

# Newsletter

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

-Undergraduate Student Government Association-



September 2025 Edition

ADVOCATING FOR STUDENT INTERESTS  
EMPOWERING THE STUDENT VOICE





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# The Team:

## USGA NEWSLETTER 2025-2026



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Visual Media Coordinator



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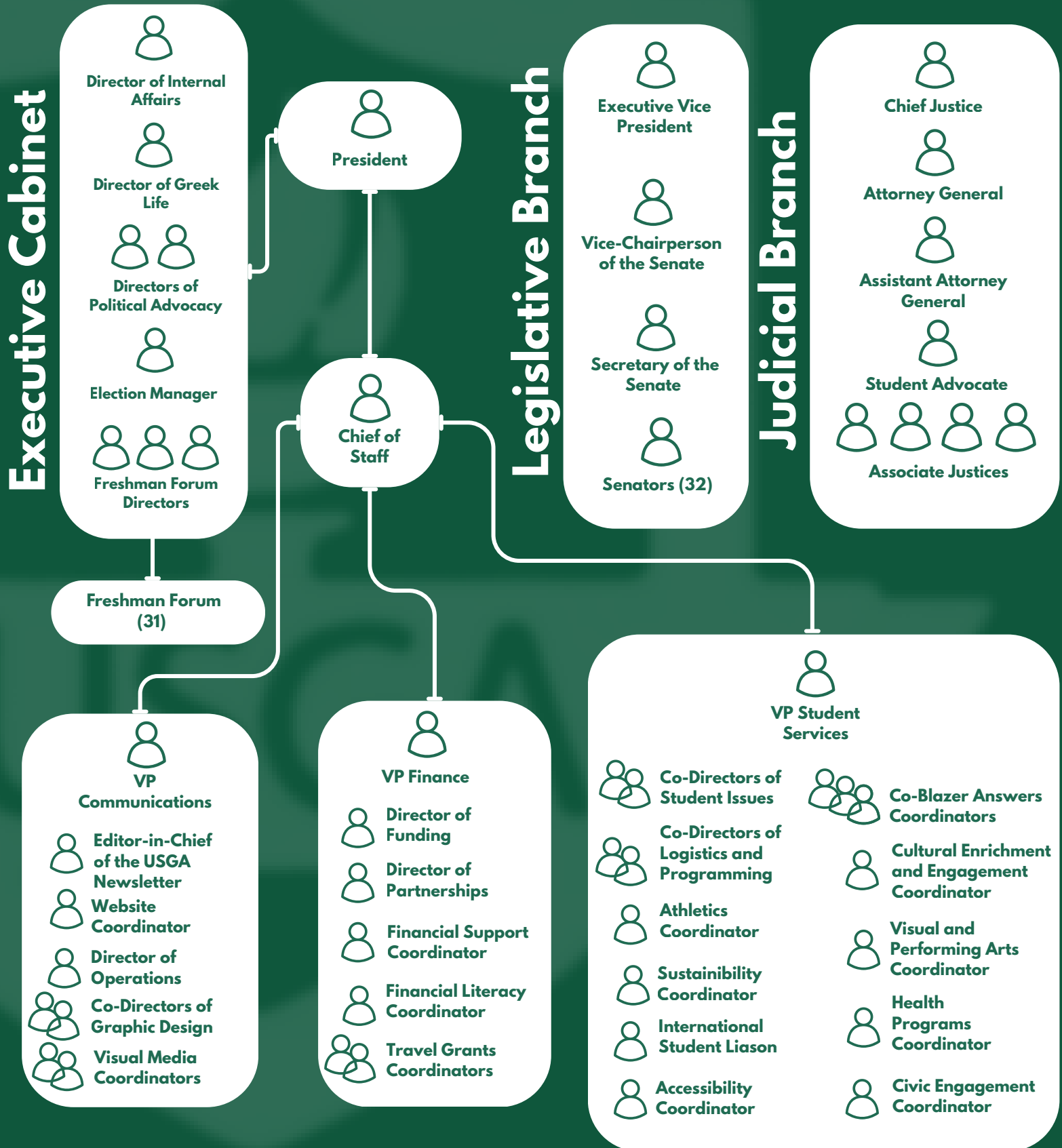
**Diya Patel**  
Website Coordinator



# USGA Structure



## 2025-2026





# Saad's Statements

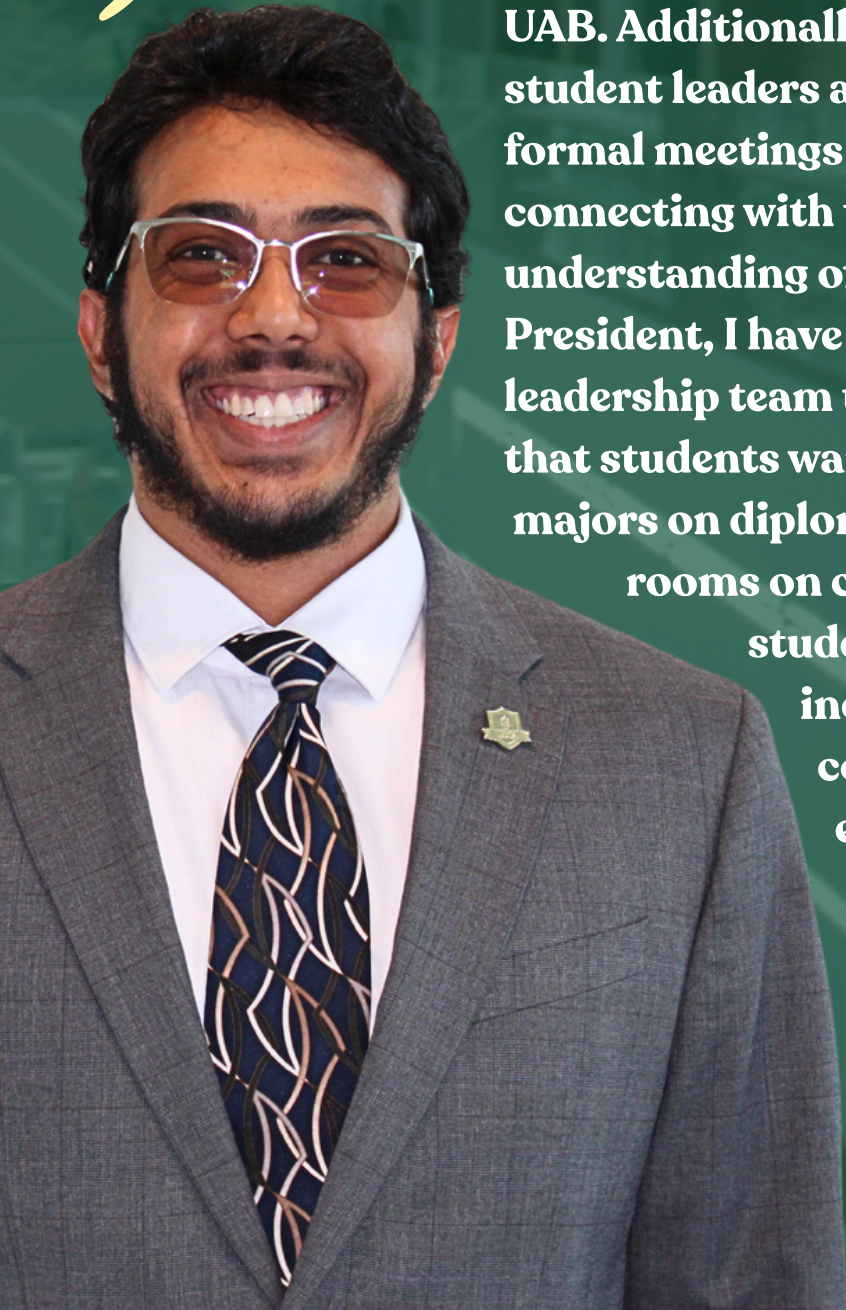
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## Monthly Updates

President  
Saad Khan

This year, I am committed to ensure that USGA accomplishes its purpose of serving and representing the needs of the undergraduate student body. This starts with USGA having an increased presence at UAB, both on-campus and online. To accomplish this, I have created a new Director of Greek Life to help USGA connect with the Fraternities and Sororities at UAB. Additionally, I have reached out to various student leaders at UAB to invite them to USGA's formal meetings to voice their concerns. By connecting with the student body, we can have a better understanding of the issues that face our students. As President, I have met with members of UAB's leadership team to discuss initiatives and changes that students want to see such as undergraduate majors on diplomas, increased multifaith/meditation rooms on campus, and digital one cards for students! Additionally, I have worked to increase accountability and collaboration within USGA. As the elected and appointed student representatives of UAB's student body, I strongly believe that USGA should be held to the highest standards. This has resulted in publicized Office Hours for the Executive Council and increased internal engagement!





# Overviews from Office of the President

## Monthly

## Updates

Co-Director of  
Political Advocacy  
Srushti Talluri



### USGA Institute!

The USGA members did their retreat on September 6-7 and it was very successful! A special thanks to Henna Parekh and Paxton Gillispie for making it so enjoyable! They got to bond with their team and figure out how they would like to better the UAB campus and contribute to the student body in their current roles. We're so excited to see the initiatives for the year!

### Lobby Board

The USGA Co-Directors of Political Advocacy, Miguel Luna and Srushti Talluri, have selected their Lobby Board members for 2025-2026! The Lobby Board is meant to educate the student body on their rights and advocate for legislation that will benefit Birmingham.

### Chat With Our Executive Council!

Do you have any ideas on how to better the UAB experience? Or do you have questions regarding USGA? Well look no further! Our Executive Council Members are holding office hours at the SIL Office in the Hill Student Center. Please look at our Instagram to see timings and specifications



# Catchin' Up With

# COMMS

## Monthly Updates

Vice President of  
Communications

Rishab Samant

### Our Division and What We Do:

The USGA Division of Communications serves as the middle man between the student body and USGA. We inform you on the current initiatives taking place and how you can help with these initiatives or get involved on campus!

### USGA Website

The USGA Website is constantly being revamped with current information and resources for the student body to use. It contains anything and everything you would need to know about USGA and our mission. Fun fact - it even has our Constitution for anyone interested in reading!

### Group Photos!

The Division of Communications is preparing to take group photos for each section of USGA. Stay tuned for more!

### Follow us!

INSTAGRAM: [uab\\_usga](#)

FACEBOOK: [UABUSGA](#)

WEBSITE: [www.uab.edu/usga/](http://www.uab.edu/usga/)





# Fun With Finance

# Finance!

## Monthly Updates



Vice President of  
Finance  
Rachel Weng



### **The Division and It's Purpose**

Does your RSO need financial assistance? Is the application process for funding difficult to understand? Do you need help with the cost of textbooks? Look no further! Our Division of Finance aims to provide as many resources as we can so that you can thrive without stress. This division allocates money to RSOs and provide resources such as the Textbook Scholarship and Travel Grants to help students make college a little bit easier.

### **USGA Travel Grant Applications**

The USGA Division of Finance has officially released it's Pre and Post- Travel Grant Applications! You can find the form on Instagram and if you have any questions, make sure to contact our Co-Travel Grant Coordinators, Colby Morrison and Afsheen Fatima!

### **Budget Information Meeting**

We held our first Budget Information Meeting this semester! RSO's received information on what to expect for the Spring semester.



# Sit Down with **STUDENT SERVICES**

## Monthly Updates



Vice President of  
Student Services  
Amanda Tran

### **The Division's Purpose**

The Division of Student Services is one of the largest division's in USGA and for good reason. Student Services purpose is to serve the student body and help create engagement on campus so students stay involved. They host events, giveaways, and do tabling so that they understand what the students truly want. They are truly the embodiment of what service is all about!

### **Blazer Answers**

What is Blazer Answers? Blazer Answers is a resource that is run by USGA's Student Services Division and is used to receive feedback from the student body. We love to gain insight on what we can do to better your experience at UAB. If you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding issues on campus, make sure to check out Blazer Answers!





# Election Commision

## Election Commision Selected!

The Undergraduate Student Govenmnet Association's Election Commision has been selected! They are an internal policymaking group that reviews guidelines for the elction process. We are so excited for them to be joining the team!

Election  
Manager  
Samir Abouhaidar



Chief Justice  
Rakshith Ramdas



## Just Chillin' with JUDICIAL

### Who They Are and What They Do

The Undergraduate Student Government Association's Judicial Branch is responsible for interpreting the USGA Constitution and Code of Laws. The Judicial Branch focuses on accountability and making sure that elected and appointed officials of USGA uphold their promises to the student body.



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# Speak Out with the SENATE

## Monthly Updates

Executive Vice

President  
Bre Fisher

### CAS Research Opportunity Fair

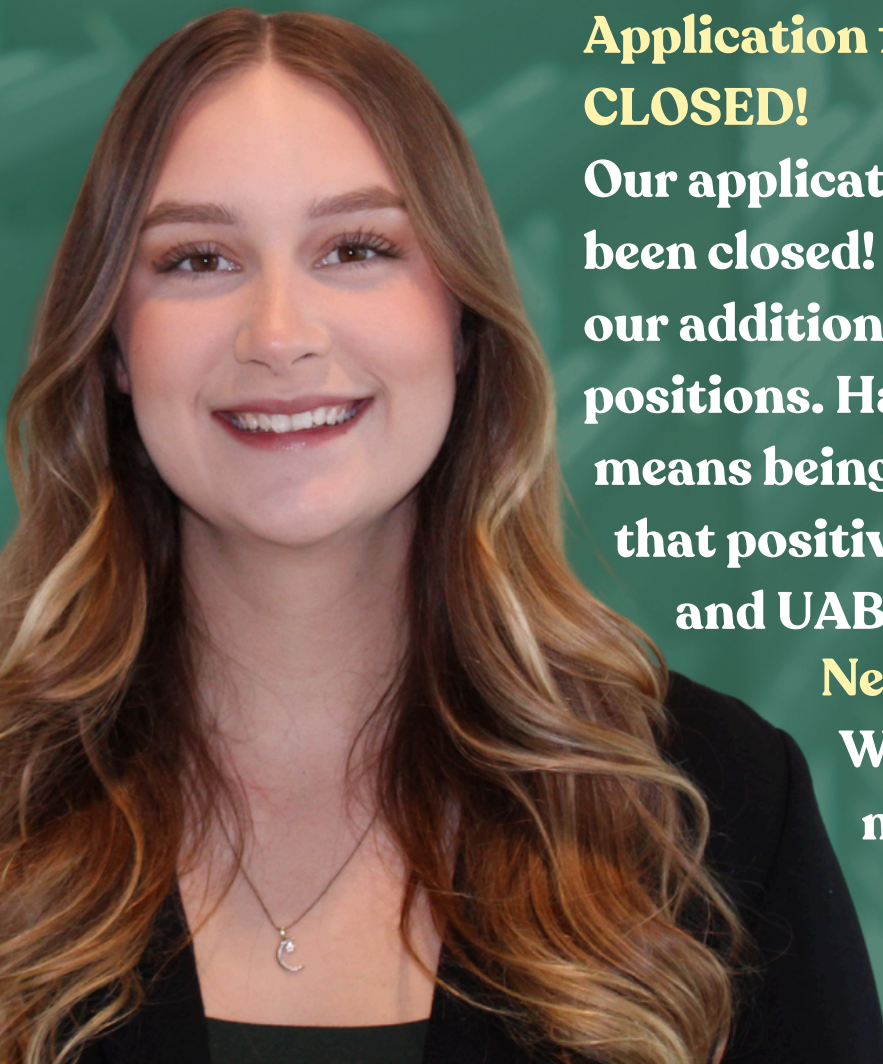
The CAS Research Opportunity Fair happened on September 23 and was a major hit! We had professors come table and talk about their research and how students can get involved in research on campus!

### Application for Open Senate Seats CLOSED!

Our applications for open Senate seats has been closed! We are so excited to welcome our additional Senators into their positions. Having these seats filled means being able to create more bills that positively affect the student body and UAB as a whole!

### New Legislation!

We are excited to announce that new Legislation has been passed and will be publicized on the USGA Instagram soon!





# Freshman Forum

## 2025-2026

September 2025



**Sydney Testman**  
4th Year Student,  
Freshman Forum  
Co-Director



**Samanvi Vootukuri**  
4th Year Student,  
Freshman Forum  
Co-Director



**Darrius Bushe**  
4th Year Student,  
Freshman Forum  
Co-Director

Co-Directors

### Goals For Freshman Forum

The primary goal for Freshman Forum is to create an environment where students can grow not only as leaders, but also as individuals. The directors want to walk alongside them throughout their development journeys, giving them opportunities to challenge themselves, build confidence, and find their voice on campus. Ultimately, their hope is that Freshman Forum serves as a foundation for students to become the next generation of strong, impactful UAB leaders.

### Freshman Forum Selection

The general application was opened through Engage on May 28<sup>th</sup> and received over 100 submissions from students eager to get involved. After carefully reviewing each application, 70 students were invited to participate in interviews, where the directors were able to learn more about their passions and leadership potential. From that pool, 31 outstanding students were selected to make up this year's cohort. Each student chosen demonstrated a genuine desire to serve, grow, and represent their peers, which made the process both competitive and inspiring.

### Events and Efforts

One of their main priorities is to plan an event focused on raising awareness about mental health among undergraduate students, recognizing the importance of destigmatizing these conversations and promoting resources on campus. In addition, the group is brainstorming other initiatives and service projects that will give them the chance to work together, connect with the student body, and leave a positive mark on the campus community throughout the academic year. **10**



# Freshman Forum

September 2025 

## Cohort 2025-2026

The directors are excited to facilitate the growth of the new generation of leaders on campus and help them shape the impact they want to leave in this community! Congrats and Blaze On!

 **Shahad Aldabashi**

 **Kamdi Akwuba**

 **Juhi Arora**

 **Nirban Bajaj**

 **Ria Baddam**

 **Trey Featherstone**

 **Nabeeha Fatima**

 **Will Gatner**

 **Annie Garrison**

 **Emma Hankey**

 **Anna-Nicole Hanson**

 **Manav Harikumar**

 **Ava Imaei**

 **Swetha Jakka**

 **Nairit Jeethandran**

 **William Knox**

 **Ziyaan Lakhani**

 **Mirian Margarito**

 **Rodion Mayatskiy**

 **Matthew Ngo**

 **Meso Ogwo**

 **Audrey Perry**

 **Lizbeth Ponce**

 **Ayesha Sajid**

 **Aanvi Singh**

 **Arina Thai**

 **Manasa Vadapalli**

 **Abby Westbrook**

 **Jian Woo**

 **Cat Wright**

 **Morgan Xie**



# Members of the Month



September 2025



**Taryn Billups**  
CAS Senator



**Paxton Gillispie**  
Director of Internal  
Affairs



**Sara Hancock**  
Associate Justice



**Luc Slate**  
Vice-Chairperson of  
Senate



**Colby Morrison**  
Co-Travel Grants  
Coordinator



**Jenna Kim**  
Co-Visual Media  
Coordinator

**Picture coming  
soon!**

**Justin Nguyen**  
Athletics Coordinator





# See You Soon!

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Undergraduate Student Government Association



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