# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

#### STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## **CODE OF LAWS**

# TITLE I. Construction, Definition, and Interpretation of and Compliance with the Laws

# Chapter 1 System of Student Government Association (SGA) Code of Laws to be observed in the official codifications of said laws as established by law

1.1 There shall be titles, each dealing with related and similar topics and each composed of a number designated chapters, as follows:

TITLE I.	(1-99)	Construction, Definition, Interpretation of and Compliance with the Laws
TITLE II.	(100-199)	Qualifications
TITLE III.	(200-299)	Absenteeism
TITLE IV.	(300-399)	Ethics
TITLE V.	(400-499)	Executive Branch
TITLE VI.	(500-599)	Legislative Branch
TITLE VII.	(600-699)	Committees
TITLE VIII.	(700-799)	Inter-Presidents Council
TITLE IX.	(800-899)	Freshman Forum
TITLE X.	(900-999)	Judicial
TITLE XI.	(1000-1999)	SGA Web and Graphics Coordinator
TITLE XII	(2000-2999)	SGA Historian

Each chapter may be subdivided by means of a decimal arrangement. For instance, Chapter 99 may be divided into sections as 99.1, 99.2, etc. Each section may in turn be subdivided by means of further decimal places for as many subsections as are necessary. For example, 99.21, 99.22, 99.23, etc., and 99.201, 99.202, 99.203, etc.

1.2 The SGA Secretary, Senate Advisor, and Chief Justice shall have access to copies of the Code of Laws on computer.

# **Chapter 2** Changes to the Code of Laws

- Any changes in the Code of Laws must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Student Senate. The Judicial Branch of SGA is to be responsible for maintaining an up to-date Code of Laws.
- Any changes made to the Code of Laws by the Senate should be brought to the attention of the Senate Advisor, SGA President, and to the Judicial Branch by the SGA Vice President directly after the meeting in which these changes took place.
- 2.3 Changes in the Code of Laws (ex. grammar or errors in spelling which are not substantive and that do not change the meaning of interpretation of the laws themselves) may be made by the SGA Secretary with the Judicial Branch's approval.

## TITLE II. Qualifications

## **Chapter 100 Qualifications for SGA Officers**

- To have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher throughout entire term of office.
- To present a petition for candidacy with 300 University of North Alabama student signatures to the Office of Student Engagement within the designated time period.
- To be an undergraduate student enrolled in at least 12 hours or graduate student enrolled in at least 6 hours at UNA.
- To score a 90% or better on a general knowledge written test concerning the SGA Constitution, Code of Laws, and Parliamentary Procedure. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in immediate dismissal. A President, Vice President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer who does not pass the test on the first attempt may appeal to the SGA Senate and shall be allowed to attempt the test again upon 2/3 approval of the SGA Senate present.
- 100.5 Special Qualifications Based on Office:
- President and Vice President applicants must be junior, senior, or graduate students in the Fall semester after the office is assumed.
- 100.5.2 President applicant must have served at least two (2) semesters in any branch of SGA.
- Secretary and Treasurer applicants must be sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate students in the Fall semester after the office is assumed.
- Treasurer must have completed or be enrolled in the first academic course in accounting (AC 291), at the time the office is assumed, and must earn no less than a "C" in the course. Failure to complete the course requirement will result in removal from office.
- The President and Vice President shall run on a joint ticket. If a candidate for President or Vice President does not have a running mate, they shall be disqualified from running for the respective office.

## **Chapter 101 Qualifications for the Student Senate**

- To have and maintain throughout the entire term of office a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher.
- To have completed a previous semester at The University of North Alabama at the time of election with the exception of first time students appointed by the president.
- To present a statement of purpose to the Office of Student Engagement within the designated time period.
- To take an oath to uphold the SGA Constitution of UNA.
- To score a 75% or better on a general knowledge written test concerning the SGA Constitution, Code of Laws, and Parliamentary Procedure within one month of announcement by the Judicial Branch. Failure to meet this requirement shall result in immediate dismissal from the SGA Senate. Any Senator who does not pass the test on the first attempt may appeal to the SGA Senate and shall be allowed to attempt the test again upon 2/3 approval of the SGA Senate present.
- Senators may not serve on any other branch of SGA including UPC, Freshman Forum, or Executive branch.
- 101.7 Vacancies may be filled by recommendations from the Elections and Recruitment Committee to the President for appointment and by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present of Senate.

# **Chapter 102 Qualifications for the Freshman Forum**

- To be a current freshman at the University of North Alabama.
- To take an oath to uphold the SGA Constitution of UNA.
- To not serve on any other branch of SGA including Senate or Executive branch.
- Vacancies may be filled by appointments made by the Freshman Forum advisors.

## **Chapter 104 Senate Pro-Tempore Qualifications**

- The Senate shall each elect a pro-tempore at the first regular meeting of the new Senate held at the end of the spring semester.
- Vacancies in the Pro-tempore position shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present in Senate.

#### **Chapter 105 Senate and UPC Freshman Forum Advisors**

- The Senate shall elect a Freshman Forum Advisor at the first regular meeting of the new Senate held at the end of the spring semester. Vacancies in the Freshman Forum advisor position shall be filled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present in Senate.
- The Freshman Forum advisors shall not hold any other office or chair within the Student Government Association while serving as a Freshman Forum advisor.

The UPC Freshman Forum Advisor role will be filled by the designated position as stated by the University Programing Council Manual.

### TITLE III. Absenteeism

Chapter 200	<b>Absenteeism</b>
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- Absences totaling three (3) from any SGA related meeting shall be grounds for dismissal of a member from their respective branch of SGA. These three (3) absences are inclusive of the respective branch meetings and standing committee meetings.
- 200.1.1 Respective branch meetings include Senate, which meets Thursdays at 3:30 PM, UPC, which meets Mondays at 3:30 PM, and Freshman Forum, which meets Wednesdays at 4:30 PM.
- It is the responsibility of the Committee Chair to report committee members' absences from committee meetings to the SGA Secretary.
- 200.1.3 Unexcused absenteeism from the SGA Retreat shall be considered an absence from SGA.
- The SGA Executive Committee has the right to use discretion in granting exception regarding absences on the basis of family emergencies, health reasons, and class.
- The SGA Executive Committee has the right to request proper documentation from that of a trained professional in the medical field for absences related to illness.
- Failure to show up for an SGA or University event for which a member has signed up to volunteer shall count as an absence unless the member finds a replacement for his/her volunteer slot.
- SGA members have the right to mandate that an event is required by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present. Required is to mean that attendance is mandatory.
- Excessive unexcused tardiness of SGA meetings shall be ground for dismissal from the SGA member's respective branch. Three (3) unexcused tardies shall equal one (1) absence. Tardy shall be defined as entering the chamber after the last name is called during the Roll Call portion of the agenda.
- 200.1.9 Two (2) demerits shall equal one (1) absence.
- Demerits shall be given out at the discretion of the President or Vice President of the respected member's branch for any behavior, which is in contradiction with the Constitution or Code of Laws and/or deemed inappropriate or unbecoming of SGA member.
- A member shall be informed within one (1) week of the demerit being issued.
- 200.2 Unexcused absenteeism by the executive committee shall be grounds for dismissal.
- 200.2.1 Unexcused absences by the executive committee totaling four (4) per semester, from any SGA related meeting including Executive meetings shall result in dismissal from office.

- On an officer's fourth unexcused absence from any SGA related meeting, that officer will be dismissed from all SGA duties and his/her position will be deemed open.
- The Executive Committee has the right to grant excused absences to the President by a majority vote from which the President must abstain.
- A dismissed Executive Officer may appeal their removal to the Senate, by the next SGA meeting, which may reinstate them by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
- SGA members are required to wear appropriate attire that shall be deemed and regulated by the Vice President of the branch.
- 200.5 SGA members are required to attend the annual event of Higher Education Day.
- Failure to attend or participate in these annual events will result in an absence.
- Notice of at least three (3) weeks shall be given to SGA members about the dates times and whereabouts of these annual events.

# **Chapter 201 Absenteeism Appeal Process**

- A dismissed member may appeal their removal to the Judicial Branch, which will then schedule a hearing over the matter. This procedure is not subjective to executive session.
- Reasons for reinstatement are as follows: family emergencies which consist of but are not limited to a death in the family or a family member that is hospitalized, health reasons which consists of but are not limited to a sickness that prevents one from going to an SGA member's respective branch meeting such as the common cold, the flu, or any other serious illness with the proper documentation from that of a trained professional in the medical field; or official University of North Alabama events, including any event sponsored by the University of North Alabama, any event sponsored by a Recognized Student Organization that the appealing SGA member is associated with, or any University Athletic event where the SGA member is required to participate.

#### TITLE IV. Ethics

## **Chapter 300 Code of Ethics**

- Any person in service to the SGA should:
  - Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and the betterment of the entire campus above loyalty to persons, organizations, and departments of this university.
  - Uphold the Constitution, by-laws, and legal regulations of the SGA and never be a party to their evasion.
  - Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished without compromising the representation or power of the individual student.

- Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors to anyone, and never accept favors under circumstances, which might be misconstrued by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of governmental duties.
- Never use any confidential information in the performance of governmental duties as a means for enhancing personal standing.
- Expose corruption of any kind wherever discovered.
- Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.
- 300.2 Violations can be brought to the Judicial Branch by any member of SGA or by the SGA Advisor with explanation of offense in writing. The Judicial Branch will hold a hearing with the accused at the following committee meeting or other agreed upon time to discuss the actions leading to such violations. It is the duty of the Judicial Branch to convict the member of such violations or dismiss stated charges. Violators of the Code will be subject to disciplinary action by the SGA Executive Committee upon conviction by the Judicial Branch.
- 300.3 Conviction of a felony offense will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the SGA.

## TITLE V. Executive Branch

#### **Chapter 400 Duties of the President**

- To perform the duties outlined in the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws.
- 400.2 To be the official spokesperson for the SGA.
- To accept the resignation of any SGA officer and report the resignation at the regular SGA Senate meetings.
- 400.4 To sign all contracts binding on the SGA.
- To inform the SGA Senate of upcoming meetings where the SGA President speaks on behalf of the Student Body.
- To present a written and oral report to the SGA Senate of any statements given on behalf of the Student Body within two weeks after the statement is given. The President has full discretion when deciding if any sensitive information is eligible to be shared.
- To preside over, consult with, and call meetings of the Executive Cabinet.
- To present to the Student Senate, through the Vice President, any message of disapproval of Senate legislation explaining a presidential veto at the Student Senate meeting following the veto.
- To perform other duties as designated by the SGA Senate with approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present of the Student Senate.

- The President may call a special session of the Senate, with approval of 2/3 of the Executive Committee, if there is emergency business that must be conducted before the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting. Excuses for missing special sessions called shall be expanded to include anything deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
- The President has the right to appoint a Chief of Staff to assist with SGA activities involving all branches. Duties of the Chief of Staff will include, but are not limited to, scheduling of appointments, meeting preparation, communication assistance with university and community, and other duties as requested by the President.
- The President has the right to appoint an SGA Communications Director to serve in improving communications from SGA on campus and in the community and also providing marketing services for all branches of SGA as seen fit. These duties include, but are not limited to, photography of events, headshots for SGA members, promotional videos, and assistance in recruiting for SGA as a whole.
- The President has the right to appoint a Diversity and Inclusion Advocate to communicate with University Departments and Registered Student Organizations for equitable opportunity of all students. Their duties also include ensuring a safe and welcoming campus for all students at the University of North Alabama.
- Should any SGA Executive Officer position be unfilled after a Special Election (as defined in the Elections Manual 5.4), the current SGA President shall appoint any student currently enrolled to fulfill all duties of the said position as a provisional officer. Whether or not this person meets the qualifications for office as outlined in the Constitution will not affect his or her eligibility. The provisional officer will serve for a full term of office with appropriate compensation, as defined in Chapter 405. Appointment shall be decided upon by approval by simple majority vote of the SGA Senate.

#### **Chapter 401 Duties of the Vice President**

- To perform duties as outlined in the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws.
- To execute the duties and powers of the President of the SGA in the President's absence, at the President's request, or in the event the President's position is empty until the President returns or is replaced by a special election or other SGA approved method.
- To perform duties assigned by the President or by the SGA Senate.
- To refer bills to standing or special committees for consideration.
- 401.5 To act as presiding officer of the meetings of the Student Senate.
- To affirm the jurisdiction of a committee proposing legislation, which that committee has already considered, or to refer said legislation to another committee.
- To sign bills passed by the SGA Senate and forward them to the SGA President within 24 hours after approval by the Senate.

402.14

401.8 To read to the Student Senate any message of disapproval from the SGA President at the next meeting following a SGA presidential veto. 401.9 To preside over, consult with, and hold a weekly meeting with the standing committee chairpersons at a designated time. **Chapter 402 Duties of the Secretary** 402.1 To perform the duties outlined in the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws. 402.2 To keep a complete and permanent record of all the proceedings of the Student Senate meetings. 402.3 To receive all SGA committee reports, important correspondence, copies of all SGA contracts, and elections statistics and to be retain in the SGA permanent files. To record each message of disapproval accompanying a SGA presidential veto in the 402.4 minutes of the Senate meetings. 402.5 To make available any SGA records to any qualified University of North Alabama student, faculty, administration, or staff member. 402.6 To attend UNA Website Training during the transition period before the office is assumed. If training is not available during the transition period, attendance of training during another time period is permissible. 402.7 To publish SGA Senate agendas, minutes, budget, and passed legislation, and Executive Branch office hours to the UNA SGA web page. 402.8 To publish the names, photos, title, and email of the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch on the UNA SGA web page. 402.9 To publish the names of the Freshman Forum members on the UNA SGA web page. 402.10 To contact the SGA Senators in the event of a called meeting of the SGA Senate. 402.11 To prepare proposed bills and resolutions submitted for presentation in the SGA Senate and provide an adequate number of copies for every SGA Senator, advisor, and the permanent file. 402.12 To transmit the University of North Alabama President and SGA Advisors copies of all legislation passed by the SGA. 402.13 To prepare and distribute, prior to each Senate meeting, a copy of the previous meeting's minutes to each member of the SGA.

To serve as a court reporter at all SGA Judicial Branch hearings.

To oversee the coordination of the Past Presidents' Breakfast and Officer Transition Ceremony.

# **Chapter 403 Duties of the Treasurer**

- To perform the duties outlined in the SGA Constitution and Code of Laws.
- To take charge of and account for all property and funds of the SGA and to disperse said funds as approved by the Senate.
- Submit a proposed budget to Senate at the beginning of each academic year for amendment and/or ratification.
- To make monthly reports to the Senate on current financial status, including total appropriations and items for which expenditures are made.
- To furnish a published report to all members of each branch of the SGA and faculty advisors.
- To make an oral report to the Senate at such times requested by the Senate or by the SGA President.
- To inventory all equipment and supplies purchased with SGA funds at the beginning and end of each fall and spring semester.
- To keep an up-to-date journal of copies of all SGA approved requisitions and purchase requests/orders.

# Chapter 404 Salaries for the SGA Executive Officers and Chairs

- The SGA Senate shall have the power to determine the salaries of the SGA executive officers corresponding with their duties.
- The salaries of the executive officers will be subject to the availability of funds.
- 405.3 Salaries for said officers shall be:
- 405.3.1 The President of SGA shall receive a \$2,500 scholarship for each semester.
- The Vice President of SGA shall receive a \$1,500 scholarship for each semester.
- The Secretary of the SGA shall receive a \$1,000 scholarship for each semester.
- The Treasurer of the SGA shall receive a \$1,000 scholarship for each semester.
- The Freshman Forum advisor shall receive \$100.00 per month.
- The SGA Chairs, Pro Tempore, and Chief of Staff shall receive a \$150.00 payment once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester, starting the semester after they are installed.

# **Chapter 405 SGA Executive Officers Hours**

The SGA President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary must post office hours on the SGA office doors within two weeks of the beginning of every semester during their time in office. The SGA President shall be in the office no less than ten (10) hours per week. The Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be in their offices no less than (5) hours per week. These hours must be logged during the week between Monday and Friday and between the hours of eight (8) a.m. and eight (8) p.m.

# **Chapter 406 Executive Council Expenditures**

- Any expenditure of money by the SGA Executive Council for everyday expenditures such as office supplies, copies, and phone calls shall not be presented before the Senate body.
- Any expenditure of money by the SGA Executive Council for Senate in excess of everyday expenditures shall be passed by majority vote in the Senate.

#### TITLE VI. Legislative Branch

## Chapter 500 Organization of SGA Senate

- 500.1 The Student Senate:
- The Student Senate will meet every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in a designated meeting area.
- The Vice President of the SGA will preside over the meetings of the Student Senate. In the Vice President absence, the Senate Pro-Tempore shall preside over the meeting.
- A simple majority of the members in the Student Senate will constitute a quorum. The Senate must have a quorum before it may conduct any business.
- All meetings shall be open to members of the University Community and/or visitors unless by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present for the purpose of entering into Executive Session. Executive Sessions are entered into only for the purpose of discussing individuals' good name or character.
- All decisions made in Executive Session shall be made available to the public.
- The SGA President, Vice President and Senate Advisor will conduct a semester evaluation at the end of the fall semester on the performance and participation of each standing senator.
- The SGA President, Vice President and Senate Advisor reserve the right to relieve any senator at the end of each semester that has not met his or her required expectations and/or duties as a senator.
- The evaluations of each Senator will be judged upon his/her performance and participation throughout the semester including, but not limited to: attendance to weekly committee and Senate meetings, participation on committee, and SGA events worked.
- In the event that a senator is dismissed, that senator has a period of five (5) days after being notified of the dismissal to appeal his or her case to the SGA Judicial Branch for review.

All events held by the SGA Senate must undergo an evaluation at the meeting following the event. Evaluations of the event should include a discussion on how the event went, areas in which the event could have been improved, and an assessment of the items and/or food if given away at the event.

# **Chapter 501 Apportioning of the Student Senate**

- There will be one (1) elected Senate seat for every 500 students enrolled per degreegranting college at the University of North Alabama. A college will be granted an additional Senate seat when they have reached enrollment of at least 300 of the 500 students.
- Apportionment is to be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

## **Chapter 502 Senate Pro-Tempore**

- Shall preside over the Senate meetings in the absence of the Vice President.
- Shall serve as the liaison between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.
- 502.3 Shall serve as the liaison between the SGA Vice President and Inter-President Council.
- 502.4 Shall coordinate and plan the Inter-President Council meetings.
- Shall serve as a leading voice on the Senate floor encouraging debate and action amongst and for fellow Senators.
- Shall encourage inter-association comradery by planning at least one (1) inter-association event per month in the fall and spring semesters.
- 502.7 Shall serve on the Senate Chairs Committee and the Executive Committee.

### **Chapter 503 Operation of the Student Senate**

- The Student Senate shall operate under provisions of the SGA Constitution, and Code of Laws.
- With good cause stated, the Senate may suspend provisions of Robert's Rules of Order for one regular Senate meeting or for portions of a regular Senate meeting with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present of the Student Senate.
- The Student Senate of the SGA hereby establishes a period of discussion to be a part of and included in the agenda of all regularly scheduled meetings of the SGA. The topics of discussion shall be limited to problems concerning the welfare of the students at UNA. The President of the SGA shall make those authorities responsible and aware of the problems discussed and the concern of the SGA.

# **Chapter 504 Procedure of Proposed Legislation**

504.1 Proposed legislation may be introduced by any member of the Senate.

- All bills, resolutions, constitutional amendments, by-laws, and other legislation shall be presented in writing in correct legislative form with one copy available for each Senator and additional copies available for the Executive Council as well as the Senate Advisor.
- 504.3 Consideration by the Senate:
- A bill shall be considered by the Senate when presented by a sworn in Senator.
- 504.4 Passage:
- All bills approved by a majority rule by the Senate shall be signed and forwarded by the presiding officer to the President of the SGA within twenty-four (24) hours after the final approval.
- All bills which involve the appropriation or expenditure of moneys of the SGA must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.
- 504.5 Action by the President:
- Action of the bill by the SGA President is subject to Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution. If the President vetoes a bill, it will be returned to the Senate along with an explanation of such action. If the President does not sign or veto a bill within two (2) weeks of its passage by the Senate, the bill shall be enacted without the President's signature except in the event that the semester ends before the President has had two full weeks to consider legislation. In that event, the bill, if not acted upon, fails.
- Any additions or deletions to the Constitution via a Constitutional Amendment, shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senators present, to bring a referendum to the student body to vote.

# Chapter 505 SGA Advisor

An Advisor to the Student Senate shall be selected in the manner indicated by the President of the University.

## **Chapter 506** Special Powers of the Student Senate

- To propose and implement legislation which concerns the student body as a whole.
- To initiate impeachment proceedings against any member of the Legislative, Executive, and Programming branches by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present. Impeachment charges must be voted on a date between two (2) and four (4) weeks from the date, which they are brought. In every case the accused shall be offered the opportunity to appear before the Senate.
- Impeachments offenses include, but are not limited to, misuse of funds and/or excessive absences from regular Senate or Executive committee meetings.
- The Senate has the power to bring formal charges against any individual student, or Recognized Student Organization (RSO), which violates any part of the Constitution and/or the Code of Laws.

Charges must be agreed upon by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present of the Senate, and shall be referred to the Prosecutor to be brought before the Student Court for its action.

# **TITLE VII.** Committees of the Senate Legislature

## **Chapter 600 Standing Committees of the Senate**

- The standing committees shall be Elections and Recruitment Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Student Welfare Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Budget Oversight Committee.
- Every member of the Student Senate shall be on at least one of the standing committees.
- The President of SGA shall appoint members to each committee and chairpersons to preside over them. Appointments will be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate present.
- All committees shall convene at least once bi-weekly at a designated time set by the respective chairperson at the beginning of each semester.
- Each chairperson shall assign a recorder who will be responsible for taking roll and minutes of each meeting.
- Missing three (3) committee meetings, this includes Executive Committee, will result in the dismissal from the SGA. However, the student committee members may be reinstated by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present of the SGA Senate.
- Any UNA student may serve on any committee without voting privileges.

# **Chapter 601 Elections and Recruitment Committee**

- The Elections and Recruitment Committee shall be composed of no less than four (4) members including the chairperson. The President of SGA shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.
- The committee will be in charge of following rules established in the Elections manual and editing when necessary. Majority Senate must approve all changes made to this manual by the committee.
- The committee will oversee homecoming elections, SGA officer elections, referendums, and interviews for Senate and appointments of the SGA President.
- The committee shall also be in charge of establishing election procedures for validating the qualifications of a candidate, conducting the elections, and enforcing the election laws shown in the Elections manual.
- With regards to enforcing the election regulations, the committee will:
- Assess campaign violations and keep specific, written reports of all violations. These include:

- (a) Who committed the violation
- (b) What the violation was
- (c) Where the violation occurred
- (d) Who assessed the violation
- (e) Date of violation
- Notify the candidates in writing concerning the specific violation(s), which they committed, and turning the list into the Judicial Branch to be ruled upon.
- No member of the Elections Committee, including the President, may be involved in any work of that committee for or during any election in which they are running for office.
- It is the responsibility of the Elections Committee to supply the election rules to the candidates who will sign up for receipt of such rules. Any candidate who does not sign acknowledging receipt of these rules will be ineligible to run in the election.
- The Election committee shall post-election results in the designated polling places after each election. The Flor-Ala shall as expeditiously as possible be informed by the Election and Recruitment Committee chairperson of the election results.
- The committee is in charge of publicizing the opening of positions that the SGA President will fill by appointment and approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present of the Student Senate.

# **Chapter 602 Academic Affairs Committee**

- The Academic Affairs Committee shall be composed of three (3) members from the Student Senate, which includes the chairperson who shall serve on the Shared Governance Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.
- The committee will seek to improve the academic experience of the student body by meeting with Academic Affairs and other university departments, hearing student opinions concerning academic quality, and seek appropriate resources and methods that benefit the UNA academic experience.
- Duties of the Academic Affairs Committee:
- To meet with university representatives to discuss the continued improvement of UNA's educational quality.
- To form a relationship with University Academic Affairs that allows for open dialogue concerning university academics.
- To bring student academic concerns to the attention of the appropriate university representative.

## **Chapter 603 Student Welfare Committee**

603.1 The Student Welfare Committee shall be composed of not less than four (4) members from the Student Senate, which includes the chairperson. The Student Welfare Committee shall be responsible for submitting legislation to better 603.2 the student welfare on campus. 603.3 They will investigate and insure the fair treatment of students by faculty. 603.4 They shall be responsible for all legislation regarding the maintenance and development of the UNA Food Pantry. **Chapter 604 Budget Oversight Committee** 604.1 The Budget Oversight Committee shall be composed of four (4) student senators including the chairperson and one (1) faculty member. 604.2 Duties of the Budget Oversight Committee: 604.2.1 To be responsible for allocating money to respond to the needs of the recognized student organizations (RSOs) and enable these groups to develop programming based on the educational mission of the university. 604.2.2 To review funding proposals submitted through the budget Oversight process. 604.2.3 To be responsible for conducting a semester review of student activity funds and making recommendations to the SGA Senate 604.2.4 To be responsible for reviewing funding allocation policies and procedures on an annual basis. 604.2.5 To hold standing meetings every Tuesday to conduct business and make weekly reports to Senate. The weekly standing meeting must begin no earlier than 8:00am and conclude no later than 4:30pm. 604.2.6 Preside over Special Programming Funding Request Review within the first 60 days of the spring semester, in which University departments present Presence data from the previous academic year to support their request for Student Allocation Funds for the upcoming year. 604.3 To be responsible for presenting appeals for denied allocation requests to the SGA Senate upon receipt of an appeal form submitted to the Office of Student Engagement. 604.3.1 SGA Senate will become the appellate court for allocation appeals.

# **Chapter 605 Legislative Affairs Committee**

Senate present.

604.3.2

The committee shall consist of no less than three (3) members, including a chairperson.

The decision to approve or deny the appeal will be determined by two-thirds (2/3) vote of

The duties of the Legislative Affairs Committee shall be:

- To oversee the coordination of Higher Education day, oversee the participation in the STARS conference, oversee and coordinate the SGA's membership in the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, the Higher Education Partnership, and serve as the Student Lobbyist within the committee.
- The Student Lobbyist is to work with state legislators to propose legislation for the student body at UNA.
- The Committee Chairperson shall appoint each member of the Committee to a designated state representative to make at minimum one (1) written contact via letter or email and one (1) telephone conversation with the representative per semester.
- The members of the Legislative affairs Committee are expected to utilize a strong base of knowledge of higher education funding in communication with elected officials to advocate for equitable funding for The University of North Alabama from the state legislature.
- The SGA Advisor shall be the official contact between the SGA and the Chamber of Commerce and will be responsible for assigning students to each standing Chamber committee.
- The Chairperson shall be the official liaison between the Chamber of Commerce.
- The committee shall have meetings as needed with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce to conduct any needed business.

# 605.3 **Higher Education Day:**

- The Chairperson shall be responsible for attending the meetings that pertain to Higher Education Day along with a committee member, in the event that he or she could not make the meetings, then he or she will send a person in their place.
- The committee shall be responsible for working with the Vice President to coordinate publicity and travel for Higher Education Day.

# **Chapter 606 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee will have a separate financial account, Executive Committee Account, containing a balance of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for its exclusive use. This balance will be reserved at the beginning of the term of newly elected officers. All the expenditures from this fund shall be announced at the SGA meeting following their use and shall be recorded in the minutes.

# **Chapter 607 Chairpersons Committee**

- The Chairpersons Committee shall be presided over by the Vice President of the Senate.
- The Chairpersons Committee shall be composed of the five standing chairpersons of the Senate.

# Chapter 608 Collegiate Legislature

- The school representative is to be selected annually at the CLEG conference by the current delegation. SGA members must have attended the CLEG conference at least once to be eligible for the school representative position.
- The school representative will coordinate to meet all deadlines and bill submission for the conference.
- All applications shall be released to SGA members no later than a month before the applications and contracts are due for the "early bird special" deadline, if the "early bird special" is offered. If it is not offered, then the applications are to be released one month before applications are due.
- First preference for selection will be given to Senators and Freshman Forum members. UPC members and students at large may fill a spot in the event of a vacancy.
- In the event a student is unable to attend the CLEG conference for any reason, then that student shall be responsible for finding replacement to go in their place. If said student is unable to find a replacement to go in their place, then they will be responsible for repaying the expenses incurred by the SGA to the SGA Treasurer by the end of the semester.
- The SGA Treasurer along with the SGA Executive council shall be responsible for reporting lack of payment to the Office of Student Engagement and a hold will be placed on the student's registration.

# **Chapter 609 Distribution of Funds**

- \$33 of the funds generated from the student activity fee will be allocated in the following manner:
- 44% allocated to the University Program Council.
- 609.3 44% allocated to the Budget Oversight committee for student allocations.
- 609.4 9% allocated to Leadership and Volunteerism programs sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement.
- 609.5 3% allocated to the Miss UNA pageant.
- The remaining \$2 of the funds generated from the student activity fee will be allocated to *The Lion's Den* game room.
- Funding begins October 1 of each year to coincide with the University's fiscal year; however, proposals may be submitted prior to the funding year.

## **Chapter 610 Roll Over Money**

Roll over money is a collection of funds remaining from the Student Activity fee. These funds are available to be spent by SGA upon approval of the Roll Over Committee.

- The Roll Over Committee will consist of an SGA Senator at large, a UPC member at large, the Vice President for Senate, the Vice President for UPC, and the SGA President as voting members and the SGA Senate and UPC advisor(s) to provide guidance.
- The committee will have oversight over all application procedures for funding requests from the Roll Over Money. A representative from the requesting branch assigned to the Roll Over Committee will be responsible for submitting funding applications for consideration by the Roll Over Committee. The application must be approved by a majority vote of the committee.

## **TITLE VIII. Inter-President Council**

# **Chapter 700 Mission of the Inter-President Council**

The mission of the Inter-President Council is as follows: To promote leadership, unification, and collaboration between the registered student organizations at the University of North Alabama.

# **Chapter 701 Organization of the Inter-President Council**

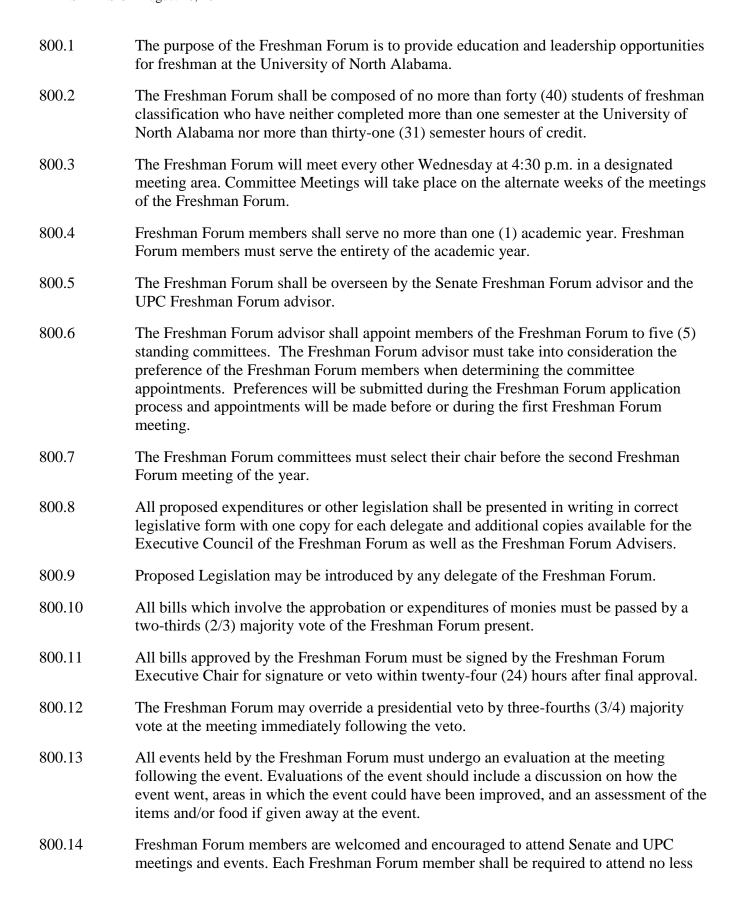
- 701.1 The Inter-President Council shall be composed of every active president of each registered student organization.
- The Inter-President Council shall meet one (1) time in the fall semester and one (1) time in the spring semester.
- The Inter-President Council meetings shall abide by Robert's Rules of Order.
- The Inter-President Council meetings shall be chaired by the SGA Vice President.
- The Inter-President Council meetings shall always have the following items on the agenda:
- 701.5.1 State of the SGA.
- Registered student organization president reports.
- Registered student organization needs evaluation. The needs evaluation shall be set by the SGA Student Welfare Committee.

## **Chapter 702** Meeting Attendance and Proxies

- The Inter-President Council meetings shall abide by Robert's Rules of Order.
- 702.1 Every registered student organization active president can attend the Inter-President Council meetings.
- If an active president cannot be in attendance then they can send a member of their organization as their proxy.

#### TITLE IX. Freshman Forum

#### **Chapter 800 Organization of the Freshman Forum**



than one (1) Senate meeting, one (1) UPC meeting, and one UPC event each semester, unless otherwise excused by the Freshman Forum advisor(s).

# **Chapter 801 Freshman Forum Committees**

- The Service Committee, composed of four to eight (4-8) members, shall determine and complete at least one (1) service event or initiative in the spring semester.
- The Public Relations Committee, composed of four to seven (4-7) members, shall be responsible for publicizing all Freshman Forum activities and developing communications strategies. The Public Relations Committee will also be charged with collaborating with the SGA Communications Director.
- The Social Committee, composed of four to eight (4-8) members, shall plan and coordinate one (1) social event for the spring semester to include all freshmen.
- The Student Welfare Committee, composed of three to eight (3-8) members, shall be responsible for seeking freshman opinion through a survey and creating a piece of legislation to presented to the SGA Senate and sponsored by an SGA Senator.
- The Outreach and Philanthropy Committee, composed of four to seven (4-7) members, shall be responsible for planning one (1) partnership event in the spring semester to connect students to campus resources and/or raising resources for the food pantry.
- The Freshman Forum Advisors shall appoint chairpersons to preside over each of the five (5) standing committees at the first Freshman Forum meeting following Freshman Forum Orientation based upon their initial interviews and a special chairperson interview.
- 801.3 Duties of the standing committee chairperson:
- The committee chairperson shall oversee all committee activities and report to the Executive Council the operations of the committee.

## Chapter 802 The Organization of the Executive Council of Freshman Forum

- The Executive Council of the Freshman Forum, composed of seven (7) members: the committee chairpersons from each standing committee, the Freshman Forum Executive Chair, and the Freshman Forum Clerk.
- The Freshman Forum Executive Chair and the Freshman Forum Clerk shall be elected at the Freshman Forum Retreat by a simple majority of the Freshman Forum.
- The Freshman Forum Executive Chair and the Freshman Forum Clerk may not serve on a committee or as a committee chairperson.
- The Executive Council of the Freshman Forum shall be responsible for setting the agenda of each Freshman Forum meeting.
- The members of the Executive Council of Freshman Forum shall relinquish his or her right to present legislation, vote on proposed legislation and vote on or make motions.

# **Chapter 803** The Freshman Forum Executive Chair

803.1 The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall be elected by a simple majority vote at the Freshman Forum Retreat. 803.2 The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall serve as the chair for the Freshman Forum meetings. 803.3 The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall preside over all duties, tasks, and functions of the Freshman Forum. The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall be responsible to make an oral report to the SGA Senate as requested by the Senate, Freshman Forum Advisor, or SGA President. 803.4 The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall attend and report to the SGA Executive Council once a week. 803.5 The Freshman Forum Executive Chair shall reserve the right to veto any legislation passed by the Freshman Forum. 803.6 The vetoed legislation shall return to the floor along with an explanation from the Freshman Forum Executive Chair at the meeting immediately following the veto. **Chapter 804** The Freshman Forum Clerk 804.1 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall be elected by a simple majority vote at the first Freshman Forum meeting following the Freshman Forum orientation. 804.2 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall maintain a permanent and complete record of all the proceedings of the Freshman Forum meeting. The Freshman Forum Clerk shall contact the Freshman Forum members in the event of a 804.3 called meeting of the Freshman Forum. 804.4 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall prepare proposed bills and resolutions submitted for presentation in the Freshman Forum and provide an adequate number of copies for every Freshman Forum member, advisor, and the permanent file. 804.5 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall prepare and distribute, prior to each Freshman Forum meeting, a copy of the previous meeting's minutes to each member of the Freshman Forum. 804.6 It shall be the responsibility of the Freshman Forum Clerk to inform the SGA Secretary of any absences of the Freshman Forum Advisors. 804.7 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall be responsible to inform the Freshman Forum on current financial status, including total appropriations and items for which expenditures are made each month. 804.8 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall be responsible to make an oral report of approved expenditures to the Senate at the last meeting of every month.

806.5

804.9 The Freshman Forum Clerk shall keep an up-to-date journal of copies of all Freshman Forum approved requisitions and purchase requests/orders. 804.10 It shall be the duty of the Freshman Forum Clerk to research, develop, and facilitate with the Freshman Forum at least one fundraising activity each semester. **Chapter 805 Selection Process** 805.1 An application requesting prior achievements, general information, and essay answers shall be required of all Freshman Forum applicants. 805.2 All applicants shall be judged by a selection committee appointed by the Director of Student Engagement and the President of the SGA. 805.3 The judging committee shall be composed of five (5) judges. The SGA President, Senate Freshmen Forum Advisor, UPC Freshmen Forum Advisor, Director of Student Engagement, and a Student at Large appointed by the SGA President. 805.4 The appointed judging committee shall interview all applicants. 805.5 If necessary, selected applicants shall qualify for a second interview based on application, resume, and initial interview. 805.6 The applicants with the highest score from the final interview and application shall be named the Freshman Forum members of the current academic year. 805.7 In the event of a tie, the judging committee shall grade the essays of the applicants involved. The applicant receiving the highest essay score shall be selected for membership. 805.8 Selected Freshman Forum members shall be announced during halftime of a home football game following the conclusion of interviews. **Chapter 806 Freshman Forum Advisors** 806.1 The Freshman Forum advisors shall undergo advisor training with the Director of Student Engagement prior to performing any duties as advisors. 806.2 The Freshman Forum advisors shall serve on the Freshman Forum Executive Council and attend Freshman Forum meetings, Freshman Forum Executive Council meetings, and meetings specific to their branch. Advisors shall be on grounds for dismissal if having missed a total of three (3) regularly scheduled meetings per semester. The Freshman Forum advisors both shall attend and report to weekly SGA Executive 806.3 Council meetings until the Freshman Forum Executive Chair is elected. The Freshman Forum Advisors shall work together to plan the freshman forum retreat. 806.4

The Freshman Forum Advisors shall preside over all duties, tasks, and functions of the

Freshman Forum in the temporary absence of the Freshman Forum Executive Chair.

# TITLE X. **Judicial** 900.1 All judicial powers of the SGA shall be vested in the Judicial Branch of the SGA Senate. 900.2 The Judicial Branch shall have original jurisdiction in all cases involving this Constitution and appellate jurisdiction involving inter- and intra- conflicts of SGA members and appeals from SGA members upon removal from applicable branch. It also may act on any special case referred to it by the University Administration and by the Student Senate. 900.3 The Senate test will be created and approved by the Judicial Branch and shall be administered and graded by two justices neither of which serve as Chief Justice. **Chapter 901 Student Court Meetings and Hearings** 901.1 The Student Court Hearings should be presented in front of all justices unless of an established conflict of interest. 901.1.1 In the case that a defendant identifies a conflict of interest, the defendant may appeal to the Judicial Branch to request the recusal of a justice. 901.1.2 In the case that a defendant is unsatisfied with the decision of the Judicial Branch, then the defendant may bring the appeal before the Senate Body for a formal majority vote. 901.1.3 If the defendant wishes to further appeal the Senate decision, then the final decision will be made by the Judicial Advisor. 901.2 The Chief Justice shall oversee and lead over all meetings following Roberts Rules of Order. 901.2.1 The Student Court shall meet at least one time each month. 901.3 The Chief Justice shall oversee and conduct all hearings and must begin the meeting explaining the reason for the hearing and how the hearing will be conducted. 901.4 The Clerk of the Judicial Branch must be in attendance for meetings and hearings to begin, unless prior excused. 901.5 The Judicial Advisor must be in attendance for the hearing to begin, unless they find a substitute pre-approved by the Justices and the student(s). 901.6 At the beginning of each meeting justices should review minutes from the previous Senate and Freshman Forum meetings. 901.7 All students must be given time to defend and/or explain their case in front of the Justices.

Before the final vote justices must enter executive session.

# Chapter 902 Judicial Clerk

901.8

- The Judicial Clerk shall be responsible for keeping record of all judicial hearings and maintaining all judicial records.
- The Clerk shall be nominated for appointment by the Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch, and shall be confirmed by majority vote of the Associate Justices. In the event of a tie, the Chief Justice shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
- The Clerk will serve for a one (1) year term, and may repeat terms if appointed by the Court to do so.
- The Clerk must be enrolled as a student of the University of North Alabama and maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA.
- The Clerk may only serve in the Judicial Branch of SGA while serving as Clerk.
- The Clerk may not serve as a justice in the Judicial Branch of the SGA while serving as Clerk.
- The Clerk shall be dismissed after being reported of three (3) absences. Absences shall be reported by the Chief Justice to the SGA Secretary.
- In the event that the Clerk is absent, the Chief Justice may deem a temporary Clerk for the time needed.
- In the event that the clerk is dismissed, or resigns, a new Clerk shall be nominated for appointment by the Chief Justice of the Judicial Branch, and must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Associate Justices. In the event of a tie, the Chief Justice shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

# **Chapter 903 Student Court Appeal Procedure**

- Any person within the University of North Alabama Community (faculty, staff, or student) may file a report if he/she feels that there is evidence to believe that the SGA Constitution has been violated by any person(s), group(s), or organization(s) affiliated with student allocated money.
- In order for there to be a subsequent hearing and resolution to a Constitution violation, the following must occur: (1) an official report must be obtained from the SGA Chief Justice and must be completed and signed by the person(s) filing the report (plaintiff). (2) The Chief Justice will submit copies to the other Justices on the council. (3) The Justices will determine if there is justification for hearing by individual vote. (4) The vote shall be returned to the Chief Justice within two days of notification. Failure of two or more justices to vote shall result in the decision being made by the Chief Justice and the SGA Advisor even if it is in opposition to the other justices that have voted. If a hearing is necessary by simple majority vote of the Justices, the accused and the accusing parties will receive a copy of the report and a letter containing all the pertinent information (ex. Date, time, place, etc.) regarding the case. Both the person(s) filing the report and the accused shall attend the hearing. Failure to attend a hearing will result in a

decision being rendered on the evidence available. A hearing can be requested by the Student Court majority.

- 903.3 If a field report demands clarification or elaboration the Chief Justice and the Student Court will be responsible for other pertinent facts and data in order to insure fairness in resolving the issue. The Student Court may request information from the accused and accusing parties. The Student Court is not permitted to request information outside of the respective parties.
- In order to ensure fairness, both the accuser and the accused will have five business days from the date of confirmation to prepare a response. A hearing will take place no later than 10 business days after confirmation. Confirmation occurs after the accused has notified the Student Court that they have received their summons. The Student Court will use any and all forms of communication permitted. If the accused fails to recognize the summons after five days of notification the accused will have their hearing no later than ten business days following the date of notification. Should either party require more time to prepare its case, then either party may make a personal appeal to the Chief Justice for more time.
- The hearing shall be attended by the Chief Justice, Student Court, and the Judicial Clerk as well as the accusing and defending party, witnesses (maximum of five per party), the SGA advisor or (in his or her absence) the Director of Student Engagement. Both parties may have their advisor present if applicable. The advisor may converse with his/her advisee and may not address any other person involved in the hearing. The accused and accusing parties may request more witnesses by personal appeal to the Chief Justice before the hearing. All hearings will be made public. Executive session is permitted when dealing with material that is deemed sensitive or defacing of a party's good name. The accused and accusing parties may request executive session during the hearing and may also request who will be permitted to stay.
- A documented recording of all hearings shall be made. The recording will be copied, one with the identification of all parties involved and one without. After the accused has graduated, or in the case of groups and organizations after a three year period, the identifying records shall be destroyed. The recordings shall be sealed after the final decision is reached. The sealed record(s) shall then be held by the SGA Advisor and/or Director of Student Engagement.
- The witnesses may be questioned at any time by the Student Court, the Chief Justice, the defending party and the accusing party during the hearing.
- After the Chief Justice has determined that both parties have been given a fair opportunity to make presentations and the Student Court has no further questions, all persons except the Student Court Justices and SGA advisor will be dismissed for the deliberations by entering executive session. The Chief Justice shall guide the deliberation process and conduct voting procedure upon the conclusion of the deliberation period and exiting of executive session. Voting will be taken by an open vote. A simple majority vote is needed to confirm that a Constitutional Violation has occurred. SGA Advisor or

Director of Student Engagement shall be tiebreaker. Once the decision has been made all attending the hearing will be invited back into to hear the verdict.

#### TITLE XI. The SGA Communications Team

#### Chapter 1000 Organization of the SGA Communications Team

- The SGA Communications Team shall be composed of the Communications Director and up to 2 Assistants to the Director. The Assistant(s) shall be selected by the Communications Director with the approval of the SGA President.
- The SGA Communications Team shall work directly under the office of the SGA President to assist the members of the SGA branches and the executive council.

### **Chapter 1001 Duties of the SGA Communications Team**

- To design SGA promotional materials, including but not limited to posters and giveaways, to assist in the management of the SGA social media accounts, to design and upkeep the SGA Website, manage the inventory of SGA giveaways, and provide designs for SGA promotional material in a timely manner.
- To create marketing plans in coordination with the members, chairs, and leadership of each of the branches to ensure that student government events and actions are effectively marketed.
- To establish and execute communications initiatives to support the functions of student government and to inform the student body including but not limited to: livestreaming meetings, creating informational videos, creating podcasts, providing coverage of events, mailing a newsletter, and reaching out to the student body for feedback.
- To maintain and uphold the SGA graphics standards

## **Chapter 1002 Compensation**

The SGA Communications Director will be paid \$800 at the end of each semester, provided by the SGA Senate Budget.

# **Chapter 1003 Appointment Process**

- Any University of North Alabama student may be appointed the position of SGA Communications Director by the SGA President and a 2/3 confirmation vote of the student senate unless they are currently serving as a Senator.
- Any University of North Alabama student may be appointed to the position of Assistant to the Communications Director by the SGA President and a 2/3 confirmation vote of the student senate unless they are currently serving as a Senator.

# **Chapter 1004 Coordination with the Branches**

- The members of all SGA Branches may coordinate with the SGA Communications Team for any advertising materials or other assistance they may need for SGA initiatives and/or events.
- The SGA Communications Team shall work directly with the Marketing & Communications member of the University Program Council.
- The SGA Communications Team shall act as a mentor to the Freshman Forum Public Relations Committee.
- If any member of the SGA Graphics, Marketing, and Communications team is unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of the position, the offices may be vacated by a 2/3 vote of the student senate.

#### Title XII SGA Historian

# Chapter 2000 Duties of the SGA Historian

- The SGA Historian shall work directly under the office of the SGA President and the Director of Student Engagement.
- To maintain a history of the SGA and UNA throughout their term.
- To present a new volume of the "The Students' History of UNA" for approval by 2/3 Student Senate at least three (3) weeks before spring inauguration.
- To publish a new volume of "The Students' History of UNA" every year digitally or not for public access.
- To attend every Student Senate meeting and act as a resource to the Student Senate by providing historical information during Student Senate meetings when appropriate.

# **Chapter 2001 Compensation**

The SGA Historian shall be paid \$1,200 annually, paid at the end of each semester provided by the SGA Senate budget.

# **Chapter 2002 Appointment Process**

- Any UNA student may be appointed to the position of SGA Historian by the SGA President and a 2/3 confirmation vote of the Student Senate.
- If the SGA President fails to appoint anyone to the position by the second Thursday of September, the SGA Advisor shall appoint a student to serve as the SGA Historian without the approval of the Student Senate.

## Chapter 2003 The Students' History of UNA

2003.1 "The Students' History of UNA" shall be the title of the book published every year by the SGA.

It shall include the names of every member of the SGA, every registered student organization and their members' names, the names of the current Board of Trustees members, the names of the members of the administration, the names of the current faculty and staff, copies of the legislation passed in Student Senate, notable SGA projects, names of notable award recipients, and notable campus updates.