

Newsletter

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



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

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USGA NEWSLETTER 2024-2025



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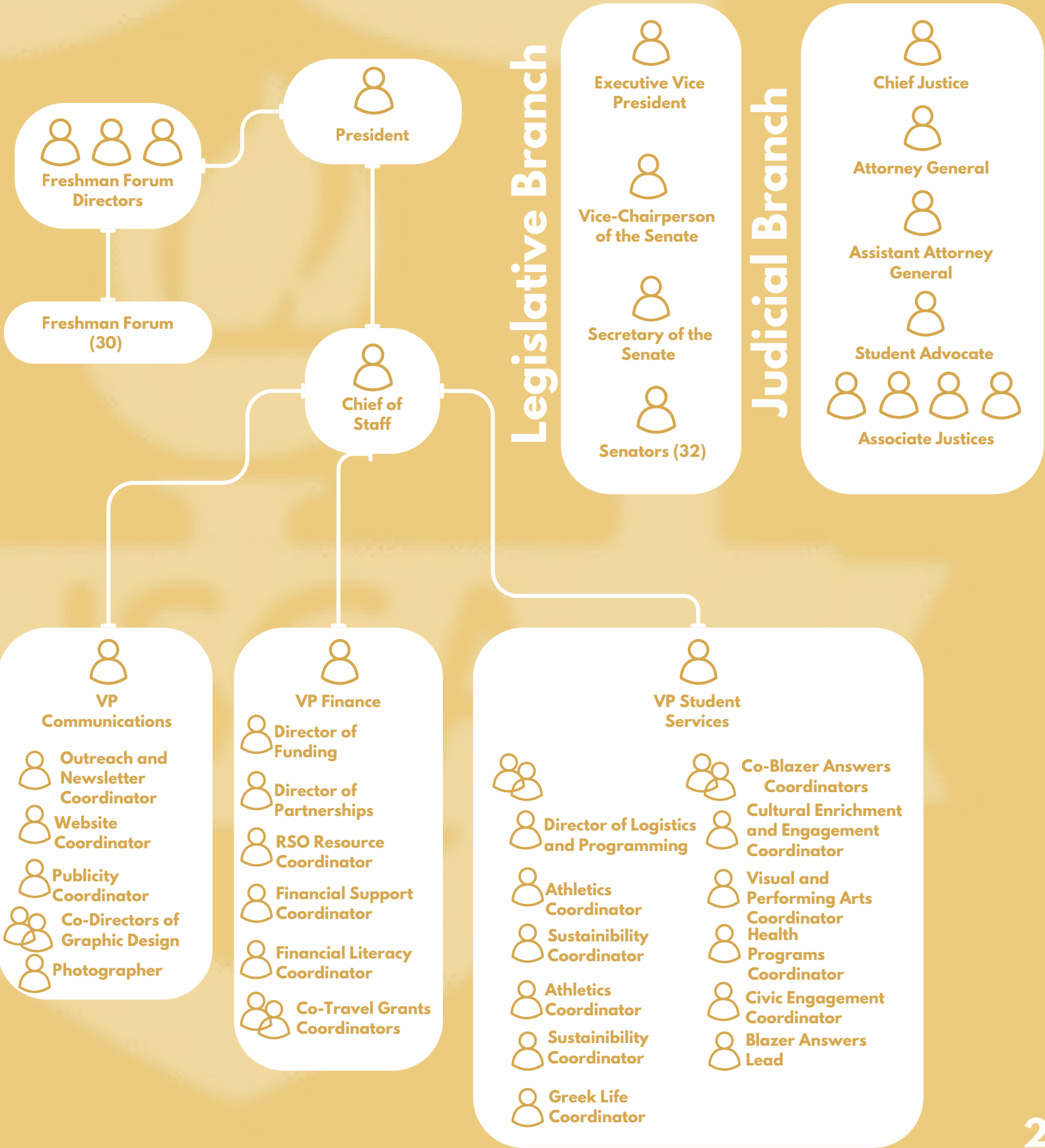


Roselyn Olulu
Publicity Coordinator



USGA Structure

2024-2025



Ayona's

Announcements

Monthly Updates

President

Ayona Roychowdhury

Updates:

Currently, President Roychowdhury is working towards attempting to find a location where students can study in, in addition to existing on-campus locations. In conversations with Dr. Wallace, Dr. Jones, and the Provost, the new Student Assembly Building was brought up as a potential option. However, this is not confirmed.

Efforts have also started to try to partner with a local coffee shop on campus to work towards having an additional location where students can grab a coffee on campus.

Check out our NEW Directors of External Affairs (listed on the next page). Their role will be to work towards finding community partners the Undergraduate Student Government can work in collaboration with.



Overviews from Office of the President Monthly Updates

Director of
Internal Affairs
Yi Liu



Election Manual Updates:

The first draft of the election manual for USGA is complete. This manual will serve to clarify existing information regarding the operations of USGA elections.

In other news, the Sticker Competition with the College of Arts and Sciences is in the works! Keep a lookout for it as updates come.

Director of Political
Advocacy
Wajiha Mekki



New Member Alert:

The Undergraduate Student Government Association welcomes John Goodman and Sathvik Bodepudi as the Directors of External Affairs! These two outstanding individuals have been selected to help USGA facilitate relationships between community partners and other organizations within the Birmingham area. Congratulations!

Catchin' Up With

COMMS

Monthly Updates

Director of
Graphic Design
Nicole Lober

T-Shirt Designs...Loading

The Division of Communications is currently working on finalizing a t-shirt design for this year's USGA cohort. They recently sent out a survey to gauge what designs members prefer.

Photos Complete!

The USGA Division of Communications has finished making headshots of all members for this year's cohort. Photos were taken at the Science and Engineering Complex. Keep an eye out on the USGA website to see all our members!

Communications x Blazer Answers

Blazer Answers is one of the many different outreach platforms of USGA to better meet the student body. The Division of Communications is excited to amplify this program, so keep an eye out for future Blazer Answers news!

Follow us!

INSTAGRAM: [uab_usga](#)

FACEBOOK: [UABUSGA](#)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.uab.edu/usga/

Fun With Finance

Finance!

Monthly Updates

 Financial Literacy
Coordinator
Param Chauhan 

Budget Finalized!

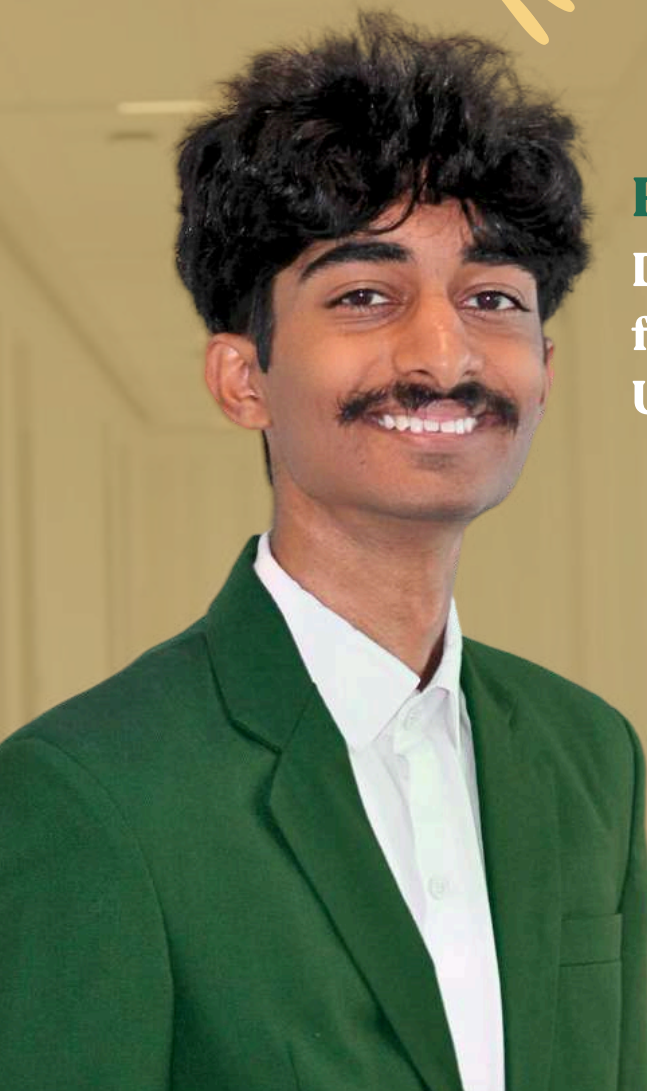
The Undergraduate Student Government Association has finalized its budget for affiliated RSOs for the Spring semester! The deliberation for funding was very extensive from the Division of Finance. The student government values RSOs, and we hope they continue their affiliation with USGA in the future.

Financial Literacy with Param

Do you need help with better understanding financial resources for undergraduates at UAB? Look no further than the USGA Instagram (information listed on Catchin' Up with Comms page). USGA understands that UAB has a variety of financial resources and requirements, and we hope students can better understand these by tuning in to the Division of Finance's videos. Check it out!

Coming Soon...

a collaboration with Pathfinders in the Spring!



Sit Down with

October



STUDENT SERVICES

Monthly Updates

Eva Pechtl

Cultural Enrichment and
Engagement Coordinator



Student & Athlete Survey

USGA supports all students. The Student and Athlete Survey will gauge the needs of student-athletes at UAB. USGA hopes to dedicate its focus to issues faced by this student population, led by the USGA Athletics Coordinator. Please consider filling out this survey if you are a student-athlete. It can be found on the USGA Instagram (see Comms for Instagram information).

Keep a Lookout: Student Forum-- November 7th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Student Forum will be held on the North Green on November 7th, 2024 from 11 am - 1 pm! This is your opportunity to directly speak to different departments that impact your daily student life. The first 100 students to attend will get a FREE slice of Cheesecake. So mark this date in your Calendar!

Freshman Forum

2024-2025

October



Monthly Updates

Announcements

Currently, the Freshman Forum Cohort is collaboratively working towards finding avenues for improvement on UAB's campus. They are conducting surveys to help solidify what they hope to accomplish. Check out their surveys as they appear!

Freshman Forum

Co-Director

Roshni Datta



Associate Justice

Pheven Yohannes



Just Chillin' with JUDICIAL



Mock Trial Updates!

Judicial held a Mock Trial on October 25th. Attendees saw the (mock) trial of Jag being tried for election fraud. Attendees had a wonderful time learning about USGA's Judicial Branch!

Keep a lookout for...

Tabling with Student Services!

Speak Out with the

SENATE

Monthly Updates

Bill Blast!

- On October 8, a bill was introduced on the Senate floor to switch paper straws used in the Commons on the Green and other on-campus dining locations to agave straws. The bill was proposed after listening to student feedback, which reported a dislike for paper straws. The agave straw alternative would provide a solution that operates at a similar price whilst meeting the concerns students had over the use of paper straws.

Senators

Saad Khan

Ameena Momand

Snekha Rajasekaran

- Also on October 8, the S.I.G.N.A.T.U.R.E.S. Bill was passed. This bill clarifies the functionality of the Assistant VP of Student Experiences' signature on legislation. Their signature does not imply agreement with passed legislation, but rather that the lawmaking process was appropriately conducted within the USGA.



Recent Events:

2024 Elect



USGA Family



A Cameo From the President?!?!



Student Engagement!



Supporting Orgs (1st Blazers)



USGA's Table!



Supporting Orgs (CJSO)



Mr. & Ms. UAB



Top 10: USGA Members



Samanvi Vootokuri

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Director of Logistics and Programming

Program of Study: Neuroscience



Isabel Blevins

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Student Advocate

Program of Study: Public Health

Samir Abouhaidar

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Senator, Collat School of Business

Program of Study: Economics



Sathvik Bodepudi

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Director of External Affairs

Program of Study: Neuroscience



Mr. & Ms. UAB



Top 10: USGA Members



Rakshith Ramdas

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Attorney General

Program of Study: Political Science

Sydney Testman

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Executive Vice President

**Program of Study: Political Science and
Public Administration**



Saad Khan

Year at UAB: 3rd

Position: Senator, CAS

**Program of Study: Neuroscience & Multidisciplinary
Biomedical Sciences**

Member of the Month



October 2024-2025

Welcome to Member(s) of the Month! USGA members nominate other members for their hard work and dedication. These members represent the values and mission of this organization, earning them a highlight for this month. Keep up the great work!

Paxton Gillispie--Accessibility Coordinator



“Paxton has been working so hard in her role to make sure that USGA can better ensure that the campus is accessible to ALL students. Last month, she sent out an Accessibility Survey to gauge the needs of students. I am so excited to see what Paxton accomplishes in the future!”

Tanya Contreras--Senator for the Collat School of Business



“A senior who's balancing a lot with graduate school applications, but she's fighting hard for all of the initiatives that she's passionate about and doing an incredible job balancing everything.”

“She is constantly coming up with ideas to pass and bring up to people.”

“Strong[ly] commit[ted] to advocating for student initiatives. She has consistently engaged with members of the Senate, encouraging their involvement and helping them understand the intricacies of USGA processes”

Member of the Month



October 2024-2025

Samir Abouhaidar--Senator for the Collat School of Business



“Samir does not only show excellence and commitment to his position and the organization, but is also a fiercely loyal friend. He is there through the ups and downs, and I couldn’t do it all without him!”

“Samir also was selected to be a top 5 finalist for Mr. UAB, and I couldn’t be more proud and think of anyone more deserving.”

Sarah Jerry--Financial Support Coordinator



“Sarah has been one of the most timely, detail-oriented, and focused people in USGA this year. She has been very active and enthusiastic about bringing more resources and tangible change to the student body this year, as is exemplified by her diligence in working on the Prep Book Rental program.”

Yi Liu--Director of Internal Affairs



“Yi is a dedicated individual to USGA and her efforts show. She is kind and works to help others, ultimately making this organization run so much more smoothly. Thank you, Yi, for your dedication!”

“She does everything possible known to man”

See You Soon!

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

