

STATE OF ALABAMA

Articulation and General Studies Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING Virtual Annual Review and Planning Session August 28, 2024 - 10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: The planning session of the Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) was called to order by Dr. Eva Lewis at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME: Dr. Eva Lewis welcomed members and guests to the virtual meeting.

ROLL CALL: Dr. Lewis asked Jacinta Whitehurst to call the roll to have a record of members present even though no voting would take place at this planning meeting.

Members present: Dr. Rosetta Howard, Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Dr. Kathleen Amende, Dr. Charles Bringardner, Dr. Charles Israel, Dr. Eva Lewis, Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Dr. Bruce Crawford, Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Dr. D. Kristen Gilbert, Dr. Hal Fulmer, Dr. Tina Jones, Dr. Mary-Beth Lancaster, and Dr. Chantae Calhoun. STARS staff: Dr. Keith Sessions and Shannon Nichols. ACHE staff: Dr. Robin McGill and Mrs. Jacinta Whitehurst.

Others present: Sheila Snow

WELCOME & RECOGNIZE GUESTS: Dr. Sessions welcomed guests to the meeting. Dr. Sessions gave his appreciation for Shannon Nichols for his support as a colleague and all of his hard work.

PRESENTATION DRAFT OF 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT. Dr. Keith Sessions presented an overview of the first draft of the 2023-2024 Annual Report. *A copy of the 2023-2024 Annual Report is available by request.*

2023-24 Priority 1: Dr. Sessions gave a review of the Achieve Conference information listed in the annual report, which was hosted by the University of South Alabama, Bishop State Community College, and Coastal Alabama Community College. He mentioned 247 individuals were registered, along with 10 sponsors and sixteen exhibitors. The University of South Alabama raised over \$8000 for a transfer scholarship after covering all event expenses.

2023-24 Priority 2: Dr. Sessions gave an overview of the ongoing AP & CLEP Credit scoring requirements for transfer credit listed in the annual report. The AP committee sent their recommendation for a statewide AP score of a "3" for credit transfer to the Council of Chief Academic Officers through a formal letter from the AGSC Chair. The committee is still waiting on an official response.

2023-24 Priority 3: Dr. Lewis gave a review of the General Studies Core Subcommittee priority information listed in the annual report. She discussed distributing previous committee work and general education/core curriculum mission/purpose statements to be considered as models for identifying what general studies should look like in five years, as well as the mission of general studies in Alabama and how to address challenges and barriers that prevent action on revising the general studies core.

Dr. Lewis mentioned some of Alabama institutions have restructured their core curriculum, which has caused a large barrier for moving forward. She stated if the institutions were following AGSC exactly as it has been laid out, it would be easier to make changes, but it is difficult to think about making changes because the committee does not know the impact it will have on other schools that have restructured.

Dr. Lewis mentioned a survey being distributed to assess the status of the sequencing in different institutions. The committee did not have any recommendations as of yet.

Dr. Lewis briefly mentioned a collaborative meeting with the University of Alabama (UA) on their revised core curriculum. UA decided they will reduce the requirement of 41-42 core credit hours to 37-38 core credit hours. Dr. Johnson informed the committee that updates on the revision's status and next steps are posted on UA's website.

2023-24 Priority 4: Dr. Sessions gave a review on the beginning to evaluate and addressing possible sequencing issues in Areas II and IV regarding literature and history. Dr. Sessions mentioned an online survey has been created, but it has not been finalized; a draft is available for review. Dr. Sessions mentioned they are working with Dr. McGill to refine and clarify the survey's questions.

2023-24 Priority 5: Dr. Sessions gave an overview of the Alabama Transfers staff's development of a possible succession plan. Dr. Sessions mentioned the sub-committee met to discuss the need for new hires and the review of current and projected budgets.

Dr. Sessions discussed updates of the Alabama Transfers Office, including plans to continue improving and adding new features to the recently launched website, such as real-time usage reports, a dual enrollment index, and an AP/CLEP credit index. Also, an in-house new staff resource page has been created. The office is continuing to offer training and education to various groups, institutions, and organization as well as promote the Alabama Transfers Program to improve and increase system usage and website traffic.

Dr. Sessions gave an update on the usage reports for 2023-24.

BUDGET REVIEW & DISCUSSION. Dr. Sessions discussed the current Alabama transfer's budget. He thanked ACHE and Troy for helping to increase the budget.

DRAFT PRIORITIES & GOALS FOR 2024-2025. Dr. Sessions discussed the Alabama Transfers Office's suggestions for the goals and priorities for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. As part of investigating and researching AI technologies, they would like to invite a company called EdVisorly to present AI options at the next meeting. The company is offering their technology to Alabama Transfers at a low price. He also mentioned continuing to look into staffing needs. To cover expenses for these goals, Dr. Sessions would like to use the discretionary funds, if possible. Also, he would like to continue to promote, market, train, and add new technology.

Dr. Lancaster led the committee discussion on draft priorities and goals for 2024-2025. The committee suggested to carryover some priorities from 2023-2024 year and add new ones, which includes the following:

- Continue with the General Studies Core Sub-Committee addressing issues that aim to clarify the mission of general education in Alabama and advance the review of AP/CLEP credit to the CAO to reconsider and respond to the AGSC 2021 recommendation of accepting the AP score of "3";
- Continue to evaluate future staffing needs with the succession plan subcommittee;
- Continue hosting the ACHIEVE Conference;
- Examine the impact of the Numeracy Act on Elementary/Early Childhood Education and its potential effects on the transfer credit for math courses in Area V;
- Address sequence issues in Area II and IV (literature and history); and
- Provide guidance on the utilization and spending of all discretionary funding.

OUTGOING CHAIR RECOGNITION: Dr. Sessions asked if any four-year members were interested in serving as the Vice-Chair for the upcoming 2024-25 year. The question was tabled until after lunch.

Dr. Sessions recognized and thanked Dr. Lewis for her service as the Chair of the Committee, presenting her with a plaque as a token of gratitude. Dr. Lewis thanked Dr. Sessions for his kind words, stating it had been a fulfilling role to serve on the committee.

Dr. Lewis adjourned the Annual Review and Planning Session at 11:39 a.m. The business meeting will reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Eva Lewis, Chair

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary

STATE OF ALABAMA
Articulation and General Studies Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING
Business Session Virtual
August 28, 2024 - 1:30 PM

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Rosetta Howard	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Kathleen Amende	Alabama State University
Dr. Charles Bringardner	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Eva Lewis	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Catherine Wehlburg	Athens State University
Dr. Jason Newell, Alternate	University of Montevallo
<i>Represented by Dr. D. Kristen Gilbert</i>	
Dr. Hal Fulmer	Troy University
Dr. Tina Jones, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Mary-Beth Lancaster, Chair	Coastal Alabama Community College
Dr. Bruce Crawford	Lawson State Community College
Dr. David Campbell	Northeast Alabama Community College
Dr. Chantae Calhoun, Alternate	Alabama Community College System

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/ Alabama Transfers
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/ Alabama Transfers
Dr. Robin McGill	ACHE

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Caterina Bristol, Alternate	Alabama State University
Dr. Mary Coleman	University of South Alabama
Dr. Eric Loomis, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Ms. Leslie Reeder, Alternate	Wallace State Community College
Mrs. Jackie Screws, Alternate	Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Others Present: Jacinta Whitehurst, Shelia Snow, Dr. Rhonda Gaede, and Dr. Kimberly Brashears.

CALL TO ORDER:

The business session of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 1:31 p.m.

WELCOME:

Dr. Lancaster introduced herself and stated it's a pleasure working as the Chair of the committee and

she's looking forward to the great work ahead.

ROLL CALL & QUORUM: A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Dr. Jones moved for the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Howard seconded. The agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dr. Wehlburg moved for the approval of the April 30, 2024 minutes. Dr. Howard seconded. Minutes were approved.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Dr. Sessions introduced Dr. Rhonda Gaede, University of Alabama in Huntsville as the primary voting member replacing Dr. Eva Lewis. Dr. Sessions mentioned Dr. Hall Fulmer will be retiring October 1, 2024. Dr. Fulmer stated it was good to be a part of the committee. Dr. Sessions thanked him for being a mentor and a friend.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM MORNING SESSION-RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF VICE-CHAIR (FOUR-YEAR MEMBER) Dr. Jones moved to nominate Dr. Catherine Wehlburg as AGSC Vice-Chair Elect for 2024-25. Dr. Lewis seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM MORNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF AGSC PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR 2024-2025

Dr. Sessions reviewed the following priorities and goals for 2024-25 that was recommended by the committee:

- Continue General Studies Core Sub-committee to address issues aiming to clarify the mission of general education in Alabama and advance the review of AP/CLEP credit to the College and University Chief Academic Officers (CUCAO) Association to reconsider and respond to the AGSC 2021 recommendation of accepting the AP score of "3".
- Continue to work the succession plan subcommittee to evaluate future staffing needs.
- To continue the ACHIEVE conference.
- Examine the impact of the Numeracy Act on Elementary/Early Childhood Education and its potential effects on the transfer credit for math course in Area V.
- Address sequence issues in Area II and IV (Literature and History).
- Provide guidance on the utilization and spending of all discretionary funding.

Dr. Fulmer moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the AGSC priorities and goals for 2024-25. Dr. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM MORNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF 2023-2024 Annual Report (with any changes and/or corrections)

Dr. Crawford moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the 2023-24 Annual Report with editorial considerations. Dr. Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM MORNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 BUDGET

Dr. Wehlburg moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the 2024-25 Budget as presented with the discussed revisions. Dr. Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF COURSES

Dr. Sessions presented the following course proposal recommended for approval:

University of North Alabama

PH 123 – Exploring the Cosmos I

Dr. Fulmer moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation. Dr. Wehlburg seconded. Motion passed.

PH 124 – Exploring the Cosmos II

Dr. Fulmer moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation. Dr. Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF TEMPLATES

Entertainment Industry – UNA Only

Dr. Crawford moved for ratification of template. Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Music Industry Studies - Athens Only

Dr. Jones moved for ratification of template. Dr. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

ACHIEVE CONFERENCE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Sessions discussed the final revenue and expense report from the 2024 Achieve Conference. He asked for volunteers to be the chairperson of the planning committee

for the 2025 conference. He also asked if any institution would like to host the 2025 conference to reach out to him.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Dr. Sessions briefly discussed the Numeracy Act that was recently implemented. The Numeracy Act is a plan to improve math instruction and support for all students and teachers. The Alabama Numeracy Act builds the capacity of elementary educators and ensures that they have the support and tools needed to be successful in the classroom and improve student achievement. It is a comprehensive statewide plan to address Alabama's math crisis. The legislation includes intensive support for schools such as:

- K-5 math coaches in every elementary school
- high-quality instructional materials & curricula that are aligned to our Alabama-teacher written & vetted standards
- training for teachers and principals
- intensive interventions for struggling students
- accountability to ensure schools are making progress.

Dr. Sessions discussed the elimination of three courses during the sophomore year and adding courses in the junior and senior year at the four-year institutions to teach pedagogy, content and field experiences. The two-year institutions discussed possibly creating a combined math for teachers one and two, if there is a way to create some field experience through technology.

Below are some comments on the issue:

- Dr. Calhoun stated the requirement for the Act requires the pedagogy has to be taught with the math content. The students will be learning math at the same time as learning to teach math. Currently, the two-year system does not teach any pedagogy integrated into the math courses. Also, she mentioned the three math courses required will have to have some type of theory experience or practicum with it and the current math one and two for teachers at the two-year institutions does not have a practicum or a theory experience in them.
- Dr. McGill stated the guidelines were just published and the Colleges of Education are trying to change their curriculum in order to comply with the new law and guidelines but the courses have not yet been developed or approved by the Department of Education as being needed for the initial licensure as an educator. She also mentioned that the nine semester hours of math in Area V of the Guide for Elementary and Early Childhood Education, will be going away, but the three semester hours of math in Area III will remain.
- Dr. Sessions questioned whether verbiage should be removed from the transfer guides or updated with a note informing students of the new guidelines and to check with their institution for guidance. Some of the committee members agreed with updating the guide as a good idea and also notifying students who have previously downloaded the guide of the changes.
- Dr. McGill suggested if the committee could revoke the Elementary and Early Childhood guide since everyone is aware the new rule is forthcoming.
- Dr. Sessions indicated that removing that guide would create confusion, and he

suggested leaving the guide, but making a notice at the top that the nine hours of math in Area V would likely be eliminated, pending new curriculum requirements to comply with the Alabama Numeracy Act.

Dr. Amende moved to accept the recommendation of approval to make revisions to the template in relation to the Numeracy Act. Dr. Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Sessions will send out a Doodle poll with dates in November 2024 for the Fall meeting.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS

Fall 2024

TBA/Location or Zoom

The August 28, 2024 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Dr. Mary Beth Lancaster, Chair

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary