

The University of North Alabama Student Government Association

Resolution

February 27, 2025

Written by Senator Carina Estrada, Senator Gracyn Thomas, and Senator Eleanor Vezina

Sponsored by President Mardis and Vice-President McGinnis

Resolution 25-01

A Resolution Advocating for the Expansion of Campus Parking Facilities

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; there are currently 153 red-lined spaces designated for residential parking, serving 1,018 residents with parking permits. The north residential area contains 943 parking spaces, which include both residential and commuter-designated spots, thereby reducing the availability of commuter parking. Ongoing construction projects have further intensified this issue by decreasing the overall number of available spaces; and

Whereas; data obtained from the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) indicates that UNA has 2,136 total student parking spaces, 1,945 commuter spaces and 191 residential spaces, with peak-hour deficits reaching up to 732 spaces on Tuesdays and consistently exceeding 500 spaces from Monday through Thursday. This data does not include employees and their allocated spaces; and

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; the SGA Parking Ad Hoc Committee recommends constructing a parking deck at Lot O, to increase parking by 400 to 600 spaces, strategically located near residence halls, academic buildings, and major campus facilities; and

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; 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; SGA understands that addressing parking concerns is a significant financial undertaking that will require careful planning and resource allocation.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association urges the University Administration to prioritize the expansion of campus parking facilities, with a primary focus on the construction of a parking deck at Lot O, Lot M, or both.

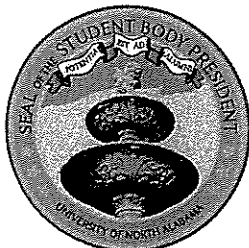
Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association strongly encourages the administration to explore funding opportunities, including grants, university reserves, and monetization strategies, to finance parking expansion projects.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association requests complete transparency and stakeholder involvement in all future decisions regarding parking space allocation, construction projects, and infrastructure changes affecting parking availability for any amount of time.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association calls for the establishment of a long-term campus parking plan that anticipates future growth and proactively addresses parking needs for students, faculty, and staff.

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 27th day of February 2025.



Signed: _____

Kenigan Martin
(Student Government Association President)

Signed: _____

Mandelyn L. McDivitt
(Student Government Association Vice President)