



April 22, 2015

Vice President Kyle Stoner & Members of the Senate
The Student Government Association
The University of Southern Mississippi

Vice President Stoner & Senators:

The United Alabama Project is a campus-level non-governmental organization at the University of Alabama which strives to ensure that all students on our campus find representation and a substantive opportunity for involvement.

In January of 2015, our organization released an election reform proposal entitled "A Step in the Democratic Direction: The Partisan Reform Initiative," which advocated changes to our SGA Elections Manual designed to facilitate the development of campus political parties. We, the undersigned members of the Executive Board of the United Alabama Project, understand a resolution has been introduced in the Student Government Association Senate at the University of Southern Mississippi to endorse this proposal and advocate that our SGA Elections Board take it under consideration. We are writing to you today to encourage each of you to support this resolution.

As you may be aware, SGA elections at the University of Alabama have a long history of corruption, violence, apathy and disenfranchisement. Our proposal begins by giving a detailed overview of the problems which exist in our campus political sphere and tracing their historical development. It addresses the issues of the lack of diversity among SGA office-holders at the University of Alabama, the perennially low level of voter turnout in SGA elections and the low number of students who choose to run for executive office from year to year. It also details the problem our campus faces with corruption, namely in the form of the Machine - an underground coalition of traditionally all-white fraternities and sororities with a century-long history of using corrupt, illicit and occasionally violent tactics to maintain control over our Student Government Association, at the expense of campus minorities, non-Greek white students and even a portion of our Greek system.

Our proposal then explores avenues by which the University can correct these issues, using election data from the previous six election cycles at the University of Alabama, and offering comparisons to similar data from the University of Florida, the University of Tennessee and the University of California, Berkeley. We go to great lengths to expound on the ways our partisan reform would correct the many issues which exist on the University of Alabama campus, as well as additional benefits it would yield for our student body.

We that hope you will read and consider our proposal, and support your Senate's resolution. For your convenience, we have attached a copy of our proposal to this letter. A digital copy may also be found online at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/254223349/A-Step-in-the-Democratic-Direction-The-Partisan-Reform-Initiative>. Should any of you have any questions or concerns, we would be happy to discuss them with you via email at theunitedalabamaproject@gmail.com. We appreciate any consideration you give our request.

Warm Regards,

Pierce Goodbread
Executive Director

Josh Shumate
Deputy Executive Director

Andrew Parks
Director of Political Advocacy

Ashley Stults
Director of Public Relations

Jacob Sims
Director of Community Engagement

Noah West
Director of Operations

Forrest Hooton
Director of Financial Affairs

The Executive Board of the United Alabama Project

