A Bill to be Entitled

Updating the Code of Laws

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 toward positive and relevant changes; and

WHEREAS updating the Code of Laws is a positive and relevant change that helps USGA act in accordance with its guiding documents; and

WHEREAS the Code of Laws Committee was established to update the Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS the Code of Laws Committee unanimously recommended the following changes to the Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends the deleting the Section 201.1 clause “Any appointed member may be removed at will by the President.” to prevent the President from overriding a demerit system; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 201.3 from “The Chief of Staff shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the USGA, serving all branches and departments at the advice and consent of the USGA President after appointment by the USGA Senate.” to “The Chief of Staff shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the USGA, serving all branches and departments at the advice and consent of the USGA President after appointment by the President and approval by the USGA Senate.” to clarify the selection of the Chief of Staff; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 201.4 from “The Chief of Staff shall specifically...Ensure that members of the Executive Cabinet are fulfilling the requirements of their job...” to “The Chief of Staff shall...Preside over Cabinet meetings and ensure that members of the Executive Cabinet are fulfilling the requirements of their job...” to clarify a significant responsibility of the Chief of Staff; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing 201.5 (1) from “(1) Publicity/Communications Staff and Committees (2) Finance Committee and Chairperson (3) Travel Grants Chairperson (4) Emergency Student Loan Chairperson (5) STARS Coordinator (6) Candidate Orientation Coordinator (7) Freshman Forum Director(s) (8) Student Services Staff and Committees” to “Finance division members, Student Services division members, Communications division members, Executive Vice President division members, Chief Justice, and Associate Justices” to update the titles of USGA positions; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends moving Section 202.0 (202.1-202.2), which covers the Executive Discretionary Fund to Title V - Funding Guidelines for better organization; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 203.3 from “The Vice President of Finance shall evaluate scholarship allocations every semester during the creation of the semester USGA Budget” to “The Vice President of Finance shall evaluate scholarship and stipend allocations every semester during the creation of the semester USGA budget” to more accurately represent the stipend and scholarship application process; and
WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 204.1 from "All members of the Executive Branch are bound to the guidelines listed in the Executive Branch Policies and Procedures, and are subject to the sanctions therein." to "All members of the Executive Branch are bound to the guidelines listed in the Executive Branch Policies and Procedures, and are subject to their respective demerit policies." to clarify that members are subject to sanctions found in their demerit policies; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 301.0.2 "The Executive Vice President presides over both formal and informal Senate meetings." to clarify a significant responsibility of the Executive Vice President; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.1 from "Beginning the first full week of each semester, the Senate shall convene every other week to conduct the Order of Business of the Senate." to "Beginning the first or second full week of each semester, the Senate shall convene approximately every other week during a formal Senate meeting to conduct the Order of Business of the Senate." to allow Senate meetings to be held at flexible times; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends altering the Order of Business as dictated in Section 301.1.2 to move Reports of the Executive Branch and Reports of the Judicial Branch before the Guest Speaker to allow members of these divisions to give their own updates in person without requiring them to stay through a guest speaker presentation; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends altering the Order of Business as dictated in Section 301.1.2 to replace reports of the Freshman Forum Director to reports of the Campus Relations Director to better utilize the Senate's time and inform the Senate on student concerns brought to the attention of the Campus Relations Director; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.3 from "The Senate may, by a majority vote, revise the Order of Business to take a section out of its proper order" to "The Senate may, by a majority vote revise the Order of Business to take a section out or adjust the proper order" for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.1.4 from "Standing Committees of the USGA shall meet at least every alternate week, being the week that the Senate is not in session." to "Standing Committees of the USGA shall meet in an informal Senate meeting at least every alternate week, being the week that the Senate is not in session." to clarify that committee meetings are considered informal Senate meetings; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.2.2. from "As set forth in Article IV of the USGA Constitution, the elected Executive Vice President of the USGA shall serve as the Chairperson of the Senate unless the Vice Chairperson of the Senate is serving in the Chairperson’s absence. The Chairperson may leave the Chair to participate in debate or discussion, wherein the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the Senate until the close of the debate or discussion. The Chairperson shall then resume in presiding over the Senate" to "The elected Executive Vice President of the USGA shall serve as the Chairperson of the Senate. The Vice Chairperson of the Senate shall serve in the Chairperson’s absence. The Chairperson may leave the Chair to participate in debate or discussion, wherein the Vice Chairperson shall preside over the Senate until the close of the debate or discussion. The Chairperson shall then resume in presiding over the Senate" for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.1 (2) from "All bills and resolutions shall be titled. Bills and resolutions may be titled in either of the following two manners: " All bills and resolutions must be titled in either of the following two manners:" for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 301.3.2 "A bill shall be defined as a change to the Code of Laws and a resolution shall be defined as a formal expression of support by USGA." to
distinguish between bills and resolutions and renumbering the sections in 301.3 (e.g. the current Section 301.3.2 will become Section 301.3.3 and the current section 301.3.3 will become 301.3.4); and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.2 from “All bills and resolutions must have an author, sponsor, and contact.” to “All bills and resolutions must have an author, sponsor, and contact. The author is defined as the writer of the bill or resolution, the sponsor is defined as the USGA Senators who support the bill or resolution, and the contact is defined as the individual relevant to the bill or resolution.” to outline the definitions of author, sponsor, and contact; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.4 from “All bills and resolutions shall be sponsored by a senator” to “All bills and resolutions shall be sponsored by a senator, and only senators may sponsor bills and resolutions” for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends removing Section 201.3.5 stating “All financial bills shall follow the USGA Funding Guidelines as set forth in Title V of this Code of Laws. All bills pertaining to money shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate in accordance with § 301.5.7” because financial bills is not a defined term; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.3.7 from “In accordance with § 301.5.7, all other bills and resolutions shall require a majority vote of the Senate.” To “In accordance with § 301.5.7, all other bills and resolutions shall require a majority vote of the Senate in special sessions or formal Senate meetings.” to clarify when bills and resolutions can be voted on; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends substituting every instance of the word “amendment” in Section 301.4 to “bill” because “bill” applies to changes to the Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends removing Section 301.4.5 stating “All financial amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate in accordance with § 301.5.8” because the term “financial amendment” is not defined; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.5.7 from “A simple majority vote shall be required.” to “As required by parliamentary procedures according to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) a simple majority vote shall be required.” and removing bullet (3) from the following list for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.5.8 (6) from “To approve amendments to the Budget Bill or any other legislation pertaining to money;” to “To approve the RSO Budget and pertinent amendments to the RSO Budget” to more accurately describe the RSO Budget approval process; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 301.7.1 from “When in session, senators and officers of the USGA shall adhere to a dress code consisting of business casual attire” to “When in session, senators and officers of the USGA shall adhere to a dress code consisting of business casual attire, unless the Executive Vice President indicates otherwise” to allow for more flexibility in dress code; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the clause of Section 301.8.1 reading “There shall be four Standing Committees of the USGA” to “There shall be at least four Standing Committees of the USGA” to allow for more flexibility in the Senate structure as new student concerns arise; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the clause of Section 301.8.1 reading The Standing
Committees of the USGA shall be structured by the Executive Vice President who will present this structure to the President and Vice Presidents for approval by majority vote; the Standing Committees of the USGA shall be structured by the Executive Vice President who will present this structure to the Senate for approval by 2/3 majority vote; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 301.8.5 reading “A Committee Chairperson shall be required to attend all committee meetings and shall be removed from his or her position upon missing two meetings during any given semester” for clarification with new demerit policy procedures; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting section 302.2 reading “Freshman Forum shall be defined as a program with the purpose of developing skills such as: identification of issues on campus, innovation of solutions, and interaction with peers who have differing opinions. Programming will prepare freshman for leadership, specifically for a future within USGA” because it does not set up structure nor give direction for Freshman Forum; therefore, it is not appropriate information for the Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 302.3 from “Members of the Freshman Forum will elect their own officers” to “Members of the Freshman Forum may elect their own officers” to allow for more flexibility; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 302.4 from “A previous member of the Forum will be appointed by the USGA President and be confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. He or she will act the Director(s) of the Freshman Forum and serve on the USGA President’s Executive Branch” to “Freshman Forum Director(s) will be appointed by the USGA President and confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. They will act as the Director(s) of the Freshman Forum and serve on the USGA President’s Executive Branch” to allow for more flexibility in Freshman Forum Director selection; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.1 from “All actions against any party will commence by filing a written complaint with the Student Court, which shall in turn notify the Student Advocate.” to “All actions against any party will commence by filing a written complaint with the Student Court, which shall in turn notify the Student Advocate and Attorney General.” to allow the Attorney General to be more involved in the processes of the Student Court; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.3 from “The decision for Dismissal of a complaint may be appealed by written request submitted to the USGA Advisor within five business days after a decision to dismiss by the Student Court. The decision of the USGA Advisor shall be rendered at least ten business days from receipt of written request. Upon receipt of appeal of a dismissal, the USGA Advisor may either affirm the Student Court’s decision or direct the Student Court to entertain the complaint, following the procedure set forth in Title IV of the USGA Code of Laws. The decision of the USGA Advisor shall be considered final.” to “The decision for Dismissal of a complaint may be appealed by written request submitted to the USGA Advisor(s) within five business days after a decision to dismiss by the Student Court. The decision of the USGA Advisor(s) shall be rendered at least ten business days from receipt of written request. Upon receipt of appeal of a dismissal, the USGA Advisor(s) may either affirm the Student Court’s decision or direct the Student Court to entertain the complaint, following the procedure set forth in Title IV of the USGA Code of Laws. The decision of the USGA Advisor(s) shall be considered final.” to allow important decisions to be made by all of the USGA Advisors and not just one; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.6 from “The USGA Student Court shall not have jurisdiction over any matters of violation of Alabama Criminal Laws (Title 13A) and will result in the dismissal of a filed complaint.” to “The USGA Student Court shall not have
jurisdiction over any matters of violation of Alabama Criminal Laws (Title 13A) and such filed complaints will be dismissed,” to improve the wording of this section; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 401.7 from “The President shall appoint an attorney to represent the USGA and act as its spokesperson.” to “The President shall appoint the Attorney General to represent the USGA and act as its spokesperson.” to clarify the mention of attorney; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 404.1 from “Both the Plaintiff and Defendant’s respective counsel shall deliver a five minute opening statement.” to “Both the Plaintiff and Defendant’s respective counsel are eligible to deliver a five minute opening statement.” to not force the Plaintiff and Defendant to deliver opening statements; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 405.1 from “In the event there are no witness to be called on both sides, the Student Court will entertain arguments from the Plaintiff, Defendant or respective counsel for one hour, with thirty minutes to be divided between both sides. Counsel may reserve the balance of their remaining time if they wish for a rebuttal argument. It will be the responsibility of both sides to keep track of their remaining argument time” to “In the event there are no witness to be called on both sides, the Student Court will entertain arguments from the Plaintiff, Defendant or respective counsel” to remove the strict time restriction and allow for more freedom in arguments; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding the clause “Note that the definition of Justices includes both Associate Justices and Chief Justice.” to the end of Section 406.5 to clarify that “Justices” includes the Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 408.2 from “Justices shall disqualify themselves from any case, which involves parties that may influence or enjoy their favor. In the event a recusal prevents quorum from being held by the Student Court, the Chief Justice shall request the input from all parties involved entertaining a decision of whether or not said Justice shall recuse themselves. If there is no objection, then the Justice may continue to sit through arguments. If objections are raised and quorum unable to be held, the Justice shall not be considered as a part of the total number of judges for such case and their absence shall not affect the ability of the Student Court to reach quorum. The trial shall be allowed to proceed with a majority of qualified judges” to “Justices must disqualify themselves from any case which involves parties that may influence or enjoy their favor. If the Chief Justice has reason to believe that an Associate Justice is not recusing themselves when appropriate, then the rest of the Judicial Branch may vote on a decision to force the Associate Justice in question to recuse themselves. The Chief Justice alone cannot force Associate Justices to disqualify themselves from a case” to more clearly communicate the process for Justice recusal; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.1 from “Appeals must be submitted by written request to the USGA Advisor within 5 business days of a decision by the Student Court.” to “Appeals must be submitted by written request to the USGA Advisor(s) within 5 business days of a decision by the Student Court.” to clarify that USGA has multiple advisors; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.2 from “An Appeal Hearing shall be scheduled by the USGA Advisor within five business days of receipt of appeal request.” to “An Appeal Hearing shall be scheduled by the USGA Advisors or individual(s) the USGA Advisors delegate within five business days of receipt of appeal request.” to clarify that USGA has multiple advisors and to allow the Advisors to delegate the responsibility of scheduling hearings to another individual; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding the statement “as determined by the USGA Advisors” to the end of the clause reading “All appeals must be given the right to a hearing unless the appeal does not show clear grounds of error, law or procedure by the USGA Student Court” of Section 409.3 to clarify who is responsible for identifying “error;” and
WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.6 from "The Court of Appeals shall consist of three students from the Student Body, to be selected by the USGA Advisor. Students selected must not be affiliated with either party in the proceedings. The Assistant Vice President of Student Life shall appoint two more individuals to serve on the Student Court."

Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance to use the following guidelines and definitions for the finances of the USGA to clarify the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance in allocating funding; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 409.7 from "All decisions may be appealed upon request to the Assistant Vice President of Student Life, whose decision shall be final." to "All decisions may be appealed upon request to the Assistant Vice President of Student Experience, whose decision shall be final." because AVP of Student Life is no longer a position title; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 412.2 from "The Court shall also send a notice to the Kaleidoscope and the USGA President, who shall inform the Senate regarding submission of the question before the discussion of the question can occur in a formal meeting of the Student Court. The Student Court shall issue an advisory opinion within ten business days of the original request." to "The Court may publish advisory opinions as needed or upon request by students." to remove the requirement of sending notices to the Kaleidoscope, which is not involved with internal matters of USGA and allow various students to receive such notices if they so desire; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 412.3 "Upon consideration of the question, the Student Court shall issue an opinion, in writing to the student making the request. A copy shall also be sent to the Kaleidoscope and the USGA President who shall inform the Senate." to remove the requirement of sending notices to the Kaleidoscope, which is not involved with internal matters of USGA; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 413.1 from "Any Court Justice who misses more than two scheduled meetings, or judicial hearings, during any given semester, shall submit a written excuse to the Court explaining the absence before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Student Court shall review the excuse and vote to accept or reject the absence as excused." to "Any member of the Judicial branch shall be subject to a demerit system approved for the Judicial Branch." to reflect the use of demerit policies typically enacted for USGA members; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 413.2 "If the excuse is accepted by a majority vote of members present, then the Justice shall retain their position with the Student Court, however, their attendance record will note said absence as excused." since demerit policies account for excuses; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 413.3 "After two unexcused absences, a Justice shall forfeit their seat on the court." since demerit policies account for unexcused absences; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing the last sentence of Section 500.1 from "Therefore, the following guidelines and definitions shall be used for the finances of the USGA" to "Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance to use the following guidelines and definitions for the finances of the USGA" to clarify the responsibility of the Vice President of Finance in allocating funding; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 500.2 from "Student Organizations" are defined as any departmental or special interest club, group, or organization with UAB
Undergraduate Academic Unit membership or affiliation. A “University-recognized organization” is defined as a student organization that:

1. Is currently meeting all criteria delineated in The University of Alabama at Birmingham Division of Student Affairs Policy Statement on “Criteria for Recognition of Organizations/Privileges and Recognition” and,
2. has an active registration on the OrgSyncTM-licensed “BSync” portal.” to “A Registered Student Organization (RSO)” is defined as a club or organization whose purposes and activities enhance the social, cultural, recreational, and educational functions of the University. An RSO must meet all of the criteria delineated in the RSO Handbook.” to clarify the definition of an RSO and its requirements; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 500.3 “The majority of the members of the organization must be undergraduate students.” to allow for flexibility in organization membership; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 500.4 “Any organization that is applying for funding must provide a general date for their most heavily USGA-funded event. Four weeks prior to the actual date of the event, the organization must provide the Vice President of Finance of the USGA a concrete date, time, and location of the event.” since organizations must submit one funding request for all their events in a semester instead of submitting individual funding requests for each event; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 500.3 “The “USGA Budget” is defined as the operating budget of the USGA. The "RSO Budget" is defined as the budget allocated to RSOs. The RSO Budget is created each semester. The USGA budget may be presented at the first senate meeting of the start of the academic year.” to distinguish between the USGA Budget and RSO budget; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.4 from “There shall be no after-the-fact allocation of USGA funds. This clause does not conflict with Emergency Allocations as outlined in Section 503.17.” to “Reallocation of USGA funds may take place if necessary,” to allow for flexibility in the reallocation of funds; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.4 from “USGA funds shall not be used to fund programs or services which conflict with the Constitution, the Code of Laws, or established and permanent programs and services of the USGA. Permanent programs shall be defined as a program or service planned by the Finance Committee, the Student Services Committee, or the Programs Committee which is to occur at least two consecutive semesters of the University's academic year.” to “USGA funds shall not be used to fund programs or services which conflict with the Constitution or the Code of Laws.” to remove unnecessary language from the Code of Laws; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.9 from “The USGA shall not fund any program, service, or organization, which is not open to all Undergraduate Academic Unit students.” to “The USGA shall not fund any program, service, or event, which is not open to all Undergraduate Academic Unit students.” to allow the USGA to fund exclusive organizations such as honor societies; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 501.10 “The USGA will not fund operational expenses of a group outside of the USGA.” to give the USGA greater flexibility in funding; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 501.12 from “USGA allocation of money for programs, activities, or material items shall be determined by: 1. Overall student appeal and/or need; 2. Significance of the program/service; and, 3. Appeal and significance priority.” to “USGA allocation of money for programs, activities, or material items shall be determined by the Vice President of Finance.” to allow the Vice President of Finance to a more specific rubric that evaluates the size of the organization, the feasibility and impact of the event, historical funding usage
data, and other information that the Vice President of Finance and the budget allocation committee deem necessary to allocate funds to an organization; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting the clause “The funding of external or co-sponsored events shall not exceed seventy percent of each semester budget for the USGA.” from Section 501.13 to give the USGA greater flexibility in funding; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.2 from “The Finance Committee shall be responsible for initial letters or emails to be sent to funding-eligible student organizations at least one month before budget hearings via BSYNC.” to “The Division of Finance shall be responsible for initial letters or emails to be sent to funding-eligible student organizations at least one month before budget hearings via Engage.” to update the names of the division that allocates funds and the portal used by the division; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.3 from “Budget Request Forms shall be designed by the Finance Committee Chairperson and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Finance Committee.” to “Budget Request Forms shall be designed by the Vice President of Finance.” since no finance committee exists and because the creation and management of the budget request process falls under the existing duties and responsibilities of the Vice President of Finance; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.4 from “All funding requests for programs and services from student organizations and divisions must be submitted by Budget Request form no later than five days before the Budget Hearing.” to “All funding requests from RSOs must be submitted via the Budget Request form within the Budget Request Period. The Vice President of Finance will set the Budget Request Period each semester.” to allow for greater flexibility in setting the Budget Request Period; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting the clauses “Requests for funding attempting to be made at the Budget Hearing without following the format herein outlined may be made if the group did not receive Notice of the Hearing on time or the Committee did not follow the guidelines herein outlined. Under these circumstances, the Committee may consider the request if the majority of the committee members present approve.” from Section 502.6 to ensure that the organizations requesting a budget follow the set budget request process guidelines that are created and disseminated by the Vice President of Finance prior to the semesterly budget request process; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.7 from “The Budget must be read to the Senate by the third-to-last meeting of the semester and approved by the Senate by the second-to-last meeting of the semester.” to “The RSO Budget must be sent to the Senate by the last formal meeting of the semester and approved by the Senate by the last meeting of the semester.” to clarify the process typically used for approving the RSO Budget; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.8 from “Once the Budget Bill becomes Law, the Finance Committee shall contact each organization, committee, or group having made a Budget Request and notify them of the USGA decision on their request.” to “Once the RSO Budget has been approved, the Vice President of Finance shall contact each RSO that submitted a Budget Request and notify them of the USGA decision on their request.” to describe a specific role of the Vice President of Finance; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 502.10 “Ten (10%) percent of the Undergraduate Student Government Association allocation for each semester will be placed in a Reserve Account, to be used for Emergency Allocation. Should the balance exceed $10,000, any amount over $10,000 will be returned to the General Account.” since a separate emergency reserve fund containing $10,000 already exists and cannot be used by USGA unless an emergency arises, and thus, the USGA Budget need not contain a line item allocation for an emergency reserve; and
WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 502.11 from “An Emergency Allocation shall be defined as an unforeseen allocation that is necessary for the maintenance of the USGA or a Special Program/Service. It will take a two-thirds vote of members present of the Senate to approve the Emergency Allocation.” to “An Emergency Allocation from the USGA Budget shall be defined as an unforeseen allocation that is necessary for the maintenance of the USGA or a Special Program/Service. It will take a two-thirds vote of members present of the Senate to approve the Emergency Allocation.” to clarify the source of the Emergency Allocation; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Sections 503.2. “All amendments to the Budget Bill shall require a majority vote of the USGA Senate.” and 503.3 “Only an amendment may be used to allocate money, except for the original Budget Bill” and replacing these deleted sections with section 503.1 “The Budget Allocation Process will be determined by the Vice President of Finance. The process may utilize a rubric for evaluation. The Allocation Committee will be headed by the Vice President of Finance and will consist of members of the Division of Finance, Executive Council, Cabinet, Senate, and Judicial. The Committee will be created by the Vice President of Finance.” to provide more relevant information about the Budget Allocation process; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 505.0, which covers violations of funding guidelines, which are not possible given USGA’s current funding structure; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting section 506.0, which covers sanctions imposable for violations (there is no need for sanctions if the violations cannot actually be committed); and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 507.1 from “The Finance Chairperson shall be held responsible for the carrying out of this Title and the actions of his/her Committee toward this Title. The Finance Chairperson and/or Vice President of Finance shall be responsible to represent the USGA on funding matters within the University as assigned by the President.” to “The Vice President of Finance shall be held responsible for the carrying out of this Title and the actions of his/her Committee toward this Title. The Vice President of Finance shall be responsible to represent the USGA on funding matters within the University as assigned by the President.” to remove the use of “Finance Chairperson,” which is an outdated title; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 508.0 and 508.1, which state “The Finance Committee, when dealing with the Vice President of Finance, shall:

1. Provide him/her with copies of amendments to the Budget Bill within a week of passage.
2. Help the Vice President of Finance with the semester report.
3. Have the Vice President of Finance as an Ad Hoc member of the Finance Committee.”; since the finance committee no longer exists and the members of the Division of Finance are responsible for assisting the Vice President of Finance with the budget hearing and allocation processes; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 509.2 from “If there are events in which not enough committee members are available to audit, it is at the discretion of the Vice President of Finance to seek assistance from the Executive Cabinet or the Senate” to “If there are events in which not enough committee members are available to audit, it is at the discretion of the Vice President of Finance to seek assistance from the Executive Cabinet, the Senate, or the Judicial Branch”; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 510.1 from “Student organizations requesting to receive their allocated funds as a reimbursement shall do so using the approved form as soon as possible after the event.” to “RSOs requesting to receive their allocated funds as a reimbursement shall do so using the approved form within 7 days of the event, with exceptions granted by the Division of Finance.” to provide a clear deadline on requesting reimbursements; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 510.2 from “The last day to request reimbursement is one (1) month after the last day of final exams for each semester.” to
“The last day to request reimbursements and accompanying documents is 1 week after the last
day of final exams for each semester.” to reduce the long timeline of requesting reimbursements; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 601.2 from “The Election Timetable shall
be distributed by the Election Coordinator and Election Manager by the end of January.” to “The
Election Timetable shall be distributed by the Election Coordinator and Election Manager by the
end of the January immediately preceding the election.” for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 602.5 “The Election Manager and assistants
may receive a stipend for election activities of an amount to be determined by the Vice
President of Finance.” since the responsibilities of the Election Manager and assistants do not warrant
stipends; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.2 from “If complaint is valid,
the commission shall instruct the candidate to correct any issues or disqualify the candidate.” to
“If complaint is valid, the commission shall instruct the candidate to correct any issues, issue
sanctions, or disqualify the candidate. Candidates who filed a complaint or are the subject of a
complaint have the right to request counsel from the Attorney General or the Student Advocate.” to allow
the Election Commission to issue sanctions and clarify how candidates can request the Attorney General
and Student Advocate; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.4 from “Shall work with the USGA
Publicity Coordinator to provide publicity for the elections.” to “Shall work with the USGA
Communications Division to provide publicity for the elections.” to allow more than just one member of
the Communications Division to help in publicizing elections; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends moving Section 604.6 “Shall certify the ballot (or ballots
in the event a run-off election is needed) and the election results.” to Section 603.0 so that
certifying the ballot would be a duty of the Election Coordinator (usually one of the USGA Advisors) and
not the Election Commission (composed of students); and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 604.7 from “Shall not endorse any candidate
seeking office” to “Election Commission members, including alternates, shall not endorse any candidate
seeking office.” to prevent Election Commission alternates from endorsing candidates; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 605.1 from “The Spring General Election
timetable shall be determined by the Election Coordinator and the Election manager to be
released in January.” to The Spring General Election timetable shall be determined by the
Election Coordinator and the Election manager to be released in the January immediately preceding
the election.” for clarification purposes; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends adding Section 605.8 “All executive council candidates must
participate in the debate unless there are extenuating circumstances.” to allow the student body to hear
from candidates for significant positions in a public forum; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.2 from “While polls are open, all
campaigning must be done at least 50 feet from all facilities.” to “While polls are open, candidates
are prohibited from campaigning in person and online. Online promotion of the election by candidates
must be limited to general statements that do not promote a specific candidate.” to clarify what candidates
can do when polls are open; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.8 from “There shall be no
deliberate destruction of one candidate’s campaign materials by another candidate or their
campaign staff.” to “There shall be no deliberate destruction, obstruction, or removal of
one candidate’s campaign materials by another candidate or their campaign staff.” to outline the
various actions considered election violations; and
WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 606.11 from "Any candidate who commits voter fraud will automatically be disqualified from elections." to "Any candidate who commits voter fraud will be subject to sanctions, including disqualification, determined by the Election Commission." to give the Election Commission greater flexibility in assigning sanctions; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 608.3 from "Fall enrollment the semester prior to the spring general election as determined by the UAB Registrar's Office shall be used to determine the number of seats available to each school or college." to "Fall enrollment the semester prior to the spring general election as determined by the UAB Registrar's Office shall be used to determine the number of Senate seats available to each school or college." for clarification; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends removing Section 609.0, which covers Absentee Ballots, which are no longer needed since voting is now online; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 610.2 from "Senators, the Chief Justice, and Associate Justices shall take an oath of office no later than the second meeting after their election/confirmation." to "Senators, the Chief Justice, and Associate Justices shall take an oath of office." to allow for greater flexibility in taking the oath; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 700.1 from "The purpose of this program is to provide a better understanding of the USGA for hose preparing to serve in the organization. It shall be mandatory for all individuals to complete the orientation prior to appointment to USGA." to "The purpose of this program is to provide a better understanding of the USGA for hose preparing to serve in the organization. Individuals may complete the orientation prior to appointment to USGA." to allow for more flexibility in transitions; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Section 702.2 "Only after completing all of the requirements of the Candidate Orientation Program may candidates be appointed to USGA positions to all for more flexibility in transitions; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 800.2 from "The Travel Grant Coordinator shall be appointed by the USGA President from a list of willing prospects." to "The Travel Grant Coordinator shall be appointed by the Vice President of Finance from a list of willing prospects." to allow the Vice President of Finance to appoint a member of the Finance division; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 803.1 from "All Applications for funding should be received by the first Monday of each month for the months of September, October, November, January, February, March and April in order to receive consideration for funding for the current month. All requests received after the set deadline for that month must receive a two-thirds vote of acceptance by the Travel Grant Committee." to "Applications for funding must be received at least 2 weeks before the departure date of the conference or convention. The Travel Grant Program Coordinator may allow applications submitted less than 2 weeks before the departure date at his/her discretion." to provide clearer deadlines for submitting applications for funding; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 804.1 from "All applicants must be undergraduate students enrolled in the UAB Undergraduate Academic Unit at both the time of request and the time of the conference or convention." to "All applicants must be full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the UAB Undergraduate Academic Unit at both the time of request and the time of the conference or convention." to ensure that the funding allocated for travel grants is only used by full-time undergraduate students due to the funding structure of USGA; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 805.2 from "Transportation expenses eligible for reimbursement include airfare, train fare (coach class only), rental car (applicants
must give justification for why rental car was used instead of public transportation), taxi/van, parking in host city, and parking in Birmingham (if by air or by train was the method of transportation).” to “Transportation expenses eligible for reimbursement include but are not limited to airfare, train fare (coach class only), rental car (applicants must give justification for why rental car was used instead of public transportation), taxi/van, parking in host city, and parking in Birmingham (if by air or by train was the method of transportation).” to allow for greater flexibility in deciding which expenses are reimbursable; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends deleting Title IX (Sections 900.0 – 911.0), which covers the Andrew M. Sands Emergency Student Loan Program, which is no longer housed in USGA; and

WHEREAS the committee recommends changing Section 1000.0 from “Errors are defined as the following:
1. Spelling errors
2. Grammatical errors
3. Other typing errors
4. Numeration errors
5. Continuity and consistency errors
6. Other Errors as defined by the USGA Advisor” to “Errors are defined as the following:
1. Spelling errors
2. Grammatical errors
3. Other typing errors
4. Numeration errors
5. Continuity and consistency errors” to prevent the USGA Advisors from deciding alone what constitutes an error; and

Whereas the committee recommends adding Section 1000.3 “The Code of Laws may be reviewed and updated by a Code of Laws Committee every year.” to encourage the USGA to update the Code of Laws each year through a Code of Laws Committee

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UAB USGA supports the above changes to the Code of Laws.

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