

A C H E

**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT**

2006

**Submitted to the Governor and
Alabama Legislature**

December 8, 2006

**ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION**

**ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT
2006**

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Acknowledgement

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education acknowledges the ongoing support and assistance provided by the public institutions and their personnel that facilitate the coordinating efforts of our agency.

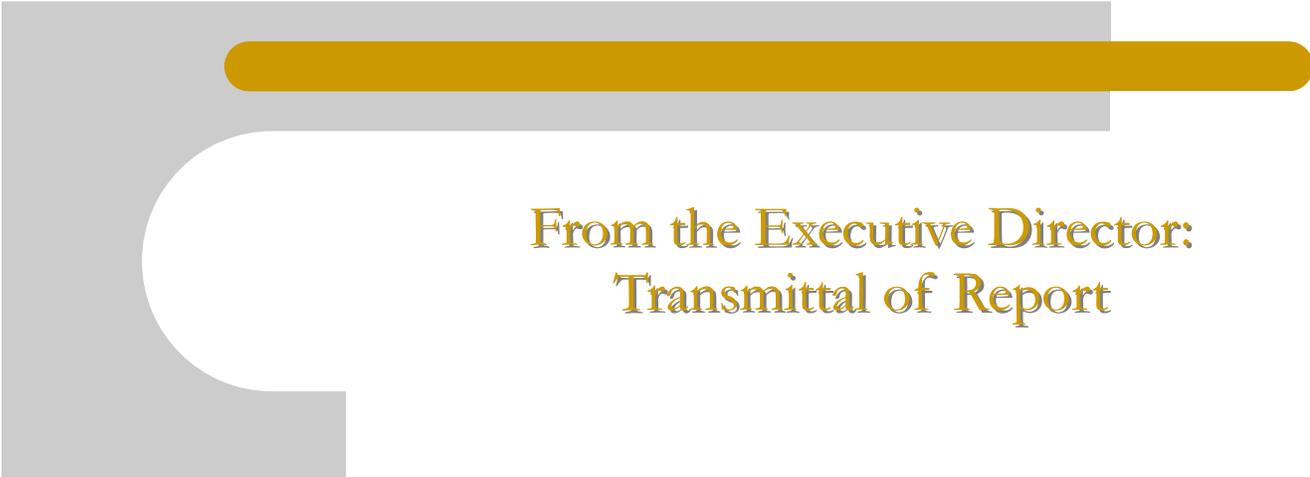
“The Commission cannot lead alone. Nor can it expect to lead by formal authority. It must lead by the goals it articulates, the quality of its analysis, its reputation for objectivity and fairness, and its capacity to enable and support others who can take a visible leadership role. The Commission must 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*

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



From the Executive Director: Transmittal of Report

In accordance with Alabama Code §16-5-10(9) (1975) and in partial fulfillment of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Accountability Agenda, we submit the annual report of activities for 2006.

The past twelve (12) months have brought change to the Commission. A year-long national search was completed in the summer of 2006 with the hiring of a new executive director.

Extensive work continues on implementing the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan). A major focus for all of higher education is the demand for workforce development. The Commission has positioned itself, through the State Plan, to enhance and provide leadership to strengthen the relationship between industry and education. This effort is intended to provide a partnering in order to sustain economic growth throughout Alabama.

As an agency for change, regulatory policy and coordinating state-wide higher education interests, the Commission strives to serve the people of Alabama. The Commission is a strong advocate for making higher education more affordable, while emphasizing the value of life-long learning. Transparency and accountability are key words describing the services provided by the state's coordinating board for higher education.

The Commission has met all of its statutory requirements, including the interviews and report submitted to the Governor and the Legislature in the eighth Quadrennial Review. Additionally, the Commission instituted a new twenty (20) day open public comment section on the website (www.ache.state.al.us). This site allows citizens to review and comment on all new instructional programs, policies and action items to be voted on by the Commissioners prior to implementation.

A priority of the Commission is the challenge of increasing needs-based aid for students attending Alabama's nationally-recognized colleges and universities. Affordability is a major concern, recognizing that education above the 12th grade potentially increases one's earning power and quality of life. Through the coordinated efforts of all levels of education, we provide the training and programs to support today's workforce, while preparing our students for tomorrow's workplace.

Alabama needs a coordinated delivery of higher education. This is the year of change. Now we need to take action and implement those changes to serve the citizens of Alabama.

*Dr. Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*





From the Chair: An Executive Summary

As Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, I am pleased to transmit to the Governor and to the Alabama Legislature the 2005-2006 annual report.

The Commission on Higher Education has statutory responsibility for overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, administration of various student aid programs, and performance of designated regulatory functions.

Some of the Commission's statutory responsibilities that were met during the past fiscal year included the approval of new academic programs, as well as off-campus offerings of public two-year and four-year institutions, and the submission of the Unified Budget Recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature on behalf of the public higher education institutions.

The Alabama Statewide Student Database now has over four million student records in its inventory. The Database was used as a source for the Commission's *Institutional Student Profiles - Fall 2005*. This compilation of institutional data was sent to each member of the Legislature, all of the college and university presidents, and the media. The Commission has received positive feedback about the usefulness of this publication.

In order to better serve taxpayers through accountability, a Public Forum section was added to the Commission website (www.ache.state.al.us). This section is designed to allow comments pertinent to Commission agenda items, policy changes, and other higher education issues.

Through the Commission's efforts to address higher education accessibility, the minority doctoral scholarship was created to increase the number of minority faculty members on Alabama's campuses. Alabama holds first place in the Southern Regional Educational Board's territory in the number of graduates of the program.

A national search was conducted in 2006 for a new executive director for the Commission. Gregory G. Fitch, Ph.D, former Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education, was named to the position in July 2006. Dr. Fitch is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Commission. His background is strong in the coordination of technical and four-year programs as related to workforce development.

Higher education is a major contributor to a better quality of life for all Alabamians. We look forward to working with the Governor, the Alabama Legislature, the institutions, and Alabama citizens to provide and secure the resources necessary for higher education.

J.R. Brooks, Chair
Alabama Commission on Higher Education



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 (1975)

Members of the Commission

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

Mr. Thomas P. Davis. Vice Chair of the Commission. *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.*

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.*

Mr. Jeff Coleman. *A resident of Dothan, Alabama, Mr. Coleman was appointed by Governor Bob Riley to the Commission in 2006. He represents a district at-large until 2014.*

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.*

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 2006.²*

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.*

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.*

Mr. Steve R. Spencer. *A resident of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Spencer was appointed by House Speaker Seth Hammett to the Commission in 2006. He represents a district at-large until 2015.*

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 2006 the Senate confirmed Governor Bob Riley's appointment to the Commission of Mr. Jeff Coleman and House Speaker Seth Hammett's appointment of Mr. Steve R. Spencer.

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 four (4) times in 2006. The agendas included discussions of the Commission's legislatively mandated activities and administrative matters. The Commission is organized currently into three standing subcommittees: Executive, Academic Affairs, and Planning, Finance and Accountability. The Commission and its sub-committees met on numerous occasions as warranted in accord with notice and other provisions of Act No. 2005-40, the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch was appointed by the Commission to the position of Executive Director effective July 1, 2006. He replaced Dr. Michael E. Malone whose term of contract expired on June 30, 2006. Dr. Fitch serves pending confirmation by the Senate.

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)

The Commission's first professional staff of ten (10) members was recruited in 1972. Today, the Commission employs a staff of twenty-seven (27) 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. Linda Thierfelder, Human Resources Manager
Ms. Deborah Nettles, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jacinta Whitehurst, Receptionist

Academic Affairs

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

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning

Dr. Elizabeth French, Director
Dr. James 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
Mr. Steven Mims, Programmer

Agency Accounting

Ms. Veronica Harris, Director
Ms. Susan Davis, Staff Accountant and Property Control Manager
Ms. Teresa Hutcheson, Senior Accountant
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 two (2) times in 2006. Agendas included discussions of: The unified budget recommendation and the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09*. In 2006, the Council also heard a presentation on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Academic Alliance. Current members are:

Dr. Jerry Bartlett, President
Athens State University

Dr. Robert Jennings, President
Alabama A & M University

Dr. Gary Branch, President
Faulkner State Community College

Dr. Joe Lee, President
Alabama State University

Dr. William Cale, Jr., President
University of North Alabama

Dr. William Meehan, President
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Thomas Corts, Interim Chancellor
The Alabama College System

Mr. Gordon Moulton, President
University of South Alabama

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, 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

Dr. John G. Veres, III, Chancellor
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Richard Holland, President
University of West Alabama

Dr. Phillip Williams, President
University of Montevallo

Dr. Robert Witt, President
The University of Alabama

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.

Dr. Dianne L. Barron, *Member*
Associate Provost & Dean of the Graduate School
Troy University

Dr. Kaye F. Brown, *Member*
Associate Vice President for Academic
Affairs & Dean of Graduate Programs
University of Mobile

Dr. William D. Carr, *Member*
Dean, College of Graduate Studies
& Continuing Education
Jacksonville State University

Dr. Bradley Creed, *Member*
Provost
Samford University

Dr. David A. Francko, *Member*
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
& Dean of the Graduate School
The University of Alabama

Dr. B. Keith Harrison, *Member*
Associate Vice President Academic Affairs
& Interim Dean of the Graduate School
University of South Alabama

Dr. Debra M. Moriarity, *Vice Chair/Chair Elect*
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Charles R. Nash, *Member*
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama System

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, Jr., *Member*
Vice President for Academic Affairs
& Provost
University of North Alabama

Dr. Audrey C. Eubanks, *Alternate*
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Mobile

Dr. Jean M. Pugliese, *Alternate*
Associate Dean, College of Graduate
Studies and Continuing Education
Jacksonville State University

Dr. J. Mark Bateman, *Alternate*
Associate Provost
Samford University

Dr. John F. Schmitt, *Chair*
Associate Dean, Graduate
School Assistant to the Provost & Vice
President for Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama

Dr. Julio Turrens, *Alternate*
Director of Graduate Studies
University of South Alabama

Dr. Lewis J. Radonovich, *Alternate*
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs
University of Alabama in Huntsville

Dr. Donna P. Jacobs, *Alternate*
Dean of the College of Education &
Coordinator of Graduate Studies
University of North Alabama

Dr. Bryan D. Noe, *Member*
Dean of Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Susan Rich, *Alternate*
Associate Dean for Life Science Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Joe Pittman, *Member*
Interim Dean of Graduate School
Auburn University

Dr. Jeffrey Engler, *Alternate*
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Graduate School
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Glen Ray, *Member*
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic
& Graduate Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. George Flowers, *Alternate*
Interim Dean of Graduate School
Auburn University

Dr. Chandra Reddy, *Member*
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Alabama A & M University

Dr. Judd Katz, *Alternate*
Vice Chancellor for Academic
& Student Affairs
Auburn University at Montgomery

Dr. Terry G. Roberson, *Member*
Dean of Graduate Studies
University of Montevallo

Dr. Beverly Edmond, *Alternate*
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Alabama A & M University

Dr. T. J. Rosandich, *Member*
Vice President and Chief
Academic Officer
United States Sports Academy

Ms. Rebecca S. Hartley, *Alternate*
Coordinator for Graduate Studies
University of Montevallo

Dr. N. Alan Sheppard, *Member*
Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Alabama State University

Dr. Fred J. Cromartie, *Alternate*
Chair of Sports Coaching
United States Sports Academy

Dr. Tara Sudderth, *Member*
Dean of Business & Graduate Programs
Birmingham-Southern College

Dr. Alfred Smith, *Alternate*
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Dr. Joe B. Wilkins, *Member*
Dean of Graduate Studies
University of West Alabama

Dr. George Klersey, *Alternate*
EBSCO Professor of Accounting
Birmingham-Southern College

Dr. Luther S. Williams, *Member*
Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies
Tuskegee University

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

Dr. Walter J. Snapp, *Alternate*
Associate Provost
Director of RCMI
Carver Research Foundation
Tuskegee University

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. Denver Betts, *Interim Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Athens State University*

Dr. Judy Bonner, *Executive Vice President
and Provost
The University of Alabama*

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

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

Dr. Beverly Edmond, *Vice President
for Academic Affairs and Provost
Alabama A&M University*

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

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

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

Dr. Roosevelt Newson, Jr., *Vice President
Academic Affairs and Provost
University of North Alabama*

Dr. Lewis Radonovich, *Provost and
Vice President of Academic Affairs
Auburn University Montgomery*

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

Dr. Wayne Seelbach, *Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Montevallo*

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

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

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

Ms. Wanda C. Blake, *Interim Vice Chancellor*
Financial Affairs
Auburn University Montgomery

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

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

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

Mr. Roger Chandler, *Vice President*
of Finance and Administration Services
Alabama Southern Community College

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

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

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. C. Ray Hayes, *Vice Chancellor*
for Financial Information
The University of Alabama System

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

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

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

Mr. Willie McCladdie, *Asst. Vice President*
for Administrative Services
Alabama State University

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

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

Mr. Charles L. Rucker, *Interim Vice President*
Business and Finance
Alabama A&M University

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

Dr. W. Steven Smith, *Vice President*
for Business and Finance
University of North Alabama

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 business of this advisory group is conducted through its steering committee. Current steering members are:

Ms. Mary Beth Adams, *Associate Director
Institutional Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

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

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

Mr. Sam Lowther, *Senior Institutional
Research Analyst
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Caula Beyl, *Director
Institutional Planning, Research and Evaluation
Auburn University*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Dan Tennimon, *Coordinator
of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
Montgomery Campus
Troy University*

The Advisory Council to the Commission for Statewide Planning and Accountability

In 2006, 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 and Evaluation
Alabama A&M University

Dr. Judy Bonner, *Executive Vice President*
and Provost
The University of Alabama

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

Dr. Drew Clark, *Director*
Institutional Research and Assessment
Auburn University

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Rebecca O. Turner, *Vice President*
for Academic and Student Affairs
Jacksonville State University

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

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) was created in response to the recommendations of an assessment of the capabilities of academic libraries to support instruction and research programs in higher education. The report, *Cooperative Resource Sharing Among Universities Supporting Graduate Study in Alabama* (ACHE, 1982), advocated sharing collective library resources to assure educational success for Alabama’s students, faculty, and other researchers.

With the creation of NAAL in 1984, the leaders of Alabama’s academic institutions united wisdom with vision to improve and extend library and information resources statewide. By working together to manage change, the academic institutions transcended institutional boundaries to assure that all students, faculty members, and other researchers obtain the information resources required for academic success. Library services and resources that seem commonplace today, such as an online union catalog of print and electronic holdings, no-fee interlibrary loan, rapid delivery of books and articles to other libraries via interlibrary loan, and desktop access to licensed electronic content, were unavailable until NAAL’s collective efforts helped implement them for Alabama institutions. Today, Alabama’s academic institutions lead the nation in improving information resources and adopting new strategies to expand access to information for library users. This progress has been achieved without substantial increases in library funding and without significant external financial resources.

In FY 2006, NAAL members continued their commitment to excellence through five (5) major programs to:

- Expand access to global information,
- Assure access to information resources about Alabama,
- Share academic library resources regardless of where they are held,
- Develop partnership to expand access to information, and
- Improve library accountability and performance.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Sustain an online union catalog of NAAL members’ library holdings by contributing bibliographic records to OCLC WorldCat, an international union catalog.	Beginning in 2006, any Alabamian can locate needed information resources by searching OCLC WorldCat at http://worldcat.org . Entering a zip code number retrieves a list of local libraries holding the needed item.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Support the Alabama Virtual Library to assure equity, economy, and excellence in the provision of information services for ALL Alabamians.	Last year, Alabamians completed 20,652,575 searches in the 60 AVL databases available at http://www.avl.lib.al.us . The State of Alabama funds the AVL to deliver current scholarly information via full text articles from more than 9,000 journals and newspapers; content from encyclopedias, handbooks and almanacs, dictionaries; as well as content from electronic books covering such subjects as literary criticism, plays, essays, poetry, automotive repair manuals, health information, and many other topics.
Achieve financial savings through shared acquisitions of online research databases.	NAAL successfully negotiated discounted costs and favorable licensing terms for 86 research-level databases. Member institutions achieve substantial savings by subscribing to databases via NAAL.
Enrich knowledge about Alabama by contributing digital materials to <i>Alabama Mosaic</i> , the web portal for Alabama history.	NAAL members continue to digitize unique historical materials held in their special collections and make these publicly available via http://www.alabamamosiac.org .
Develop a statewide low-cost archival program to preserve locally created digital materials. After Hurricane Katrina, long-term preservation of digital assets emerged as a critical concern for the educational and cultural heritage communities.	The federal Institute of Museum and Library Services is contributing funds to assist NAAL members demonstrate a preservation solution for academic institutions, state agencies, and community cultural heritage organizations that are creating public access digital collections.
Share information resources among academic libraries without charge to students and quickly deliver requested library materials to the requesting library users.	NAAL libraries lent over 19,000 books and articles for library users in other NAAL institutions last year. Articles were delivered electronically within 24 hours; book deliveries averaged four days from date of request with MOST items arriving within two days of the request.



ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Assist in the development of a distributed archival program to assure long-term access to Alabama state publications posted online by state agencies.	During 2006, NAAL explored best practices to identify, retrieve, store, and make accessible electronic state publications. In 2007, NAAL will test the feasibility of a proposed distributed model to assure long-term public access to state information.
Develop partnerships to expand access to information.	In addition to its partnerships supporting the Alabama Virtual Library, NAAL librarians researched background information for authors featured in <i>This Goodly Land</i> , an online literary map for Alabama to be published online in January 2007. A NAAL representative serves on the Alabama Historical Records Board to plan the long-term preservation of Alabama's historical treasures. NAAL continues to extend and support library services with eight four-year colleges that do not meet requirements for General Membership in the Network.
Enhance and strengthen the skills of library staff to ensure excellent library and information services in Alabama academic libraries.	NAAL sponsored 21 workshops on new technology, new electronic databases, and best practices for its members. These were attended by 235 of its members' librarians and staff.

Member Institutions of NAAL

General Members

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

Cooperative Members

Air University
Alabama Department of Archives and History
Alabama Public Library Service
Alabama Supreme Court Library
Birmingham Public Library
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Redstone Scientific Information Center

Affiliated Institutions

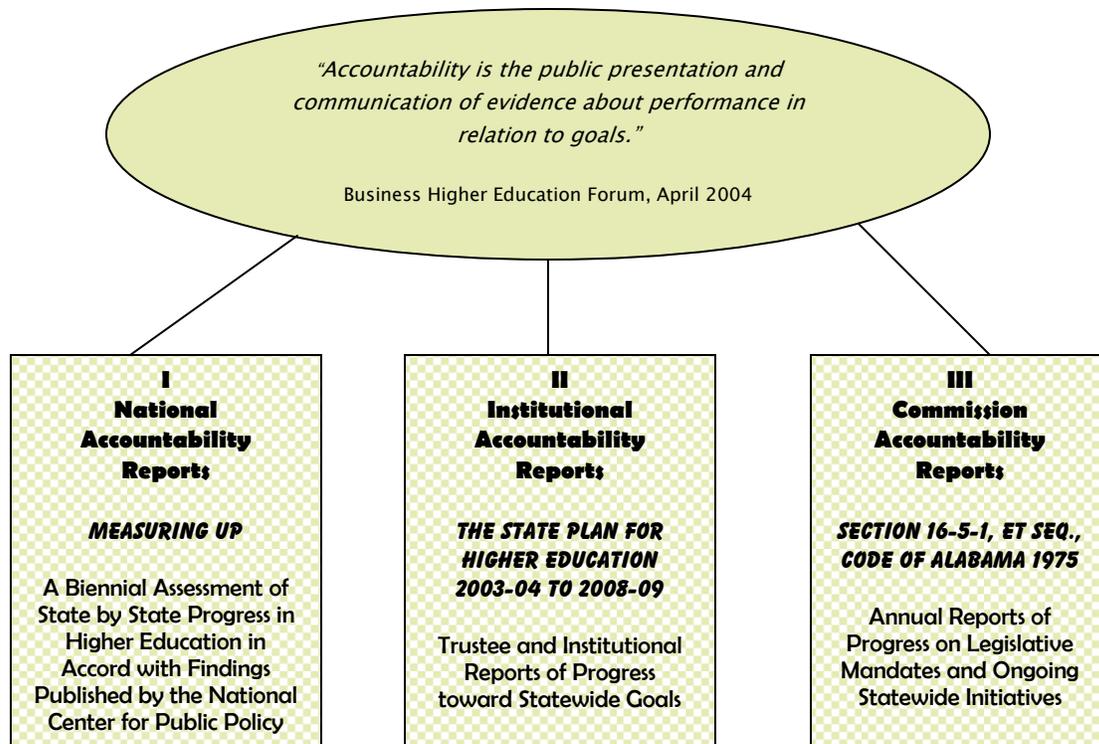
Concordia College	Oakwood College
Huntington College	Southern Christian
Judson College	Stillman College
Miles College	Talladega College

Long-Range Planning

Ala. Code §16-5-6 (1975)⁶

The comprehensive Accountability Agenda for implementation of the *State Plan for Alabama Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09* (State Plan) is fully operational. Two-thousand six (2006) is the mid-point in the Commission's five-year planning cycle. This agenda is based on an underlying presumption: "Accountability is the public presentation and communication of evidence about performance in relation to goals." (Business Higher Education Forum, April 2004). The State Plan outlines statewide goals for higher education; the Commission's performance reporting model provides the forum for a broad ranging assessment of Alabama's progress in meeting those aims. The following graphic explains the major components of this agenda:

**THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION'S
ACCOUNTABILITY AGENDA**
for the implementation of the
State Plan for Higher Education 2003-04 to 2008-09



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)

I. National Accountability Reports

Measuring Up, a state-by-state report of progress toward national priority indicators (goals) for higher education, is an assessment measure produced by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The report is issued biennially.

Measuring Up 2006 was disseminated to the Commission for open discussion and acceptance in December 2006. A snapshot of the Alabama report is provided below.



ALABAMA

Alabama's underperformance in educating its young population could limit the state's access to a competitive workforce and weaken its economy over time. The state continues to fall behind in enrolling students in college by age 19—and this rate has dropped by double digits since the early 1990s. The proportion of 9th graders graduating from high school within four years has also declined by double digits over the same period. Since the early 1990s, colleges and universities in Alabama have become less affordable for students and their families. If these trends are not addressed, they could undermine the state's ability to compete successfully in a global economy.

Strengths

Preparation

- Seventy-one percent of secondary school students are taught by teachers with an undergraduate or graduate major in the subject they are teaching, which compares well with top-performing states.

Completion

- Compared with leading states, a large percentage of first-year students at four-year colleges and universities return for their second year.

Benefits

- A gap remains between whites and non-whites in the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree, although Alabama has narrowed this gap over the past 12 years.

Weaknesses

Preparation

- The scores of 8th graders on national assessments in math, science, reading, and writing are very low. Alabama is among the lowest-performing states in math.



Change in Alabama Since 1992

↑
Preparation

↔
Participation

↓
Affordability

↔
Completion

↑
Benefits

?
Learning

What do the arrows mean?

- ↑
 The state has improved on more than half of the indicators in the category.
- ↔
 The state has improved on some, but no more than half, of the indicators in the category.
- ↓
 The state has declined on most or all indicators.

3
www.highereducation.org

The full *Measuring Up 2006* report is available at <http://measuringup.highereducation.org/>.

II. Institutional Accountability Reports

Annual Boards of Trustee Report. On December 8, 2006, the Chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents presented to the Commission the third 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 Three: Progress Toward Statewide Goals for Alabama Higher Education*, documents the activities of the public higher education sector from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Individual board of trustee reports depict the range of opportunities Alabama higher education has to offer, the return on investment it provides to the citizens of this state, and signals a commitment to accountability and performance. Taken together the eleven (11) reports demonstrate 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 Three: Progress Toward Statewide Goals for Alabama Higher Education will be disseminated in January 2007 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, selected leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate, the state Finance Director, to all contributing Boards of Trustees and to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us

Institutional Presentations in 2006. 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, and 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 2006 were as follows:

March 3, 2006	Dr. Robert Jennings , <i>President, Alabama A & M University</i> Dr. Harold Wade , <i>President, Beville State Community College</i>
June 16, 2006	Dr. Ed Richardson , <i>President, Auburn University</i> Dr. Guin Nance , <i>Chancellor, Auburn University at Montgomery</i>
September 22, 2006	Dr. Malcolm Portera , <i>Chancellor, University of Alabama System</i> Dr. Carol Garrison , <i>President, University of Alabama at Birmingham</i>
December 8, 2006	Dr. Jerry Bartlett , <i>President, Athens State University</i> Dr. Frank Franz , <i>President, University of Alabama in Huntsville</i>

III. Commission Accountability Reports

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 2006. This report, the third in a series of reports for the five-year planning cycle outlined in the State Plan, provides 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 address the annual activities of the Commission juxtaposed to statutory mandates.

The present report, *Accountability Report 2006* will be disseminated in January 2007 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, selected leadership in the House of Representatives and Senate, the state Finance Director, the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents, the State Superintendent of Education, and to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

Report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review. The full report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review committee will be disseminated to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education in January 2007. The report will be made available to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

Databases

Ala. Code §16-5-7 (1975)⁷

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. (Act 1996, No. 96-509, p. 647). The Alabama Statewide Student Database contains a combined total of over 4.1 million student records submitted during the past eight (8) years. From this data, the Commission produces multiple reports. For example:



**INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT PROFILES
FALL 2005**



ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database
www.ache.state.al.us/Profiles

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)

Notable Achievements in 2006

The implementation of a new Student Database completions edit program designed by Commission staff provided institutional staff an executable program to run on personal computers to facilitate editing completions data before it is sent to the Commission. This change placed more responsibility for accountability of completions data with 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 response from data edits.

Two new high school reports were also produced for the first time this year as spin-offs of the mandated High School Report. One of those reports identifies by high school, where students are enrolled in higher education in Alabama. The other report identifies, by college or university, high school of origin. These two new reports have been well-received by the colleges and universities and the Alabama State Department of Education.

All two-year and four-year public institutions submitted production data on their students for the Summer 2005, Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 terms to the Commission.

High School Report. Identifies the number of high school seniors who enrolled in Alabama public institutions of higher education in Fall 2005. 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).

No activity reported in 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. The Commission has been designated as the state coordinator of IPEDS data for Alabama's public and private institutions. 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, human resources, student enrollment, student completions, student financial aid, graduation rates, and institutional financial reports.

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.

Programmatic Review and the Articulation and General Studies Committee

Ala. Code §16-5-8 (1975)

Activities 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)

New Academic Programs

The following new instructional programs were approved by the Commission in the period covered by this report:

University of North Alabama

*Master of Science in Nursing
(CIP 51.1601)*

Jefferson State Community College

*Certificate in Licensed Practical Nursing
(CIP 51.1613)*

Northeast Alabama Community College

*Certificate in Cosmetology
(CIP 12.0401)*

Troy University

*Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages
(CIP 16.0101)*

The University of Alabama

*Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering
(CIP 14.3301)*

Wallace State Community College (Dothan)

*Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Industrial Maintenance Technology
(CIP 47.0303)*

Calhoun Community College

*Associate in Applied Science in Clinical Laboratory Technology
(CIP 51.1004)*

Jefferson State Community College

*Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Emergency Medical Services-Paramedic
(CIP 51.0904)*

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

Gadsden State Community College

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

Snead State Community College

*Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Cosmetology
(CIP 12.0401)*

*Associate in Applied Science in Electronic Engineering Technology
(CIP 15.0303)*

Trenholm State Technical College

*Associate in Applied Technology and Certificate in
Automotive Manufacturing Technology
(CIP 15.0613)*

Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)

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

*Associate in Applied Science in Graphic Design/Visual Communication
(CIP 50.0401)*

University of North Alabama

*Master of Arts in History
(CIP 54.0101)*

University of South Alabama

*Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing
(CIP 51.1601)*

***Extensions and Alterations of Existing Programs
and Units of Instruction***

Alabama State University

*Establishment of the College of Visual and Performing Arts to
include the Departments of Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, and Music*

Athens State University

*Addition of an Option in Computer Networking to the
existing Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
(CIP 11.0101)*

Auburn University

*Addition of a Polymer Option to the
existing Bachelor of Textile Engineering in Textile Engineering
(CIP 14.2801)*

*Addition of an Option in Poultry Processing and Products to the
Bachelor of Science in Poultry Science
(CIP 02.0209)*

*Addition of Options in Muscle Foods and Equine Science to the
existing Bachelor of Science in Animal and Dairy Science
(CIP 01.0901)*

Central Alabama Community College

*Addition of Option in Automotive Manufacturing Technology to the
existing Certificate and Associate in Applied Science in Manufacturing Technology
(CIP 15.0613)*

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

*Alteration of the Curriculum for the
Associate in Applied Science in Visual Communications
(CIP 50.0401)*

Faulkner State Community College

*Addition of an Option in Landscape Design to the
existing Associate in Applied Science in Landscape Operations Management
(CIP 01.0605)*

Troy University

*Consolidation of Three Non-Licensure Education Programs into the
Master of Science in Education, General
(CIP 13.0101)*

*Addition of a Concentration in Student Affairs Counseling to the
existing Master of Science in Counseling & Psychology
(CIP 42.0601)*

*Addition of Campus Sites to Academic Program Inventory Entries for the
Master of Science in Education and the Education Specialist in School Counseling
(CIP 13.1101)*

University of North Alabama

*Addition of an Option in Business Geography to the
existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Geography
(CIP 45.0701)*

University of South Alabama

*Addition of a Concentration in Classics to the
existing Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
(CIP 38.0101)*

*Addition of a Concentration in Real Estate to the
existing Bachelor of Science in Marketing
(CIP 52.1401)*

University of West Alabama

*Addition of a Track in Biology Comprehensive – General to the
existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Biology
(CIP 26.0101)*

*Addition of a Track in Environmental Sciences – Natural Resources to the
existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences
(CIP 30.0101)*

*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.

In December 2005, the Commission approved waivers of non-viability for twenty-two (22) core liberal arts programs that support teacher education in connection with the requirements of *No Child Left Behind* (Public Law 107-110). The grants of waiver were in response to requests from the Alabama Superintendent of Education.

In January 2006, the Commission's Academic Affairs Committee conducted a hearing to consider requests for waivers for the remaining seven (7) core liberal arts programs. The hearing included presentations by the institutions seeking the waivers and questions from the Committee. In March 2006, the full Commission voted to grant waivers for four (4) programs and to continue to monitor three (3) others for an additional three (3) years.

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)

Summary of the Review of Core Liberal Arts Programs. Forty-nine (49) core liberal arts programs originally were identified for review as non-viable. Of these programs, ten (10) met the viability standard after the monitoring period, while ten (10) others were deleted from the Academic Program Inventory because of institutional consolidation, program merger/consolidation, or program deletion. Twenty-two (22) programs were granted waivers because of their role in supporting teacher education. Four (4) other programs met the minimum productivity standard by the time of the hearing to consider waiver requests and were granted waivers. The Commission voted to continue monitoring three (3) remaining programs that had made progress but had not yet achieved the minimum productivity standard.

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 (technical colleges) accredited by that agency.

The Commission's guidelines for the regulation of off-campus instruction provide for the following exemptions:

- 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;

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)

- Prison sites where courses are delivered exclusively to inmates and prison employee;
- Business and industry sites where only employees are enrolled;
- Sites located on military reservations;
- University sites that were in operation prior to 1960;
- Sites where Fall 1978 registration exceeded 500;
- 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 accepted the following new exempt sites and approved non-exempt sites in the period covered by this report:

Exempt Sites:

Central Alabama Community College

*Talladega One-Stop Center
Talladega*

*Alabama Power Company
Wilsonville*

Jefferson State Community College

*Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham*

*St. Clair Instructional Site
Pell City*

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College

*National Guard Armory
Luverne*

Northeast Alabama Community College

*Dekalb County Technical Center
Rainsville*

Snead State Community College

*Marshall County Technical School
Guntersville*

*Blount County Technical Center
Cleveland*

Trenholm State Technical College
Rural Community Services
Union Springs

Wallace State Community College (Dothan)
Flowers Hospital
Dothan

Lakeview Hospital
Enfaula

Wiregrass Medical Center and Nursing Home
Geneva

Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)
Albert P. Brewer High School
Somerville

Non-Exempt Sites:

Enterprise-Ozark Community College
Andalusia/Opp Airport Business Incubator
Andalusia

Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)
Faulkner State Community College
Bay Minette

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

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

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 non-voting 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)

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 2006, 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 Committees
- 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 2006-07 and will encompass an ongoing re-evaluation of previously approved/ratified courses and templates.

¹⁴Ala. Code §16-5-8.1

¹⁵Ala. Code §16-5-8.2

¹⁶Ala. Code §16-5-8.3

¹⁷Ala. Code §16-5-8.4

Notable achievements in 2006

Annual usage of the STARS Transfer Guide System reached an all-time high in 2005-2006. Over 70,000 students obtained transfer guides. Over 8,000 advisors, counselors, and administrators used the STARS Transfer Guide System as they worked to make the academic transition smoother for students attending public two-year institutions as they plan to transfer to public four-year institutions in Alabama. Total system usage eclipsed the 78,000 mark. The previous high for usage was 70,000 in one academic year.

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 (CAPP Assessment).

Thousands of “GET THE GUIDE” post cards, highlighters, key chains, pens, calendars, calculators, staplers and posters were distributed to high schools and community college students across the state to increase awareness of the STARS Program.

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>.)

Members of the Articulation and General Studies Committee

APPOINTING AUTHORITY	REPRESENTATIVE	ALTERNATE
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY	Dr. Barbara A.P. Jones (<i>Vice Chair</i>) <i>Dean of the School of Business</i>	Dr. Juarine Stewart <i>Assistant to the Provost</i>
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY	Dr. Alfred Smith <i>Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>	Dr. Evelyn M. White <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	Dr. Linda Glaze <i>Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies</i>	Dr. Sharon Gaber <i>Acting Associate Provost for Academic Affairs</i>
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM	Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick <i>Dean of Liberal Arts</i> <i>University of Alabama at Huntsville</i>	Dr. Charles Nash <i>Vice Chancellor</i> <i>The University of Alabama System</i>
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA	Dr. B. Keith Harrison <i>Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>	Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno <i>College of Arts and Sciences</i> <i>Department of Earth Sciences</i>
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS	Dr. William Meehan <i>President</i> <i>Jacksonville State University</i>	Dr. Richard Holland <i>President</i> <i>University of West Alabama</i>
REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS	Dr. Ed Roach <i>Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost</i> <i>Troy University</i>	Dr. Roosevelt Newson <i>Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost</i> <i>University of North Alabama</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Mrs. Susan Salatto <i>President</i> <i>Southern Union State Community College</i>	Dr. Joe Morris <i>Dean of Instruction</i> <i>Jefferson State Community College</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Dr. Susan Price, (Chair) <i>Vice Chancellor for Instructional and Student Services</i> <i>Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education</i>	Dr. Yvonne Kennedy <i>President</i> <i>Bishop State Community College</i>
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	Dr. Rod Britt <i>Dean of Academic Division</i> <i>Southern Union State Community College</i>	Mrs. Linda Johnson <i>Assistant to the President</i> <i>Southern Union State Community College</i>
EX-OFFICIO/ NON-VOTING MEMBERS (ACHE)	Dr. Gregory G. Fitch <i>Executive Director</i>	Dr. Elizabeth C. French <i>Director Institutional Effectiveness and Planning</i>
EX-OFFICIO/ NON-VOTING MEMBERS (STARS Program)	Mr. Keith Sessions <i>Executive Director AGSC/STARS</i>	

Unified Budget Recommendation

Ala. Code §16-5-9 (1975)¹⁸

The Commission presents to the Governor and Legislature a single unified budget recommendation containing 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. The Unified Budget Recommendation includes as well the Commission's recommended appropriation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

The total amount recommended by the Commission for FY 2006-2007 was \$1,564,123,611. A copy of the FY 2006-2007 Unified Budget Recommendation document may be found at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/UBR2006/FY%202006-2007%UBR%20with%20PN.pdf>.

The Unified Budget Recommendation for FY 2007-2008 will be presented at the December 8, 2006 Commission meeting.

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

Measuring Up is a report card series issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. *Measuring Up 2006* is the fourth in this series of biennial assessment reports designed to profile how well American higher education is meeting external demands. This state-by-state report is intended to provide the public and policymakers with information to assess and improve postsecondary education as well as support targeted strategies for change. By gauging the performance of each state every two (2) years, the report cards enable states to track progress and improve their efforts.

Measuring Up reports state performance in six categories:

- **Preparation:** *How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school?*
- **Participation:** *Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school?*
- **Affordability:** *How affordable is higher education for students and their families given income levels, financial aid, and tuition levels at colleges and universities in the state?*
- **Completion:** *Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner?*
- **Benefits:** *What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population?*
- **Learning:** *What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?*

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)

Indicators and measures used for each of these performance categories are based on data collected regularly by reliable, public sources that follow accepted practices for data collection and are comparable across the fifty (50) states. Each state receives a letter grade in each of the six (6) performance categories.

In the Affordability category, the United States as a whole is “measuring down.” Even the best performing states have become less rather than more affordable when the costs of attending college are considered relative to family income. The Affordability category is the only one in which no state receives a grade higher than C minus.

The full state-by-state *Measuring Up 2006* report is available at:

<http://www.highereducation.org>

*Recommended Legislation*²⁰

None recommended.

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
- Data Access and Exchange (DAX) Steering Committee
- ACHIEVE, Inc.: American Diploma Network

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. There were no revisions or updates in 2006.

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

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 2006.

Applications from Institutions for Changes in Classification or Role and Scope²⁵

The role of the following institutions was changed with the approval of new academic programs.

University of North Alabama

*Master of Science in Nursing
(CIP 51.1601)*

The institution was approved to award degrees at the master's level in the field of nursing.

Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)

*Associate in Applied Science in Graphic Design/ Visual Communication
(CIP 50.0401)*

This program is the first Associate in Applied Science (AAS) approved for the institution in the field of visual and performing arts.

University of South Alabama

*Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nursing
(CIP 51.1601)*

The institution was approved to award degrees at the doctoral level in the field of nursing.

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 of the financial needs of higher education during 2006.

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 2006, 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 Alabama*²⁹

THE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO SUPPORT COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

The Alabama Experimental Program to Support Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a family of competitive, merit-based programs supported by the State of Alabama and sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education serves as the fiscal agent for state appropriations to EPSCoR. 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. Participating research institutions are: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville and University of South Alabama.

Alabama NSF EPSCoR RII

The Alabama NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) program began its second year of a three-year cycle on May 1, 2006 and continues to display significant progress. The RII award helps Alabama EPSCoR achieve its mission...

“...to stimulate and support the growth of intercampus, interdisciplinary, multi-investigator research Centers of Excellence founded on existing and emerging strengths in Alabama universities. These strengths are leveraged to build sustainable centers capable of competing for federal funding while serving the needs of technology-led economic development and workforce development in the State of Alabama.”

Four tightly coupled Centers of Excellence make-up the Alabama RII program:

- Alabama Center for Nanostructured Materials (ACNM)
- Center for Environmental Cellular Signal Transduction (CECST)
- Center for Optical Sensors and Spectroscopies (COSS)
- Extended Alabama Structural Biology Consortium (EASBC)

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)

These centers bring together biologists, optical scientists, environmental scientists, material scientists, chemists, biochemists and many others in an exciting jurisdictional environment of interdisciplinary research and education for revolutionary new discoveries in biotechnology, nanotechnology, and sensing. This unique RII program and effort introduces new equipment and highly capable faculty to each center, extending opportunities for research, education, and collaborations in a multi-campus collaboration while building research capacity and capability throughout the jurisdiction.

The goal of achieving research competitiveness through sustainable center development was assessed and evaluated using numerous metrics. For example, thirty percent (30%) of submitted proposals were successfully awarded to the Centers of Excellence. Comparing Year 1 data to data already achieved for Year 2 (May 1 – July 31, 2006), indicates that: 1) The number of Center collaborators grew from fourteen (14) to fifty-nine (59); and 2) Graduate students and undergraduate students totaled forty-three (43) males and twenty-seven (27) females. Of those, one (1) is an American Indian, nineteen (19) are Asian Americans, nineteen (19) are African Americans and twenty-nine (29) are Caucasians.

The ACNM at Tuskegee University welcomed President George W. Bush's interest in the ground-breaking research taking place through the College of Engineering, Architecture and Physical Sciences' T-CAM (Tuskegee University Center for Advanced Materials) program. President Bush toured the Center on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. T-CAM is funded by a NSF EPSCoR RII Center of Excellence grant. T-CAM is the largest multi-disciplinary research facility on the campus of Tuskegee University. A broad spectrum of areas connected with materials science and engineering are open for Ph.D. level research – including nanotechnology.

The RII program provides outreach through its quarterly newsletter publication, articles in business journal magazines, website postings (<http://alepscor.ua.edu>), and television and radio news programming. A Center Director, the Alabama EPSCoR Executive Director and representatives from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education have appeared on the Alabama Public Television show, "*For the Record*" on several occasions. Discussions were held regarding opportunities for innovation in science and education facilitated through the Alabama NSF award and an overview of research in Alabama and how federal dollars are impacting the lives of its citizens. Other outreach activities are reported for each center below. One notable activity from CECST involved a summer program for science students and their teachers and was rated highly successful by the participants.

Notable Achievements in 2006

The RII program has developed a sophisticated and functioning Human Resources Component (HRC). For example, the Alabama EPSCoR State Office and the Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program have collaborated to develop a comprehensive minority HRC for Alabama. Fifteen (15) African American students participated in the EPSCoR/LSAMP summer program which included a formal student conference. The NSF EPSCoR program manager, Julio Lopez-Ferrao observed the student presentations at the 2006 conference. On the faculty side several new faculty members have been hired as part of the growth of the four (4) centers of excellence.

Overall administration of the RII program by the Alabama EPSCoR State Office has led to a number of achievements that inform assessment metrics and directly play to the RII mission. Most notably, in addition to the previously appropriated FY07 funds, the Alabama Legislature appropriated an additional \$500,000 for FY07 (beginning Oct. 1, 2006) to support an EPSCoR Graduate Research Assistant program at the centers of excellence. These assistantships will be used indirectly to attract quality faculty hires to the centers. The State Office has facilitated the development of a RII Strategic Plan with special attention to each center having its own strategic plan for sustainability.

The initial planning stages for the next round of NSF EPSCoR RII funding (2008) are underway. The in-state request for proposals (RFP) has been drafted for review. The Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee will select new research theme(s) in November 2006 based on a statewide solicitation of suggestions from principal investigators. Theme(s) will be incorporated into the RFP and distributed to all seven (7) research institutions. Those receiving this information by email at each institution include the Vice Presidents for Research, Deans, and Department Heads. Each will be asked to forward the material to interested faculty and research staff.

Alabama DOE EPSCoR

The Alabama DOE EPSCoR Program, under the direction of Dr. Gary April, continues to identify barriers, assesses needs, and prioritizes goals aimed at focusing limited resources on selected areas important to Alabama's strategic plan. Currently the program is in its final year of a six (6) year Implementation Grant; the grant expires on June 30, 2007. The on-going research cluster has developed an integrated, multi-faceted approach to improve fuel cells and direct methanol fuel cells. Initial research efforts have been directed towards specific identified needs in current fuel cell designs.

The new energy-related area identified for the 2007 Implementation Grant, *Biofuels* is targeted as the next cluster with potential to attain nationally competitive status. *Biofuels* technology is critical to emerging industrial development activities that create jobs and opportunities to strengthen the State's economy. The research is likewise strategically linked to the DOE mission and objectives. The formal proposal was submitted in September 2006. The research will be a collaborative effort between Auburn University, The University of Alabama and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Funding of this proposal is one step in Alabama's progress toward energy research competitiveness and self-sustained support. The project activities allow the state's research institutions to collaborate on critical energy research problems, train new research personnel, increase the faculty and equipment base needed to create an effective research environment, and educate the public and government leaders on the importance of collaborative, industrial directed energy research. The involvement of higher education, government, industry, and the private sector in planning to assess Alabama's research infrastructure and prioritize needed improvements is an important part of this statewide effort. Successful completion of this project contributes to the overall DOE EPSCoR effort by production of new models for energy research collaboration and the dissemination of new information on the research cluster topic.

NSF Co-Funding Mechanism

To accelerate the movement of EPSCoR researchers and institutions into the mainstream of NSF support, EPSCoR launched the Co-Funding Mechanism in FY 1998. Co-funding is not a program to which proposals can be submitted. Instead, it is a funding mechanism that operates internally within NSF and does not involve any action on the part of the proposer. Co-funding provides joint support for *meritorious proposals* submitted to the Foundation's ongoing research, educational, and special emphasis competitions by researchers in the EPSCoR jurisdictions. Those "Fund-if-Possible" proposals, which the merit review process finds to lie at or near the cutoff for funding by the programs to which they were submitted, are the focus of the Co-funding Mechanism.

For such proposals, the Program Officer for the reviewing program first decides whether to make an award recommendation and the amount and duration to be recommended for the award. Once these decisions are made, a request for partial support via EPSCoR co-funding can be forwarded to the EPSCoR office for consideration. Although these requests are generally granted, some are not. In all cases, the ultimate decision to recommend or decline an award rests with the reviewing program.

For Alabama, these awards have proven to be very successful. In 2005, twenty-one (21) principal investigators received \$2.6 million. This included six (6) research institutions, one (1) private liberal arts institution, one (1) community college, and one (1) marine science laboratory.

Notable Achievement in 2006

In 2006 the twenty (20) principal investigators from all seven (7) research institutions, one (1) engineering software company, and one (1) electromagnetic ranging technology company received a total of \$3.1 million.

Members of the Alabama EPSCoR Steering Committee

Mr. David Echols

*Senior Project Manager
Alabama Development Office*

Dr. Richard B. Marchase

*Vice President for Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Dr. Elizabeth C. French, Vice Chair

*Director/Institutional Effectiveness and Planning
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Dr. Keith McDowell, Executive Director

*Alabama EPSCoR
Vice President for Research
The University of Alabama*

Honorable Steve French

Alabama State Senate

Dr. Teresa Merriweather Orok

*Vice President for Institutional Research
Planning and Sponsored Programs
Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Gregory G. Fitch

*Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education*

Dr. Lawrence R. Greenwood

*Senior Vice President for Research
University of Alabama in Huntsville*

Dr. Michael Moriarty

*Vice President for Research
Auburn University*

Dr. B. Keith Harrison

*Associate Vice President/Academic Affairs
Interim Dean/Graduate School
University of South Alabama*

Ms. Angela Wier

*Vice President Economic Development Partnership
of Alabama*

Dr. Shaik Jeelani

*Vice President Research and Sponsored Programs
Tuskegee University*

Dr. Marianne R. Woods

*Associate Vice President for Research
The University of Alabama*

(Current Vacancy)

Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs

ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL LAND GRANT ALLIANCE

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA) was formed in June of 2000 via memorandum of understanding among Alabama's three (3) land grant universities:

Alabama A&M University

Auburn University

Tuskegee University

The business of this consortium is conducted through the agricultural research directors of these three universities. Program funds are used solely to support joint projects drawing on the combined expertise of scientists at these institutions.

Two-thousand six (2006) marked the sixth anniversary of the founding of AALGA. Widespread support across the state has enabled AALGA to sponsor a significant number of research and outreach projects involving inter-university teams of scientists focusing on problems and issues that are important for Alabama agriculture, rural communities, and the overall economy of this state.

Notable Achievements in 2006

AAGLA projects focused on the following:

- *Developing biofuels and high-value chemicals from Alabama crops and crop wastes*
- *Dealing with invasive plant pest cogongrass and false mimosa*
- *Developing new medicinal plant crops suited to Alabama's Black Belt farmers*
- *Converting catfish wastes into high-value commercial products*
- *Finding new ways to improve and safeguard the quality and marketability of Alabama grown rabbit meat, fruit, and vegetables*
- *Helping landowners combine livestock and sawlog timber productions*
- *Finding innovative solutions for Black Belt wastewater problems*
- *Developing irrigation research capability to aid future irrigation development in the Black Belt*
- *Documenting factors that can aid - or hinder - Black Belt socioeconomic development*

Programs of Public Information³⁰

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education Website

On January 10, 2005, the Commission launched a fully redesigned website. Developed in consultation with the Information Services Division of the Alabama Department of Finance, the new website provides information about the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and its activities, as well as information on Alabama's public two-year and four-year institutions. In short, the 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 2006, the Commission received numerous positive comments on the look of the redesigned website, its ease of use, and comprehensive contents. The Commission's website may be accessed at www.ache.state.al.us.

Academic Program Inventory

The ACHE Academic Inventory provides a list of all institutional programs approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in the 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 to reflect changes that were approved after each Commission meeting.

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 enrollments and, completions, faculty salaries, institutional facilities, and tuition and fees for Alabama's two-year and four-year institutions.

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 Information: Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2005

In 2006, the Commission published a second 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 report, *Institutional Student Profiles Fall 2005*, 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 2005 publication is available on the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us/Profiles. In addition, over three-hundred (300) printed copies of this report were sent to Commissioners, legislators, presidents of colleges and universities and other higher education officials. 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 (2) years.

Accreditation

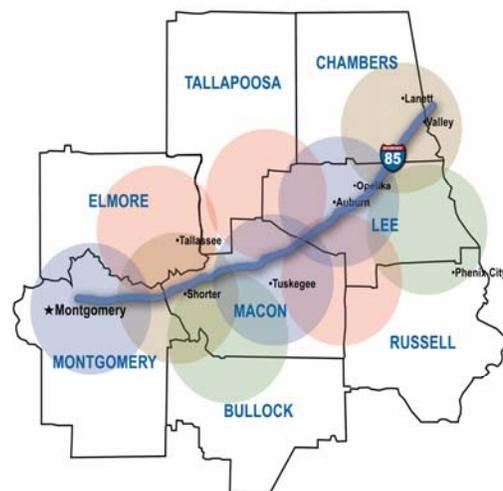
Links to accreditation agencies and directories may be found on the Commission's website at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Colleges&Universities/Accreditation/Index.htm>. These documents include information as to both institutional accreditation and specialized programmatic accreditation. These reports are updated biennially.

Public Relations Activities

The Office of Communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education is responsible for the Commission's programs of public information. In that capacity, the Director of Communications serves as the public relations representative of the Commission, as spokesperson for the agency, as a liaison to various governmental and community coalitions, and as the representative of the Commission at many higher education functions tied to state and national programs.

Organizations

I-85 Corridor Alliance - The Office of Communications represents the Commission in this partnership organization consisting of local government, private sector organizations, and colleges and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama.



Workforce Development Planning Council - The Office of Communications represents the Commission in this statewide endeavor to address education and industry requirements that supply Alabama with a well-trained labor pool.

Forever Wild Board - The Commission makes three (3) appointments to the Forever Wild Land Trust. The Office of Communications is responsible for identifying those appointees and participating in their orientation to the Forever Wild Board.

Scholarships

The Commission's website is used to make information about Alabama higher education easily accessible. Students and parents are encouraged to go online to identify and apply for scholarships.

The J. Craig and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation is a multi-million dollar bonanza for the education of Alabama's children. The foundation was created by Mignon C. Smith in honor of her parents. J. Craig Smith was President and Chief Executive Officer of Avondale Mills, a hallmark of the textile industry. Mr. Smith was an innovative leader who put employee scholarships in place and privately funded the education of several of his employees' children.

Twenty (20) scholarships were awarded for the 2005-2006 school year with fifteen (15) additional scholarships funded for the 2006-2007 school year. Special consideration is given to an applicant who would be the first in his or her family to attend college.

Alabamamentor.org

This is one of Alabama's best online sources for college planning. It provides a one-stop shopping concept for all the information a student needs to prepare for college. The website allows prospective students to find admission requirements, compare Alabama schools, take virtual campus tours, search for scholarships, and apply for admission. There is no charge to use alabamamentor.org.

Getting Ready for College

A program for K-12 students, this outreach effort provides information about academic readiness and financial aid planning 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. Through its coordinating role, the Commission answers media inquiries on a wide variety of higher education topics and in doing so offers a perspective on topics of local and national interest. In addition, the office is proactive in promoting higher education through all forms of the media - editorial, business, news and human interest.

During the 2006 legislative session, the Office of Communications fielded state and national media calls covering financial aid, funding and many other education-related pieces of legislation.

In July, 2006, Dr. Gregory G. Fitch of Missouri was named executive director of the Commission. A statewide campaign was coordinated to introduce him via the media to the higher education community and other constituents.

Media Highlights 2006:

J. Craig Smith and Page T. Smith Scholarship Foundation recipients

Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Minority Doctoral Scholarship Program

Measuring Up 2006

The Higher Education Act of 1965³¹

On September 16, 2006, Congressman Rick Keller (R-FL), Chair of the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, introduced legislation to extend the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) until June 30, 2007 (H.R. 6138). This bill passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on September 27, 2006. The Senate passed this measure on September 29, 2006.

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

Non-Resident Institutional Review³²

The Commission has jurisdiction over non-resident institutions defined as postsecondary institutions or corporations offering educational programs in Alabama with main campuses or headquarters located outside the state. These include public and private, for profit (proprietary) and non-profit institutions/corporations offering degree and non-degree programs. Of the more than two hundred-eighty (280) private/proprietary institutions licensed by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education (ADPE) as of July 31, 2006, fifty-one (51) corporations were licensed to operate as foreign corporations. This number reflects a twenty-two percent (22%) increase in the establishment of non-resident entities in Alabama during the past year and a thirty-three percent (33%) increase in the past two (2) years. The scope of Commission activities in 2006 included:

Institutions Undergoing Full-Scale Programmatic Review

Twenty (20) full-scale programmatic reviews were conducted in accord with Commission Procedures and Regulations in 2006. Full-scale reviews include, but are not limited to: The qualifications of faculty and supporting staff, the quality of academic support resources (library, laboratories, etc.), the academic validity of the proposed courses, and site visits.

- Seventeen (17) institutions were approved to offer degree programs in state
- One (1) institution was approved to offer non-degree programs
- Two (2) institutions were disapproved to offer degree programs

Institutions/Corporations Approved to Offer Degree Programs

Capella University

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Accreditation: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)

College for Financial Planning

Phoenix, Arizona

Accreditation: NCA

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 or programs of instruction within Alabama without prior approval of the commission. The commission under its rule-making authority shall establish criteria for the approval of such institutions and programs. Ala. Code §16-5-10 (14) (1975)

Columbia College
Columbia, Missouri
Accreditation: NCA

Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Accreditation: NCA and Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

Concordia University
Seward Nebraska
Accreditation: NCA

Covenant Theological Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri
Accreditation: NCA

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach, Florida
Accreditation: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Florida Institute of Technology
Melbourne, Florida
Accreditation: SACS

Herzing College
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Accreditation: Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT)

ITT Technical Institute
Indianapolis, Indiana
Accreditation: ACCSCT

Lesley University
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Accreditation: New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEA)

Nova Southeastern University
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Accreditation: SACS

Prince Institute of Professional Studies

Mount Prospect, Illinois

Accreditation: Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville, Kentucky

Accreditation: SACS and ATS

Strayer University

Washington, D.C.

Accreditation: Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)

University of Phoenix

Phoenix, Arizona

Accreditation: NCA

University of St. Francis

Joliet, Illinois

Accreditation: NCA

**Institutions/Corporations Approved to Offer Non-Degree Programs to
Alabama Residents**

American Global University

Westminster, California

***Institutions Waived from the Requirements of a
Full-Scale Programmatic Review***

While some non-resident institutions fall within the Commission's jurisdiction, thirty-three (33) institutions qualified for a waiver from the Commission's full-scale programmatic review.

- Eight (8) institutions have no physical sites in state but solicit students for out of state programs through licensed agents
- Six (6) institutions are incorporated in Alabama
- Nineteen (19) institutions offer programs of less than three (3) quarters in length or continuing education

Institutions Outside the Commission's Jurisdiction

Private/proprietary institutions that are privately licensed by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and headquartered and domiciled in state are outside the Commission's jurisdiction. In 2006, the Commission performed desk audits to establish residency for more than one hundred seventy (170) postsecondary schools. The Commission archives as well records of more than fifty (50) non-resident institutions that are closed or have ceased operations in Alabama.

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 Richardson
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 forty-seven (247) programs offered in other states at the following levels:

- Baccalaureate -- seventy-seven (77) programs
- Master's -- one hundred fourteen (114) programs
- Doctoral -- fifty-seven (57) 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
Auburn University
Jacksonville State University
The University of Alabama
Troy University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of North Alabama
University of South Alabama
University of West 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 so, students can be assured of the quality and integrity of the courses and programs available in the Electronic Campus, that comparable information will be provided to help students in making decisions that best met their needs, and that students can 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 clearinghouse for information and resources for teachers, administrators, counselors, librarians, teacher aides and others who aspire to become teachers. The Center connects educators to 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
The University of Alabama
Troy University
United States Sports Academy
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 those 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.

In 1993, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and its sixteen (16) member states noted an under-representation of minority students in doctoral programs and among faculty at colleges and universities in the southern region of the United States. According to SREB data, more than one-third of the nation's workers were people of color as were more than one-fourth of America's college students. Moreover, the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities who were faculty in higher education was a fraction of total faculty. Nationally, about five percent (5%) of higher education faculties were African-American and about two percent (2%) were Hispanic.

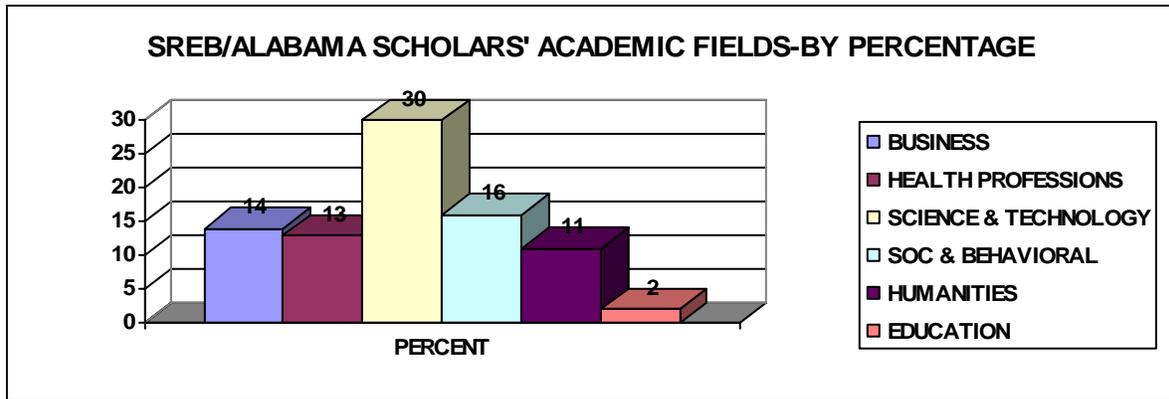
To address this problem, SREB and its member states developed a program to: a) Increase opportunities for qualified minority students to participate in selected graduate school programs leading to doctoral degrees; and b) Expand the pool of minority scholars available to teach at the collegiate level.

The success of the SREB-Alabama Minority Doctoral Scholars Program is attributed to the support provided to it by the State of Alabama, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, SREB, and Alabama's participating universities: Auburn University, The University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The first year of the SREB program (1993), Alabama supported two (2) minority Ph.D. students. Since then, Alabama has increased its participation in the SREB Minority Doctoral Scholars Program so that today, Alabama leads the sixteen (16) participating states in the number of graduates, matriculating scholars, and employed graduates of this program. While the annual average number of SREB/Alabama Minority Doctoral applicants is forty (40) prospective students, funding remains limited. Approximately eight (8) new scholars or twenty percent (20%) of applicants are selected each year.

Academic Fields of Greatest Interest Among Applicants

Areas of greatest interest to Alabama’s Minority Doctoral Scholars include Science and Technology, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Business and Management.



Current graduates earned their doctorates in the following fields:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Aquatic Biology</i> | <i>Biochemistry</i> |
| <i>Clinical Psychology</i> | <i>Clinical Child Psychology</i> |
| <i>Educational Psychology</i> | <i>Ed. Psychology/Human Development</i> |
| <i>English/ African American Literature</i> | <i>Health Education</i> |
| <i>Management Human Resources</i> | <i>Medical Sociology</i> |
| <i>Nursing Education</i> | <i>Pharmaceutical Science</i> |
| <i>Public Health</i> | <i>Public Health/ Maternal Child Health</i> |
| <i>Romance Languages</i> | <i>Social Work</i> |
| <i>Sociology</i> | <i>Urban Forestry</i> |

Notable Achievement

Today, approximately thirty-two (32) Minority Doctoral Scholars/graduates are teaching in Alabama’s higher education institutions. They are employed at the following universities:

- Auburn University
- Auburn University Montgomery
- Samford University
- Troy University-Dothan
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Montevallo
- University of West Alabama

**Judge Harold Murphy's 2002 Order and
the Minority Doctoral Scholar's Program**

Notable achievements are measured also in connection with a major integration case, Knight v. Alabama, 14 F. 3rd, 1534 (11th Cir. 1994). In a 2002 ruling and order, Judge Harold Murphy noted the following:

The predominantly white defendant institutions shall increase their recruitment efforts of Alabama students who complete the SREB Doctoral Scholars programs where there are job vacancies in disciplines that match the students' interest. Unless an institution wishes to do so, there is no requirement to hire one's own SREB graduate. ACHE will report annually on the instate participation in the SREB program and provide the Defendants with the names, areas of study, enrolled institution, and anticipated graduation date of every student enrolled in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program in Alabama. To the extent possible, ACHE shall track SREB students into their first job and if available, provide first year salary information for the student.

Quadrennial Review of the Commission

Ala. Code §16-5-12 (1975)³⁴

Since the first quadrennial review of the Commission was conducted in 1975, there have been seven (7) additional evaluations of the Commission's performance and effectiveness. In 2006, in compliance with legislative mandates, the Commission appointed a committee of five (5) consultants to evaluate the work of the Commission. Members of the Eighth Quadrennial Review Committee were as follows:

Dr. Aims McGuinness, *Chairman*

Dr. McGuinness is a senior associate with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a private nonprofit policy center in Boulder, Colorado. At NCHEMS, Dr. McGuinness specializes in state governance and coordination of postsecondary education; strategic planning and restructuring higher education systems; roles and responsibilities of public institutional and multi-campus system governing boards; and international comparisons of education reform.

Dr. Larry McCoy

Dr. McCoy served as President of Northwest-Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals from August 1987 through September 2000. From 1977 to 1987, he served as Dean of Student Development for Athens State University.

Mr. Victor Vernon

Mr. Vernon is the Director of Legislative Policy for the Business Council of Alabama (BCA). He represents the interests of the business community before the Legislature and other governmental bodies in tax, public education, and workforce training issues. Prior to joining BCA, he served as a Senate Fiscal Officer for the Legislative Fiscal Office.

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

Dr. James D. Johannes

Dr. Johannes is president of On-Line Applications Research and Envisage, Inc. Prior to beginning his business, Dr. Johannes served for more than twenty (20) years as a faculty member of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. From 1994-1998 he was Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

Mrs. Mary S. Zoghby

Mrs. Zoghby is the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama. She served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1978 to 1994 and chaired the House Banking Committee from 1983 to 1994.

The report of the Eighth Quadrennial Review Committee was presented for acceptance to the Commission in December 2006. The full report will be disseminated to the Governor, the Legislature, the presidents and governing boards of the public institutions of higher education in January 2007. The report will be made available to the public via the Commission's website at www.ache.state.al.us.

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 forty (40) 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 2006 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 2006.

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

Each public two-year and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests to the Commission as required by statute in 2005. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Requests report for the period covering FY 2007-2011 was presented at the December 16, 2005 Commission meeting. A total of almost \$2.7 billion was requested by the two-year and four-year institutions to cover the projected capital projects for this five-year period. A copy of this report may be found at <http://www.ache.state.al.us/Information/Publications/FMP2007-2011/Index.pdf>.

The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Requests for FY 2008-2012 will be presented at the December 8, 2006 Commission meeting.

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.

All capital budget requests made by a public institution of higher education to the commission shall be prioritized. Such requests shall also be accompanied by a needs assessment and be included as part of each institution's master plan. Ala. Code §16-5-15 (1975)

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

The Alabama Student Grant Program is a tuition-equalization grant program that provides financial assistance to Alabama residents enrolled in independent, nonprofit 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. During 2005-06, six thousand nine hundred eighty-nine (6,989) awards were given at an average of \$305 per student for a total distribution of \$2,130,865.

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

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. During 2005-06, seven hundred twenty-five (725) awards were given at an average of \$643 per student for a total distribution of \$466,363.

Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers⁴⁰

The Technology Scholarship Program for Alabama Teachers created by the Alabama Legislature in 1993 enables certified, public school teachers to take advanced technology training through state-paid scholarships. This program enables 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. During 2005-06, two hundred thirty-five (235) awards were given to Alabama K-12 public school teachers at an average of \$1,101 per teacher for a total distribution of \$258,777.

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

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. During 2005-06, twenty-three (23) awards were given at an average of \$4,518 per student for a total distribution of \$103,903.

Alabama Student Assistance Program⁴²

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. During 2005-06, three thousand seven hundred forty-two (3,742) awards were given at an average of \$555 per student for a total distribution of \$2,077,150. During this year, the state met the required maintenance of effort necessary to qualify for the federal funds.

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)

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 2005-2006 was \$1,208,870. Eligible applicants were public and private institutions of higher education in partnership with Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Thirteen (13) proposals were received from seven (7) institutions with a combined budget total of over \$3 million with project requests for federal funds of over \$2 million. Ten (10) projects were funded.

Access and Workforce Development. Participation in the FY 2005-2006 projects included an estimated eight hundred ninety-eight (898) teachers, twenty-five (25) administrators, and eight (8) para-professionals representing seventy-six (76) public school districts and fifteen (15) private schools. Five hundred sixty-five (565) of these teachers serve forty-four (44) public school districts identified as “high need.” An estimated fifty-one thousand four hundred (51,400) 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. One (1) project included a non-profit organization as a partner.

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; fifty percent (50%) exceeded forty (40) hours of instruction extended over a twelve (12) 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 American Honda Foundation, Alabama Power Company, Carolina Biological Supply Company, and Delta Education. The estimated total funding leveraged from those sources was \$800,000.

Grant Recipients for FY 2005-2006

Auburn University

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: A Discrete Math Leadership Institute for K-8th Grade Teachers

Jacksonville State University

IMPACTSEED IV: Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in Secondary Schools

Samford University

Extended Communities of Practice: Mastery of Science through Leadership

Troy University – Dothan Campus

Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium

University of Alabama at Birmingham

ALAHASP 2006-2007: Alabama Hands-On Activity Science Program

Professional Development for Chemistry Teachers Using Online Content and Hands-on Lab Exercises

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

Notable Achievement in 2006

In late December 2005 the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary Education released the findings and recommendations of their monitoring visit to Alabama for the purpose of reviewing the progress of the state in meeting the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements and the administration of the No Child Left Behind program. The report released to the State Superintendent of Education included four (4) commendations for the Commission's management of the Title II higher education competitive grant program. The Commission was commended for:

- Using experienced teachers on review panels;
- Encouraging funded partnerships to seek additional sources of funding to promote sustainability;
- Maintaining on-site monitoring activities; and
- Sustaining high levels of communication and coordination between the State Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education.

Compliance with Court Decrees

The Commission on Higher Education has served 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 were defendants in Knight submitted annual reports mandated by a 1991 remedial decree. These reports included 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 compiled 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 to expire in October 2005.

Notable Achievement in 2006

A joint motion for approval of a Settlement Agreement between the Knight-Sims Plaintiffs and the State Defendants was filed on October 13, 2006. In September 2006, United States District Judge Harold Murphy issued an order saying that \$445.5 million in surplus education budget funds should be used to settle major issues in Knight which stemmed from the U.S. Department of Education's 1979 findings that there were still traces of segregation in Alabama's college system. This litigation has lasted almost twenty-six (26) years.

This Settlement Agreement, subject to final approval by the District Court, represents the state's attempt to remove vestiges of segregation from Alabama's system of public higher education. The settlement agreement acknowledges that the Defendants have complied with all remedial orders issues by the Court, resulting in the following:

- The creation of new academic programs;
- The establishment of diversity scholarships and endowment trusts;
- The construction of new facilities at Alabama State University and Alabama A&M University;
- The funding of efforts to increase African-American representation on the faculties and administration of the historically white universities and;
- The allocation to date of over \$248 million to implement these desegregation measures.

To that end the Agreement's primary focus is on continuing to improve African American access to, and participation in Alabama's system of public higher education. The provisions of this agreement are set to extend to September 30, 2011, at which time the Agreement would terminate. The settlement includes \$10 million in financial aid, \$25.8 million to Alabama State University for renovations and new programs, and \$7.3 million to Alabama A&M for capital improvements at that campus.

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. Since 2002, the Commission has subcontracted the loan servicing function to the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC). Under provisions of its contract with KHESLC, the Commission remits a fee to KHESLC for its services and receives reimbursement from AHELC.

The AHELC Board signed an agreement with the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation in March 2006 for assistance in the administration of a new Federal Family Education Loan Program, the Alabama College Loan Program. The goal of this program is to provide special benefits for Alabama students in selected high demand disciplines.

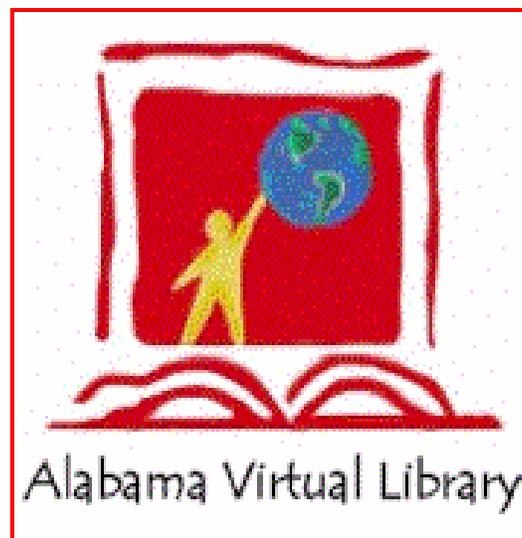
*Alabama Virtual Library*⁴⁴

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 fiscal 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.virtual.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,
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Bill Hubbard
Jacksonville State University

Sherri Downer
Auburn University

Alabama State Department of Education

Ginger Eastman
Office of Technology Initiatives

Glenda Vinson, Vice Chair
Oneonta City Schools

Jane Smith
Tuscaloosa County Schools

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Alabama Public Library Service

Bettye Forbus
Houston-Love Memorial Library

Bonnie Seymour
Anniston-Calhoun Public Library

Nancy Sanford
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Wayne Whitmore
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Neita Littleton
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

Denise Oliver, Secretary
Alabama Supercomputer Authority

ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Public Universities

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

Public Upper Division University

Athens State University

Public Community Colleges – Two -Year Institutions

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

Public Technical Colleges – Two -Year Institutions

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