

Newsletter

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



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

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Meet the Team:

USGA NEWSLETTER 2024-2025



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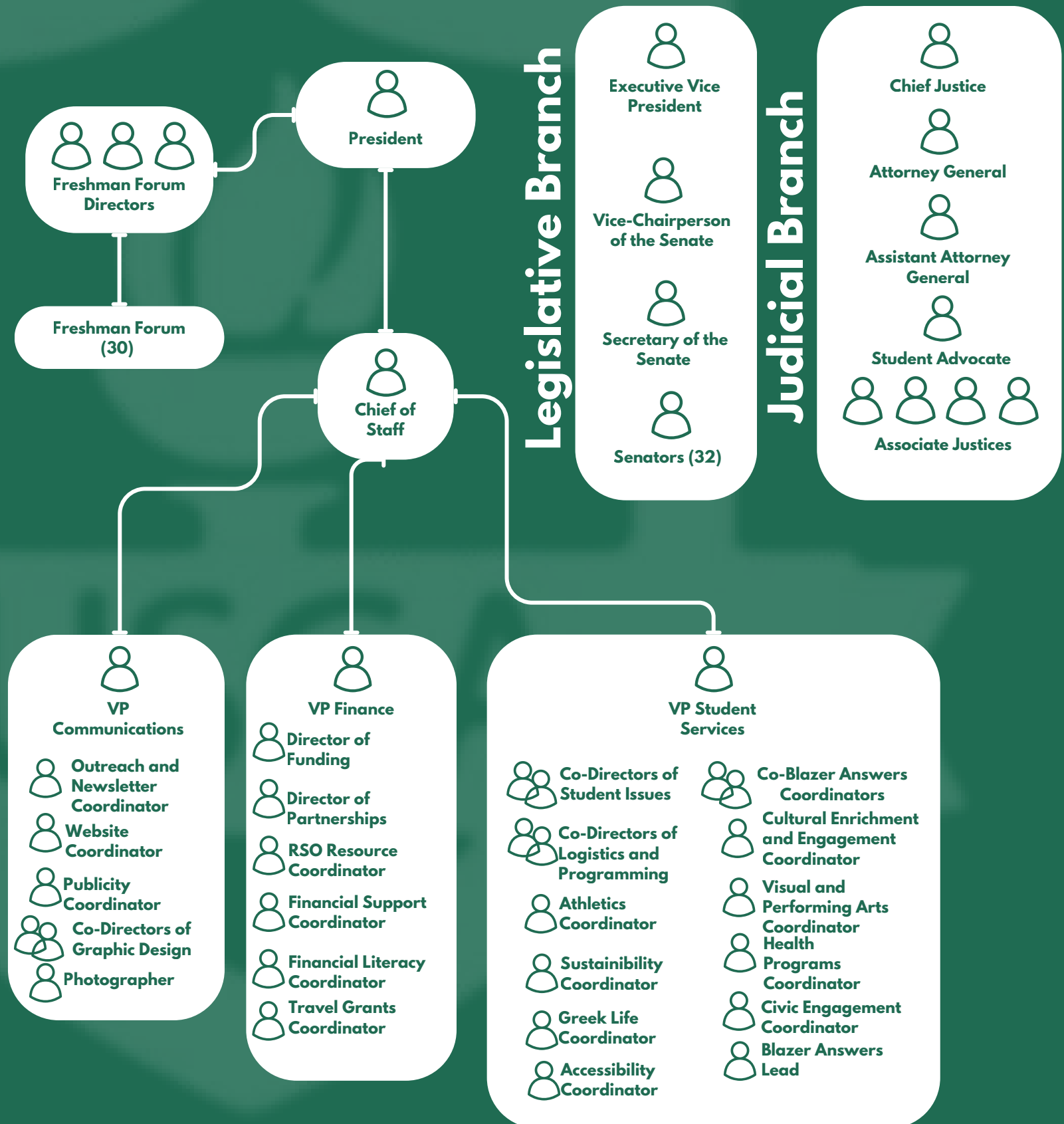


Roselyn Olulu
Publicity Coordinator



USGA Structure

2024-2025



Ayona's Announcements

November + December



Monthly Updates

President

Ayona Roychowdhury

End of Semester Statement

Our office has been hard at work on a variety of projects meant to reinforce our mission to enrich the student experience, inside and out.

From our Freshman Forum and its directors Anuska Patel, Roshni Datta, and Jagath Madhanagopal, we will be starting a concentrated effort to reach out to campus partners on initiatives identified as important to the freshman class. They have also built a mentorship program connecting our FF members to upperclassmen in USGA to better understand student leadership within campus life. On the note of building connections, our Director of Internal Affairs, Yi Liu, has been hard at work ensuring that our members have access to one another, which has resulted in a 40% increase in internal engagement and collaboration. Additionally, across our divisions, we have completed about ½ of proposed initiatives from the start of Fall semester.



Ayona's

November + December



Announcements

When it comes to what the Office of the President has drastically changed, we chose our Election Commission and confirmed during the Fall semester, allowing them to formulate an Election Manual to guide future Commissions through the election process. Led by Election Manager Sarah Wilson, they have been hard at work preparing for and planning for this upcoming semester. In the same vein of growth, we have started a Lobby Board, led by Director of Political Advocacy Wajiha Mekki. After selecting her board and training them, they worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center this past semester in a Phone Banking effort that resulted in over 40 volunteers making 6000+ phone calls and sending 200,000+ texts to ensure that our greater Alabama community was registered to vote.

Our efforts in ensuring that we build a mutually beneficial relationship with the community through service and entertainment are led by the selection of Directors of External Affairs John Goodman and Sathvik Bodepudi. Together, we have been working on building a relationship with the Mayor's office, setting up a volunteer tracking page for USGA on BlazerPulse, and working with our community partner, Sienna Cafe, to support a Magic City Golf Classic. We also made efforts to connect Sienna Cafe to Sodexo with the hopes of a local cafe opening on campus.

My personal goal this semester was to have a study option open for students on the weekends, and our brand new Student Assembly Building is now open to all for studying and meetings on Saturdays and Sundays from 2-9. We held a finals cafe throughout finals week last semester, and stocked our free coffee and snack bar throughout that time.

Overviews from Office of the President

Monthly Updates

Director of
Internal Affairs
Yi Liu



USGA Phone Banking

The USGA Lobby Board conducted a phone banking event in cooperation with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in November. Those who chose to help out were compensated. USGA is happy to have an impact on the surrounding Birmingham community and encourage civic duty.

Freshman Forum



Director

Anushka Patel



USGA Elections Interest Meetings:

Sarah Wilson, the USGA Election Manager will be leading interest sessions for being a senator or Executive Council member over the next two months. If you are considering serving in either of these significant roles in USGA, make sure to attend one of these MANDATORY interest sessions (more information on the USGA Instagram).

USGA End of Semester Banquet

USGA held its End of Semester Banquet, headed by USGA's Chief of Staff Christy Xie!

Catchin' Up With

COMMS

Monthly Updates

Publicity Coordinator

Roselyn Olulu

Giveaway Next Semester

The USGA Division of Communications is excited to announce that it will be holding its **FIRST** Giveaway for the 2024-2025 academic year! This is a great opportunity to show your support for USGA and simultaneously get some great merch!

USGA Website Updates

The USGA Website has been revamped for the 2024-2025 year. New tabs for legislation have been created. It also contains budget information for this academic year along with updated Newsletter tabs. While the website is still being finalized for updates, we're excited to show you all the work we have done!

End of Semester Report

This year, the Division of Communications will be releasing an End-of-Semester Report as a conclusion to USGA's work this calendar year. Make sure to keep an eye out for it next month!

Follow us!

INSTAGRAM: [uab_usga](#)

FACEBOOK: [UABUSGA](#)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.uab.edu/usga

Fun Times with Finance!

Monthly Updates

Financial Support
Coordinator
Sarah Jerry

USGA USEMAG Award

The USEMAG Award is a Medical Assistance Grant that helps students offset unexpected and high medical expenses. USGA is so excited to offer this award to hardworking students who have trouble meeting unexpected costs. Applications for the award will open on December 9 and will close once funds are exhausted. Make sure to apply before the start of Winter Break (December 14). Check out the eligibility criteria on our Instagram!

Textbook Award Returns!

The Textbook Award is a collaboration between USGA, UAB Bookstore, and Student Assistance and Support to provide students with financial support when purchasing their academic textbooks. A hundred degree seeking students will be awarded \$150.00, awarded on a need basis. The award is open until funds are exhausted.



STUDENT SERVICES

Monthly Updates



Accessibility
Coordinator
Paxton Gillispie

Parking Amnesty Day

Parking Amnesty Day returned on November 13! This is one of USGA's biggest events, and this year was no different.

Parking Amnesty Day allows students to get up to \$30 off their parking tickets that they may have accrued over the semester. Students can donate items to Blazer Kitchen OR volunteer at Serve205 events in exchange for money off their parking tickets. Make sure to keep a lookout for this event next year!

Blazer Answers Tabling

Do you have questions about UAB and/or USGA? Make sure to check out Blazer Answers, a platform run through the Division of Student Services. Blazer Answers tabled on Nov. 11 and gave away **FOUR** sweatshirts.

Transportation Updates

Make sure to check out USGA's meeting minutes with UAB Transportation! More information on Instagram.



Just Chillin' with JUDICIAL



Monthly Updates

Associate Justice
Rakshith Ramdas



Election Manual Approved

The Election Manual, established to clarify and elucidate the process of the existing USGA election process, has been reviewed and approved by the Judicial. The Election Manual is meant to serve as a guide for all future elections.

Have a Complaint?

If you have a complaint against USGA or an RSO, please fill out the form below:

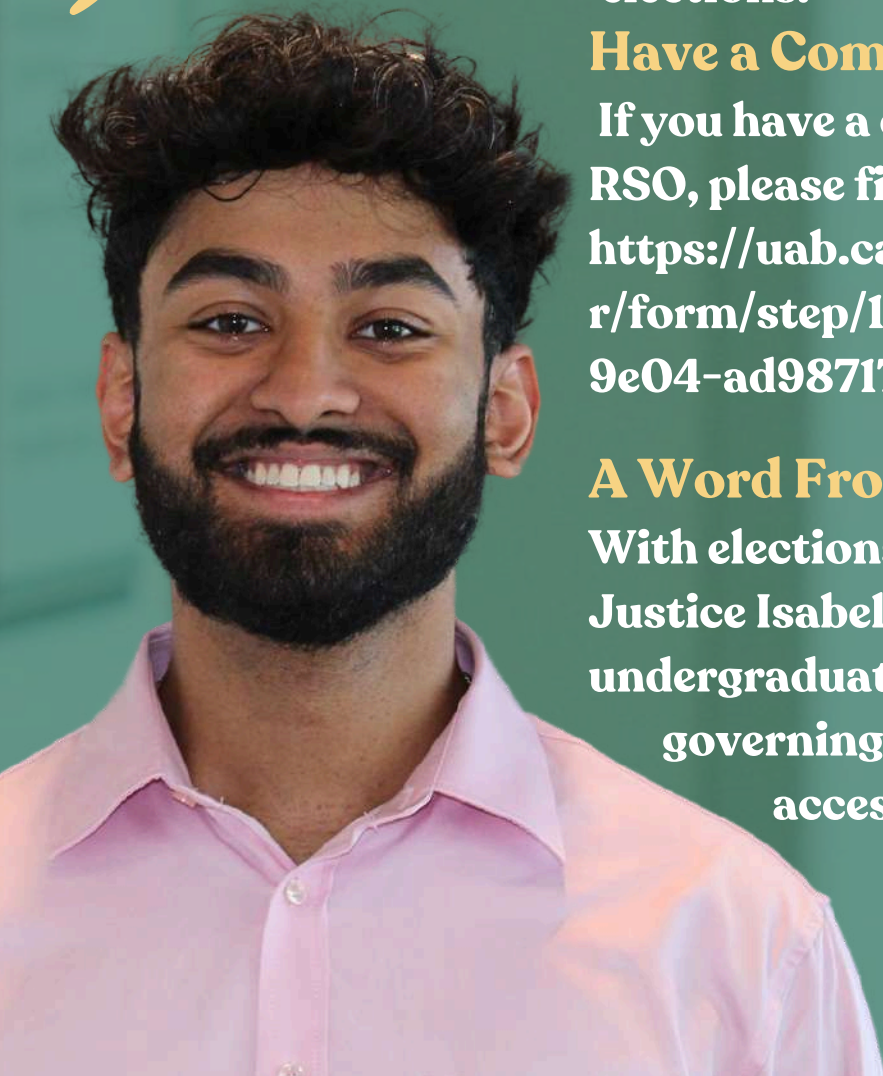
<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/step/1?Guid=d6741527-24c3-47f6-9e04-ad98717af5d9>

A Word From the Chief Justice

With elections coming up next semester, Chief Justice Isabella Campos encourages all undergraduate students to take a look at the governing documents, which can be

accessed through the link below:

<https://www.uab.edu/usga/judicial/governing-documents>



Speak Out with the

SENATE

Monthly Updates



Collat Senator
Tanya Contreras



Meet Your School of Engineering Senators

We understand that there are a LOT of USGA members, and we are so excited that our Engineering Senators were able to meet students on November 20! The event, spearheaded by Engineering Senators Daniel Hollingsworth, Karleigh Henegar, and Krusha Patel was a success!

Open Senate Seats

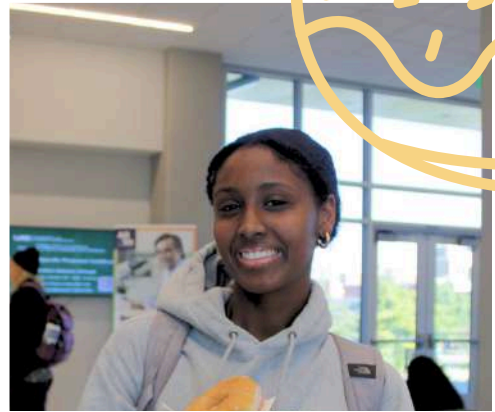
USGA is excited to announce that there are TWO open Senate seats available for students! Senators have an immense impact on USGA, playing an essential role in advocating in the interest of the diverse educational disciplines that UAB offers. ANY STUDENT can become a Senator, and we highly encourage you consider applying if you are part of any of the following schools:

- School of Education
- School of Nursing

Please reach out to stestman@uab.edu for more info.

Donuts with the Dean

2024-2025



November + December 

Mock Trial

2024-2025

November 2024



End of Semester Banquet

November 2024



Members of the Month

November 2024

Members of the Month will return in January!

See You Soon!

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

