority in the affirmative for the nomination.
4) All decisions of the Combined Council shall be recorded and made public upon request.

**ARTICLE VII – SUMMER PROCEDURES**

Section 1. Meeting Requirements

1) The Senate will be required to meet at least twice during the summer semester. Senators who live further than a three (3) hour drive by the fastest route from UAH do not have to meet in person but will be required to attend via live video chat or at the Vice President of the Senate’s discretion.

Section 2. First Meeting of the Legislative Year Format

1) The first meeting of the new legislative year shall be the day of inauguration of the new officers. This shall be a meeting that is called to order immediately after the adjournment of the last meeting of the previous legislative year. The Speaker, some Executive Cabinet members, and the Chief Justice shall be confirmed at this meeting, with the Speaker being nominated by the Senate, the Executive Cabinet members not requiring an Executive Council nomination being nominated by the President and Vice President of the Senate, and the Chief Justice being nominated by the President.

Section 3. Summer Meetings Format

1) The second and third meetings of the legislative year shall be during the summer. The second meeting shall be at any time in between inauguration and the SGA Retreat. The third meeting shall be during the SGA Retreat.

2) The rest of the Cabinet and Committee Chairs shall be confirmed at the second meeting, with the remaining Executive Cabinet members being nominated by the Executive Council and the Committee Chairs being nominated by the Speaker. Any vacant positions in the Senate or Executive Cabinet shall also be filled at the second meeting.

3) Committees shall be assigned during the third meeting.

Section 4. Summer Training

1) All members of the Executive Cabinet must meet at least once during the summer for a training workshop. This will be planned by the President and Chief of Staff. Any absences will be excused at the President’s discretion.

2) All Executive Cabinet members, Chief Justice, and Senate Committee Chairs must have an additional training session. The Executive Cabinet will begin receiving compensation upon confirmation by the Senate.

Section 5. Summer Financial Decisions

1) As the budget will not be approved by the Senate prior to the summer, major financial decisions may be made by the Executive Council.

**ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT**

Section 1. Sponsorship

1) A Bill of Impeachment may be brought against any office holder in the SGA. This article shall
require the sponsorship of two members of the Senate.

Section 2. Presiding Officer

1) In cases of impeachment, the Chief Justice shall serve as the presiding officer. In cases of impeachment involving the Chief Justice, the Parliamentarian shall preside.

Section 3. Confirmation of Impeachment

1) A hyper-majority (refer to Glossary) of the Senate shall be required for the passage of a Bill of Impeachment.

Section 4. Appealing Impeachments

1) Any elected or appointed officer of the SGA shall, in the event of his or her impeachment, have the right to appeal the impeachment to the Judicial Council.

Section 5. Reasons for Impeachment

1) The following shall serve as the reasons for which any member of the SGA may be impeached:
   a) Malfeasance or misfeasance in office.
   b) Failure, at the time of election, to meet the enumerated qualifications to be eligible to hold office, with impeachment for such offenses being immediate, with the exception being as defined in Article IX, Section 3.
   c) Willful violation of the Constitution, the policies of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, the laws of the State of Alabama, or those of any official entity of the government of the United States.
   d) Failure to perform the enumerated duties of office.
   e) Acquiring three (3) demerits in a single semester, as defined in Article VIII, Section 7.

Section 6. Expedited Impeachment

1) Impeachment proceedings against Senators for the reasons enumerated in Section 5.c and Section 5.d may be expedited at the discretion of the presiding officer in the following manners:
   a) The sponsorship requirements enumerated in Article VIII, Section 1, may be waived.
   b) Bills of Impeachment may be introduced to the Senate as new business at the meeting immediately following the infraction and after an initial reading by the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee.
   c) The allotted time to prepare a defense may be reduced to the two (2) days’ notice enumerated in Article VI, Section 3.2 of the Bylaws of the Senate.

Section 7. Demerits

1) Demerits shall be given according to a set of rules defined in the Judicial Handbook, working in conjunction with the Chair of the Senate Rules and Revisions Committee, the Chief of Staff, or the Attorney.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Terms
1) The terms of all officials within the SGA in the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Chief Justice shall expire after the first Senate meeting after the conclusion of elections. The terms of Associate Justices shall expire on December 31.

Section 2. Eligibility

1) All officials shall be required to have at the time of their election and to maintain during their terms of office a semester Grade Point Average of no less than two and one-half (2.5).
2) To be eligible to hold the offices of the President, the Vice President of the Senate, and the Speaker, candidates must have a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours, with at least twelve (12) credit hours from UAH, and shall have served in the Senate for at least one (1) semester or served as a member of the Executive Cabinet for two (2) semesters. The Vice President of the Senate must serve, in addition, one (1) semester as Senator.
3) To be eligible to hold the offices of the Chief Justice, the Associate Justices, and the Alternate Justices, candidates must have a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours, with at least twelve (12) credit hours from UAH, and shall have served in the Senate for at least one (1) semester. The Chief Justice must serve an additional semester as Senator.
4) Every elected student must be enrolled as a full-time student at UAH during his or her term in office (excluding summer term).

Section 3. Exceptional Cases

1) In the case of insufficient qualified candidates, the Elections Committee (as defined in Article III, Section 8) shall be allowed to suspend Article IX, Sections 2.2 and 2.3, as deemed necessary by a supermajority of the Elections Committee.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Initiation of Amendments

1) Amendments to this Constitution may become necessary for reasons apparent at the time of consideration of the amendments. Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated in one of three ways:
   a) A petition may be brought by one-tenth (1/10) of the Student Body to the President, who shall then call a special session of the Senate for consideration of a bill of amendment. The amendment shall pass if a supermajority of the Senate concurs with the amendment stated in the petition.
   b) The Senate may choose to pass a bill, requiring at least two (2) sponsors, to amend this Constitution, with passage thereof requiring a supermajority vote.
   c) With periodic revision of this Constitution, as defined in Article XI, the amendments suggested shall be presented to the Senate, with passage of the related bill requiring a supermajority vote.

Section 2. Confirmation of Amendments

1) The Student Body shall vote on all proposed amendments to this Constitution, with ratification of such amendments requiring a hyper-majority of the votes in the affirmative.

Section 3. Editorial Changes

Modified: 4/8/2019
1) Editorial changes to this *Constitution* – such as grammatical alterations, formatting, and non-substantive re-wording – may be proposed by any member of the *Senate* at an official *Senate* meeting and approved and ratified by a supermajority vote by the *Senate*, not requiring a vote by the Student Body.

**ARTICLE XI – PERIODIC REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Section 1. This *Constitution* shall be revisited by a special committee every two (2) years.

1) This shall be comprised of at least five (5) members with the *Speaker* as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Section 2. The committee shall have the following powers and duties:

1) To be responsible for a comprehensive revision of the *Constitution*.
2) To meet at least bi-weekly for one (1) hour until the process is complete.
3) To perform agreed-upon tasks as decided in committee meetings.
4) To update on progress during committee reports of *Senate* meetings.
5) To bring the finished product as a bill before the *Senate* to be voted on.

Section 3. The passage of any changes to the *Constitution* shall follow the rules set forth in Articles X and **ARTICLE XII**.

**ARTICLE XII – RATIFICATION**

Section 1. This *Constitution* for The Student Government Association of The University of Alabama in Huntsville shall be considered ratified when:

1) A supermajority of the members of the *Senate* vote in the affirmative.
2) A hyper-majority of all students who are eligible to vote and do so in a special election shall vote in the affirmative on the question of passage of this *Constitution* or any proposed amendment thereof.
3) The *President* of The Student Government Association, *Vice President of the Senate*, *Speaker of the Senate*, and *Parliamentarian* as well as the President of The University of Alabama in Huntsville and Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Advisor of The Student Government Association shall affix their signatures on the final document.

Section 2. This *Constitution* shall go into effect upon the approval of a hyper-majority of the voting Student Body.
GLOSSARY

Consistent office hours - Scheduled office hours

Hyper-majority - More than three-fourths (¾)

Simple-majority - More than one-half (½)

Supermajority - More than two-thirds (⅔)
We, the undersigned, by affixing our signatures to this document, do hereby ratify this *Constitution* for The Student Government Association of The University of Alabama in Huntsville and agree to the above statement regarding the authority of the SGA.