

The University of North Alabama Student Government Association

Resolution

April 23, 2025

Written by President Mardis and Senator Vezina

Sponsored by Vice-President McGinnis

Resolution 25-03

Resolution on Campus Parking and Student Referendum Results

Whereas, parking has been identified as the most pressing issue among students at the University of North Alabama (UNA), as evidenced by the findings of the SGA Parking Ad Hoc Committee; and

Whereas, a series of surveys conducted among the Student, Faculty, and Staff Senates revealed that 96.7% of the 30 Student Senate members surveyed, 100% of the 16 Staff Senate members surveyed, and 88% of the 19 Faculty Senate members surveyed agree that additional parking is necessary; and

Whereas, north residential parking is inadequate, with only 943 overnight spaces for 1,018 permitted residents, worsened by ongoing construction; and

Whereas, Fall 2024 data from the Office of Institutional Research shows a total of 2,136 student parking spaces, with peak-hour deficits exceeding 500 spaces Monday–Thursday and reaching 732 on Tuesdays as previously outlined in SGA Resolution 25-01;

Whereas, anticipated enrollment growth and infrastructure projects, such as the new Bank Independent Stadium and the LaGrange residence hall, will further strain campus parking resources, increasing demand for additional parking solutions; and

Whereas, SGA recognizes that the University Administration has been making strides to alleviate parking issues and has been actively working with SGA to explore solutions; and

Whereas, we applaud the university's efforts thus far in addressing parking concerns through recent improvements, including:

- The extension of Lot C (on Wood Avenue near the library),
- The expansion of Lot AA (near the OAC) with a new gravel lot, and
- The addition of Lot WW (on Cedar Street near the FIJI house); and

Whereas, additional parking projects currently under discussion—such as the gravel extension of the Appleby lot and a tiered parking lot between the Fraternity Houses and Cedar Street—reflect promising steps toward addressing demand; and

Whereas, SGA recognizes that even with the important progress being made by the University Administration, the addition of 400 to 600 spaces remains necessary to address the current parking deficit and accommodate future growth; and

Whereas, the SGA Parking Ad Hoc Committee recommends constructing a parking deck at Lot O, to increase parking by a significant number of spaces, strategically located near residence halls, academic buildings, and major campus facilities;

Whereas, the construction of a parking deck at Lot O presents potential revenue-generating opportunities through monetized event parking, potentially offsetting initial investment costs and contributing to long-term financial sustainability; and

Whereas, expanding parking facilities would directly enhance student, faculty, and staff satisfaction, improve punctuality and attendance, and strengthen UNA's reputation as a student-centered institution; and

Whereas, a referendum was posed to the UNA student body asking, "Do you support implementing a \$50 fee per semester to help contribute towards construction of a parking deck and/or additional parking lots?", and of the 818 students who voted, **57.7%** (472 students) **voted No**, while **42.3%** (346 students) **voted Yes**, indicating that while students recognize parking as a major concern, a majority do not support directly funding construction through a student fee; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Student Government Association acknowledges the results of the referendum and affirms that students believe campus parking remains a critical issue, even as they do not support the proposed student fee; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the SGA asks the University Administration to continue prioritizing parking expansion and explore alternative funding sources, such as grants, university reserves, partnerships, or monetization strategies that do not impose additional financial burdens on students; and

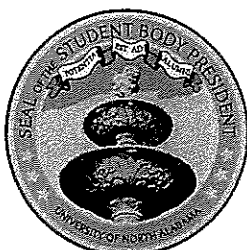
Therefore, be it resolved, that the SGA reiterates its support for the construction of a parking deck at Lot O, Lot M, or both, and calls for further research into cost-effective, sustainable parking infrastructure; and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the SGA requests ongoing transparency and stakeholder engagement in decisions involving parking space allocation, construction, and related infrastructure developments; and

Be it further resolved, that the SGA calls for the development of a comprehensive, long-term campus parking plan that addresses current deficiencies and prepares for future growth in a strategic, student-centered manner.

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the University of North Alabama President, Dr. Kenneth Kitts; Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Brien Smith; Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. KC White; Vice President of Business Financial Affairs, Mr. Evan Thornton; Associate VP for Student Affairs, Dr. Minette Ellis; General Counsel, Ms. Amber Fite-Morgan; Vice President for University Advancement, Mr. Kevin Haslam; Athletics Director, Dr. Josh Looney; Executive Director of Governmental Relations & Economic Development, Mr. Jason Cochran; Faculty Senate President, Dr. Andrea Hunt; Staff Senate President, Mr. Jeremy Martin; Student Government Association Advisor, Mr. Matthew Jones; and Student Government Association Advisor, Dr. Tammy Jacques.

Passed and Approved by the Student Government Association on the 23rd day of April 2025.



Signed: *Benigan Mardis*
(Student Government Association President)

Signed: *Mandelyn J. McGinnis*
(Student Government Association Vice President)