

**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Articulation and General Studies Committee**  
**Troy University Montgomery**  
**Whitley Civic Room**  
**March 2, 2012**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Barbara Jones	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Sharron Williams	Alabama State University
Dr. Constance Relihan	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Keith Harrison, Chair	University of South Alabama
Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. John Schmidt	Troy University
Dr. Susan Price	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Kandis Steele, Alternate	Department of Postsecondary Education

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Nancy Lacey, Alternate	Commission on Higher Education
Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Dendy Mosely	AGSC/STARS
Ms. Anita Walker	AGSC/STARS

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Lloyd Walker, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Alfred Smith, Alternate	Alabama State University
Dr. Richard Holland, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Beth Bennett	University of Alabama
Dr. James Mitchell, Alternate	Wallace State Community College-Selma
Dr. William Meehan	Jacksonville State University
Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong, Alternate	University of Montevallo
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College
Dr. Mark Heinrich	Shelton State Community College
Dr. Amelia Pearson, Alternate	Southern Union Community College

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The regular meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. A quorum was determined by voice roll call of members present.
<b>WELCOME</b>	Dr. John Schmidt, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and External Affairs, Troy University, welcomed members to the Troy Montgomery campus. He stated that Troy was proud of the Montgomery campus particularly because the campus is part of the revitalization of downtown Montgomery. He invited members to tour the Rosa Parks Museum.
<b>AGSC MEMBERSHIP</b>	Dr. Mary Beth Armstrong, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, University of Montevallo, is the new regional representative appointed to the AGSC by the Council of Presidents.  Dr. Daniel LaRocque, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University, is the new alternate representative for Auburn University.
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	Jones moved for adoption of the agenda. Rivizzigno seconded. The agenda was adopted.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Nash moved for the approval of the October 6, 2011 Minutes. Relihan seconded. Minutes were approved.

## DECISION ITEMS

### Executive Director's Report

STARS Usage Reports. Nichols stated that he has compiled all of the monthly reports (copies attached-#1). The February reports will be available soon. He indicated that the 2011 CAPPs report shows that STARS usage is down possibly due to the economy and job prospects for students once they graduate.

Relihan pointed out that transfer applications at Auburn University are also down. Sessions commented that STARS is seeing trends of students going to a two-year applied science program to get a job sooner as opposed to pursuing a four-year degree.

Nichols encouraged members to make any requests for specific reports.

## ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Ratification of Templates. Sessions began by informing the Committee that STARS has noted from the ACHE program inventory that several institution specific templates have the same course title but a different CIP code. A lengthy discussion followed on how CIP codes are designated for a program. The AGSC agreed that if the courses are similar, they should have the same CIP designation which would require only one template to be developed by STARS.

Sessions thanked ACHE for the improvements made to their website search engine on the program inventory

Sessions/Nash presented the following institution specific templates for ratification as recommended by the Chief Academic Officers (copies attached-#2):

Construction Management (AAMU only). Steele informed the Committee that at the two-year level, this program is taught as an associate in applied science degree. She stated that the faculty are not SACS credentialed for a bachelor's degree program. In some cases, technical credit agreements have been made to allow students to transfer under "experiential learning."

Nash stated that if A&M accepts these courses from the two-year student as part of the AGSC/STARS process, they risk being challenged on the credentials of the two-year faculty that taught the courses. He encouraged A&M to work with the schools who teach these courses and do an assessment of their curriculum based on "experiential learning."

Nash moved that ratification of the Construction Management template be denied. Steele seconded. Motion carried.

Environmental Science (AAMU only). Nash read the CIP description for environmental science and human environmental science. He stated that while he did recommend approval for this template to the Chief Academic Officers (CAOs), he is concerned that the program is not substantially unlike other environmental science programs already approved by the AGSC (AU, TU, UA, UNA, UWA).

Nash moved to establish an ad hoc committee, which would include the six institutions offering the program, a STARS representative, and Nash representing the CAOs. The committee would review and determine if a single template with any necessary adjustments can be created to cover all six programs. Jones seconded. There was more discussion regarding the CIP designation. Rivizzingno moved to table the template. Relihan seconded. Jones expressed her concern that not approving the template will not allow A&M equal status as the other institutions when the ad hoc committee meets. Rivizzingno agreed and withdrew the motion to table.

Jones moved to approve the template as presented. Price seconded. Motion carried.

General Studies (AAMU only). Nash moved to table this template until the institutions that offer general studies (Athens, A&M, Troy, UAB) meet as an ad hoc committee to review and determine if a single template can be created to present to the AGSC for approval. Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

Food Science & Technology (AAMU only). After lengthy discussion regarding the title proposed and the title ACHE has on the program inventory, Nash moved to approve the template. Jones seconded. Motion carried.

## **OTHER ISSUES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steele informed the Committee that she has received telephone complaints regarding solicitation from four-year institutions who are developing articulation agreements with two-year institutions. She stated that the Department of Postsecondary will do their part in educating the two-year system presidents that this is a problem because it interferes with the strength of STARS.

Two-Year Technical Colleges & Program Accreditation. Steele announced that Drake and Trenholm State Technical Colleges are candidates for SACS accreditation.

After discussion and review of the Transfer Guide process on the website, the AGSC agreed that until a technical college obtains full SACS accreditation, they will not be listed on the website as being covered under the current STARS Transfer Guide process. Once Drake Technical College receives SACS accreditation, STARS will add them to the list of possible two-year colleges from which students can transfer. As other technical colleges obtain SACS accreditation, they will be added to the system.

AGSC/STARS Budget: Sessions informed the Committee that ACHE has transmitted to STARS unused funds from the 2011 budget. STARS used the funds to update and purchase new postcards. The STARS office (Sessions/Dendy) visited several two-year institutions in the northwest. Site visits to the northeast and southwest are pending. Nichols is scheduled to visit institutions in the southeast this summer.

## **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS**

Sessions suggested that the AGSC meet three times (Fall, Spring, Summer) per year. Jones moved to approve meeting three times per year. Vizzigno seconded. Motion carried.

July, 2012	TBA
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## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. STARS Usage Reports (Nichols)
2. Ratification of Templates (Sessions/Nash)

The March 2, 2012 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Keith Harrison, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary