



Undergraduate Student Government Association

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

e: usga@uab.edu | p: (205)934-8060

uab.edu/usga

March 17, 2020

Fellow Blazers,

As UAB responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of you are likely feeling confused and overwhelmed. As your student representative, I am right there with you. If you are wondering *what happens next*, it is important to know that UAB has many resources to help us navigate the transition to online classes and remote services for students.

If you are feeling lost in the varying email updates, UAB's Coronavirus [webpage](#) should function as your landing site for all questions. The [student tab](#) likely addresses many of the concerns going through your mind. As this situation is continually evolving, it is imperative that you *remain engaged* to stay up to date on how COVID-19 is affecting UAB's operations. Thank you to those who have shared your questions with us. This week, the Division of Student Affairs will be hosting an informational webinar to address your common concerns. Stay tuned for where to access this resource.

I know the constant fluctuation in policies and procedures can be frustrating. This is an unprecedented time for all of us. Let us try to exercise patience as our professors, supervisors, and administrators work to ensure the safest and most productive conditions for us. We are all on the same team here.

As students ourselves, we recognize that the sudden move to online instruction and remote student engagement is not a simple transition for many. If you rely on campus resources, please know that UAB's leadership wants to work with you to ensure that your needs are met.

- For questions pertaining to housing, please reach out to Student Housing at studenthousing@uab.edu.
- If the campus closure disrupts your food/housing security or access to the internet, a device with internet access, or to any other basic necessities, please reach out to Student Outreach at studentoutreach@uab.edu.

The USGA also recognizes that these sudden changes may have created unforeseen financial hardships for many students. For this reason, we are working with the Division of Student Affairs to create an **COVID-19 Emergency Grant**. These funds will be used to help students cover emergency needs resulting from COVID-19 including but not limited to travel to and/or from home, food/basic necessities, housing/utilities, and medical expenses. More information is to come on this effort; please refer to uab.edu/usga for updates this week.

As members of the UAB and global community, we have a shared responsibility to be informed and make thoughtful decisions in this time of crisis. I implore you to thoroughly read the updates at uab.edu/coronavirus. Only by being informed can we avoid the spread of panic and misinformation. Though many of us are young and do not face extreme risk from COVID-19, we must act with empathy and do our part to minimize spread. Wash your hands, participate in social distancing, and be conscious that your actions are far-reaching.

Lastly, to my fellow classmates in the Class of 2020, I share the emotions of frustration and loss you must feel as our highly anticipated final semester of college is disrupted. I, along with every member of USGA, recognize your sacrifice. Nevertheless, we must come together and do our part to minimize spread so that succeeding generations will be able to enjoy UAB as we have. After all, what else would Blazers do?

The USGA is here to support you during this time. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the us at usga@uab.edu. Together, we will overcome this. In the meantime, be well and wash your hands!

Ever faithful ever loyal,

Hana Habchi
USGA President