A Resolution in Support of Revisions to the School of Health Professions Background Check and Drug Screening Policy

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 School of Health Professions is the only undergraduate school at UAB that requires a background check and drug screening at the time of program admission, besides clinical-based programs; and

WHEREAS the current SOHP Background Check and Drug Screening Policy for undergraduate students states that the requirement should be completed prior to the conclusion of the voluntary add and drop period of the first term of enrollment but is not strictly enforced; and

WHEREAS the background check and drug screening is managed by a third party (Castle Branch) that requires students to pay approximately $78.75, which could present a financial burden for some students; and

WHEREAS the current SOHP Background Check and Drug screening is unnecessary for Biomedical Sciences (BMD) students because no clinical work is required; and

WHEREAS the revised Background Check and Drug Screening policy will no longer require BMD majors to participate in background checks and drug screenings; and

WHEREAS Healthcare Management students will no longer be required to participate in the background check and drug screening requirement at the time of program admission but will be required before the program’s clinical internship; and

WHEREAS the revised Background Check and Drug Screening policy will be enforced in Fall 2020 and will instead require Biomedical Sciences and Healthcare Management students to complete a brief learning module housed in the Campus Learning System at the time of program admission; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the learning module will be to inform students on the common prerequisites for healthcare professions, such as drug screening, and to discuss how a record of felonies or evidence of illicit drug use may impact one’s eligibility for professional school and/or board certifications; and

WHEREAS the pilot learning module will be released in Summer 2020 and the compliance process will be monitored by the School of Health Professions Office for Student Recruitment, Engagement and Success (ORES); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UAB USGA, representing the undergraduate
student population, supports the new revisions to the School of Health Professions Background Check and Drug Screening Policy.

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