

Date Introduced: February 4, 2020

Date Voted Upon: February 4, 2020

An Amendment to be Entitled **Constitutional Revisions**

- 1 WHEREAS the University of Alabama at Birmingham Undergraduate Student Government Association
2 has the honor and responsibility of representing the entire undergraduate student voice; and
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- 4 WHEREAS it is the duty of the USGA to lead the undergraduate student body toward positive and
5 relevant changes; and
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- 7 WHEREAS updating the Constitution is a positive and relevant change that helps USGA better carry out
8 its role as a governing body;
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- 10 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing the numbering of Article III Section 2 to
11 fix the formatting of the Constitution; and
12
- 13 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend deleting the clause “or not sign” from Article III
14 Section 2 (4) to reduce redundancy; and
15
- 16 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article III Section 3 (2) from “To assume
17 the office of President of the USGA in the event the President is unable to perform his duties.” to “To
18 assume the office of President of the USGA in the event the President is unable to perform their duties.”
19 to reflect wording that is more inclusive of different genders; and
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- 21 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing the numbering of Article III Section 4 to
22 fix the formatting of the Constitution; and
23
- 24 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend deleting the Article III Section 4 (3) clause “To
25 keep an accurate and permanent record of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Branch and
26 Senate.” to reflect a more efficient delegation of power and responsibilities; and
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- 28 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing the numbering of Article III Section 6 to
29 fix the formatting of the Constitution; and
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- 31 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend deleting the Article IV Section 1 clause “It may
32 take such rules and regulations as may seem necessary for the accomplishment of these purposes.” to
33 reduce redundancy and ambiguity; and
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- 35 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IV Section 2 (1) from “The
36 Legislative Branch shall consist of the USGA Executive Vice President, Senators, Freshman Forum, and
37 the Internship Program.” to “The Legislative Branch may consist of the USGA Executive Vice President,
38 Senators, Freshman Forum, and the Internship Program.” to leave the possibility of the Internship
39 Program without mandating it; and
40
- 41 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IV Section 2 (2) from
42 “Representatives are elected from each of the academic schools, by the undergraduate students enrolled
43 in that school, and in proportion to the number of students in each unit.” to “Representatives are elected
44 from each of the academic schools, by the undergraduate students enrolled in that school, and in
45 proportion to the number of students in each academic college.” to reduce ambiguity; and
46
- 47 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IV Section 2 (2) b from “Each
48 academic unit shall be entitled to at least two members of the Senate. Each school shall be awarded one

49 [1] additional Senate position for every 500 students enrolled in that Undergraduate Student Body.” to
50 “Each academic college shall be entitled to at least two members of the Senate. Each school shall be
51 awarded one [1] additional Senate position for every 500 students enrolled in that Undergraduate Student
52 Body.” to reduce ambiguity; and
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54 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IV Section 2 (3) from “The
55 Chairperson of the Senate shall be the Executive Vice President of the USGA Executive Branch.” to “The
56 Executive Vice President of the USGA Executive Branch shall be the Chairperson of the Senate.” to
57 ensure that being Executive Vice President is a sufficient condition for being Chairperson and not the
58 other way around; and
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60 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IV Section 5 to Article IV Section
61 3 to fix the formatting of the Constitution; and
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63 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend deleting the Article V Section 2 (2) clause
64 “Justices may serve a maximum term of one academic year, or twelve months from the time of
65 appointment, unless they resign, graduate, or are removed from office.” to reflect USGA precedent and
66 current attitudes, especially as it does not serve USGA or the Judicial Branch to have inexperienced
67 justices, and no other USGA branch has this limitation; and
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69 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “at least” to the Article V
70 Section 3 clause “The Student Court shall meet once a month during the regular school year. A special
71 meeting of the Student Court may be called by the Chief Justice with 2 days advance notice.” so that it
72 reads as “The Student Court shall meet at least once a month during the regular school year. A special
73 meeting of the Student Court may be called by the Chief Justice with at least 2 days advance notice.” to
74 be more precise; and
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76 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article V Section 8 from “Upon his/her
77 decision, the Assistant Vice President of Student Experience should:” to “Upon their decision, the
78 Assistant Vice President of Student Experience should:” to be more inclusive; and
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80 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “at least” to the Article VI
81 Section 1 (2) c clause “Must have a GPA of 2.5 to be eligible to run.” so that it reads as “Must have at
82 least a GPA of 2.5 to be eligible to run.” to clarify meaning; and
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84 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “at least” to the Article VI
85 Section 1 (2) d clause “Must maintain a 2.5 GPA (of 4.0) while in office, with no grace period.” so that it
86 reads as “Must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA (of 4.0) while in office, with no grace period.” to clarify
87 meaning; and
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89 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “a Judicial member” to the
90 Article VI Section 1 (2) clause “Must have been involved with the USGA, either as a senator, a committee
91 member, or a member of the Executive Cabinet for at least eight weeks.” so that it reads as “Must have
92 been involved with the USGA, either as a senator, a committee member, a Judicial member, or a member
93 of the Executive Cabinet for at least eight weeks.” to promote consistency, equality, and fair practice; and
94

95 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “Vice President of Student
96 Services” to the Article VI Section 1 (3) clause “The Vice President of Communications and Vice
97 President of Finance:” so that it reads as “The Vice President of Communications, Vice President of
98 Student Services, and the Vice President of Finance:” to reflect precedent; and
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100 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing the numbering of Article VI Section 1 (5)
101 to fix the formatting of the Constitution; and
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103 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article VI Section 2 (3) from “To be
104 elected for a senate office, candidates that garner the most votes possible will fill the available senate

105 seats” to “To be elected for a senate office, candidates that receive the majority of cast votes will fill the
106 available senate seats.” to remove ambiguity; and

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108 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “removed or” to the Article
109 VI Section 3 (3) clause “All Executive Officers and Senators shall assume office at the USGA Banquet
110 upon being sworn in and shall hold offices until successors are elected and assume office.” so that it
111 reads as “All Executive Officers and Senators shall assume office at the USGA Banquet upon being
112 sworn in and shall hold offices until removed or successors are elected and assume office.” to clarify
113 meaning; and

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115 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article VII from “The President,
116 Executive Vice President, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Finance, Vice President
117 of Student Services and any other appointed positions designated by the Senate shall be eligible for a
118 stipend, the amount of which shall be determined by the Senate through the normal legislative process.”
119 to “The President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of
120 Finance, Vice President of Student Services and any other appointed positions designated by the Senate
121 shall be eligible for a stipend, the amount of which shall be approved by the Senate through the normal
122 legislative process.” to clarify the language of the Constitution and ensure that such language does not
123 misrepresent the powers of the senate to do that which falls under the jurisdiction of the USGA Division of
124 Finance; and

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126 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article VIII Section 1 (3) from “The
127 Senate shall vote as to whether impeachment will take place. Impeachment shall a require three-fourths
128 majority vote of the Senate.” to “The Senate shall vote as to whether impeachment will take place.
129 Impeachment shall require a three-fourths majority vote of the Senate.” to fix incorrect wording; and

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131 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend removing the words “the number” from the Article
132 IX Section 1 (2) clause “A petition signed by ten percent of the number of the Undergraduate Student
133 Body.” to remove ambiguity; and

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135 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend making the Article IX Section 2 (1) clause
136 “Following proper approval from the Senate, the Constitution must be approved by the USGA Advisor.”
137 Into its own clause of Article IX Section 2 (2) to improve clarity; and

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139 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend adding the statement “unless the amendment(s)
140 was initiated by Article IX Section 1(1)” to the Article IX Section 2 (1) clause “The Senate must vote by 2/3
141 of members present to accept the proposed amendment(s).” so that it reads as “The Senate must vote by
142 2/3 of members present to accept the proposed amendment(s) unless the amendment(s) was initiated by
143 Article IX Section 1(1).” to reduce redundancy; and

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145 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IX Section 2 (2) from “Following
146 proper approval from the Senate, the Constitution must all be approved by the USGA Advisor” to
147 “Following proper approval from the Senate, the Constitution must be approved by the USGA Advisor in
148 its entirety.” to remove ambiguity; and

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150 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IX Section 2 (5) from “The
151 proposed amendment(s) shall be presented to the Student Body in a duly-authorized referendum. A
152 majority of votes cast must be affirmative to pass the amendment(s).” to “The proposed amendment(s)
153 shall be presented to the Student Body in a duly-authorized referendum. A majority of votes cast must be
154 in favor to pass the amendment(s).” to reduce ambiguity; and

155
156 WHEREAS the authors of this amendment recommend changing Article IX Section 4 from “Editorial
157 changes to this Constitution such as grammar, formatting, and non-substantive re-wording may be
158 proposed by any member of the Senate at an official Senate meeting or Senate retreat/conference and
159 are approved and ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senate members present and voting,
160 without a vote by the Undergraduate Student Body.” to “Editorial changes to this Constitution such as

161 grammar, formatting, and non-substantive re-wording may be proposed by any member of the Senate at
162 an official Senate meeting or Senate retreat/conference and must be approved and ratified by a two-thirds
163 affirmative vote of the Senate members present and voting, without a vote by the Undergraduate Student
164 Body.” to reduce ambiguity;

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166 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UAB USGA supports the above changes to the Constitution.
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170 Andrew Bartholomew, Associate Justice 2019-20
171 Eli Tylicki, Attorney General 2019-20
172

173 Sponsor: Ania Krutul, Senator 2019-20
174

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