A Resolution to Support the Condemnation of Governor George Wallace’s Name on Plaques and Infrastructure at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government Association has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student voice; and

WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body towards positive and relevant changes; and

WHEREAS the UAB USGA stands in solidarity against persons who do not uphold the UAB non-discrimination clause that reads, “The University of Alabama at Birmingham prohibits discrimination in admission, educational programs, and other student matters on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, national origin, disability unrelated to program performance, veteran status, or genetic or family medical history;” and

WHEREAS the UAB USGA supports the undergraduate student-led committee driving the movement for UAB to take action in its discriminatory-reminding infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the historical actions of Governor George C. Wallace do not reflect UAB’s non-discrimination clause or values of inclusion; and

WHEREAS Governor Wallace stated in his inaugural speech as governor, “In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever;” and

WHEREAS Governor Wallace was a key leader during “The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door” tragedy where he stood in the way of two black students at the University of Alabama in an attempt to block their enrollment based upon their racial identity; and

WHEREAS an apology by Governor Wallace is insufficient to rectify the harm inflicted during his governorship; and

WHEREAS his name exists on a multitude of facilities on the campus of UAB in plaque form and as the name of buildings; and

WHEREAS his name existing on the campus is an ever-present reminder to students of the discriminatory viewpoint that Wallace and Alabama expressed.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAB USGA, representing the undergraduate student population, stands in support with the student-led initiative to condemn Governor George C. Wallace’s actions where his name is ever-present on facilities on campus.

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