



# annual report



2010-2011

# AGSC&STARS

Simplifying the Transfer Process in Alabama

Prepared by Keith Sessions  
Executive Director of AGSC/STARS



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## LETTER FROM 2010-2011 AGSC CHAIR

Dear Supporters of the AGSC/STARS Program:

The AGSC/STARS program continues to provide exceptional service to transfer students between the public colleges and universities of the state of Alabama. The processes involved in the approval of templates and specific courses, fundamental to the development of the transfer guides utilized by our students, continues to work well. The AGSC/STARS program continues to enjoy a collegial and professional relationship between the member institutions. This relationship is the foundation of the AGSC/STARS program and has flourished since the creation of the program in 1998. We proudly point to the over 800,000 transfer guides that have been viewed and printed through the state's articulation website since the inaugural year of the program (1998) as evidence of the commitment and collegiality of the member institutions.

The success of the AGSC/STARS programs is even more remarkable when you consider the budget cuts that have been experienced over the past several academic years. The AGSC/STARS staff has continued to move the program forward despite major budget cuts due to proration. The staff is to be applauded for their commitment in the face of these daunting obstacles.

We want to thank the faculty who serve on academic committees and to the administrators who support the program on their respective campuses. Without their expertise and commitment we would not be able to keep our curricula contemporary and relevant.

The AGSC and the STARS staff appreciate the Alabama Legislature for its continued support of this critical program and service to the state. Annual funding from our state facilitates the movement of students between all Alabama community colleges and all Alabama public universities each year.

We thank all the individuals, higher education institutions and agencies who continue to support the AGSC/STARS Program. We specifically want to thank the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and Troy University for the work they do and the sacrifices they make in order to improve and maintain the AGSC/STARS Program.

The AGSC and the STARS staff look forward to the new academic year and pledge to continue our collective efforts to offer the best service possible to the citizens of Alabama.



Sincerely,

**Dr. James Mitchell**

President

Wallace Community College

Selma, Alabama



## **AGSC VOTING MEMBERS & ALTERNATES**

(as of August 11, 2011)

<b>APPOINTING AUTHORITY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBER</b>	<b>ALTERNATE MEMBER</b>
Alabama A&M University	<b>Dr. Barbara A.P. Jones</b> Professor, School of Business	<b>Dr. Lloyd Walker</b> Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies
Alabama State University	<b>Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams</b> Associate Provost for Academic Affairs	<b>Dr. Alfred Smith</b> Interim Provost and Vice –President for Academic Affairs
Auburn University	<b>Dr. Constance Relihan</b> Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies	<b>Dr. Jeffrey M. Barksdale</b> Associate Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Services (AUM)
University of Alabama System	<b>Dr. Beth Bennett</b> Professor and Department Chair, Communication Studies (UA)	<b>Dr. Charles Nash</b> Vice Chancellor (UA System)
University of South Alabama	<b>Dr. B. Keith Harrison</b> (AGSC VICE-CHAIR) Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs	<b>Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno</b> <b>Associate Dean</b> College of Arts and Sciences
Regional Universities	<b>Dr. William Meehan</b> President Jacksonville State University	<b>Dr. Richard Holland</b> President University of West Alabama
Regional Universities	<b>Dr. John Schmidt</b> Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Affairs Troy University	<b>Dr. Terry G. Roberson</b> Vice President for Academic Affairs University of Montevallo
State Board of Education (2-Year Institutions)	<b>Dr. Susan Price</b> Vice Chancellor for Instructional and Student Services - Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education	<b>Dr. James Mitchell</b> (AGSC CHAIR) President Wallace Community College Selma
State Board of Education (2-Year Institutions)	<b>Dr. Mark Heinrich</b> President Shelton State Community College	<b>Dr. Amelia Pearson</b> President Southern Union State Community College
State Board of Education (2-Year Institutions)	<b>Dr. Joe Morris</b> Vice-President Jefferson State Community College	<b>Dr. Kandis Steele</b> Director of Academic Programs - Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education
<b>EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b>		
Alabama Commission on Higher Education	<b>Dr. Gregory G. Fitch</b> Executive Director	<b>Dr. Elizabeth C. French</b> Interagency Program Director
AGSC Secretary	<b>Mrs. Deborah Nettles</b> Alabama Commission on Higher Education	
AGSC/STARS Program	<b>Dr. Keith Sessions</b> Executive Director	



## LOOKING BACK AT 2010-2011: A STATUS REPORT

### AGSC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. The AGSC worked with STARS staff to maintain program through difficult financial times.
2. The AGSC initiated (through the STARS Office) a new three-year cycle of review of AGSC Approved Courses and Ratified Templates for program offerings.

### STARS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. The STARS staff maintained and worked to improve the existing STARS website and transfer guide system. During 2010-2011 STARS usage numbers dropped slightly from the previous year. 86,102 guides were obtained through the AGSC/STARS website (down 3% from previous year).
2. The STARS staff continued to work on AGSC/STARS website re-design. We did not launch the new site this year. However, we hope to launch it in the coming year.
3. The STARS staff conducted an email survey of Troy University transfer students. We received responses from 177 of these students. These responses provide us with valuable data in addition to recommendations for improvement.
4. The STARS staff worked with institutions (both two-year and four-year) to update faculty membership on various discipline committees.
5. The STARS staff initiated a new three-year cycle of review of AGSC Approved Courses and Ratified Templates for various program offerings.
6. The STARS staff worked with Institutional Points of Contacts at the four-year institutions to update online syllabi used in course reviews.
7. The STARS staff made campus/site visits/presentations to five two-year colleges. We also made campus/site visits to four universities.
8. The STARS staff presented AGSC/STARS programs at in-state conferences (i.e. – ALACRAO). We also made presentations to the Alabama Chief Academic Officers group and ALAIR.
9. The STARS staff worked with radio stations across the state to promote STARS through FREE public service announcements. Twelve stations agreed to add our announcement to their rotation.
10. The STARS staff worked with Troy University's Government Relations staff and state legislators to maintain AGSC/STARS funding levels for 2011-2012.<sup>5</sup>



## IMPACT OF PRORATION AND BUDGET CUTS

While STARS Usage numbers have risen to an all-time high, state funding for this program continues to decline. (SEE BUDGET COMPARISON CHART)

***AGSC/STARS Budget Comparison (last three years)***

Fiscal Year	Allocated Budget	Proration Amount	Operating Budget
2008-09	\$ 500,000	\$ 88,391	\$ 411,609
2009-10	\$ 399,542	\$ 29,966	\$ 369,576
2010-11	\$ 394,348	\$ 11,831	\$ 382,517

The AGSC/STARS Office continues to work on a annual budget of less than \$400,000. Operating and personnel costs are at the lowest levels they have been since the program was created. While we have made the necessary cuts over the last few years to stabilize the program, additional proration and budget cuts will continue to erode the work that has been done since 1994.

**THIS YEAR OUR ALLOCATED BUDGET WILL BE \$390,486** (less 2% ACHE Administration Fee of \$8,194). TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET WIL BE \$382,292 (this amount does not factor in possible proration cuts).

**WHILE TIMES ARE DIFFICULT, THE STARS STAFF REMAINS DEDICATED TO MONITORING EXPENDITURES AND WHEN NECESSARY, MAKING ADDITIONAL CUTS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM SURVIVES AND MOVES FORWARD.**

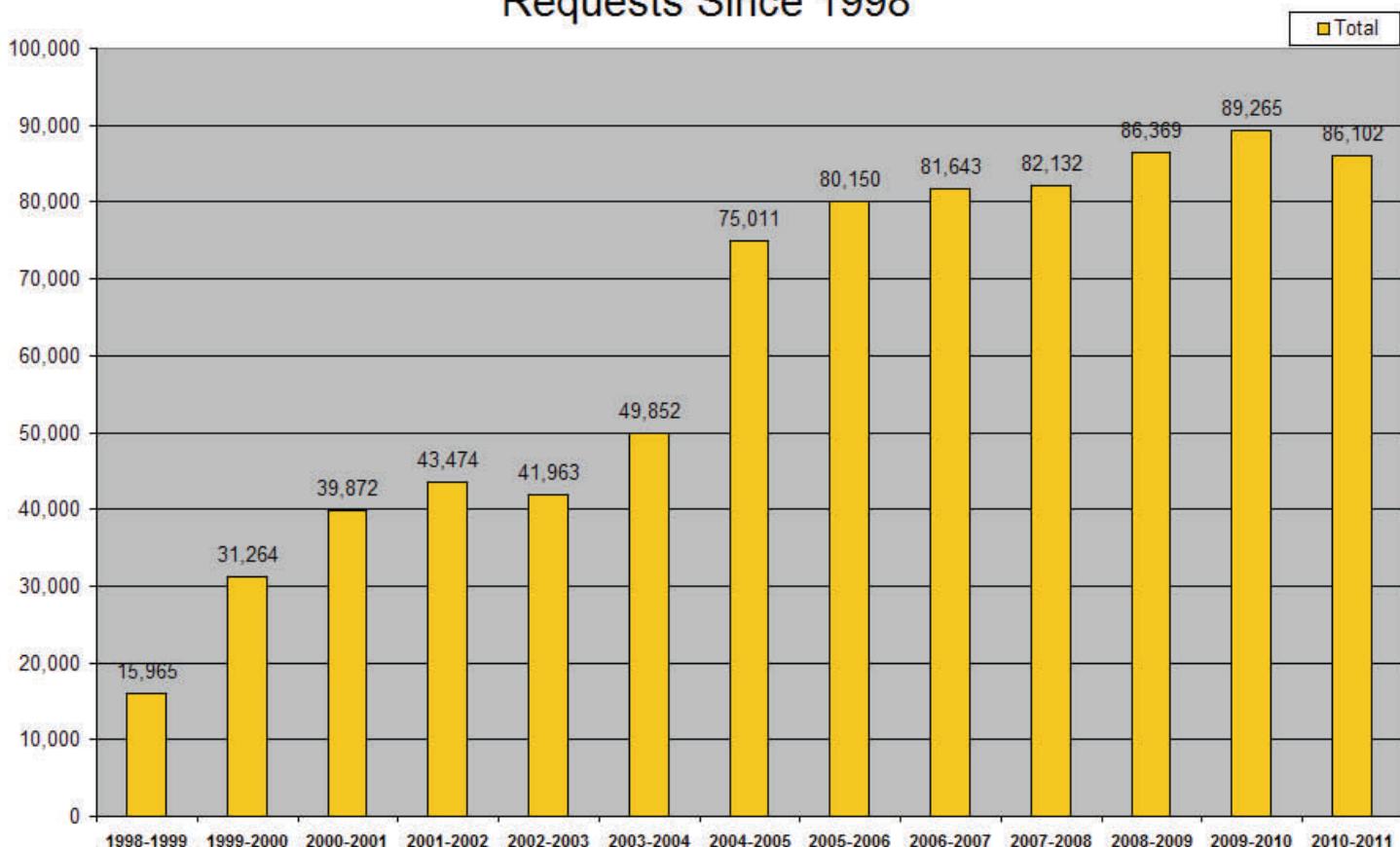


## STARS USAGE REPORTS

STARS Transfer Guide Requests Since Fall of 1998  
(including requests from July 2009 through June 2011)



### Annual STARS Transfer Guide Requests Since 1998



TOTAL REQUESTS SINCE FALL OF 1998 = **803,062**

**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/reports/reports.htm>.  
If you need a specific report for your institution, please contact Mr. Shannon Nichols at [snichols@stars.troy.edu](mailto:snichols@stars.troy.edu).



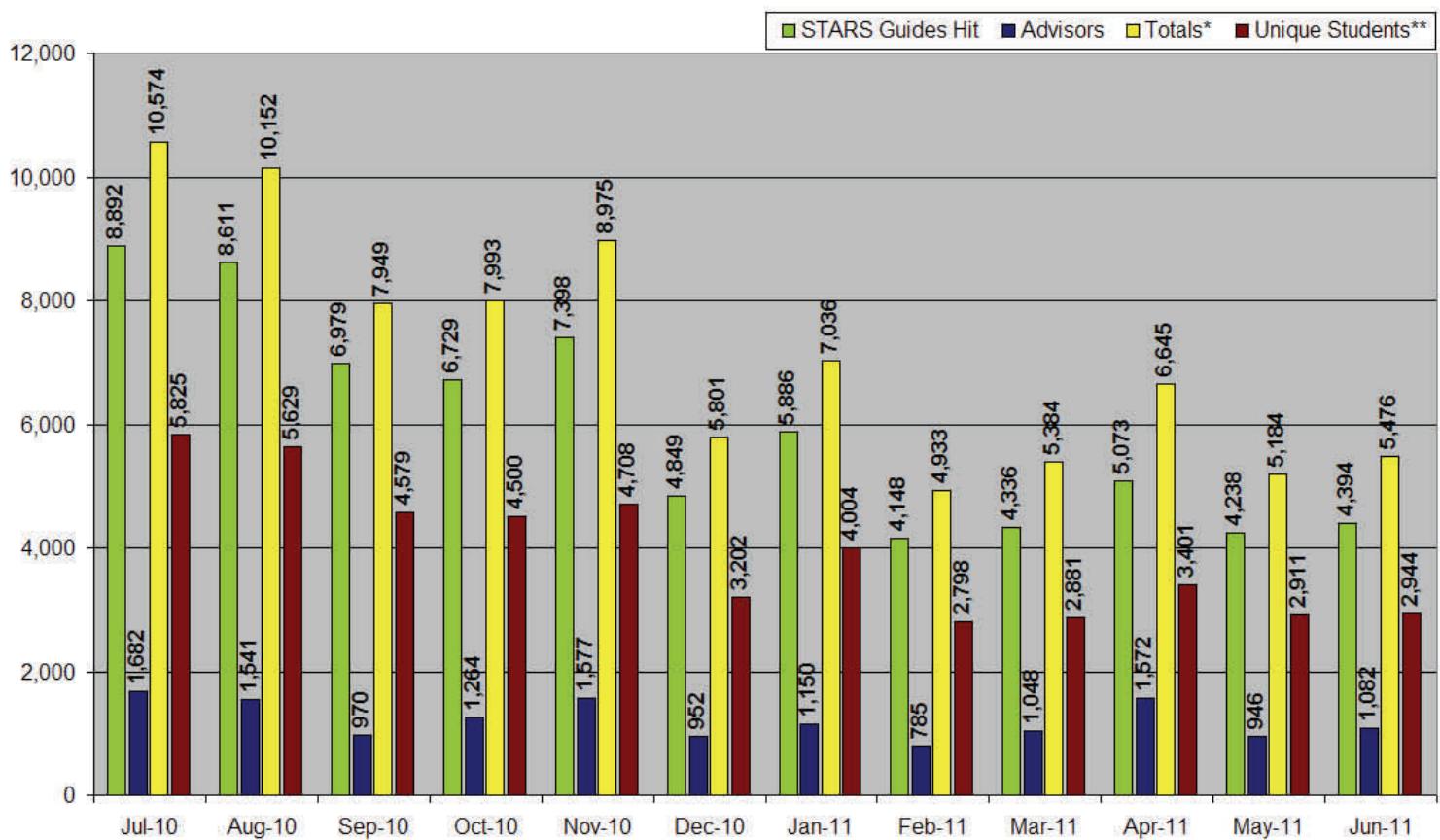
## STARS USAGE REPORTS

[ continued ]

STARS Usage Report by Month for 2010-2011



## Annual STARS System Usage from July 2010 - June 2011



\* **TOTALS** – This is the total of all transfer guides viewed on screen in the month.

\*\* **UNIQUE STUDENTS PER MONTH** – The unique student totals take into account that many students who use STARS print multiple guides. This number takes out students who print multiple guides in a given major and only counts them one time during a given month. This number should provide a more accurate picture of how many individual students have printed guides in specific majors.

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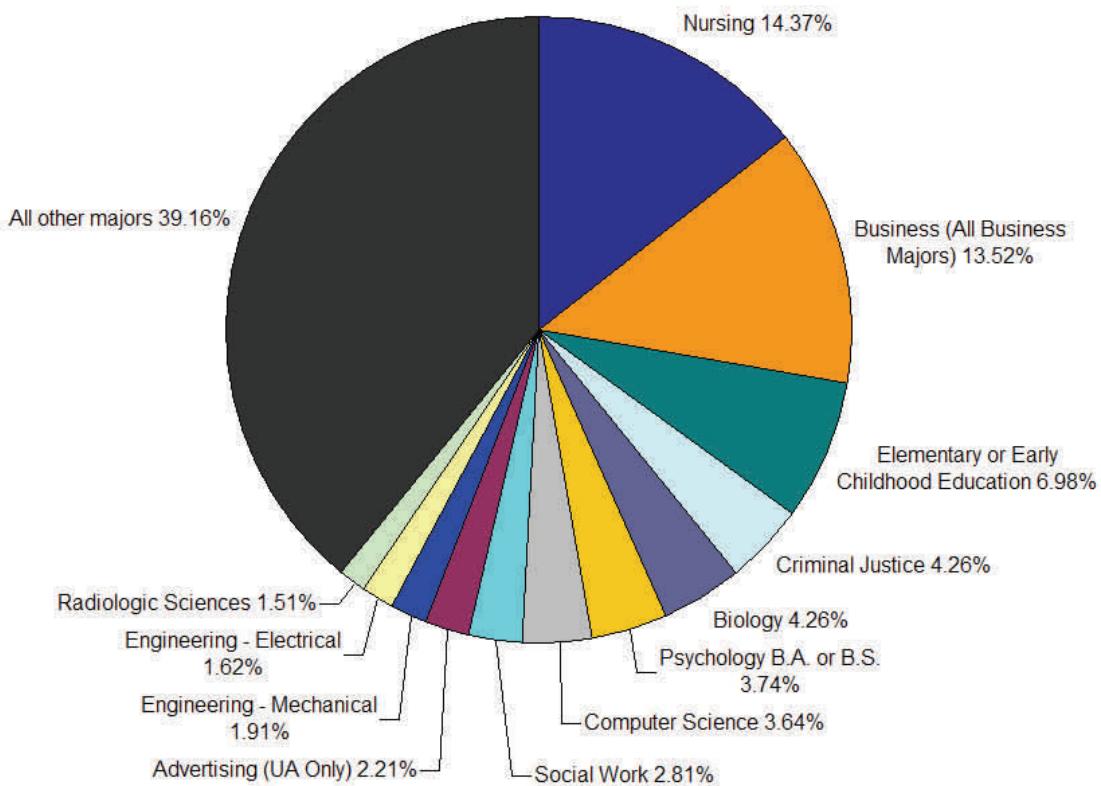


## STARS USAGE REPORTS [ continued ]

STARS Usage Report by Major for 2010-2011  
(including requests from July 2010 – June 2011)



### Annual Two-Year Usage by Major for July 2010 - June 2011



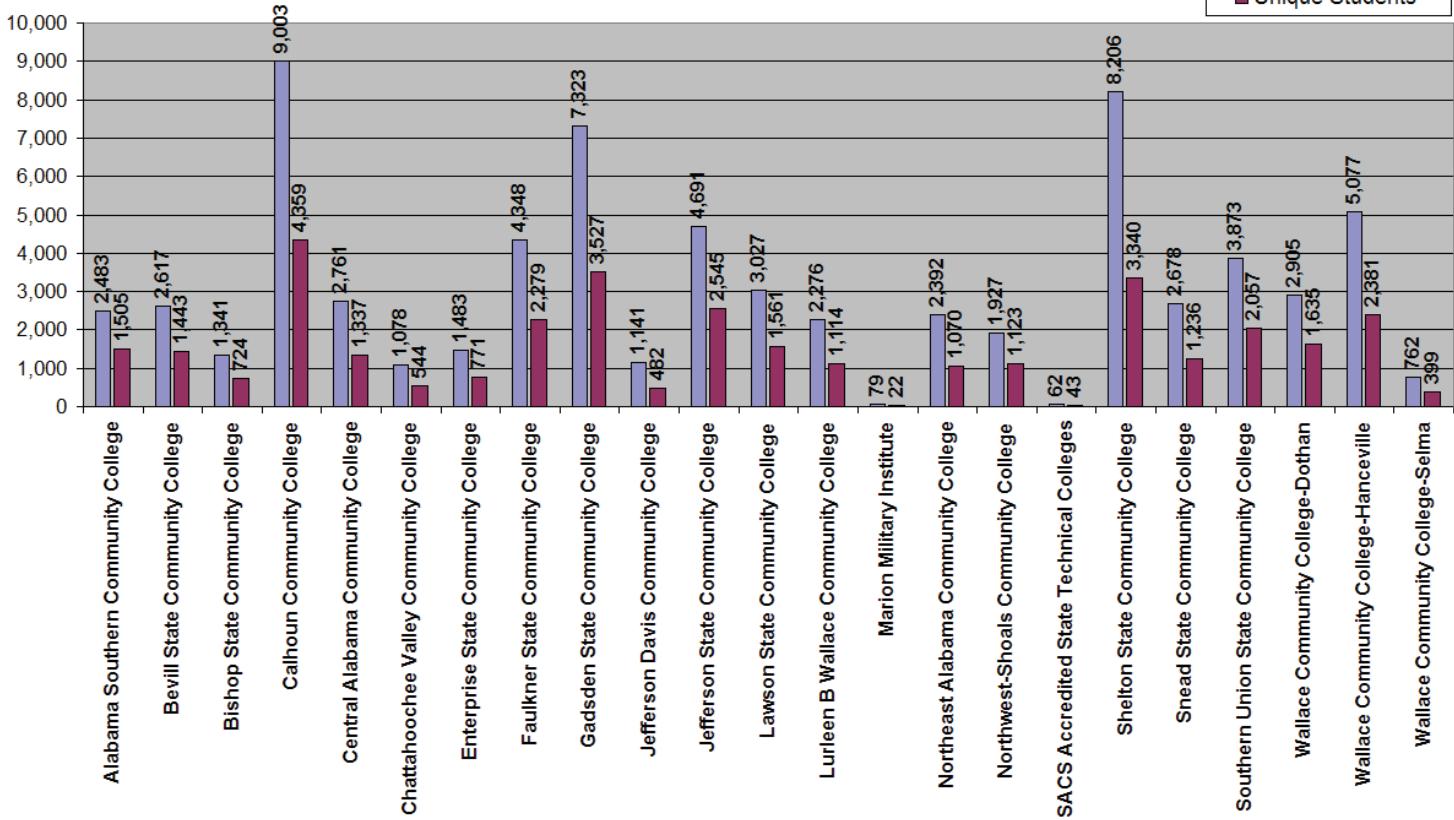


## STARS USAGE REPORTS [ continued ]

STARS Usage Report by Two-Year Institution for 2010-2011  
(including requests from July 2010 – June 2011)



### Annual Two-Year Usage by Institution for July 2010 - June 2011



**NOTE:** For more detailed reports, please see the STARS website - <http://stars.troy.edu/agsc/reports/reports.htm>.  
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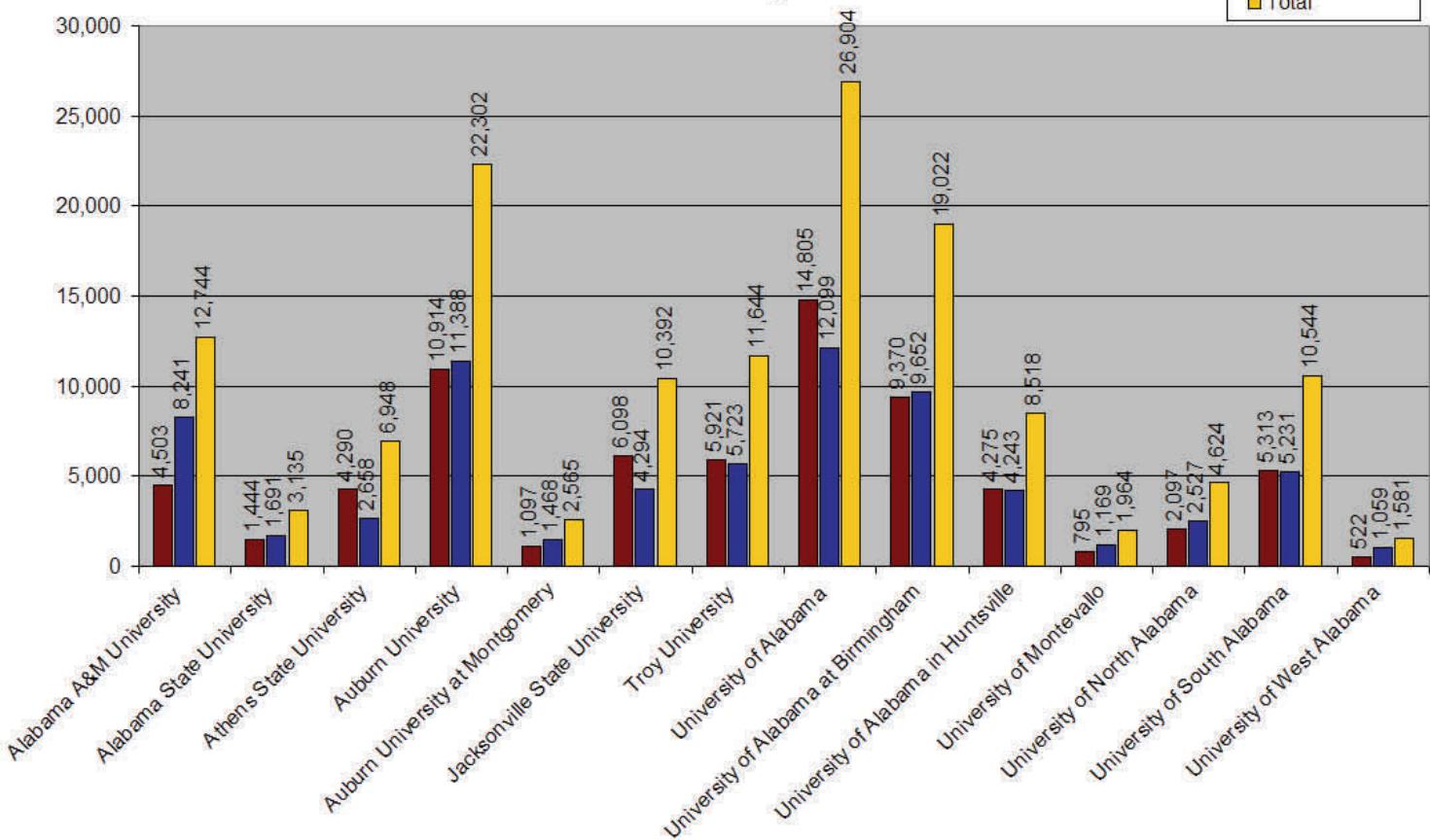
## STARS USAGE REPORTS [ continued ]

Transfer Institution Choices by Two-Year Students for 2010-2011  
(including requests from July 2010 – June 2011)



### Transfer Institution Choices by Two-Year Students from July 2010 - June 2011

- First Choice
- Second Choice
- Total



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## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011-2012: AGSC PRIORITIES

1. Continue to work to maintain the integrity of all aspects of the AGSC/STARS Program.
2. Discuss and re-vamp, if necessary, the tri-annual review of all courses.
3. Invite SACS representatives to come to future AGSC Meetings to discuss current expectations and requirements. Determine how this impacts the AGSC/STARS process.
4. Complete the re-design of new AGSC/STARS website. Launch site sometime during 2011-2012.
5. Re-emphasize roles & responsibilities of discipline committee chairs and members.



## AGSC/STARS LEGISLATION – ACT 94-202 – Section E

"The 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 the effective date of this amendatory act, shall ensure students at each two-year institution accredited by the Southern Association's Commissions 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), one representing each of the following: Auburn University, the University of Alabama System, the University of South Alabama, Alabama State University, and Alabama A&M University. The Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Director of the computerized advising system operated by Troy State University shall serve as nonvoting members.

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

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

"A four-fifths vote of the entire voting membership of the committee shall be required for the adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum. Upon adoption of the articulation agreement and general studies curriculum, this committee shall continue its duty and authority prescribed herein. The committee shall meet at least annually, or at other times as convened by the chair. The committee shall elect annually a chair from its membership. The chair of the committee shall rotate annually between a representative of the four-year institutions and a representative of the two-year institutions. "In case of problems in the administration or interpretation of the articulation agreement or the general studies curriculum, institutions shall present the problem to the articulation and general studies committee for resolution. A majority decision of the committee shall be final and binding.



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