

STATE OF ALABAMA

Articulation and General Studies Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING **Business Session Virtual** **July 29, 2025 - 1:00 PM**

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Douglas LaVergne	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Seela Aladuwaka	Alabama State University
Dr. Rhonda Gaede	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Dr. Tonjanita Johnson, Alternate	University of Alabama System
Dr. Julie Estis	University of South Alabama
Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Chair	Athens State University
Dr. D. Kristen Gilbert, Alternate	University of Montevallo
Dr. Fred Figilano	Troy University
Dr. Tina Jones, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Mary-Beth Lancaster	Coastal Alabama Community College
Dr. Bruce Crawford	Lawson State Community College
Ms. Leslie Reeder, Alternate	Wallace State 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. Mary Grimes-McGreer	Alabama State University
Dr. Charles Bringardner	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Eric Loomis, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Mrs. Jackie Screws, Alternate	Chattahoochee Valley Community College
Dr. David Campbell	Northeast Alabama Community College

Others Present: Jacinta Whitehurst and Brandi Stacey.

CALL TO ORDER:

The business session of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

WELCOME:

Dr. Wehlburg 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. Gilbert seconded. The agenda was adopted.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	Dr. Calhoun moved for the approval of May 1, 2025, minutes. Dr. Aladuwaka seconded. Minutes were approved.
RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:	Dr. Sessions introduced Dr. Douglas LaVergne, Alabama State University as the primary voting member replacing Dr. Rosetta Howard.
ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM REVIEW AND PLANNING SESSION-RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL OF VICE-CHAIR (FOUR-YEAR MEMBER)	Dr. Lancaster moved to nominate Ms. Leslie Reeder as AGSC Vice-Chair Elect for 2025-26. Dr. Filigano seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM REVIEW AND PLANNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 Annual Report (with any changes and/or corrections)

Dr. Gilbert moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the 2024-25 Annual Report. Dr. LaVergne seconded. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM REVIEW AND PLANNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF AGSC PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Dr. Sessions reviewed the following priorities and goals for 2025-26 that were recommended by the committee:

Alabama Transfers Staff Priorities

- Partner with the ACHIEVE Planning Sub-Committee and AGSC Members to organize an ACHIEVE event to be offered in a virtual/online format.
- Advance collaboration with the EdVisorly team to launch and execute the initial phase of a three-year AI-driven pilot program to enhance services for Alabama's transfer students, providing regular updates at AGSC meetings.
- Enhance the Alabama Transfers website by expanding functionality, adding new features, and improving user experience.
- Conduct an audit/review of potential new general education courses at two-year and four-year public institutions statewide.
- Continuing promoting and marketing Alabama Transfers across the state.

AGSC Priorities

- Continue with the General Studies sub-committee's work to refine the mission of general education in Alabama, enhance the AGSC general education framework, and address issues with literature and history sequencing requirements in Areas II and IV.
- Continuing hosting the ACHIEVE Conference in a virtual/online format.
- Support institutions in adopting an AP score of 3 for all courses granting credit, including sharing College Board recommendations, institutional experiences with score changes, and methods for collecting data to support score recommendations for specific courses and programs.
- Align curriculum changes in elementary and early childhood education programs at four-year institutions with Alabama Transfers Guides.
- Develop metrics to evaluate the success of the EdVisorly Pilot after its first year and, if successful, assess future phases for statewide implementation and funding needs.

Dr. Lancaster moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the AGSC priorities and goals for 2025-26. Dr. LaVergne seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Sessions revisited the working sub-committees that oversee the 2025-26 priorities and updated the members.

ACTION ITEM FOLLOW-UP FROM REVIEW AND PLANNING SESSION-APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 BUDGET

Dr. Jones moved to accept the recommendation of approval of the 2025-26 Budget as presented. Dr. Gilbert seconded. Motion passed. A copy of the budget summary is available upon request.

REQUEST FROM ALABAMA TRANSFERS OFFICE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN 2026-2027

Dr. Sessions stated he will propose an increase in the Alabama Transfers funding FY 2026-27 to \$1,000,000 to support the following initiatives:

- Continuation of the Annual ACHIEVE Conference in person or online.
- Expansion of the partnership with EdVisorly to onboard 3-5 additional institutions, contingent on the success of the ongoing pilot program.
- Exploration and preparation of hiring an additional staff member(s) to support succession planning efforts.

The committee endorsed the recommendation with no objections to moving forward with the request for additional funds FY 2026-27.

APPROVAL OF COURSES

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

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

ASL 101 – American Sign Language I (3SH)

Dr. Crawford moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation.
Dr. LaVergne seconded. Motion passed.

ASL 102 – American Sign Language II (3SH)

Dr. Crawford moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation.
Dr. LaVergne seconded. Motion passed.

ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

MTH 108 – Quantitative Reasoning (3SH)

Dr. Crawford moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation.
Dr. Calhoun seconded. Motion passed.

MTH 111 – Elementary Statistics (3SH)

Dr. Crawford moved to accept the Academic Committee's recommendation.
Dr. Calhoun seconded. Motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF TEMPLATES- NONE

ACHIEVE CONFERENCE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Sessions discussed the final revenue and expense report from the 2025 Achieve Conference. Alabama State University raised over \$4000 for transfer student scholarships after covering all event expenses. He stated he will be reaching out to the sub-committee next month to start planning for the 2026 virtual conference.

ALABAMA TRANSFERS & EDVISORLY AI PILOT PROJECT

Dr. Brandi Stacey of EdVisorly presented an overview of a three-year pilot project in partnership with Alabama Transfers. The initiative will provide selected Alabama community colleges with access to EdVisorly, an AI-powered platform designed to support community college students in successfully transferring to four-year colleges and universities. It was suggested that the subcommittee rethink or adjust the timeline.

NUMERACY ACT UPDATE – IMPLICATIONS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, SPECIAL ED PROGRAMS / MATH PATHWAYS TASK FORCE

Dr. Sessions stated there were links on the Alabama Transfers website about the Numeracy Act and guidelines from the Alabama State Department of Education. The Numeracy Act requires educational preparation providers (universities) to develop new

coursework that combines mathematics pedagogy with embedded field experiences. The previous Transfers Guides have been recognized as not being in compliance with the Numeracy Act since MTH 231 and MTH 232 no longer transfer into Area V pre-professional credit.

Dr. Calhoun shared some information from a previous meeting. She mentioned there were several classes that were identified from the ACCS course directory as possible short-term fixes to Area V of the Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education Transfer Guides. These include several Child Development and Psychology courses, and Dr. Calhoun plans to convene community college faculty and invite university faculty so that course requirements can be updated with the goal of making it more likely that the courses can be accepted in Area V of the Elementary and Early Childhood Education transfer pathways.

Dr. Calhoun also noted that ACCS is exploring the development of a new math for teachers' course, featuring an entirely new course number to align with the Numeracy Act. Only a few universities are launching new Numeracy-Act compliant courses for Fall 2025, and it will take longer to develop a new lower-division course that can be offered at the community colleges. She mentioned ACCS has partnered with the Dana Center at the University of Texas to help build out math pathways to help align the appropriate math with the program of study students have selected.

Dr. McGill shared the results of a survey conducted in the spring by ALSDE's Office of Mathematics Improvement. The survey asked the education preparation providers about their willingness to accept community college courses for credit toward the Elementary, Early Childhood, or Special Education programs. A copy of the survey results presented is available upon request. Another update McGill shared is the four-year universities are in process of developing three or four new courses for the Numeracy act and revising existing courses to include the math pedagogy. Some institutions are trying to get the courses to start in the Fall 2025.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: NONE

SCHEDULE OF FALL AGSC MEETINGS

Dr. Sessions will send out a Doodle poll with dates in November 2025 for the Fall meeting.

Fall 2025

TBA/Location or Zoom

The July 29, 2025, meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Chair

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary