

**State of Alabama  
 Articulation and General Studies Committee  
 Alabama Community College System Office  
 President's Conference Room  
 April 2, 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Committee Members Present:**

Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Chair	Alabama State University
Dr. Constance Relihan	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Gregg Janowski	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Charles Nash, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Angela Coleman	University of South Alabama
Dr. Eric Loomis, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Hal Fulmer	Troy University
Dr. Suzanne Ozment, Alternate	University of Montevallo
Dr. Thomas Calhoun, Alternate	University of North Alabama
Dr. Mark Heinrich	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Amelia Pearson	Central Alabama Community College
Dr. Herbert Riedel	Lurleen B. Wallace Community College
Dr. Bruce Crawford, Vice Chair	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. James Mitchell, Alternate	Wallace Community College-Selma

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Dr. Elizabeth French, Alternate	Commission on Higher Education
Gen. Paul Hankins, President	AL Association of Independent Colleges
Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/STARS

**Committee Members Absent:**

Dr. Barbara Jones	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Juarine Stewart, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. William Meehan	Jacksonville State University
Dr. Gary Branch	Faulkner State Community College

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	The regular meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.
<b>ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	Dr. Fulmer moved for the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Crawford seconded. The agenda was adopted.
<b>WELCOME</b>	Dr. Heinrich welcomed the Articulation Committee to the Alabama College System.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Dr. Heinrich moved for the approval of the November 20, 2014 minutes. Dr. Fulmer seconded. Minutes were approved.
<b>RECOGNITION OF GUESTS</b>	Dr. Williams welcomed Mr. Dendy Mosely to the meeting. Dr. Sessions reminded the Committee that Mr. Mosely worked with STARS for six years and is currently heavily involved with recruitment for Troy University, reverse transfer, and continues to give presentations for STARS. He thanked Mr. Mosley for his service.

## DECISION ITEMS

### Executive Director's Report

STARS Usage Reports. Mr. Nichols reported that the usual monthly usage reports are available and posted on the STARS website. Copies of the usage reports for February and March are attached - #1. Any special requests may be directed to the STARS office.

Dr. Sessions stated that Trenholm State Technical College has received SACS accreditation (copies of certification letter attached-#3). The school name will be changed to Trenholm State Community College. Trenholm has been added to the STARS system and a transfer guide can be obtained from Trenholm to any four-year institution in Alabama. He announced that he will be doing a presentation to the faculty at Trenholm on how STARS works.

### ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Ratification of Templates. Dr. Sessions presented the following institution specific templates for ratification as recommended by the Chief Academic Officers (CAO) (copies attached #2):

Biomedical Sciences (UAB). Dr. Sessions presented the template. After some discussion regarding the acceptance of courses in Area IV, Nash moved that the template be tabled until further clarification is received from UAB and USA on which courses will be accepted for transfer. Mitchell seconded. Motion passed.

Global Studies in Human Sciences (AU only). After some discussion, Relihan moved for ratification of the CAOs recommendation for approval. Fulmer seconded. Motion passed.

Reverse Transfer Update. Dr. Session began his comments by stating that there is currently a big push in the state to implement a reverse transfer process. He stated that a bill (SB77) has been introduced in the legislature that could possibly mandate a statewide reverse transfer program. The bill was introduced by Senator Dial and Marcus Paramore-Troy University has been working on drafts of the bill with Senator Dial.

The following issues were discussed regarding the bill:

AGSC/STARS role: The bill states that AGSC/STARS will be the body responsible for implementing a statewide reverse transfer program.

There was discussion as to whether the AGSC was in support of moving forward with expanding the role of the STARS office to undertake this responsibility. There was also concern as to whether the Council of Presidents (COP) had knowledge of the legislation. Dr. Heinrich agreed to contact Dr. Witt-Chair-COP.

In discussion regarding amending the contents of the bill, Gen. Hankins suggested that

an amendment to the current bill would be to support the development of a reverse transfer process and give a proposed date for implementation. This would give additional time to outline the parameters and give input into the process. He added that making this a law would ensure annual funding if the program is implemented statewide. He encouraged committee members to communicate directly with Senator Dial.

Automated System: Dr. Session stated that if the AGSC decides to be the agent in charge of implementing this system, the bill should be clear in that the AGSC will be responsible for establishing an automated system through STARS that is set up across the state that will trigger the sending of transfer students transcriptions back to the sending two-year institution, once they obtain 60 hours. He stated that having an automated reverse transfer system will give students credit toward their associate degree.

Funding: The bill currently does not address funding. An outside company will have to be contracted to set up the automated system. The initial costs will be \$300,000 to \$400,000 and 15% to 20% of that amount every year thereafter (\$70,000) to maintain the system.

Dr. French reminded the Committee that if the bill is passed and AGSC is responsible for implementation, the bill should include a \$400,000 line item added to the AGSC budget and annual funding to maintain the system.

Student consent: There was discussion that this function would expand the STARS role. The bill currently states that AGSC will notify students when they have met the criteria. The AGSC/STARS does not have access to student records.

Dr. Sessions stated that the student application could include a question or consent release where the student would opt in or out.

Dr. Mitchell moved that the AGSC support the legislation and present an amended draft to ensure that the concerns of the AGSC/STARS are adequately represented. Relihan seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Crawford moved that a subcommittee (Williams, Heinrich, Nash, Crawford, Sessions, Hankins, Nichols) review and present an amended draft of the legislation to ensure that the parameters of the concerns of the AGSC/STARS are adequately represented. Mitchell seconded. Motion passed.

AGSC/STARS Evaluation Subcommittee Report. Dr. William reported that the subcommittee has reviewed the feedback forms (copies attached-#4) from members of the AGSC. Based upon the eleven responses received, the subcommittee recommends that the following issues be addressed in the RFP and expounded upon when the final report is completed:

1. STARS achievement of its mission;
2. Repeat questions from the first evaluation;
3. Comparison of graduation rates between students who use STARS and students who do not;
4. Impact of cooperative agreements on STARS;
5. Conduct a SWOT analysis (Gen. Hankins requested that the SWOT analysis include the independent colleges);
6. Adequately inform stakeholders of AGSC/STARS; and
7. Adequately communicate to students and institutions STARS requirements.

The projected timeline to circulate the RFP is May 1, 2015 with the selection of evaluators by June 15, 2015. Final report date is projected for February, 2016. Budget projection is \$50,000 with partial funding from the 2015 AGSC/STARS budget and the remaining costs from the 2016 budget.

AAICU Update. Gen. Paul Hankins shared with the AGSC that the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AAICU) represents 14 non-profit, accredited four year institutions in the state with a total of over 30,000 students. About 14% of bachelor degrees and 24% of professional degrees come from the independent institutions annually. He stated that the AGSC/STARS is vital to helping students get degrees and AAICU would like to be a part of that process.

He also stated that some concerns that educators need to address in Alabama are:

1. Losing students with bachelor degrees;
2. Performance based funding for higher education;
3. Fifty percent of Alabama students receive Pell grants (private colleges)  
Thirty-four percent (public four-year colleges);
4. Time to completion; and
5. Reciprocity

He stated that AAICU is not interested in being a competitor of any of the public schools in the state, but another segment to deliver higher education to the students in the state.

Gen. Hankins thanked the AGSC for the work that has been done through AGSC/STARS and the opportunity to be a part of the process.

## **OTHER**

Dr. Williams extended appreciation to Dr. William Meehan-JSU, who is retiring. She also extended appreciation to Dr. Heinrich and Dr. Mitchell for their assistance and hospitality to the high school students and advisors from Pinkard Youth Institute of California who toured colleges in the south.

### **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS**

July 23-24, 2015	Huntsville, Alabama
------------------	---------------------

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. STARS Usage Reports (Sessions)
2. Ratification of Templates (Sessions, Nash)
3. AGSC Evaluation Feedback (Williams)

The April 2, 2015 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Sharron Herron-Williams, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary