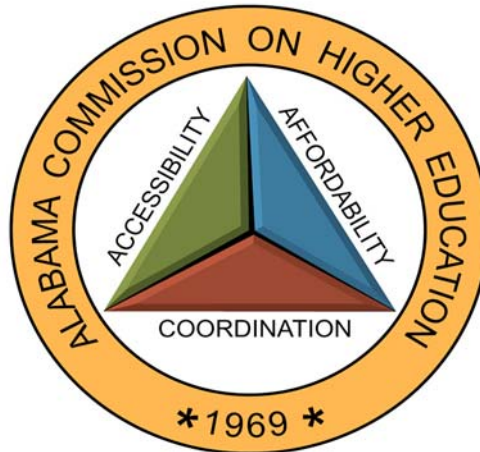


Alabama Commission on Higher Education
RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street, Room 782
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COMMISSION MEETING

Public Service Commission Hearing Room
RSA Union Building, 9th Floor
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104



March 20, 2015
10:00 a.m.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

2015 Committee Structure

Executive Committee

Drew Linn, Chair
Larry Hughes, Vice-Chair
Sydney Raine
Charles Ball

Instructional Affairs Committee

Sydney Raine, Chair
Karen Clametti
Charles Sanders
William Powell
Stan Pylant

Finance & Accountability Committee

Charles Ball, Chair
William Jones
Larry Hughes
Missy Smith
Darius Foster
Patricia McGriff



AGENDA

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

RSA Union Building, 9th Floor
Public Service Commission Hearing Room

March 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call of Members and Determination of Quorum**
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
- IV. **Consideration of Minutes of December 5, 2014** 1
- V. **Chairman’s Report**
- VI. **Executive Director’s Report**
- VII. **Discussion Items**
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X. Adjournment

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 5, 2014

I. Call to Order

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education met in regular session on Friday, December 5, 2014 in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room, RSA Union Building, Montgomery, Alabama. Commissioner Linn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Linn welcomed presidents, institutional representatives, and guests.

II. Roll Call of Members and Determination of Quorum

Members present: Andrew Linn, Charles Ball, William Powell, Missy Smith, Charles Sanders, Bill Jones, Patricia McGriff, Karen Calametti, Larry Hughes, Sydney Raine and Stan Pylant. Member absent: Darius Foster. A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.

III. Approval of Agenda

RESOLVED: Commissioner Ball moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Raine seconded. Motion carried. The agenda was approved.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of September 12, 2014

RESOLVED: Commissioner Calametti moved for approval of the September 12, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Powell seconded. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

V. Chairman's Report

Commissioner Linn announced the publication of the 2013-14 ACHE Annual Report. He encouraged the Commissioners and the public to read the report. He commended Ms. Margaret Gunter and the staff for a job well done.

He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Fitch reiterated that the ACHE Annual Report is on the website and available for viewing. He pointed out that many of the annual reports that will be presented at this meeting are reflected in ACHE's report.

He indicated that the State Plan for Higher Education will be released at the March, 2015 meeting of the Commission. He stated that the Plan focused on five priorities and one of the things the report will show is the number of STEM students at the institutions increased approximately twenty-four (24%) percent. He thanked the institutions for their participation.

He also stated that the Tenth Quadrennial Review of the Commission is being conducted by the Association of Governing Boards. The evaluation team conducted several surveys and have met with Presidents, Commissioners, program directors, legislators, and the Governor's staff. The final report will be presented to the Commission at the March, 2015 meeting.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Annual Report: Alabama Articulation & General Studies Committee

Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Chair, Articulation & General Studies Committee (AGSC), reported that within the last year, AGSC/STARS has reached more than 1 million users. She thanked the legislature for having the foresight to believe that there was value in establishing a committee of this nature and for expanding the reach of the AGSC/STARS program to the citizens of Alabama. She informed the Commission that 2014 is the 20th anniversary of the program.

The 2013-14 AGSC/STARS Annual Report was distributed to the Commissioners. A copy is attached. The report includes a list of priorities for FY2014-15. In addition, other priorities the AGSC will be discussing are the reverse transfer process and the initiation of an external review of the AGSC/STARS program.

Dr. Williams stated that Dr. Mark Heinrich, Chancellor-ADPE, and Dr. John Schmitz-formerly TU, petitioned the Commission as well as the state Legislature to increase the AGSC/ STARS budget. As a result of their efforts, along with members of the AGSC Committee, AGSC/STARS was granted a \$200,000 budget increase which has helped staff to improve outreach to students at the two and four-year institutions. She indicated that the more people learn about the STARS program and about the transfer guide, the more success is achieved.

She expressed special thanks to Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director AGSC/STARS and the STARS staff for the service they provide to the students of the State of Alabama and for handling the day to day operations of the STARS system.

Commissioner Linn thanked Dr. Williams and AGSC/STARS for their work.

B. Annual Report: U.S. Department of Education No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title II [P.L. 107-110] FY 2013-2014 / Announcement of Competitive Grant Awards FY 2014-2015

Dr. Conely reported that the NCLB program is a program to improve teaching in kindergarten through 12th grade. A portion of the overall appropriation is granted to state higher education agencies, such as ACHE, to provide teacher professional development.

He recognized Dr. Jeanette Fresne-Associate Professor of Music, University of South Alabama (USA) and Ms. Martha Lockett-Executive Director, Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, who serve as co-directors of the "Comprehensive Arts in

Education” project, which is a multi-disciplinary program that provides professional development through the various arts for teachers in the state. Dr. Fresne and Ms. Lockett explained the project and its impact across the state. The project has been awarded annual grants to USA jointly with the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, a non-government agency, for the past 18 years.

Following their presentation, Dr. Conely explained that the NCLB proposals were reviewed and screened first by staff and then reviewed and ranked by external evaluators. The staff’s recommendation along with the external evaluators rankings were given to a subcommittee of Commissioners (Hughes and Powell) for final recommendation to the full Commission. A list of the NCLB grants for FY2014-15 was distributed to Commissioners. A copy is attached.

Commissioner Linn thanked the staff, Dr. Frense, Ms. Lockett and Commissioners Hughes and Powell for their work.

C. Annual Report: Non-Resident Institutional Review Activities for Calendar Year 2014

Dr. French reported that there are 261 non-resident institutions operating in Alabama. A *Profile* inventory of these institutions was distributed to Commissioners. A copy is attached. A listing frequently updated is also available on the Commission’s website.

There are more than 4,000 programs of study being offered, more than 5,000 students enrolled in on-site facilities, and more than 32,000 students (Alabama residents) taking online programs from out-of-state institutions. She stated that in 1979 an amendment was added to the Commission’s statute requiring the review of programs of any institution operating outside the state. The Commission has been involved with the programmatic review component of these institutions since the mid-1980s and works in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, which is the licensure agency, to articulate the programmatic review and the licensure process to those institutions to operate in the state of Alabama.

After questions and lengthy discussion from Commissioners regarding: 1) tracking the number of graduates (Raine); 2) tuition paid by Alabama students to out-of-state institutions (Smith); 3) revenue comparison of Alabama to surrounding states (Smith); 4) increased regulation of out-of-state institutions (McGriff); 5) complaint/appeals process for students (McGriff); 6) number of institutions disapproved annually (Powell); 7) total amount of program review fees collected annually by ACHE (Smith); and 8) accrediting agency requirements imposed by ACHE (Jones), Commissioner Raine recommended that a subcommittee of the Commission study the concerns of the Commissioners as it relates to the non-resident review process.

Dr. French pointed out to the Commissioners that the Commission has also been a part of the national discussion on reciprocity. In April 2014 there was legislation passed that modified the Alabama Private School license law to allow Alabama to participate in the SREB regional reciprocity known as SECRRRA (SREB Electronic Campus Reciprocity Agreement). Alabama institutions are eligible to participate fully in a regional reciprocity agreement within these 16 southern states. In order to

monitor the scope of activity in Alabama, the Commission requires institutions that want to offer programs in Alabama through SECRRRA, to go through a registration process. Currently, there are approximately 11 institutions in five states that took advantage of the registration process.

The staff report includes the Executive Order issued by Governor Bentley on October 1 that has established a committee to study national reciprocity for Alabama. Currently there is nothing to report on the committee's progress.

D. Annual Report: Alabama Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Dr. Chris Lawson, Executive Director, EPSCoR distributed a copy of the 2013-2014 EPSCoR Annual Report, along with *Volume 7, Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP)* publication. A copy of these reports are attached.

He explained that the Alabama EPSCoR objective is to provide a highly trained workforce to fuel the growth of high technology companies in Alabama. The Alabama EPSCoR GRSP is designed to attract the best and brightest graduate students and increase Alabama's high-tech human resources. As of December 2014, a total of 39 M.S. degrees and 111 Ph.D. degrees have been awarded to 203 recipients of GRSP awards.

Dr. Lawson introduced Dr. John Smith, GRSP graduate, who received his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at UAB. Dr. Smith explained his work as Project Engineer in the heavy transportation industry at Fontaine Engineered Products in Jasper, Alabama. He merges mechanical design with composite materials to develop new applications for advanced materials and new automation and control systems.

Commissioner Linn thanked Dr. Lawson and Dr. Smith for their presentations.

E. Annual Report: Alabama Commission on Higher Education 2013-2014

Ms. Margaret Gunter stated that an electronic version of the 2013-14 ACHE Annual Report has been forwarded to the Commissioners. A copy is attached. The report, which outlines the activities of the Commission during the 2013-14 fiscal year, will also be circulated to the Governor and the Legislature.

Commissioner Linn encouraged everyone to read the report which is also available on the ACHE website.

VIII. Decision Items

A. Executive Budget Request for FY 2015-2016

Ms. Veronica Harris presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Hughes moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Commissioner Raine seconded. 10 voted Yes. 1 voted No. Motion passed.

B. Consolidated Budget Recommendation for FY 2015-2016

Ms. Susan Cagle presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Powell moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Hughes seconded. Motion passed.

C. Report on the Facilities Master Plan & Capital Projects Requests for FY 2015-2016 - FY 2019-2020

Ms. Susan Cagle presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Calametti moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Hughes seconded. Motion passed.

D. Academic Programs

1. Athens State University, Master of Science in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Ball moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Raine seconded. Motion passed.

2. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Master of Science in Supply Chain and Logistics Management (CIP 52.0203)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Raine moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Sanders seconded. Motion passed.

3. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Master of Science in Management Science - Business Analytics (CIP 52.1301)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. Motion passed.

4. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Master of Science in Management - Human Resource Management (CIP 52.0201)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. Motion passed.

5. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (CIP 31.0505)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Raine moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. Motion passed.

6. University of North Alabama, Bachelor of Science in Culinary, Nutrition and Hospitality Management (CIP 12.0599)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Smith moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Powell seconded. Motion passed.

7. Wallace State Community College-Hanceville, Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Salon and Spa Management (CIP 12.0412)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. McGriff seconded. Motion passed.

E. Extensions/Alterations of Existing Programs and Units of Instruction

1. Athens State University, Addition of an Option in Public History to the Existing BA in History (CIP 54.0101)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

2. Athens State University, Addition of an Option in Public History to the Existing BS in Social Science (CIP 45.0101)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner McGriff moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Raine seconded. Motion passed.

3. University of South Alabama, Addition of a Concentration in Performance (Percussion) to the MM in Music (CIP 50.0901)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. Motion passed.

4. University of South Alabama, Alteration of the BA in Communications (CIP 09.0101)

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Calametti moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Powell seconded. Motion passed.

5. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Establishment of the College of Education

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Raine moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Sanders seconded. Motion passed.

6. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Establishment of the Rise School within the College of Education

Ms. Margaret Pearson presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Hughes moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Raine seconded. Motion passed.

7. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Addition of Tracks in Health Information Credential, Healthcare Data Analytics, and Healthcare User Experience to the Existing MSHI in Health Informatics (CIP 51.0799)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Calametti moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Sanders seconded. Motion passed.

8. Alabama A&M University, Addition of an Option in Logistics and Supply Chain Management to the Existing MBA in Business Management Administration (CIP 52.0201)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Raine moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Hughes seconded. Motion passed.

9. Auburn University at Montgomery, Addition of an Option in Photography to the Existing BA in Fine Arts (CIP 50.0701)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Hughes moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Pylant seconded. Motion passed.

10. Auburn University at Montgomery, Establishment and Creation of Seven (7) Colleges and Departments

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Powell moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. Motion passed.

11. University of North Alabama, Addition of an Concentration in Higher Education Administration to the Existing MPrS in Professional Studies (CIP 30.0000)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Hughes moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Pylant seconded. Motion passed.

12. Trenholm State Technical College, Addition of an Option in Refrigeration to the Existing AAT in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (CIP 15.0501)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Raine moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

F. Request to Amend Post-Implementation Conditions

1. Trenholm State Technical College, Associate in Applied Technology in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (CIP 51.0910)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Jones moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Sanders seconded. 10 voted Yes. 1 voted No. Motion passed.

2. Northeast Alabama Community College, Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Criminal Justice Technology (CIP 43.0107)

Dr. Lenny Lock presented the staff recommendation to the Commission with a recommendation for approval.

RESOLVED: Commissioner Pylant moved that the Commission accept the staff recommendation for approval. Calametti seconded. 9 voted Yes. 2 voted No. Motion passed.

IX. Information Items

RESOLVED: Commissioner Ball moved to accept Information Items 1 through 19. Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

1. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Merger of Centers in the School of Medicine
2. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Closure of Centers within the Collat School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dentistry, the School of Medicine, and the School of Nursing
3. Auburn University at Montgomery, Establishment of an Articulation Agreement between the University of Montevallo and AUM
4. Jacksonville State University, Establishment of the Research Center for Veteran Support Services
5. Alabama State University, Graduate School Naming
6. University of South Alabama, Change in the Name of the Department of Dramatic Arts to the Department of Theatre and Dance
7. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Change in the name of the Center for Information Assurance to the Center for Cybersecurity Research & Education
8. University of Alabama in Huntsville, Closure of Four Research Centers

9. University of South Alabama New Exempt Off-Campus Site
10. Central Alabama Community College New Exempt Off-Campus Site
11. Alabama State University, New-Off Campus Program - Bachelor of Science in Psychology, (CIP 42.0101) at Wallace State Community College (Selma)
12. Auburn University at Montgomery, Change in the names of the School of Education to the College of Education; the Department of Accounting to the School of Accountancy; the Department of Communication and Dramatic Arts to the Department of Communication and Theatre; and the Department of Sociology to the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography
13. Jacksonville State University, Combining Two Degree Options into one MSE degree for both Traditional and Alternative Programs (CIP 13.1001)
14. Annual Off-Campus Site Follow-up Report for Academic Year 2013-2014
15. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
16. Implementation of Non-Degree Programs at Senior Institutions
17. Implementation of New Short Certificate Programs (Less than 30 Semester Hours)
18. Summary of Post-Implementation Reports
19. Implementation of Approved Programs

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 20, 2015.

Drew Linn, Chairman

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this the ____ day of _____
2015.

Gregory G. Fitch, Executive Director

Notary Public