

ACHIE

**ALABAMA
COMMISSION
ON
HIGHER
EDUCATION**

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2005

**Submitted to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature
December 16, 2005**

**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT
2005**

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgement

From the Executive Director: Transmittal of Report

From the Chair: An Executive Summary

§16-5-2 - THE ROSTER OF COMMISSIONERS BY DISTRICT	3
§16-5-3 - APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, AND REAPPOINTMENTS	5
TO THE COMMISSION	
§16-5-4 - THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION, EXECUTIVE	7
DIRECTOR AND ROSTER OF COMMISSION STAFF	
§16-5-5 - ADVISORY GROUPS AND CONSULTANTS	11
The Council of College and University Presidents.....	12
The Alabama Council of Graduate Deans.....	13
The Council of Chief Academic Officers	14
The Financial Advisory Council.....	15
The Higher Education Information Advisory Group.....	16
The Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide	
Planning and Accountability	17
Network of Alabama Academic Libraries.....	18
§16-5-6 - LONG - RANGE PLANNING	21
§16-5-7 - DATABASES	25
State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System	25
State University and College Electronic Faculty Unit Record System.....	27
Data Collection Requirements of the Federal Government.....	28

§16-5-8 - PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW AND THE ARTICULATION AND GENERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE	29
New and Existing Program Review	29
Program Viability.....	34
Off-Campus Offerings	35
Articulation and General Studies Committee/.....	38
Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System	
16-5-9 - UNIFIED BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	43
§16-5-10 - ADDITIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION	45
Surveys and Evaluations of Higher Education	45
Recommended Legislation.....	45
Advice and Council Provided to the Governor	46
Definitions of Junior College, Community College	46
Technical College, Senior College, University and University System	
Published Criteria for Changing the Classification of Public.....	46
Institutions or Need for New Institutions	
Studies Made for the Purpose of Classifying and Prescribing.....	47
the Role and Scope for Each Public Institution	
Applications from Institutions for Changes in Classification	47
or Role and Scope	
Studies Made of the Financial Needs of Public Higher Education.....	48
Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature	48
New and Amended Rules and Regulations in Accord with the	48
Alabama Administrative Procedures Act	
Formal Consortia for the Advancement of Higher Education in Alabama ...	49
<i>The Experimental Program to Support Competitive Research</i>	49
<i>Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance</i>	53

Programs of Public Information.....	54
<i>The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Website.....</i>	54
<i>The Academic Program Inventory</i>	54
<i>Statistical Abstract and Southern Regional Education Board</i>	55
<i>Southern Regional Education Board Fact Book on Higher Education</i>	55
<i>Public Relations Activities</i>	56
The Higher Education Act of 1965	58
Non-Resident Institutional Review.....	59
§16-5-11 - SOUTHERN REGIONAL COMPACT FOR EDUCATION AND OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS	61
SREB Education Technology Cooperative	62
SREB Academic Common Market	63
SREB Electronic Campus	64
SREB Academic Common Market/Electronic Campus Program.....	65
SREB Regional Contract Program.....	65
SREB State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program.....	67
§16-5-12 - QUADRENNIAL REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION	69
§16-5-13 - GOVERNING BOARDS	71
§16-5-14 - GIFTS, GRANTS, OR BEQUESTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION	71
§16-5-15 - FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS	73

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	75
§ 16-33A - Alabama Student Grant Program.....	75
§ 31-10-25 - Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program	76
§16-23-24 - Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers.....	76
§ 36-21-104 - Police Officers’ and Firefighters’ Survivors Educational Assistance.....	77
Alabama Student Assistance Program.....	78
Public Law 107-110, USDE Title II, Part A, Subpart 3.....	79
U.S. Department of Education (USDE) <i>No Child Left Behind</i> (NCLB) Title II Competitive Grant Program	
Compliance With Court Decrees	82
Alabama Higher Education Loan Corporation	83
§16-21-30 -Alabama Virtual Library.....	84

Acknowledgement

Members of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of the institutions and agencies that unified behind the Commission in its adoption of the Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* and in the unanimous approval of a Unified Budget Recommendation to the Governor and Legislature in December 2004.

“The Commission cannot lead alone. Nor can it expect to lead by formal authority. It must lead by the goals it articulates, the quality of its analysis, its reputation for objectivity and fairness, and its capacity to enable and support others who can take a visible leadership role. The Commission must shape an agenda that makes the compelling case for the link between the future of Alabama and its higher education/postsecondary education system.”

*The Report of the Seventh Quadrennial Evaluation Committee
A Committee to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education
February 1999*

From the Executive Director: Transmittal of Report

In accord with Ala. Code §16-5-10 (9) (1975) and in partial fulfillment of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda, the Commission submits to you its annual report of activities for 2005.

During the past twelve (12) months with the support of institutions of higher education in the state, the Commission was successful in putting into practice all elements of its Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. The purpose of this comprehensive, statewide, accountability reporting system, a first of its kind for Alabama, is clear. As the statewide coordinating board for higher education, the Commission is a conduit for information from the higher education community to the Governor and Legislature. This performance reporting system encompasses all segments of the postsecondary community and provides evidence as to the effectiveness of Alabama's coordinated system of governance and verification of higher education's huge return on investment to the people of this state.

Over and above the Commission's fulfillment of its statutory mandates, at the behest of the Governor's Director of Finance, the Commission has participated actively this year in the Executive Budget Office's initiatives aimed toward SMART Budgeting. Moreover, the Commission has put in place new procedures to comply fully with Alabama's Open Meetings Law effective October 1, 2005.

For additional information on the Commission's ongoing activities refer to www.ache.state.al.us.

Michael E. Malone, Ph.D.

Executive Director

December 16, 2005

From the Chair: *An Executive Summary*

Two thousand five (2005) was an extraordinary year for Alabama higher education. There was unanimity in support of a budgetary request, unanimity in response to accountability, and unanimity in higher education's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The Legislature and the Governor approved the Commission's budgetary request for higher education in 2005, a request that was endorsed unanimously by the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents. Among other things, this appropriation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006, restored matching state dollars that qualify Alabama for federal funds through the Alabama Student Assistance Program, the state's only needs-based financial aid program.

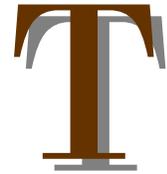
In 2005, the public two-year and four-year institutions and the Boards of Trustees that govern them supported an unprecedented accountability initiative for higher education. This comprehensive initiative: the Commission's Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* called for performance reporting across all sectors of the postsecondary community. The intent of this ongoing agenda is to communicate and promote the value, strengths, effectiveness, and needs of higher education to the general public and to the legislative and executive branches of Alabama state government.

Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the gulf coast region of our country in August 2005. There was an unparalleled response to this disaster by the higher education community. More than five thousand (5000) K-12 and postsecondary education students were displaced from their homes and fled to Alabama. Of these, more than four hundred fifty (450) students enrolled in Alabama's public institutions of higher education. The Alabama College System covered tuition for students who enrolled in our two-year colleges. University faculty from four-year institutions developed curriculum and held seminars designed to help children cope emotionally as they entered Alabama's schools. Institutional communities, students, faculty, trustees, and, Commissioners responded personally to the victims of Hurricane Katrina with our dollars, our volunteer service, and by opening our homes to those displaced by the hurricane.

Two thousand five (2005) was a year of remarkable achievement. Higher education came together and Alabama benefited.

*Danny K. Patterson, Chair
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Mission Statement



The Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs, and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State.

Adopted by the Commission on Higher Education on December 9, 1994.

The Roster of Commissioners by District

Ala. Code §16-5-2 (1975)¹

Commissioners serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Legislature in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of the state supported institutions of higher education. The first meeting of the Commission was held on October 8, 1971.

The original legislation enacted in 1969 provided for a nine-member Commission with overlapping terms. (Act. N. 14, Special Session, 1969) The legislation was amended in 1979 to increase the number of Commission members from nine to twelve. (Acts 1979, No. 79-461, p. 816, §2)

¹The commission shall consist of 12 members. Ten of these members shall be appointed by the Governor; one shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, and one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. One person shall be appointed from each United States congressional district in Alabama and shall reside or maintain an office or place of business within the congressional district from which he is appointed, and the remaining members shall be appointed from the state at large with no more than two in number of the total 12 members being from the same congressional district.

The 12 members shall be citizens of the state and shall be selected, as far as may be practicable, on the basis of their interest in higher education. Appointees shall be selected without regard to political affiliation and appointments shall be of a nature as to aid the work of the commission and to inspire the highest degree of cooperation and confidence. No member of the commission shall be on the governing boards, be employed by or directly connected with any institution of higher education in the state, the State Department of Education or any county or other local board of education. No member of the commission shall serve past June 30th following his seventieth birthday. All members of the commission shall be deemed members at large charged with the responsibility of serving the best interest of the entire system of higher education in the state. No member shall act as the representative of any particular region or of any particular institution of higher education. New appointments to the commission shall be made so that the total membership of the commission is broadly representative of the total population of the State of Alabama.

The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Legislature and the Governor of this state in respect to all matters pertaining to state funds for the operation and the allocation of funds for capital improvements of state supported institutions of higher education. The initial membership of the commission and the term of each initial member is as follows in Section 16-5-3. Ala. Code §16-5-2

Members of the Commission

Mr. Danny K. Patterson. Chair of the Commission. *A resident of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Patterson was appointed by House Speaker Jimmy Clark to the Commission in 1997. He represents a district at-large until 2006.*

Mr. J.R. Brooks. Vice Chair of the Commission. *A resident of Huntsville, Alabama, Mr. Brooks was appointed by Governor Don Siegleman to the Commission in 2000. He represents a district at-large until 2009.*

Mr. Ralph Buffkin. *A resident of Mobile, Alabama, Mr. Buffkin was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2004. He represents the first congressional district until 2013.*

Ms. Bettye Fine Collins. *A resident of Birmingham, Alabama, Ms. Collins was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Commission in 1995. She represents the sixth congressional district until 2003.²*

Mr. Thomas P. Davis. *A resident of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mr. Davis was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2003. He represents the seventh congressional district until 2011.*

Lt. Col. Joseph Lowman. *A resident of Madison, Alabama, Lt. Col. Lowman was appointed by Governor Fob James to the Commission in 1997. He represents the fifth congressional district until 2006.*

Ms. Johnnie Jackson-McDougald. *A resident of Opelika, Alabama, Ms. Jackson-McDougald was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2000. She represents the third congressional district until 2007.*

Mr. Drew Linn. *A resident of Homewood, Alabama, Mr. Linn was appointed by Governor Bob Riley in 2005. He represents a district at-large until 2014.*

Ms. Gale Main. *A resident of Montgomery, Alabama, Ms. Main was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2004. She represents the second congressional district until 2013.*

Mr. Stephen W. Shaw. *A resident of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Shaw was appointed by Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley to the Commission in 2003. He represents a district at-large until 2012.*

Dr. Roberta O. Watts. *A resident of Gadsden, Alabama, Dr. Watts was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2000. She represents the fourth congressional district until 2008.*

Mr. Ronald W. Wise. *A resident of Montgomery, Alabama, Mr. Wise was appointed by Governor Don Siegelman to the Commission in 2003. He represents a district at-large until 2009.*

² The members of the commission shall continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have been appointed. Ala. Code §16-5-3(b) (1975)

Appointments, Vacancies, and Reappointments to the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)³

In 2005 the Senate confirmed Governor Bob Riley's 2004 appointments to the Commission of Mr. Ralph Buffkin and Mrs. Gale Main. The Governor's appointment in 2005 of Mr. Drew Linn to the Commission is subject to confirmation by the Senate.

³Members of the commission shall be selected for nine-year terms expiring on August 31 of the respective year. The current nine-members are subject to reconfirmation by the Senate and shall continue to the expiration of their respective terms subsequent to such reconfirmation, but shall continue to serve as appointed until such reconfirmation. In the event that the Senate shall fail to reconfirm a current member, the Governor shall with the advice and consent of the Senate appoint a replacement for the unexpired term. Of the three new appointees, one shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of three years, one shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of six years and one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of nine years.

The members of the commission shall continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have been appointed. In the event that the number of congressional districts shall change, incumbents on the commission shall complete their terms as members of the commission. If the number of congressional districts shall change, the membership will remain at 12 with the number of at-large memberships being adjusted, if necessary, so that each congressional district is represented. If the Senate is not in session or is in recess when the term of a member expires, the initial appointing authority shall make a temporary appointment of a succeeding member who shall serve subject to subsequent Senate approval of the appointment.

Vacancies and new appointments on the commission shall be filled by appointment of the ex officio officer responsible for the initial appointment. If the Senate is not in session or is in recess when the appointment is made, the appointee shall serve subject to subsequent approval of the appointment.

Any person who serves for five or more years as a member of the commission shall not be eligible for reappointment to succeed himself until the next vacancy occurs after his or her successor is named. Ala. Code §16-5-3 (1975)

Organization of the Commission, Executive Director, and Roster of Commission Staff

Ala. Code §16-5-4 (1975)⁴

The Commission met five (5) times in 2005. The agendas included discussions of the Commission's legislatively mandated activities and administrative matters. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, individual Commissioners or the body as a whole, consult with the Commission's Executive Director, the Commission staff, and with business, educational, governmental, and institutional agencies concerned with higher education in Alabama.

The twelve (12) members of the Commission are currently organized into three standing subcommittees: Executive, Academic Affairs and Planning, and Finance and Accountability. The sub-committees met on numerous occasions as warranted.

⁴The commission shall elect annually from its own members a chairperson and such other officers as it may deem desirable and shall adopt rules for its organization in the conduct of its business.

The commission shall hold regular meetings at such times as are specified in its rules. Special or additional meetings may be held on call of the chairperson, or upon a call signed by a least six members, or upon call of the Governor. The commission is encouraged to meet as often as seems desirable on the campuses of institutions of higher education in the state. The commission shall meet at least once every three months. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum at all its meetings but the approval of a new unit or program of instruction, or a new public institution of higher education, or the recommendation for a new unit of research or public service as provided in Section 16-5-8, shall require the concurrence of a majority of all the members of the commission. An agenda for the meetings in sufficient detail to indicate the terms on which final action is contemplated shall be mailed to the chairperson of each governing board and to the chief administrative officer of each public institution of higher education at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Any public institution of postsecondary education or the State Board of Education may place an item for discussion on the agenda of the next commission meeting by informing the executive director of the commission, in writing, of such request at least three weeks prior to the meeting.

Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The commission may appoint a highly qualified person as its executive director who shall, with the consent and approval of the commission, select and supervise the commission's staff and perform such other duties as may be delegated to the executive director by the commission, within the amounts made available for the operation of the commission. The appointment of the executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate. Failure of the Senate to confirm the executive director shall result in his or her dismissal within 90 days thereafter.

The executive director shall, with the consent and approval of the commission, employ professional and clerical staff and other assistants, including specialists and consultants, upon a full-time or part-time basis as are necessary to assist the commission and the executive director in performing the duties assigned by this chapter. The number of employees, their compensation, and the other expenditures of the commission shall be within the limits and in compliance with the appropriation made therefore by the Legislature and within budgets that shall be approved from time to time by the commission. All full-time employees of the commission shall be eligible to participate in the state Teachers' Retirement System. Ala. Code §16-5-4 (1975)

In response to the announcement by the Executive Director of his intent to forego the renewing of his contract of employment in favor of retirement effective July 2006, the Commission established in 2005 an *ad hoc* sub-committee: The Executive Director's Search Committee.

The Commission's first professional staff of ten (10) members was recruited in 1972. Today, the Commission employs a staff of twenty-six (26) persons under the supervision of an Executive Director. As required by statute, all full-time staff members participate in the state Teachers' Retirement System. Staff are assigned as follows:

Executive Director's Office

Mr. Tim Vick, Associate Executive Director
Ms. Margaret Gunter, Director of Communications
Dr. Paul Mohr, Director of Special Programs
Ms. Deborah Nettles, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jacinta Whitehurst, Receptionist

Academic Affairs

Ms. Brenda Carter, Director
Ms. Amy Brown, Academic Program Review Analyst
Ms. Ellen Haulman, Staff Associate
Dr. Sue Medina, Director/Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning

Dr. Elizabeth French, Director
Dr. Jim Conely, Title II Staff Assistant
Ms. Nancy Lacey, Staff Associate
Ms. Margaret Pearson, Administrative Assistant

Computer Services

Mr. Walter Hutcheson, Director
Mr. Michael Clemons, Network Administrator
Ms. Shelia McFarland, Web Master/Software Specialist
Mr. Willie Darden, Programmer

Agency Accounting

Ms. Veronica Harris, Director

Ms. Susan Davis, Staff Accountant and Property Control Manager

Ms. Teresa Hutcheson, Senior Accountant

*Ms. Everlene Love, Assistant Director of Financial Analysis
for Alabama Higher Education Loan Corporation*

Ms. Yolanda McCree, Accountant

Ms. Cheryl Newton, Student Assistance Administrator

Institutional Finance and Facilities

Ms. Susan Cagle, Director

Institutional Research

Ms. Diane Sherman, Director

Ms. Subrena Simpkins, Staff Associate

Advisory Groups and Consultants

Ala. Code §16-5-5 (1975)⁵

Activities of the advisory boards to the Commission provide evidence of successful support of selected goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. In cooperation with the Commission, these groups analyze and evaluate on a continuing basis the present and future needs for instruction, research, and public service in postsecondary education in the state. Their deliberations are intended to ensure the highest possible quality of collegiate and university education to all persons in the state who are able and willing to profit from it.

⁵The commission, in consultation with the agencies and institutions concerned with higher education in this state, shall analyze and evaluate on a continuing basis the present and future needs for instruction, research and public service in postsecondary education in the state, including facilities, and assess the present and future capabilities. The use of advisory groups and consultants, as deemed desirable, may be used to meet these needs in order to provide the highest possible quality of collegiate and university education to all persons in the state able and willing to participate. One such advisory committee shall be the council of presidents, consisting of the president of each public four-year institution of higher education, the State Superintendent of Education and the presidents of three public two-year institutions of higher education, to be selected by the Superintendent of Education. Ala. Code §16-5-5 (1975)

The Council of College and University Presidents

The Commission's enabling legislation mandated the formation and composition of the Council of College and University Presidents. This Council met four (4) times in 2005. Agendas included discussions of: The unified budget recommendation, the Federal Higher Education Reauthorization Act, and the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. The Council also heard presentations on legislative updates and from the State Department of Education on selected K-12 issues. Current members are:

Dr. Jerry Bartlett, President

Athens State University

Dr. William Meehan, President

Jacksonville State University

Dr. Gary Branch, President

Faulkner State Community College

Dr. Robert McChesney, President

University of Montevallo

Dr. William Cale, Jr., President

University of North Alabama

Mr. Gordon Moulton, President

University of South Alabama

Dr. Virginia Caples, Interim President

Alabama A&M University

Dr. Guin Nance, Chancellor

Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Renee Culverhouse, President

Gadsden State Community College

Dr. Malcolm Portera, Chancellor

The University of Alabama System

Dr. Frank Franz, President

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Ed Richardson, Interim President

Auburn University

Dr. Carol Garrison, President

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Stafford Thompson, President

Enterprise-Ozark State Community College

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor

Troy University System

Mr. Ray White, Interim Vice Chancellor

Troy University Montgomery

Dr. Richard Holland, President

University of West Alabama

Mr. Robert Willis, Interim Vice Chancellor

Troy University Dothan

Dr. Roy Johnson, Chancellor

Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Dr. Robert Witt, President

The University of Alabama

Dr. Joe Lee, President
Alabama State University

The Alabama Council of Graduate Deans

Since 1971 the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans has reviewed and made recommendations to the Commission on proposals for new graduate programs. Current members are:

Dr. Dianne Barron

*Dean Graduate Studies & Research
Troy University*

Dr. Charles Nash

*Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama System*

Dr. Alan Belsches

*Dean of College of Arts and Sciences
Troy University Dothan*

Dr. Roosevelt Newsom, Jr.

*Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
University of North Alabama*

Dr. Kaye Brown

*Director of Institutional Effectiveness
University of Mobile*

Dr. Stephen McFarland

*Acting Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Auburn University*

Dr. William Carr

*Dean of College of Graduate Studies
Jacksonville State University*

Dr. Chandra Reddy

*Dean of Graduate School
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Bradley Creed

*Provost
Samford University*

Dr. Terry Roberson

*Dean of Graduate Studies
University of Montevallo*

Dr. Judd A. Katz

*Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic
and Student Affairs
Auburn University Montgomery*

Dr. Ronald Rogers

*Asst. VP Academic Affairs/Dean Grad. School
University of Alabama*

Dr. Ester Lee

*Dean of Graduate School
Troy University Montgomery*

Dr. Cynthia Ryder

*VP for Academic Affairs
United States Sports Academy*

Dr. William Lester

*Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs
Tuskegee University*

Dr. Allen Stewart

*Interim Dean/School of Graduate Studies
Alabama State University*

Dr. James McClintock

*Acting Dean, Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Judy Stout

*Associate VP for Academic Affairs
University of South Alabama*

Dr. Debra Moriarity

*Dean, School of Graduate Studies
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Dr. Tara Sudderth

*Dean of Business & Graduate Programs
Birmingham –Southern College*

Dr. Joe Wilkins

Dean of Graduate School/University of West Alabama

The Council of Chief Academic Officers

The Alabama Council of Chief Academic Officers was established on June 9, 1971 to review and make recommendations to the Commission on proposals for new undergraduate programs. Current members are:

Dr. Judy Bonner, *Provost*
The University of Alabama

Dr. Charles Nash, *Vice Chancellor*
Academic Affairs
University of Alabama System

Dr. Eli Capilouto, *Acting Provost*
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Roosevelt Newsom, Jr., *Vice President*
Academic Affairs/Provost
University of North Alabama

Dr. Virginia Caples, *Interim President*
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Lewis Radonovich, *Provost*
Vice President/Academic Affairs
University of Alabama at Huntsville

Dr. Charles Chapman, *Dean*
Academic Affairs
Athens State University

Dr. Judd A. Katz, *Interim Vice Chancellor*
of Academic and Student Affairs
Auburn University Montgomery

Dr. Pat Covey, *Senior Vice President*
Academic Affairs
University of South Alabama

Dr. Wayne Seelbach, *Provost*
Academic Affairs
University of Montevallo

Dr. Terry Dixon, *Vice President*
Academic/Student Affairs
Troy University Montgomery

Dr. David Taylor, *Provost*
University of West Alabama

Dr. John Heilman, *Provost/Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Auburn University

Dr. Rebecca Turner, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Cynthia Lumpkin, *Professor/Education*
Academic Affairs Coordinator
Troy University Dothan

Dr. Evelyn White, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Dr. Hall Fulmer, *Interim Associate Provost*
Troy University

The Financial Advisory Council

On June 9, 1971, a Council of Business Managers was established. Subsequently the Financial Advisory Council replaced this organization as the advisory council to the Commission on financial affairs. Current members are:

Mr. James Bookout, *Vice Chancellor
Financial Affairs
Troy University*

Dr. G. Clint Carlson, *Vice President
Business Affairs
Jacksonville State University*

Mr. Doug Clark, *Dean
Financial Affairs
Athens State University*

Mr. Robert K. Davis, *Assistant Vice President
Financial Affairs
University of South Alabama*

Dr. Lynda Gilbert, *Vice President
Financial Affairs and Treasurer
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Daniel Howard, *Vice President
University Advancement / Administration
University of North Alabama*

Ms. Cynthia Jarrett, *Vice President
Business Affairs and Treasurer
University of Montevallo*

Mr. Raiford Noland, *Vice President
Business Affairs
University of West Alabama*

Ms. Jacquelyn Roberts, *Vice Chancellor
Financial and Administrative Services
Auburn University at Montgomery*

Dr. Glenna Brown, *Associate Provost
Planning and Analysis
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Mr. Robert Chandler, *Vice Chancellor
Finance and Administration Services
Alabama Southern Community College*

Ms. Debbie Dahl, *Vice Chancellor
Fiscal and Information Services
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education*

Mr. Leon Frazier, *Vice President
Administrative Services
Alabama State University*

Mr. Arthur Henderson, *Vice President
Business and Finance
Alabama A & M University*

Dr. Michele Jarrell, *Coordinator
Institutional Research
Shelton State Community College*

Mr. Sam Lowther, *Senior
Institutional Research Analyst
Auburn University*

Mr. Ray Pinner, *Vice President
Finance and Administration
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Mr. Wayne Shaddix, *Director
Government Relations/Grants
Management
Jefferson State Community College*

The Higher Education Information Advisory Group (HEIAG)

In 1996, the Legislature amended Ala. Code §15-5-7 (1975) to provide for the State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database) and the State University and College Electronic Faculty Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Faculty Database). This legislation called for an advisory group to assure that the expertise and concerns of institutions relative to these information systems would be provided to the Commission. Subsequently, HEIAG was recognized by the Commission as the institutional committee to provide input to the Commission on the formation of databases. The HEIAG Steering Committee met six (6) times in 2005. Their activities included reviewing/checking a new edit program for the Alabama Statewide Student Database. Current members are:

Ms. Mary Beth Adams, *Assistant Director
Institutional Research
University of Alabama*

Mr. Sam Lowther, *Executive
Director/Planning and Analysis
Auburn University*

Dr. Sue Baum, *Director
Computer Services
Enterprise-Ozark Community College*

Mr. Lee Miller, *Auditor
Information Systems
Alabama Department of Post
Secondary Education*

Dr. Caula Beyl, *Director
Institutional Planning, Research, Evaluation
Alabama A&M University*

Ms. Patricia Pratt, *Director
Institutional Effectiveness and
Assistant to the Provost
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Harriott Calhoun, *Director
Institutional Research/Information Systems
Jefferson State Community College*

Ms. Marilyn Radford, *Program
Analyst
Calhoun Community College*

Ms. Kelly D'Eath, *Director
Institutional Research
Snead State Community College*

Dr. Dan Tennimon, *Director
Institutional Research
Troy University Montgomery*

Mr. Anthony Hardy, *Coordinator
Information Services
Jefferson Davis Community College*

Dr. Priscilla Holland, *Director
Research Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
University of North Alabama*

The Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability

In 2005, the Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability (the Advisory Council) served two important functions that relate to the implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. The Council members provided feedback to the Commission on the implementation of the Accountability Agenda and served as points of contact at the institutional level. Current members are:

Dr. Caula Beyl, *Director*
Institutional Planning
Research/Evaluation
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Judy Bonner, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama

Dr. Glenda Brown, *Associate Provost*
Planning/Analysis
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Ms. Sherri Fulford, *Director*
Government Affairs
Auburn University

Dr. Daniel Howard, *Vice President*
Advancement & Administration
University of North Alabama

Mr. Frank Hurley, *Director*
Institutional Research & Effectiveness
University of South Alabama

Mr. Rick Mould, *Dean*
University Relations
Athens State University

Mr. Kenneth J. Proctor, *Dean*
College of Fine Arts
University of Montevallo

Dr. C. Fay Raines, *Associate Provost*
Institutional Effectiveness
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Roger Ritvo, *Professor*
of Management
Auburn University Montgomery

Dr. Bob Romine, *Vice Chancellor*
Workforce Development & Adult
Education
Alabama Department of Postsecondary
Education

Dr. Ed Roach, *Executive Vice Chancellor*
Provost
Troy University

Dr. Alicia Simmons, *Acting Director*
Institutional Research/Assessment
Jacksonville State University

Dr. David Taylor, *Provost*
University of West Alabama

Mr. Dan Tennimon, *Director*
Institutional Research
Troy University

Dr. Evelyn White, *Vice President*
Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) as an advisory board to the Commission was established in response to recommendations of a report prepared in 1982 by the Commission's Council of Librarians and subsequently endorsed by the Councils of Graduate Deans, Academic Officers, and Presidents. The report, "Cooperative Resource Sharing Among Universities Supporting Graduate Study in Alabama," advocated sharing collective library resources to enhance graduate education in Alabama, developing an online network of library holdings, and developing criteria for the assessment of libraries.

In 2005, NAAL continued to build on accomplishments of the past twenty (20) years. These accomplishments include advances in the use of technology which have changed the way librarians identify, select, and deliver information for their users. Innovations such as the internet, World Wide Web, online indexing and abstracting databases, electronic text, and digital images have placed the library at the fingertips of faculty and students researching from their own workstations. The members of NAAL are committed to: Sustaining the statewide online catalog of university libraries' holdings, searchable from any Alabama library to determine what information resources are owned in-state; lending library materials among all academic libraries without charge to the borrowing students or faculty; maintaining rapid delivery of requested materials through interlibrary loan; achieving financial savings through shared acquisitions of online research databases, and supporting the activities of the Alabama Virtual Library to assure equity, economy, and excellence in the provision of information services for all Alabamians.

NAAL has emphasized several new programs in the past year. These include: The recruitment and retention of professional librarians to sustain the high level of services provided to Alabama students and faculty; increased the ability of users to find information about Alabama by contributing digital materials to *AlabamaMosaic*, the web portal for Alabama history; and worked to develop a distributed archival program to assure long-term access to Alabama state publications posted online by state agencies. NAAL's vision, to continue successful initiatives by sharing existing resources, planning for an increasingly digital information future, and collaborating with other groups to assure every student, faculty member, and other researchers access to information resources and services needed for education, research, and lifelong learning, mirrors the goals of *Access, Cooperation, Quality, and Resources* of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*.

Member Institutions of NAAL

General Members

Alabama A&M University	Auburn University at Montgomery
Alabama State University	Birmingham-Southern College
Athens State University	Faulkner University
Auburn University	Jacksonville State University
University of Alabama at Birmingham	United States Sports Academy
Spring Hill College	Samford University
The University of Alabama	Tuskegee University
University of Mobile	University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Montevallo	Troy University
University of West Alabama	University of North Alabama

Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium

Cooperative Members

Alabama Supreme Court Library	Birmingham Public Library
Alabama Public Library Service	Air University

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Redstone Scientific Information Center

Affiliated Institutions

Concordia College	Oakwood College
Huntingdon College	Southern Christian University
Judson College	Stillman College
Miles College	Talladega College

Long-Range Planning

Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)⁶

By the end of 2005, the Commission had fully implemented the three components of its far-reaching and comprehensive Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan). Conceptually this agenda is based on the underlying presumption that “accountability is the public presentation and communication of evidence about performance in relation to goals.” (Business Higher Education Forum, April 2004) To this end the Commission’s performance reporting model calls for: 1) Reports of the State of Alabama in addressing national goals for higher education, 2) Reports by Alabama’s public institutions with respect to progress in achieving five long-range goals identified in the State Plan, and 3) Reports by the Commission as to its effectiveness in addressing its statutory mandates.

Performance Reporting: The State

No report was issued in 2005. *Measuring Up*, a state-by-state report of progress toward national priority indicators (goals) for higher education (*Preparation, Participation, Affordability, Completion, Benefits*) prepared and published biennially by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, was presented to the Commission in 2004. *Measuring Up* will produce its next report card in 2006.

Performance Reporting: The Institutions

There are two components to institutional accountability reporting: Institutional Presentations and Annual Boards of Trustee Reports.

⁶The commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them. Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)

Institutional Presentations in 2005. Selected presidents of Alabama’s regionally accredited institutions gave oral presentations on issues that involved institutional progress toward the broad goals set within the State Plan (*Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, Workforce Development*). These presentations were informal and non-prescriptive in terms of design and afforded Commissioners the opportunity to engage in public dialogue with the chief executive officers of eight (8) institutions. Written materials accompanying the presentations were posted to the Commission’s website. Presenters in 2005 were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| March 11 | President William Meehan, Jacksonville State University
President Joe Lee, Alabama State University |
| June 24 | President Rick Rogers, Shelton State Community College
President Joanne Jordan, Southern Union Community College |
| September 23 | Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Troy University
President V. Gordon Moulton, University of South Alabama |
| December 16 | President Marilyn Beck, Calhoun Community College |

Annual Boards of Trustee Reports. On June 24, 2005, the Chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents presented to the Commission the first in a series of reports from the eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that govern Alabama’s public institutions. This report, *Boards of Trustees Report, Volume One: Progress Toward Statewide Goals For Alabama Higher Education*, documented activities engaged in by the Alabama higher education sector from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Individual board of trustee reports depicted the range of opportunities Alabama higher education has to offer, the return on investment it provides to the citizens of this state, and signaled a commitment to accountability and performance. Taken together the eleven reports demonstrated the cooperative willingness of Alabama’s highly diverse, higher education community to support public policy initiatives such as the Commission’s Accountability Agenda.

Boards of Trustees Report, Volume Two: Progress Toward Statewide Goals for Alabama Higher Education: On December 16, 2005, the Commission is scheduled to receive the second in the series of trustees reports encompassing the reporting period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Performance Reporting: The Alabama Commission on Higher Education

There are two components to the Commission's accountability reporting: The Annual Accountability Report to the Governor and Legislature (this report) and the Report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review of the Commission.

Accountability Report 2005. This report is the second in a series of reports for the five-year planning cycle outlined in the State Plan. (In January 2005, the first report on activities of 2004 was circulated). Together these documents provide evidence of the Commission's compliance with legislative mandates and statewide initiatives. Under its Accountability Agenda for implementation of the State Plan, the format for this annual report to the Governor and Legislature was modified so as to incorporate the Commission's specific statutory responsibilities with a complete report that addresses annual activities of the Commission juxtaposed to statutory mandates.

Report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review. In 2007, the Commission will undertake its eighth quadrennial review as mandated by the Commission's enabling statute. The Report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review will be presented to the Governor and Legislature in 2008.

Databases

Ala. Code §16-5-7 (1975)

State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System⁷ (Alabama Statewide Student Database)

In 1996, the Alabama Legislature amended the Commission's statute to require the Commission to obtain specific information from each two-year and four-year public institution of higher education so as to establish a student unit record data system. (Acts 1996, No. 96-509, p. 647). The Alabama Statewide Student Database contains a combined total of over 3.6 million student records submitted during the past seven (7) years.

The Statewide Student Database contributes as well to the work of the Department of Postsecondary Education on the College Accountability Performance Profile (CAPP) and Data Access and Exchange (DAX) projects and the Department of Industrial Relations initiative on a pilot workforce development project.

⁷The commission, after affording a full opportunity to two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education and the public to be heard, shall design and establish a state university and college electronic student unit record system to provide comprehensive, meaningful, and timely information pertinent to the formulation of decisions and recommendations by the commission. The information submitted by the public institutions of higher education shall be in comparable terms that meet the specific format for the student unit records as established by the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in complete and full consultation with the Chancellor of the Postsecondary Department of Education, and the Chairman of the Council of College and University Presidents. The reports developed through the system shall conform to the procedures established by the commission. The data elements of a student record shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Biographical and demographic data elements; previous educational experience data elements; current educational activity data elements; residency status and whether the student pays tuition as a resident or a nonresident student. Ala. Code §16-5-7(b) (1975)

The database shall be configured to possess the capabilities to include: (1) Reports to individual high school officials and the State Board of Education using information captured by the student unit record data base concerning the progress made by their respective graduates within the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. Using data captured through the system, the commission shall generate reports to assist legislators, the Governor and educators in informed decision making on education issues. (2) Reports on student retention and graduation rates. (3) Reports on student transfers across sectors, institutions, and within institutions. (4) Reports on the status of out-of-state students. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (e) (1975)

The format used to collect student data shall be developed by the Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in complete and full consultation with the Chancellor of the Postsecondary Department of Education, and the Chairman of the Council of College and University Presidents. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (h) (1975)

Notable achievement in 2005:

The implementation of a new Student Database edit program designed by Commission staff provided institutional staff an executable program to run on personal computers to facilitate editing data before it is sent to the Commission. This change placed more responsibility for accountability of data with the institutions and resulted in a decrease in the amount of Commission staff time required to edit this data. It also gave the institutions quicker turn-around time on responses from data edits. All two-year and four-year public institutions submitted production data on their students for the Summer 2004, Fall 2004, and Spring 2005 terms to the Commission.

The following mandated reports were issued in 2005:

High School Report. Identifies the number of high school seniors who enrolled in Alabama public institutions of higher education in Fall 2004. The report also provides the number of students who took remedial math and/or remedial English courses.

Transfer/Migration Report. Identifies the number of students who have transferred to and from Alabama public institutions.

Retention Report. Tracks first-time degree-seeking freshmen students to the second year of enrollment. The Commission's staff is now processing the fourth year of unit record completions data.

Tuition Residency Report. Provides summary information on the types of tuition paid by students.

State University and College Electronic Faculty Unit Record System⁸ (Alabama Statewide Faculty Database)

In 1996, the Alabama Legislature amended the Commission's statute to require the Commission to obtain specific information from each two-year and four-year public institution of higher education so as to establish an institutional faculty database (Act 1996, No. 96-771, p. 1421).

The statewide faculty database is a work in progress. In 2005, formal discussions were held with the Council of Chief Academic Officers and informally with individual Council members on how to proceed with the construction of this database. The target date for establishing an agenda for the implementation of the faculty database is 2006.

⁸The commission, after affording a full opportunity to the two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education and the public to be heard, shall design and establish a state university and college information system, to include an electronic faculty unit record system, in order to provide comprehensive, meaningful, and timely information pertinent to the formulation of decisions and recommendations by the commission and the Legislature. The information, including the data components required by the electronic faculty unit record system, submitted by the public institutions of higher education shall be in comparable terms and shall meet the specific requirements as established by the commission and the reports developed through the system shall conform to the procedures established by the commission.

Ala. Code §15-5-7 (i) (1) (1975)

In order to promote accountability, the commission shall establish a uniform electronic faculty unit record system for the purpose of obtaining information on faculty work loads at two-year and four-year public institutions of higher education in the state. Each two-year and four-year public institution in the state shall report annually to the commission its individual faculty work loads. The commission shall then forward a summary of this information to Governor and the Legislature and the Chair of the Council of College and University Presidents and the State Board of Education. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or permit the commission to set standards or establish policies for public institutions of higher education concerning faculty and staff hiring, promotion, or retention. This authority shall rest solely with the governing board of the institution. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (i) (2) (1975)

Data Collection Requirements of the Federal Government⁹

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) reports are submitted throughout the year to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the United States Department of Education (USDE) as required by law. Under provisions of this federal mandate, the Commission reviews certain information from each institution of higher education. The scope of each report is determined by the federal government and varies from year to year. Principal report topics include the following: Institutional characteristics, institutional employees by assigned positions, institutional employee salaries, institutional staff for the Fall term, student enrollment, student completions, student financial aid, graduation rates, and institutional financial reports.

Currently, the NCES is conducting a feasibility study about the possibility of redesigning the IPEDS collection of student-related data to incorporate individual and student unit records. If implemented, this system would alter completely the current IPEDS collection process. The proposed use of unit records in the IPEDS collection process would allow for improved calculations of graduation rates and other policy variables as well as provide better aggregate data for reporting on retention and transfers across states or sectors.

⁹The commission shall be the state coordinating agency for all data collection requirements of the federal government which require state level coordination and relate to postsecondary education. The commission shall make every effort to minimize the reporting burden on the institutions by using the existing reports of the federal government.

Ala. Code §16-5-7 (c) (1975)

The information provided by each institution to the commission ... shall be subject to audit by the commission or by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. Ala. Code §16-5-7 (f) (1975)

The commission shall immediately report to the Legislature the failure of any public institution of higher education to comply ... by means of written notice delivered to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation-Education and the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Ala. Code §16-5-7 (g) (1975)

Programmatic Review and the Articulation and General Studies Committee

Ala. Code §16-5-8 (1975)

ctivities associated with new and existing program review, program viability, off campus offerings, and the Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System support all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*.

New and Existing Program Review ¹⁰

The ACHE Academic Inventory provides a comprehensive listing of all programs approved by the Commission for Alabama's four-year and two-year public colleges and universities. Programs are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy, a system developed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

¹⁰The Commission on Higher Education is authorized to review periodically all new and existing programs and units of instruction, research, and public service funded by state appropriations at the state universities and colleges and to share with the appropriate governing board, through the president of the institution, and state Legislature, its recommendations. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (1) (1975)

The governing boards of public institutions of higher education in this state and the campuses under their governance or supervision shall not undertake the establishment of any new unit or program of instruction for academic credit with state funds before submitting plans for the new unit or program to the commission for its review, evaluation, and approval. No state funds shall be expended by any public institution on any new unit or program of instruction which has not been approved by the commission. Any plan submitted to the commission, or its staff, and not receiving final action by the commission within 10 months of submission shall be considered approved. The term "new unit of instruction," includes the establishment of a college, school, division, or institute, and includes the establishment of any new branch or campus. The term does not include reasonable extensions or alterations of existing curricula, or programs which have a direct relationship to existing programs. The commission may, under its rulemaking power, define the character of the reasonable extensions and alterations. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (c) (1975)

Nothing in this or any section, however, shall be construed to prohibit any institution of higher education in this state from seeking and securing by separate bill the approval of the Legislature for any new unit or program of instruction, research, or public service denied approval by the commission, in which case the action of the Legislature, when approved by the Governor or otherwise upon becoming law, is final. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (f) (1975)

A declaration instituting a moratorium on the implementation of new units of instruction was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on May 2003. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Declaration to Curtail New Academic Program Expansion remained in effect through September 1, 2005. Caveats within the Declaration provided for the following exceptions to the rule:

- New programs solely funded with documented non-state appropriated resources
- New programs created when existing programs are deleted from the Commission's inventory
- New programs created under rigorously documented market demand (s)
- New programs related to "external imperatives", i.e., Title VI, No Child Left Behind, regional or professional accreditation, etc.
- New programs created as a result of mergers, partnerships, or consolidations of units of instruction when cost savings can be rigorously demonstrated.

New academic programs approved in 2005 as exempt from the moratorium were:

Jacksonville State University

Master of Science in Manufacturing Systems Technology
(CIP 15.9999)

Jefferson State Community College

Associate in Applied Science in Veterinary Technology
(CIP 51.0808)

Athens State University

Bachelor of Science in General Science
(CIP 30.1801)

Bachelor of Science in Social Science
(CIP 45.0101)

Central Alabama State Community College

Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Industrial Manufacturing
Technology
(CIP 15.0613)

Southern Union State Community College
Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Industrial Maintenance
Technology
(CIP 47.0303)

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
(CIP 51.0912)

University of North Alabama
Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in Social Science
(CIP 45.0101)

New Units of Instruction in 2005

Troy University
Administrative and Institutional Consolidation of
Troy State University, Troy State University Montgomery, and
Troy State University Dothan

**Extensions and alterations of existing programs and units of instruction
approved in 2005**

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Addition of an Option in Physics Education to the
Existing Bachelor of Science in Physics
(CIP 40.0801)

Addition of a Concentration in Forensic Accounting and Information
Technology to the
Bachelor of Science in Accounting and the Bachelor of Science in Information
Systems
(CIP 52.0301, CIP 50.0701)

University of Montevallo

Addition of Concentration in New Media to the Existing Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
(CIP 50.0701)

University of North Alabama

Addition of Options in Vocal/Choral Music and Instrumental Music to the Existing Bachelor of Art/Bachelor of Science in General Music
(CIP 50.0901)

Enterprise-Ozark Community College

Addition of Options in Legal Assistant/Paralegal and Health Information Technology to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Office Administration
(CIP 52.0401)

Gadsden State Community College

Addition of an Option in Transcription and Coding to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Office Administration
(CIP 52.0401)

Addition of an Option in Broadcast Captioning to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Realtime Reporting
(CIP 22.0303)

Jefferson State Community College

Addition of an Option in Biomedical Equipment Technology to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Manufacturing and Technology
(CIP 15.000)

Addition of an Option in Pastry/Baking to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Hospitality Management
(CIP 52.0901)

Addition of an Option in Computerized Accounting to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Accounting
(CIP 52.0302)

Addition of an Option in Tool and Die to the Existing Associate in Applied Science in Manufacturing and Technology
(CIP 09.0102)

The University of Alabama

**Merger of the Doctor of Philosophy in Library and Information Studies into
the Doctor of Philosophy in Mass Communications**
(CIP 25.0101, CIP 09.0102)

**Consolidation of the Bachelor of Arts in German, French, and Classics into
Foreign Languages and Literature, General with Options in German, French
Classical Civilization, Greek, and Latin**
(CIP 16.0901, CIP 16.1201, CIP 16.0101)

**Addition of a Concentration in Instructional Technology to the
Existing Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration**
(CIP 13.0405)

**Addition of Concentrations in Instructional Technology and Social and
Cultural Studies
in Education to the Existing Doctor of Philosophy in Instructional Leadership**
(CIP 13.0404)

Trenholm State Technical College

**Addition of an Option in Injection Molding to the Existing Associate in
Applied Technology in Machine Tool Technology**
(CIP 48. 0507)

*Program Viability*¹¹

Legislation enacted in 1996 required the Commission to report on minimum degree productivity standards for all existing programs of instruction at public two-year and four-year institutions. To date there has been a sixty-five percent (65%) reduction in non-viable programs.

In 2005 the review of non-viable core liberal arts programs continued. The institutions informed the Commission of plans for the programs in June. The Commission staff worked with the institutions in the phase out or alteration of ten programs. The institutions submitted requests for waivers of non-viability for twenty-nine (29) programs. The requests are being reviewed and Commission action on the waiver requests is scheduled for December 2005.

¹¹As a part of its program review process, the commission shall enforce, monitor, and report on minimum degree productivity standards for all existing programs of instruction at public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education. Productivity standards shall be based, primarily, but not exclusively, on the annual average number of degrees conferred during a five-year period for senior institutions and a three-year period for two-year institutions, as verified by the commission. Minimum productivity standards will vary by degree level. The annual average number of degrees conferred constitutes a productivity standard by which programs shall be deemed viable or non-viable. The data source for degrees awarded per category per institution will be the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) annual completions survey. The viability standard annual graduation rates shall be: A diploma, certificate consisting of 45-90 quarter hours; associate or baccalaureate degree program, 7.5 graduates per year; a masters degree program, 3.75 graduates per year; an education specialist degree program, 3 graduates per year; and a doctoral degree program, 2.25 graduates per year. In vocational and technical programs, a student who leaves the program for purposes of gainful employment, in the same field of study as the program, having obtained the skills in said program, shall count as a graduate. For two-year technical and vocational college programs, a student who completes 40 quarter hours or equivalent programs shall be deemed and counted as a graduate for purposes of viability standards. It is the responsibility of the institution to document and verify to the reasonable satisfaction of the commission that the student should be counted as a graduate as provided in this section. This documentation shall include the name of the specific employer and the point in said program that student obtained said employment. The commission shall identify non-viable programs and notify the institution in writing of that determination. The institution has three years from the date of that notification to meet the minimum productivity standard. Failure to meet the minimum productivity standard within the three years will result in the phase-out of the identified programs within three years. New programs approved by the commission within two years prior to May 20, 1996, shall not be subject to this subsection for a period of five academic years.

Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (2) (1975)

An institution may request a waiver of the non-viability of a program that does not meet the minimum productivity standard due to the unique and extraordinary characteristics of that program. The request for a waiver must be made in writing to the commission and the justification for the waiver must be documented by the institution. Factors that the commission may consider in a decision to grant the waiver shall include, but not be limited to: The employment and placement of program enrollees in that program-related area of employment; the transfer of program enrollees to other institutions for purposes of educational advancement; the success of program graduates; the lack of duplication of that program in the state; market demands; other unique aspects of the program; and the objectives and requirements of *Knight v. Alabama*. The commission shall grant or deny the request for the waiver and notify the institution and its respective governing board in writing of that determination. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (3) (1975)

The commission shall annually report to the committee, the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the Council of College and University Presidents the status of programs determined to be non-viable. This report shall include information for each institution and its respective non-viable program offerings. The annual report shall also list any programs not meeting the minimum standard as set forth in this section which were granted waivers by the commission along with the commission's rationale for granting the waiver for said programs. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (a) (4) (1975)

Off-Campus Offerings¹²

Institutions submit reports for each off-campus site, annually. All sites, exempt and non-exempt, must be in full compliance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges (SACS/COC) guidelines and criteria pertaining to curricula, faculty, administration, equipment, learning resources and student services. Council on Occupational Education (COE) guidelines apply to institutions accredited by that agency.

The Commission's guidelines for the regulation of off-campus instruction provide for exemptions to: Sites where courses are delivered by distance learning, high school sites where courses are taught exclusively to high school students enrolled in early admission, accelerated, or dual enrollment/dual credit programs, courses offered on an individual study basis, two-year college sites located within their respective Alabama State Board of Education approved service areas, and university sites located within their respective home counties or contiguous counties. The Commission approved the following new exempt sites in 2005:

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Luverne Junior High School
Luverne, Alabama

G.C. Wallace State Community College - Hanceville
Meek High School
Arley, Alabama

¹²The commission shall have the authority to authorize and regulate off-campus offerings, new or existing; except courses taught at business and industry sites intended exclusively for employees of business and industry. An exception to this off-campus authority is provided for the branch campuses of universities or branch campuses of junior colleges in existence at the time of passage of this chapter whose fall 1978 registrations exceeded 500 class enrollments and branch campuses of universities operating prior to 1960. For those branches which began operating since 1960, the commission shall present its recommendation for the continuation or termination of each branch with full findings of fact to the Legislature before a public joint meeting of the Education Committees of the House and Senate no later than the fifth legislative day of the 1981 Regular Session of the Legislature. In making the recommendation, the commission shall not use the ratio of full-time faculty to part-time faculty and/or a requirement to attend the main campus for degree completion as a part of its judgment of the quality of a program or branch campus. The education committee of each house shall report to its respective house with a concurrence or non-concurrence on each recommendation of the commission. Debate on each recommendation shall be limited to one hour of continuous uninterrupted discussion for each recommendation and at the end of the time, it shall be mandatory that the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall in their respective houses call for a recorded vote. The resolution by simple majority of both houses is required to affirm a commission recommendation. No more than one branch shall be continued or terminated in one resolution. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (d) (1975)

Colleges and universities conducting off-campus offerings on military reservations are exempt from the commission's regulatory review and approval authority for those offerings on the military reservation. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (g) (1975)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Bruno's Cancer Center
Saint Vincent's Hospital
Birmingham, Alabama

G. C. Wallace State Community College - Dothan

Southeast Alabama Medical Center
Dothan, Alabama

Athens State University

Northwest-Shoals Community College
Phil Campbell, Alabama

Northwest-Shoals Community College
Muscle Shoals, Alabama

G.C. Wallace State Community College - Selma
Selma, Alabama

Central Alabama State Community College

AIDT Facility

Lincoln, Alabama

Alabama Power Company E.C. Gaston Generating Plant
Wilsonville, Alabama

Drake State Technical College

Ernest Pruet Center for Technology
Hollywood, Alabama

Lawson State Community College

Hueytown High School
Hueytown, Alabama

Northeast Alabama Community College

North Jackson High School
Stevenson, Alabama
Woodville High School
Woodville, Alabama

Snead State Community College
Arab Instructional Site
Arab, Alabama

Southern Union State Community College
Auburn Center for Developing Industries
Auburn, Alabama

Trenholm State Technical College
Bullock County Career Technical Center
Union Springs, Alabama
Montgomery Fire Department
Montgomery, Alabama
Trenholm State Technical College Lowndes County Center
Hayneville, Alabama

Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System (AGSC/STARS)¹³

The Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was established by

¹³The Computerized Advisement System for students operated by Troy State University which includes a comprehensive undergraduate program and course information for all public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, existing on March 17, 1994, shall ensure students at each two-year institution accredited by the Southern Association's Commission on Colleges, the opportunity to enter into a contract with a four-year institution guaranteeing the transfer of credit earned for courses taken at the two-year institution pursuant to the terms of the contract provided the student is admitted to the four-year institution. Under this contract, all agreed upon credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. Information regarding this advisement and contracting program shall be included in the official catalog of each institution of higher education. All public two-year and four-year institutions in the state accredited by the Commission on Colleges shall participate in this system.

In addition, there is created an Articulation and General Studies Committee which shall consist of ten members composed as follows: Two representing the state's regional universities, three representing the state's two-year colleges (one of whom shall be Black), and one representing each of the following: Auburn University, the University of Alabama System, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A & M University. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Director of the Computerized Advising System operated by Troy State University shall serve as nonvoting members.

Unless provided by the governing board of the respective institution, the representatives to the Articulation and General Studies Committee shall be selected in the following manner: The presidents of the state's regional universities shall select the two representatives of these institutions on the committee. The State Board of Education shall select the representatives of the state's two-year colleges on the committee. The Chancellor of the University of Alabama System and the Presidents of Auburn University, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University shall each select the representative of their institutions on the committee. It is the intent of the Legislature that women be represented on the committee. This committee, utilizing whatever resources and task forces it deems appropriate, shall develop no later than September 1, 1998, a statewide freshman and sophomore level general studies curriculum to be taken at all colleges and universities. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as restricting any institution from requiring additional general studies courses beyond the statewide general studies curriculum.

This committee shall also develop and adopt no later than September 1, 1999, for the freshman and sophomore years, a statewide articulation agreement for the transfer of credit among all public institutions of higher education. Under this articulation agreement, all applicable credits transferred from a two-year institution to a four-year institution shall fulfill degree requirements at the four-year institution as if they were earned at the four-year institution. The committee shall further examine the need for a uniform course numbering system, course titles, and descriptions.

A four-fifths vote of the entire voting membership of the committee shall be required for the adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum. Upon adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum, this committee shall continue its duty and authority prescribed herein. The committee shall meet at least annually, or at other times as convened by the chair. The committee shall elect annually a chair from its membership. The chair of the committee shall rotate annually between a representative of the four-year institutions and a representative of the two-year institutions.

In case of problems in the administration or interpretation of the articulation agreement or the general studies curriculum, institutions shall present the problem to the Articulation and General Studies Committee for resolution. A majority decision of the committee shall be final and binding.

The budget recommendation of the commission shall not include an appropriation for institutions of higher education violating the stipulations of this section. Ala. Code §16-5-8 (e) (1975)

Act 94-202 in March 1994. The primary goals of the legislation were: 1) To provide for a uniform articulation agreement among all institutions of higher education as well as a statewide general studies curriculum; 2) To provide for the computation of grade point averages of certain transferred students¹⁴; 3) To specify that the Act would not impede the objectives of historically black institutions¹⁵; 4) To provide for implementation conditioned on the participation of certain institutions¹⁶; and 5) To specify certain reporting requirements¹⁷. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to AGSC/STARS.

In 2005, the AGSC continued to focus on four priority objectives:

- Continued improvement in terms of communication between STARS, the AGSC, institutions, and academic committees.
- Continued emphasis on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the AGSC Academic Committee.
- Continued emphasis on Program Publicity/Visibility
- Continued improvement of AGSC/STARS Website.

While much has been done to address these problem areas, these priorities will continue to command attention in 2005-06 and will encompass an ongoing re-evaluation of previously approved/ratified courses and templates.

Notable achievements in 2005:

- Annual usage of the STARS Transfer Guide System reached an all-time high in 2004-2005. Over 67,000 students obtained transfer guides. Over 3,000 advisors, counselors, and administrators used the STARS Transfer Guide System as they worked to make the academic transition smoother not only for high school students entering two-year institutions but also for two-year students transferring to four-year institutions. Total system usage eclipsed the 75,000 mark. The previous high for usage was 50,000 in one academic year.

¹⁴Ala. Code §16-5-8.1

¹⁵Ala. Code §16-5-8.2

¹⁶Ala. Code §16-5-8.3

¹⁷Ala. Code §16-5-8.4

- All incoming freshmen within the two-year colleges are required to use STARS.
- The use of STARS by the individual two-year colleges is now one of the main accountability objectives upon which these institutions are evaluated.
- Thousands of “GET THE GUIDE” post cards, highlighters, key chains, pens and posters were distributed to high schools and community college students across the state to increase awareness of the STARS Program.
- Electronic copies of AGSC approved course syllabi are now available via the AGCS/STARS website ([HTTP://stars.troy.edu/stars/crslists.htm](http://stars.troy.edu/stars/crslists.htm)).
- New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) pages are now available to answer routine questions about the AGSC/STARS Program ([HTTP://stars.troy.edu/agsc/FAQ/FAQ_Blue.htm](http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/FAQ/FAQ_Blue.htm)).
- Communication has improved between the STARS office and various two-year and four-year institutions due to the appointment of Institutional Points of Contacts across the state.

For current information on activities of the AGSC see <http://stars.troy.edu>. For the Executive Director’s Annual Report see: <http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/Annual%20Report202004-005/pdf>.

Members of the Articulation and General Studies Committee Regional Universities

Dr. William Meehan, *President*
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Richard Holland, *Alternate*
President, University of West
Alabama

Dr. Ed Roach, *Executive Vice Chancellor*
and Provost
Troy University

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, *Alternate*
Vice President for Academic
Affairs/Provost
University of North Alabama

Two-Year Colleges

Mrs. Susan Salatto, *Chair*
Interim President
Central Alabama Community College

Dr. Joe Morris, *Alternate*
Dean of Instruction
Jefferson State Community College

Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, *President*
Bishop State Community College

Dr. Susan Price, *Alternate*
Vice Chancellor for Instructional
and Student Services Alabama Department
of Postsecondary Education

Dr. Rod Britt, *Dean*
Academic Division
Southern Union State Community College

Mrs. Linda Johnson, *Alternate*
Assistant to the President
Southern Union State Community College

Auburn University

Dr. Linda Glaze, *Assistant Provost*
Academic Affairs

Dr. Rebekah H. Pindzola, *Alternate*
Interim Dean
College of Liberal Arts

The University of Alabama System

Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick, *Vice Chair*
Dean of Liberal Arts
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Charles Nash, *Alternate*
Vice Chancellor
The University of Alabama System

University of South Alabama

Dr. B. Keith Harrison, *Associate Vice President
Academic Affairs*

Dr. Victoria Rivizziguo, *Alternate
Department of Philosophy*

Alabama State University

Dr. Alfred Smith, *Assistant Vice President
Academic Affairs*

Dr. Evelyn M. White, *Alternate
Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Alabama A&M University

Dr. Shirley Houser, *Assistant to the
Provost*

Dr. Barbara A. P. Jones, *Alternate
Dean of the School of Business*

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Michael E. Malone
*Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, *Alternate
Director/Office of Institutional
Effectiveness and Planning
Alabama Commission on Higher
Education*

Mr. Keith Sessions, *Executive Director
AGSC/STARS
Troy University*

Unified Budget Recommendation

Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975) ¹⁸

The Commission presents to the Governor and Legislature a single Unified Budget Report (UBR) containing budget recommendations for separate institutional appropriations. The recommendation is based on, but not limited to, institutional requests, standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures arrived at through the use of comparative, verified data from other states as well as findings of reports using information supplied by the institutions and compiled by the Commission.

In preparation for the FY 2006-2007 Unified Budget Recommendation, staff designed and circulated to the public four and two-year institutions a needs assessment survey. This survey requested information on what items the institutions considered most vital when requesting additional funds from the state including the cost for retirement, health insurance, and employee compensation for each institution. This information was used in creation of the scenarios sent to the Council of Presidents and the Commission's Planning, Finance and Accountability Committee for their discussions on the Unified Budget Recommendation.

The Unified Budget Recommendation includes as well the Commission's recommended appropriations for a variety of statewide programs, activities, and consortia.

¹⁸The governing boards of the public institutions of higher education shall submit to the commission through their appropriate administrative officers, not later than 90 days prior to each legislative session, its budget proposals for the operation and capital needs of the institution under its governance or supervision.

The commission shall receive, evaluate and coordinate budget requests for the public institutions of higher education of this state, shall hold open hearings on the budget requests of the separate institutions and shall present to each institution and to the Governor and the Legislature, a single unified budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions. The consolidated budget and analysis of the commission shall be accompanied by the original requests and their justifications as submitted by each institution. The recommendations of the commission shall be derived directly from its assessment of the actual funding needs of each of the universities, as presented to it by the presidents, which assessment may include, but shall not be limited to, derived conclusions that may be based upon standard techniques of objective measurement, need and unit cost figures arrived at through the use of comparative and verified data secured from the various institutions, applied in an impartial and objective manner, and comparison shall be made not only between similar functions of institutions in Alabama but also between Alabama institutions and similar functions of institutions located in other states, provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any institutions of higher education in this state from submitting any matter pertaining to the financial operation and needs of said institution to the Legislature or to the Governor at any time. Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975)

Additional Powers and Duties of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1975)

Activities associated with the additional powers and duties of the Commission provide evidence of successful support for all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*.

Surveys and Evaluations of Higher Education¹⁹

None reported. The next *Measuring Up* Report will be issued in 2006.

Recommended Legislation²⁰

None recommended.

¹⁹The commission shall exercise the following powers and duties in addition to those otherwise specified in this article: To cause to be made such surveys and evaluations of higher education as are believed necessary for the purpose of providing appropriate information to carry out its powers and duties. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1) (1975)

²⁰To recommend to the Legislature of Alabama the enactment of such legislation as it deems necessary or desirable to insure the highest quality of higher education in this state taking into consideration the orderly development and maintenance of the state system of public higher education to meet trends in population and the change in social and technical requirements of the economy. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (2) (1975)

Advice and Counsel Provided to the Governor²¹

Staff appointments to Gubernatorial Committees include:

- Workforce Development Information Technology Committee of the Workforce Development Policy Council established by executive order of the Governor in 2003
- Task Force for the Selection and Preparation of School Leaders through the Governor's Congress on School Leadership
- Black Belt Workforce Development Committee
- Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching
- Title 16 (Code of Alabama) Recompilation Advisory Panel
- Advisory Council on Alabama Open Meetings Law
- Data Access and Exchange (DAX) Steering Committee

Definitions of Junior College, Community College, Technical College, Senior College, University and University System²²

Definitions last revised in October 2001.

Published Criteria for Changing the Classification of Public Institutions or Need for New Institutions²³

Guidelines for changing the classification of public institutions (instructional role matrices) were established by the Commission for universities and two-year institutions for the period 2001-2005.

²¹To advise and counsel the Governor, at his request, regarding any area of, or matter pertaining to, postsecondary education. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (3) (1975)

²²To establish definitions of a junior college, a community college, a technical college or institute, a senior college, a university and university system, provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing the commission to establish or create any university system, not to alter any university system presently existing. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (4) (1975)

²³To develop and publish criteria which may be used by the Legislature as a basis: a) for changing the classification of any public institution of higher education; and b) for determining the need for new public junior colleges, public senior colleges, universities or university systems. Any proposed statute which would establish an additional institution of higher education may be submitted, either prior to introduction or by the standing committee considering same to the commission for its opinion as to the need for the state therefore, and the commission shall report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (5) (1975)

Studies Made for the Purpose of Classifying and Prescribing the Role and Scope for Each Public Institution²⁴

In 1990, the Commission created instructional role matrices to set parameters for new program development for universities and two-year institutions for five-year planning periods. These matrices provide the mechanism for fulfilling this legislative mandate related to designating the role and scope of institutions.

No new studies for the purpose of classifying and prescribing role and scope for public institutions were initiated in 2005.

Applications from Institutions for Changes in Classification or Role and Scope²⁵

None submitted

²⁴To cause studies to be made for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope for each public institution of higher education in Alabama and to recommend such changes in classification or role and scope for such institutions as it deems necessary and which may be agreed to by the governing board of the said institution. In making studies and recommendations for the purpose of classifying and prescribing the role and scope of institutions, the commission shall do so without regard for race and traditional role of the institution, provided, however, that in the absence of compelling reasons to the contrary the commission shall give priority to institutions having seniority in years of operation in the service area. When making recommendations for the elimination of duplication of educationally unnecessary programs, absent justifiable reasons to the contrary, the commission shall recommend the replacement of such programs and/or services with programs and/or services that will strengthen and enhance the role of the institution affected. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (6) (1975)

²⁵To hear applications from the institutions for changes in classification or role and scope and to recommend to the Legislature for clarification such classifications in role or scope which may not be agreed to by the governing board of any institution. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (7) (1975)

Studies Made of the Financial Needs of Public Higher Education²⁶

There were no requests by the Governor or the Legislature to initiate a study on the financial needs of higher education during 2005.

Annual Report to the Legislature²⁷

This report in its entirety constitutes compliance with the Commission's mandate to provide an annual report of its activities to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature.

New and Amended Rules and Regulations in Accord with the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act²⁸

As needed, the Commission adopts new and amended rules to the Commission's Administrative Code in compliance with provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Ala. Code §44-21-1, et seq. (1975). In 2005, no new or amended rules and regulations were added to the Commission Administrative Code, Chapter 300-1-1, et seq.

²⁶To make continuing studies, on its own initiative or upon the request of the Governor or the Legislature, of the financial needs of public higher education and issue such reports to the Governor and the Legislature as may result from its studies. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (8) (1975)

²⁷To submit to the Governor and the Legislature on or before the first day in January of each year a written report covering the activities of the commission and the state of higher education in Alabama. The report shall include: a) statements of the nature, progress or result of any studies undertaken or completed during the past fiscal year; b) comments upon major developments, trends, new policies, budgets and financial considerations which, in the judgment of the commission will be useful in planning a sound program of higher education; and c) recommendations respecting postsecondary education in this state as may be appropriate. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (9) (1975)

²⁸To make rules and regulations for its meetings, procedures and execution of the powers and duties delegated to it by this article. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (10) (1975)

Formal Consortia for the Advancement of Higher Education in Alabama²⁹

THE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO SUPPORT COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCOR). The Alabama EPSCoR is a family of competitive, merit-based programs supported by the State of Alabama and sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency. These programs represent a federal state-industrial partnership formed to enhance the science and engineering research, education and technology capabilities of Alabama. In addition to the Executive Director, the Steering Committee appoints Program Directors for each of the federal programs who are responsible for the administration of activities of their respective components in collaboration with the Executive Director. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to EPSCoR. For current information on activities of the EPSCoR see: www.alepscor.ua.edu.

NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Awards. These are the basic infrastructure development awards offered to eligible states and considered to be the most important in identifying, developing and utilizing a state's academic science and technology (S&T) resources in order to increase university research capabilities, support selected S&T development and assist EPSCoR researchers to better compete for mainstream programs. The following RII Centers of Excellence established through the RII award to Alabama EPSCoR became self-sustaining and graduated from EPSCoR funding in 2005:

- Alabama Structural Biology Consortium (UAH, USA, UAB)
- Integrated Micro Electromechanical Systems (UAH, UA, AU, TU)
- Large Scale Electromechanical Systems (UA, AU, Alabama School of Math, Science, Shelton State Community College and Kansas State University)

More than sixty (60) faculty/researchers, two post doctoral researchers, more than thirty (30) high school students, twelve (12) undergraduate students, and seventy-four (74) graduate students participated in these research activities. The Centers also attracted more than 40 partners from industry, government and federal laboratories.

²⁹ To encourage the establishment and development of formal consortia for the advancement of higher education comprised of institutions of higher education in the state. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (11) (1975)

The Internet 2 Initiative (I2I) was sponsored by RII until 2005 and provided the infrastructure to link these Centers through a high-quality, high speed, video-conferencing network. During the last two years of the I2I program, the project maintained and enhanced these collaborations helping to spur joint research activities across Alabama.

The State of Alabama invested \$4.5 million in state funds and \$9 million in NSF EPSCoR funds for the period 2000-2005 for these Centers. These funds allowed the RII principal investigators to win more than \$51 million in non-EPSCoR federal grant and private contributions. This total investment of \$64.5 million in people, research infrastructure, and education system of Alabama would not be possible without financial assistance from EPSCoR.

Major Activities for 2005 .

- A new RII award was received for 2005-2008 in the amount of \$6 million in NSF EPSCoR funds and \$3 million in state matching funds. These funds will be used to establish four (4) research centers in Alabama including the:
 - **Alabama Center for Nano Technology Materials** (TU, AAMU, AU, UAH, USA)
 - **Center for Environment Cellular Signal Transduction** (AU, AAMU, TU, UAB)
 - **Center of Optical Sensors and Spectroscopies** (AU, UAH, USA, UAB)
 - **Extended Alabama Structural Biology Consortium** (AU, UAH, USA, UAB)
- Dr. Sherry Farwell, NSF EPSCoR Director, visited Alabama to conduct a tour of the four new centers established as part of the new RII funding cycle. Dr. Farwell was quoted as saying, “ The work that is being done in Alabama will have a positive impact worldwide. Nanotechnology, biophysics, and space research are just a few of the areas being explored. The breakthroughs that Alabama scientists are making will advance the quality of life for mankind for many years.”
- NSF awarded to Alabama EPSCoR a \$200,000 planning grant to assess the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the human and physical infrastructure of the academy in the State of Alabama and to devise a plan to mitigate this impact. The implementation plan will deal with all aspects of direct damage assessment, displaced faculty, relocation of research programs, etc. Dr. Keith McDowell, executive director of the program and vice president for research at The University of Alabama is coordinating the development of a Hurricane Katrina recovery plan for educational research initiatives damaged within Alabama, in collaboration with Mississippi and Louisiana.

Notable achievements in 2005:

- In August 2005, private donors from the Huntsville community announced the creation of the \$130 million Hudson-Alpha Biotechnology Institute. The Alabama Structural Biology Consortium, through the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Laboratory of Structural Biology, will meet the Structural Biology needs of the Institute. The Structural Biology Consortium was one of the RII Centers of Excellence established between 2000-2005.
- The Internet 2 Initiative worked with The University of Alabama System (UAS) office to install a statewide Multiple Control Unit (MCU) that enhances video-conferencing among the Alabama research institutions. Institutions participating in the project also formed the Gulf Central GigaPOP, a designated connection point that linked the State's research institutions to the national high-speed networking infrastructure. All seven Alabama research institutions participate in regular monthly video-conferences.

Members of the Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee

Ms. Jessica Dent, *Program Manager
Science, Technology, and Energy Division
Alabama Department of Economic and
Community Affairs*

Mr. David Echols, *Chair
Deputy Director/Alabama Development Office
and Director of Business Development (Asia)*

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, *Vice Chair
Director/Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Honorable Steve French
Alabama State Senate

Dr. Lawrence R. Greenwood, *Senior Vice
President for Research
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Dr. B. Keith Harrison
*Associate Vice President/Academic Affairs
Interim Dean/Graduate School
University of South Alabama*

Dr. Shaik Jeelani, *Vice President
Research and Sponsored Programs
Tuskegee University*

Dr. Michael E. Malone, *Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher
Education*

Dr. Richard B. Marchase, *Vice President
Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Keith McDowell, *Executive Director
Alabama EPSCoR
Vice President for Research
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Michael Moriarty, *Vice President
Research
Auburn University*

Ms. Angela Wier, *Vice President
Economic Development Partnership*

Dr. Marianne Woods, *Associate VP
Research
The University of Alabama*

Dr. Rose Yates, *Executive Director
Research Institute
Alabama A&M University*

ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL LAND GRANT ALLIANCE

(AALGA). The Commission serves as the fiscal agent to the AALGA, a consortium of three Alabama research facilities: The Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station at Alabama A&M University, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn University, and the George Washington Carver Experiment Station at Tuskegee University. This consortium was established in June 2000 through a Memorandum of Understanding among the member institutions for the purpose of establishing eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for Research and Extension programs at Land Grant institutions (including A&M and Tuskegee). This funding from USDA is intended to address a long-standing inequity; i.e. state matching funds had been provided to Land Grant institutions (including Auburn University) since 1887 for Research and since 1914 for Extension but not for Historically Black research institutions. On October 6, 2000, the Commission formally recognized and entered into its own Memorandum of Understanding with the AALGA. Under the terms of this agreement, the Commission agreed that AALGA's requests for appropriations from the Legislature would be included in the Commission's portion of the Unified Budget Recommendation.

AALGA's objectives are:

- To bring substantial USDA formula funds into Alabama. These Federal funds, received by Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities, would otherwise be lost to other states.
- To develop agricultural research and education programs collaboratively, making the best use of respective strengths of the three universities and enhancing the efficiency and coordination of this sector of Alabama higher education.
- To take advantage of opportunities created through joint faculty task groups to attract substantial new federal and NGO funding to improve agricultural research and education in Alabama.
- To focus the combined faculty expertise and other resources of the three universities to improve and protect our state's water quality, protect the quality and safety of our food supply, strengthen our agricultural economy, and provide capability for rapid response to other emerging agricultural-related opportunities and needs. Current projects in the latter category include efforts focusing on improving the profitability of and participation in small to medium scale family farms in rural counties (development of new crops, low-cost/high-value production systems, value-added processing, season-extension, innovative marketing methods, etc.); and on developing methods for the control or eradication of invasive species such as cogon grass.

Programs of Public Information³⁰

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Website. On January 10, 2005, the Commission published a fully redesigned website. Developed in consultation with the Information Services Division of the Alabama Department of Finance, the new website not only provides information about the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and its activities, but also information on Alabama's public two-year and four-year institutions. In short, the new site is an invaluable resource for Alabama's students and parents. It is an easily accessible portal to higher education for the citizens of the state. Throughout 2005, the Commission has received numerous positive comments on the new look of the redesigned website and its ease of use.

The Academic Program Inventory. The ACHE Academic Inventory provides a list of all institutional programs approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in Alabama public colleges and universities (four-year and two-year). Programs in the inventory are classified according to the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy, a classification system developed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The CIP Taxonomy facilitates a comparison of information not only among institutions in the State of Alabama, but also nationwide. The ACHE Academic Program Inventory is updated after each Commission meeting to reflect changes that were approved at each Commission meeting.

In 2005, some programming changes were made to the academic program inventory to convert it to the current CIP taxonomy (CIP 2000). Changes were also made to move that entire application to a new computer platform to improve performance and maintenance of the files. These changes brought this application up to current national CIP taxonomy standards and provided a process that is easier for Commission staff to maintain. The ACHE Academic Program Inventory is available for reference on the ACHE web site at www.ache.state.al.us/Acadaffr/ProgInv/Index.htm.

³⁰To conduct a program of public information in order to inform citizens of the state of matters of importance to higher education in Alabama. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (12) (1975)

Statistical Abstract. The Commission staff publishes various reports throughout the year, i.e. the Student Sources Survey and Tuition Eligibility Report, from data made available to the State University and College Electronic Student Unit Record System (Alabama Statewide Student Database). The Statistical Abstract includes information on student enrollment and completions, faculty salaries, institutional facilities, and tuition and fees for Alabama two-year and four-year public institutions.

Statistical Information: *Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2004.* In 2005, the Commission published a graphic summary of demographic information about the student populations of Alabama's public two-year and four-year institutions. The source of information released in this new report, *Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2004*, was the Alabama Student Database and all data included was published previously by the Commission in other formats: the Tuition Eligibility Report, the Retention Report, the Transfer/Migration Report, the Student Source Survey Reports, the Institutional Summary Reports and the Completions Summary Reports.

The Institutional Students Profiles Fall 2004 publication is available on the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us/Profiles. The web version provides links to the original sourcing reports and includes links to maps that offer added visual interpretation of this data.

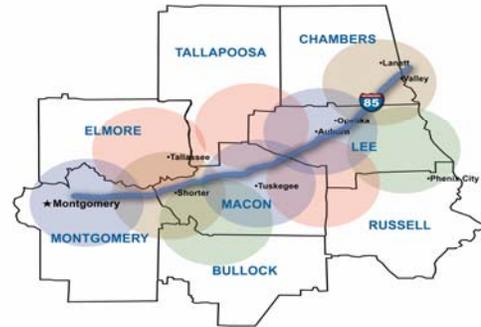
Southern Regional Education Board Fact Book on Higher Education. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) relies on data from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for use in the annual SREB State Data Exchange. SREB also uses this data to produce a Fact Book on Higher Education every two years.

Accreditation. Links to accreditation agencies and directories may be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Colleges&Univesities/Acceditation/Index.htm>.

Public Relations Activities. The Office of Communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education conducts the Commission’s program of public information. In that capacity, the Director of the Office of Communication serves as a public relations representative of the Commission, as a liaison to various governmental and community coalitions, and as representative of the Commission at many higher education functions tied to state and national programs. In 2005, activities of the Office of Communications included:

- **Hurricane Katrina** – The Commission’s Office of Communications served as a contact point in Alabama for displaced students throughout the Gulf Coast Region. Beginning August 29, 2005, the Office continually received and disseminated information and materials related to the storm and its impact on students and higher education in general in Alabama. State and national information about Katrina relief was posted on the home page of the Commission’s website at www.ache.state.al.us. Data on individual schools and their efforts to help the victims of Katrina was assimilated by the Office of Communications and shared with media as an “Alabama Package” for reporters. The Office of Communications prepared a report on Hurricane Katrina and its impact on Alabama’s higher education institutions. This report was submitted to the offices of United States Congressman Artur Davis to be used to secure federal assistance for affected institutions.
- **The Go Alliance** – The Office of Communications represents the Commission in this coalition. The Go Alliance is a collaborative group of representatives from thirteen (13) Southern Regional Education Board states. The group is dedicated to sharing resources that promote higher education. The Go Alliance met in April 2005.
- **Black Belt Workforce Development Committee** – The Office of Communications represents the Commission on this committee. The committee is comprised of education and business leaders appointed by Governor Bob Riley to address Skills Training and Labor Force Development in the Black Belt region. The final report of the committee was sent to the Governor on September 22, 2005.

- **I-85 Corridor Alliance** – The Office of Communications represents the Commission in this partnership organization consisting of local government, private sector organizations and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama. On September 15th through 17th of 2005, a conference by the I-85 Corridor Alliance was held in Auburn. Invited guests were representatives of United States and international business interests. Those who attended the conference were provided with information about services available to industries desiring to relocate along the corridor. The I-85 Corridor Alliance includes the following counties:



- **Scholarships** – The Office of Communications uses the Commission’s newly designed website to make information about Alabama higher education easily accessible. Students and parents use the website to find information about scholarships. One new scholarship program advertised through the Commission website and other outreach activities included: **The J. Craig and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation** – The first of these scholarships was awarded in May, 2005. Twenty (20) students received scholarships covering four years of funding to any four-year private or public college in Alabama. These scholarships are awarded to students who exhibit dedication and integrity through their volunteer, community service work, or assistance to their families.
- **Student Services Activities** – The Office of Communications actively promotes through the Commission’s website and other outreach activities **AlabamaMentor.org**. This is an on-line service that allows prospective higher education students to release their profiles of information to higher education institutions throughout the state. The Office of Communications has developed and promoted the **Getting Ready for College Program**. This outreach effort aims to prepare K-12 students for higher education by providing information about academic readiness and financial aid for higher education.

- **Media Events** – The Office of Communications works through and with various media to bring attention to issues involving higher education in Alabama. Stories promoted by the Office of Communications about programs in Alabama appeared in both print and the electronic media in 2005. Programs highlighted in the news included:

Success Through Academic Research – This is a partnership program among K-12 teachers and others. It allows K-12 teachers to do independent research and study in their subject areas to increase expertise and effectiveness.

Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) For coverage of notable achievements see the EPSCoR segment of this report under formal consortia.

Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program – This program was established to increase the number of minority scholars who earn doctoral degrees and seek to become faculty members at colleges and universities where they are underrepresented.

- Southern Growth Policy Board—The Commission has participated in forums and community programs sponsored by Southern Growth.
- Forever Wild Board—The Commission has three appointees from institutions throughout Alabama to the Forever Wild Land Trust.
- Army Education—The Director of Communication represented the Commission in August at the Army’s Southeast Education Tour at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

The Higher Education Act of 1965³¹

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is pending approval in the Congress of the United States.

³¹To serve as the state agency for the administration of those titles of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-329) as amended for those programs requiring a single state agency for which the commission qualifies, unless otherwise designated by executive order. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (13) (1975)

Non-Resident Institutional Review³²

In 2005, the Commission in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) began a process for reconciling the Commission's Inventory of Non-Resident Private Degree and Non-Degree Granting Institutions with a database of postsecondary institutions licensed by ADPE. As a result of this process, the Commission's inventory of Non-Resident Private Degree and Non-Degree Granting Institutions increased by seventeen (17) percent or from thirty-three (33) institutions to forty (40) by year's end. Of the more than two-hundred thirty-three (233) licensed programs contained in the ADPE database, the Commission researched the corporate or resident status of eighty-eight (88) of these proprietary institutions and established records of their activities in state. The process to maintain a cross-referenced records systems of all programs licensed by ADPE and reconciled by the Commission will proceed apace through 2006.

Non-resident institutions are defined as postsecondary institutions or corporations offering educational programs in Alabama with main campuses or headquarters located outside the state, and include public and private, for profit (proprietary) and non-profit colleges and universities. Of the two-hundred thirty-three (233) proprietary institutions licensed by ADPE in 2005, forty (40) institutions/corporations were reviewed in compliance with the Commission's mandate to monitor the activities of non-resident institutions operating in Alabama. Seven (7) of the licensed institutions have no physical sites in the state but solicit students for out-of-state programs through licensed agents. Four (4) of the licensed institutions offer their programs only online and have no physical sites in state. Thirty-three (33) of the licensed institutions offer programs at more than forty-six (46) locations throughout Alabama. Of these thirty-three (33) institutions, eighteen (18) operating at more than twenty-five (25) sites were exempt from Commission review. Institutions may be exempt from Commission review where they are incorporated in Alabama, offer programs of less than three (3) quarters in length, offer continuing education programs, or offer programs by businesses solely for their employees.

³²To authorize and regulate instructional programs or units offered by non-Alabama institutions of postsecondary education in the State of Alabama. No institution of postsecondary education located outside of Alabama may offer units

Of the thirty-three (33) institutions reviewed by the Commission, eleven (11) were reviewed in accord with criteria established by the Commission. These institutions offer their programs of study in state at more than eighteen (18) locations. All are regionally accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

The following institutions were approved to offer programs at designated sites in Alabama during 2005.

Columbia College

Columbia, Missouri

ITT Technical Services

Indianapolis, Indiana

Concordia Theological Seminary

Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Lesley University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Concordia University

Seward, Nebraska

Herzing College

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Covenant Theological Seminary

St. Louis, Missouri (Inactive)

Nova Southeastern University

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Daytona Beach, Florida

University of St. Francis

Joliet, Illinois

Florida Institute of Technology

Melbourne, Florida

The Commission's Inventory of Non-Resident Private Degree and Non-Degree Granting Institutions may be accessed through the Commission's website at: <http://www.ache.state.al.us/nonresident/NRIInv.pdf>.

Southern Regional Compact for Education and Other Special Programs

Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)³³

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), headquartered in Atlanta, was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB has sixteen (16) member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. SREB is governed by a board that consists of the governor of each member state and four people that he or she appoints, including at least one state legislator and at least one educator.

Alabama's SREB Board Members

Governor Bob Riley

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr.
State Representative
Prattville, Alabama

Dr. Ed Richardon
Interim President
Auburn University

Dr. Sandra Sims-DeGraffenreid
Executive Director
Alabama Association of School Boards

Mr. Charlie D. Waldrep
Birmingham, Alabama

SREB Legislative Advisory Council Members

Mr. H. Mac Gipson, Jr.
State Representative
Prattville, Alabama

Mr. Larry Dixon
State Senator
Montgomery, Alabama

Ms. Vivian Davis Figures, State Senator
Mobile, Alabama

³³The commission is designated the agency responsible for those functions under the Southern Regional Compact for Education (Act 227, HJR 42, 1949; Act 40, HJR 21, 1955) and those functions in Sections 16-3-32 through 16-3-35, heretofore assigned to the State Board of Education with funds that may be appropriated to it by the Legislature for that purpose. Ala. Code §16-5-11 (1975)

The Commission's participation in the following programs provides *access* and *affordability* to a wide variety of high *quality* out-of-state programs in the most cost-effective manner to Alabama citizens. The goals of the Southern Regional Compact for Education parallel the goals of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*.

The SREB Educational Technology Cooperative

The purpose of this Cooperative, comprised of state higher education and K-12 coordinating and governing boards, is to assist state leaders in creating and expanding effective uses of technology in schools and colleges. This unique multi-state Cooperative represents more than three thousand three hundred (3,300) school districts and nearly eight hundred (800) colleges and universities. It monitors and reports on a wide array of educational technology topics and works with states to use technology wisely. As schools and colleges use technology, they see the connection between technology and higher student achievement.

The sixteen (16) SREB states are represented within the SREB Educational Technology Cooperative by representatives from the state departments of education and the agencies for governing or coordinating higher education. The Commission has designated its Director of Special Programs to serve as the Alabama higher education representative. The Cooperative has established three task forces to discuss and make recommendations:

- The *Professional Development and Learning Resources Task Force* promotes high-quality, results-oriented professional development and learning resources for teachers and faculty in SREB states. This task group also focuses on the use of online learning to meet the important and growing needs for quality professional development.

- The *Online Learning Task Force* focuses on new and evolving issues, trends and technologies associated with online learning. It examines academic needs at the K-12 and postsecondary levels to determine how technology may help meet these academic needs, including the quality of online courses, how they are taught and how schools, colleges and state education agencies can work together to share instructional, management and technical information.

- *The Information Technology Task Group* monitors developments and issues affecting electronic access and infrastructure for education. The primary focus is on gathering and sharing information about these topics, including statewide educational networks in SREB states and the telecommunications services and other technology products used by schools, colleges and state education agencies.

The SREB Academic Common Market

The SREB Academic Common Market established in 1974, is a tuition savings program for students in the sixteen (16) SREB member states who want to pursue degrees in fields that are not offered by in-state institutions. Students enrolled in out-of-state universities that offer specialized degree programs pay in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents have access to two hundred thirty (230) programs offered in other states at the following levels: Baccalaureate (seventy-two programs), Master's (one hundred and three programs) and Doctoral (fifty-five programs).

To qualify for the SREB Academic Common Market, a student must be a resident of a SREB member state and must be admitted unconditionally into an out-of-state degree program that is listed in the SREB Academic Common Market inventory. Alabama universities that offer programs to out-of-state residents through this student interchange-reciprocal agreement are:

Alabama A&M University
University of South Alabama
Auburn University
University of West Alabama
Jacksonville State University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Troy University
University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of Alabama
University of North Alabama

The SREB Electronic Campus

The SREB Electronic Campus was launched in January 1998 as an "electronic marketplace" of online courses and programs from the South's colleges and universities. The Electronic Campus was designed to provide learning opportunities from accredited colleges and universities that offered courses and programs that meet the SREB's *Principles of Good Practice*. By doing this, students could be assured of the quality and integrity of the courses and programs available in the Electronic Campus, that comparable information would be provided to help students in making decisions that best met their needs, and that students could quickly and easily search the large database of course and program offerings.

In conjunction with the Electronic Campus (www.electroniccampus.org) the SREB announced in December 2004 the launching of a State Teacher Center (www.TheTeacherCenter.org). The Teacher Center is a one-stop source of information and resources for teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, teacher aides and others who aspire to become teachers. The center allows educators to find all of the resources on any SREB state with links to online courses and programs; professional development; information about financial aid; information about *No Child Left Behind* and requirements for "highly qualified" teachers; licensure, certification and alternative routes to teaching; and numerous other online services. Participating SREB Electronic Campus institutions:

Bishop State Community College
Calhoun Community College
Enterprise-Ozark Community College
Jacksonville State University
Jefferson State Community College
Judson College
Lawson State Community College
Snead State Community College
Southern Christian University
Troy University
United States Sports Academy
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of North Alabama
Wallace Community College - Dothan

The SREB Academic Common Market/SREB Electronic Campus Program

With the growth and development of distance learning and the emergence of the *SREB Electronic Campus*, the Southern Regional Education Board initiated an innovative program that combines the tuition benefits of the SREB Academic Common Market with the distance learning capacity of the *SREB Electronic Campus*. This new initiative makes selected programs available at in-state tuition rates and through distance learning.

The SREB Regional Contract Program

The SREB Regional Contract Program offers students pursuing professional health degrees admission to schools in other states for the price of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and for reduced tuition at private institutions. The program helps students in the fields of dentistry, medicine, optometry, podiatry, veterinary medicine and osteopathic medicine. Participating states pay schools to maintain spots in their professional programs; meanwhile, states save the expense of building and staffing these schools. The SREB is the fiscal agent for the Contract Program and handles administrative duties for participating states.

Alabama residents have access to Medical and Dental programs at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee and the Osteopathic Medicine program at Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

On the following page states which have access to programs offered at Alabama universities are identified.

Arkansas

Dentistry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Georgia

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Kentucky

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Veterinary Medicine

Auburn University and Tuskegee University

Louisiana

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mississippi

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

North Carolina

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

South Carolina

Optometry

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Veterinary Medicine

Tuskegee University

Virginia

Optometry

The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB-State Minority Doctoral Scholars Program. More than one-third of the nation's workers are people of color. So are more than one-fourth of America's college students. But the percentage of racial/ethnic minorities who are faculty in higher education is a small fraction of the total. Nationally, about five (5) percent of higher education faculty are African-American and about two (2) percent are Hispanic

.

The Southern Regional Education Board's Doctoral Scholars Program was developed with support from The Pew Charitable Trust and the Ford Foundation. It is part of a nationwide initiative, the Compact for Faculty Diversity, to produce more minority Ph.D.s and to encourage them to seek faculty positions.

Since its founding in 1993, the Minority Doctoral Scholars Program has supported more than five-hundred (580) scholars, who attended eighty-three (83) institutions in twenty-nine (29) states. SREB states share resources, work to expand their minority applicant pools, support qualified candidates with financial assistance for up to five (5) years of graduate study, and assist graduates and higher education institutions in identifying employment opportunities. The program has maintained a retention rate of almost ninety (90) percent, more than seventy (70) percent of graduates have begun academic careers in higher education and more than seventy (70) percent are employed in SREB states.

Quadrennial Review of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-12 (1975)³⁴

Since the first quadrennial review of the Commission was conducted (1975), there have been six (6) additional evaluations of the Commission's performance and effectiveness. The report of the last quadrennial review was published February 1999. The timetable of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda for the implementation for the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* has been modified. The eighth quadrennial review is scheduled to be conducted in 2007 with the report presented to the Governor and Legislature in 2008.

³⁴Two years after the establishment of the commission and during the last year of each gubernatorial term, the commission shall appoint a committee of at least three consultants who are not associated with higher education in this state to evaluate the effectiveness of the work of the commission and to recommend changes as needed. A report prepared by the committee shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education of this state and the public. Ala. Code §16-5-12

Governing Boards

Ala. Code §16-5-13 (1975)³⁵

Alabama's governance structure for higher education invests authority in eleven (11) Boards of Trustees that are responsible for the thirty-nine (39) public institutions of higher education in this state. In its role as finder of fact and advisor to the Governor and Legislature, the Commission works with and supports the respective Boards as authorized by statute. Activities in 2005 included the continuation of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda for the implementation of the *State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2005-06* that includes a two-part reporting process by the Boards of Trustees and their presidents on progress toward statewide goals. It is the expectation that through the findings of these reports, the Commission will be able to offer better advice to the Governor and Legislature on public policy issues related to instruction, research, and public service in postsecondary education in Alabama.

Gifts, Grants or Requests Received by the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-14 (1975)³⁶

No activities reported for 2005.

³⁵Governing boards of the public institutions of higher education of this state shall retain all powers and duties heretofore given and conferred upon them by the constitution or by any law expressed or implied, to govern, control and operate the institutions for which they are responsible. The commission shall work with and support the respective boards and except where otherwise authorized by this statute, shall act in a fact-finding and advisory capacity.

The State Board of Education and any successor board or boards which govern the state's public postsecondary institutions, including senior institutions, community colleges, junior colleges and postsecondary technical institutes or colleges, shall stand in the same relationship to the commission as do university boards of trustees. The chancellor shall stand in the same relationship to the commission as do presidents of the universities. Ala. Code §16-5-13 (1975)

³⁶The commission is authorized to accept gifts, devises, grants or bequests and expend the same to carry out the provisions of this article or to promote the purposes for which it has been established. Ala. Code §16-5-14 (1975)

Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests Ala. Code §16-5-15 (1975)³⁷

In March 2005, the Commission submitted its annual report: *Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests* to the Legislature for 2004. Statewide, a total of almost \$2.6 billion was projected to cover the prioritized, capital projects needs for all public two-year and four-year institutions over the next five years.

The 2005 *Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests* will be presented to the Commission in December 2005. This document will include all capital project proposals and a prioritizing of the capital improvement budget requests.

³⁷Each public two-year and four-year institution of higher education shall submit to the commission a facilities master plan. The commission shall review the master plans of each institution and shall make known any concerns and/or recommendations that it may have concerning four-year institutions to its respective board of trustees or, concerning two-year institutions, to the State Board of Education. This plan shall include the five-year plan of the institution regarding new facility construction and acquisition.

The initial facilities master plan shall be filed with the commission prior to January 1, 1997. The plan shall be updated by the institution annually if changes are desired by the institution.

The commission, in consultation with the Council of College and University Presidents and the State Board of Education shall adopt a standard, uniform method of reporting the five-year master plans. This process shall require the commission to notify the institution, the respective boards of trustees and the State Board of Education, within 60 weeks the findings of its review.

A freeze, effective January 1, 1997, for a period of one year on all new facilities construction and acquisitions of existing facilities shall be imposed on public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, with the exception of those facilities mandated by the Knight, et al. v. State of Alabama consent decree and court order. Any available or budgeted capital funds may be used to renovate, replace, or restore existing facilities. Any facilities already approved by the appropriate governing board prior to January 1, 1997 are exempt from this subsection.

Additional Responsibilities

Ala. Code §16-5-10 (1975)

Cross references to the Commission are found in portions of the Code of Alabama and in federal legislation. In most instances, these citations call upon the Commission to perform an administrative function. The federal court via *Knight vs. State of Alabama*, 14 F. 3rd 1534 (11th Cir. 1994) has also directed the Commission to assume some responsibilities. The Commission's performance of these duties are summarized below as the Commission's Additional Responsibilities.

Alabama Student Grant Program³⁸

During 2004-05, seven thousand eight hundred ninety-one (7,891) awards were given at an average of \$193 per student for a total distribution of \$1,523,613. This compares to the nine thousand five hundred one (9,501) awards made in 2003-04 at an average of \$170 per student for a total distribution of \$1,618,059.

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant program that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, non-profit Alabama colleges and universities. This program helps bridge the cost differential between public and private institutions, and provides Alabama students an opportunity to take programs and courses at private institutions.

³⁸The Alabama Student Grant Program created under this chapter shall be administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The executive director of the ACHE shall have primary responsibility for the administration of the program, including appropriate staffing, in accordance with rules, regulations, policies and procedures to be promulgated by the ACHE. Ala. Code §16-33A (4) (1975)

Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program³⁹

During 2004-05, seven hundred twelve (712) awards were given at an average of \$626 per student for a total distribution of \$445,673. This compares to six hundred seventy-four (674) awards made in 2003-04 at an average of \$398 per student for a total distribution of \$422,314.

The Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program is designed to help professional members of the Alabama National Guard pursue undergraduate degrees and to a limited extent, graduate degrees. This assistance is especially important as a component of the Alabama Military Department's recruitment efforts geared to maintaining troop strength in Alabama.

Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers⁴⁰

During 2004-05, three hundred nineteen (319) awards were given to Alabama K-12 public school teachers at an average of \$1,003 per teacher for a total distribution of \$319,825. This compares to four hundred seventy-six (476) awards made in 2003-04 at an average of \$994 per student for a total distribution of \$472,961.

The Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers created by the Alabama Legislature in 1993 enables certified, public school K-12 teachers to take advanced technology training through state-paid scholarships. The program allows teachers to take three courses specifically designed to help them integrate technology into the school curriculum and is the first of its kind in the country.

³⁹The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is hereby authorized to pay or reimburse the tuition for any active member of the Alabama National Guard who is enrolled in a program leading to the associate, baccalaureate, masters or doctorate degree in an accredited institution of higher learning, technical college, or junior college within the State of Alabama. To be eligible for such benefits, the individual, at the time of his enrollment must be a member of the Alabama National Guard in good standing and a member of a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard. The member must be at least 17 years of age and must be a resident of the State of Alabama. The tuition grant authorized under this chapter may be used for undergraduate or graduate studies. In no event will any individual be eligible to receive more than 100 percent of covered expenses when combined with similar federal veterans' educational benefits available to members of the National Guard. No person shall be eligible for a tuition grant for more than 12 years after the date of the first tuition payment to him under this article. For degrees above the baccalaureate, only 10 percent of the total funds of the benefit program are to be utilized. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education shall set up minimum standards for performance that must be met in order to maintain eligibility for the continuation of the receipt of tuition grants under this article. Ala. Code §31-10-25 (1975)

⁴⁰Enacted in 1993 to provide for the education of certified, employed public school teachers to be trained in the use of integrating technology skills in the curriculum. Ala. Code §16-23-24 (1975)

Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Educational Assistance⁴¹

During 2004-05, twenty-five (25) awards were given at an average of \$4,665 per student for a total distribution of \$116,627. This compares to the twenty-one (21) awards made in 2003-04 at an average of \$4,461 per student for a total distribution of \$93,677.

The Police Officers' and Firefighters' Survivors Education Assistance Program provides funds for tuition, fees, books and supply expenses for undergraduate studies at Alabama public colleges and universities for dependents and spouses of police officers and firefighters killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty.

⁴¹There is created the Tuition Eligibility Board, which shall determine the eligibility of any persons applying under the provisions of this article. The Tuition Eligibility Board shall certify to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education the eligible persons to receive tuition assistance under the provisions of Section 36-21-102. The Tuition Eligibility Board shall consist of two members appointed by the Governor, one member appointed by the Executive Board of the Alabama Education Association, one member appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama State Policemen's Association, Inc., one member appointed by the Professional Firefighter's Association of Alabama, one member appointed by the Alabama Firefighter's Association, one member appointed by the Alabama State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, one member appointed by the Alabama State Troopers Association, and one member appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Peace Officers' Association. Each member shall serve four years from the date of appointment and shall have the right of succession. The board shall elect a chairperson from among the members and shall coordinate the implementation of this article with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. The chairperson shall call meetings of the board to determine eligibility of applicants. Each board member shall receive reimbursement of expenses for duties performed in accordance with the provisions of this article. A majority of the members appointed shall constitute a quorum. Ala. Code §36-21-104 (1975)

Alabama Student Assistance Program⁴²

During 2004-05, one thousand four hundred ninety-five (1,495) awards were given at an average of \$483 per student for a total distribution of \$722,500. This compares to two thousand six hundred ninety-seven (2,697) awards made in 2003-04 at an average of \$398 per student for a total distribution of \$1,072,561. For the second year in a row, the state failed to appropriate the required maintenance of effort necessary to qualify for matching federal funding for this program.

The Alabama Student Assistance Program is funded by both the state and the federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) Program, which provides funds to the state to help assist those students who demonstrate substantial financial need. This program is administered by the state but also is funded with matching federal dollars. It is the state's only need-based student aid program for residents attending postsecondary education institutions in Alabama.

⁴²The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 renamed the SSIG Program the Leap Program. The Leap Program, covered in Chapter 1, provides grants to states to help those states provide need-based grant and work-study assistance to eligible postsecondary students. Title IV, Part A, Subpart 4 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

***U.S. Department of Education (USDE) No Child
Left Behind (NCLB), Title II Competitive Grant
Program USDE Title II/Part A, Subpart 3
(Public Law 107-110)⁴³***

The USDE *No Child Left Behind* Title II competitive grant program is the largest federal program supporting K-12 professional development activities to improve teaching and learning. This program has a direct relationship to systemic reform and student achievement tied to challenging state content and performance standards. Activities associated with the NCLB Title II competitive grant program provide evidence of successful support for all goals of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09: Access, Cooperation, Quality, Resources, and Workforce Development*.

The USDE allocation to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in FY 2004-2005 was \$1,215,464. Eligible applicants were public and private institutions of higher education in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Eighteen (18) proposals were received from eleven (11) institutions with a combined budget total of over \$3.6 million with project requests for federal funds of over \$2.1 million. Ten (10) projects were funded.

Access and Workforce Development. Participation in the FY 2004-2005 projects included an estimated eight hundred fifty (850) teachers, forty-five (45) administrators, and twelve (12) pre-service teachers representing sixty-four (64) public school districts and twenty (20) private schools. Seven hundred sixty-five (765) of these teachers serve fifty-nine (59) public school districts identified as “high need.” An estimated twenty-two thousand (22,000) students were directly impacted by the teaching.

Collaboration. All projects funded met the federal partnership requirements that included participation by the institution’s school/department of education, the arts and sciences division, and at least one high-need local school district. Two (2) projects included non-profit organizations.

⁴³The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) administers the U.S. Department of Education competitive grant partnership program for higher education institutions (Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended and enacted in 2001 as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act (Public Law 107-110)*. Under this program, funds are made available to state educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), state agencies for higher education (SAHEs), and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support and help shape state and local professional development activities.

Quality. Proposals accepted for the “*Improving Teacher Quality: Mastery of Content*” competition were designed to meet the performance objectives of the legislation that all teachers of core academic subjects be “highly qualified”. Core academic subjects are defined as English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. Fifty percent (50%) of the professional development activities exceeded eighty (80) hours of instruction in the content areas; thirty percent (30%) exceeded forty (40) hours of instruction extended over a ten (10) month period.

Resources. In addition to the federal funds that supported these projects, additional funding was provided by the host higher education institutions and other partners including the McWane Center, Carolina Biological Supply Company, Delta Education, the National Science Foundation, and American Honda Foundation. The estimated total funding leveraged from those sources exceeded \$1.2 million.

Grant Recipients for FY 2004-2005

Jacksonville State University

EMCAT: Exploring Mathematical Concepts through Application

*IMPACTSEED III: Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in
Secondary Schools*

Samford University

Extended Communities of Practice: Mastery of Science through Leadership

Troy State University and Alabama Humanities Foundation

Grand Tour IV: Language through Culture

Troy State University —Dothan

Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium

University of Alabama at Birmingham

ALAHASP 2005-2006: Alabama Hands-On Activity Science Program

The University School Partnership for Secondary Science

University of Alabama in Huntsville

The Success Through Academic Research (STAR) Project: The Independent Study Scholarship Program

Teaching the Future: Mastery of Science and Mathematics through Space Exploration

**The University of South Alabama and
Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts**

Professional Development in Comprehensive Arts Education

Compliance with Court Decrees

The Commission on Higher Education serves as secretary to a statewide Monitoring Committee established by the federal court via *Knight V. State of Alabama*, 14 F. 3rd 1534 (11th Cir. 1994). Public institutions that are defendants in *Knight* submit annual reports mandated by a 1991 remedial decree. These reports include data as regards enrollment, faculty, and administrators by race, facilities, and expenditures of court-ordered funds related to the recruitment and retention of minority faculty and administrators. The Commission compiles these reports along with a report prepared by Commission staff for approval by the Monitoring Committee prior to submission to the Court. The remedial decree was set to expire in October 2005.

Statewide Monitoring Committee. On June 9, 2005, Mr. Carlos Gonzalez attorney for the Statewide Monitoring Committee gave an update to the committee on the negotiations to end the federal supervision of higher education in Alabama as it exists under *Knight*. He stated that the status of the negotiations underway among the parties are as follows: 1) Attorneys to the parties were getting reactions to proposals developed by the parties that would be collected and shared with all the attorneys in the case; 2) Attorneys were scheduled to meet on June 23, 2005 to discuss in detail input from the respective attorneys on the proposals; and 3) Institutions would be afforded the opportunity to review all proposals as they were developed.

The Statewide Monitoring Committee unanimously approved the Transmittal Memorandum Report, Volume 1 and Annual Compliance Report and Data Summaries, Volumes 2-14 as the annual reports to the Court from the respective institutions.

Alabama Higher Education Loan Corporation (AHELC)

On August 19, 1980, by Executive Order Number 33 and pursuant to Ala. Code §36-13-9 (1975), the Governor of Alabama directed the Commission to request the organization and incorporation of the Alabama Higher Education Loan Corporation (AHELC). On November 14, 1980, the Commission adopted a resolution requesting the formation of AHELC under provisions of the Alabama Nonprofit Corporation Act, Ala. Code §10-31-1, et seq. AHELC was organized in December of that same year. AHELC is not an agency or instrumentality of the state. It was formed and its exclusive purpose remains to acquire blocks of student loans from other lending agencies as incurred under the Higher Education Act of 1965. The goal of this student loan purchase program is to increase access for students to Federal Family Education Loans in Alabama by creating a secondary market for those funds. Moreover, in 1983, AHELC established a Student Loan Purchase Program that makes use of funds raised through the issuance of tax exempt revenue bonds. This program was initiated so as to increase the availability of guaranteed student loans for Alabama residents.

AHELC operates under the governance of a nine (9) member Board of Directors appointed by the governor. From its inception, AHELC has employed no staff for its operations that include the service; i.e. acquisitions, disbursements, collections, etc. of its loan portfolio. AHELC contracts with the Commission for all its performance functions and responsibilities.

In 2002, the Commission entered into a subcontract with Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) to service the student loans. Under provisions of its contract with KHESLC, the Commission remits a fee to KHESLC for its services and receives reimbursement from AHELC. During 2005, the Commission renewed its subcontract with KHESLC for an additional two (2) years.

The Commission continues to perform administrative services for AHELC.

Alabama Virtual Library⁴⁴

The Alabama Virtual Library (AVL) is a group of online databases that serve students, teachers, and residents of the State of Alabama with online access to essential library and information resources. While the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries has been a leader in shared use of electronic resources for university students, AVL is designed to extend the concept of sharing databases to K-12 school systems, two-year colleges, and public libraries.

The Legislature initially funded AVL in FY 1999-2000 through an appropriation to the Alabama Public Library Service, the state agency responsible for the management of AVL. The Alabama Supercomputer Authority provides technical expertise. Oversight of the AVL including decisions regarding selection of the databases and how these will be accessed is vested in a board representing five (5) state agencies. Members of the AVL Council are:

Alabama Commission on Higher Education
Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education
Alabama Public Library Service
Alabama State Department of Education
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

AVL may be accessed through the Commission's website links or at www.vitual.lib.al.us.

⁴⁴The Alabama Virtual Library as currently administered is recognized and established as an educational entity for public school students. The Alabama Virtual Library may receive allocations from the Education Trust Fund Rainy Day Account pursuant to Amendment 709 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901. Ala. Code §16-21-30 (1975)

Alabama Virtual Library Council Members

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Paul Mohr,
Director of Special Programs
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Dr. Janice Franklin, *Director*
Levy Watkins Learning Center
Alabama State University

Alabama State Department of Education

Ms. Denise Oliver, *Education Specialist*
Office of Technology Initiatives

Ms. Glenda Vinson, *Technology*
Coordinator
Oneonta City Schools

Ms. Jane Smith, *Director of Media Services*
Tuscaloosa County Schools

Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Ms. Lucinda M. Beddow
Head Librarian
Calhoun Community College

Alabama Public Library Service

Ms. Margaret Hillhouse, *Member*
Board of Trustees
Centre Public Library

Ms. Bonnie Seymour, *Chair*
Director
Anniston-Calhoun Public Library

Ms. Barbara Sirmans, *Director*
Birmingham Public Library

Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Mr. Wayne Whitmore, *Secretary*
Chief Operating Officer

Ms. Kim Carroll
Chief Fiscal Officer

Ms. Lisa Woodard
Education and Outreach Director

ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Public Universities

Alabama A&M University	Alabama State University
Auburn University	Auburn University at Montgomery
Jacksonville State University	University of West Alabama
Troy University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama	University of Montevallo
University of Alabama in Huntsville	University of South Alabama
University of North Alabama	

Public Upper Division University

Athens State University

Public Community Colleges – Two -Year Institution

Alabama Southern Community College	Bevill State Community College
Bishop State Community College	Calhoun Community College
Central Alabama Community College	Enterprise-Ozark Community College
Faulkner State Community College	Snead State Community College
Gadsden State Community College	Jefferson Davis Community College
L.B. Wallace Community College	Northeast Alabama Community College
Northwest-Shoals Community College	Shelton State Community College
Southern Union State Community College	G. C. Wallace State Community College Hanceville
G. C. Wallace State Community College Dothan	G. C. Wallace State Community College Selma
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	Lawson State Community College
Jefferson State Community College	

Public Technical Colleges – Two -Year Institutions

Trenholm State Technical College	Drake State Technical College
Ingram State Technical College	Reid State Technical College