

STATE OF ALABAMA

Articulation and General Studies Committee

Virtual Zoom Meeting

February 18, 2025

10:00 AM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Kathleen Amende	Alabama State University
Dr. Caterina Bristol, Alternate*	Alabama State University
Dr. Charles Bringardner	Auburn 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. Eric Loomis, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Catherine Wehlburg	Athens State University
Dr. D. Kristen Gilbert	University of Montevallo
Dr. Fred Figliano	Troy University
<i>Represented by Dr. Frank Hammonds</i>	
Ms. Mary-Beth Lancaster, Chair	Coastal Alabama CC
Mrs. Jackie Screws	Chattahoochee Valley CC
Dr. Bruce Crawford	Lawson State CC
Dr. David Campbell	Northeast Alabama CC
Dr. Chantae Calhoun	Alabama Community College System

Ex-Officio Members:

Dr. Keith Sessions, Executive Director	AGSC/STARS
Mr. Shannon Nichols	AGSC/STARS

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Rosetta Howard	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Tina Jones, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Ms. Leslie Reeder, Alternate	Wallace CC -Dothan
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	Auburn University
Dr. Robin McGill	ACHE

Others Present: Jacinta Whitehurst, Dr. Angela Barlow, Dr. Karen Anderson, Dr. Ann Dominick, Dr. Stephanie Dolan, Manny Smith, Lizzie Allison, Brandi Stacey, and Jill Jeppe.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order by Dr. Lancaster at 10:01 a.m. A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Dr. Crawford moved for the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Hammonds seconded. The agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Campbell moved for the approval of November 19, 2024 minutes. Dr. Amende seconded. Minutes were approved.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Dr. Sessions introduced the new member from the University of South Alabama, Dr. Julie Estis, who has been appointed to replace Dr. Angela Coleman. He also introduced a few guests, Dr. Angela Barlow, Dr. Ann Dominick, Dr. Karen Anderson, and Dr. Stephanie Dolan. Dr. Sessions thanked Dr. Coleman for her service as a committee member.

COURSE APPROVALS. None.**TEMPLATES FOR RATIFICATION.**

Dr. Sessions presented the following institution specific templates for ratification (copies are available upon request):

Fashion Merchandising & Design (UNA Only)

Dr. Wehlburg moved for approval of the ratification of the template. Dr. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Crawford asked if Math 108 would be an option in Area III, and Dr. Calhoun mentioned that Math 108 is still in the pilot phase until Fall 2025, and afterwards, revisions will be made and resubmitted to AGSC for consideration of implementation.

UPDATE - NUMERACY ACT

Dr. Lancaster introduced two speakers, Dr. Karen Anderson and Dr. Ann Dominick, both from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). They provided an overview of the Alabama Numeracy Act and shared expectations from post-secondary institutions as part of the Alabama Numeracy Act. The Alabama Numeracy Act is a comprehensive statewide plan to address Alabama's math crisis by building the capacity of elementary educators and ensuring they have the support and tools needed to be successful in the classroom and improve student achievement.

The following Numeracy Act initiatives were discussed.

- Establish the Elementary Math Task Force to provide high-quality training and tools teachers need to improve math instruction
- Ensure every K-5 school has a math coach
- Establish the Office of Mathematics Improvement
- Establish the Alabama Summer Mathematics Achievement Program
- Numeracy Act Requirement for ALSDE: To develop and establish the Postsecondary Math Task Force, the Alabama Instructional Leader Framework, a School Turnaround Academy, and an external consultant who will evaluate the effectiveness of the Numeracy Act.

Q&A (Questions were submitted prior to meeting):

- Is there a plan for four-year institutions to standardize the first interactive math course? No, the curriculum will not be standardized.
- Which course will be the Area III math requirement? The Numeracy Act does not dictate what a 4-yr institution will accept from a 2-yr institution so no change is being made in the Area III course requirement.
- Will this be Math110 for AA/BA and Math 112 for AS/BS degree plans? The Numeracy Act does not dictate what a 4-yr institution will accept from a 2-yr institution.
- Which course from the ACCS Course Directory will be designated equivalent to the first interactive mathematics course? Math 231 and Math 232 will work to be adapted to the Numeracy Act. A workshop will be held June 9-13, 2025, in Birmingham to offer an integrative math content pedagogy course.
- Is there a plan to standardize the curriculum to aid in the ease of transfer for students statewide? No, the curriculum will not be standardized. Some colleges and universities are rearranging their curriculum, but it is being done on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Barlow added that since 9 of 12 hours must be at a junior/senior level, USA educators are meeting with community college partners to discuss articulation agreements.
- Dr. Wehlburg asked for next steps from ALSDE regarding a program for preparation of certified math coaches that has already been approved by ACHE and the courses are already designed? ALSDE are prioritizing the undergraduate courses first, reviewing and providing support to look at the checklists. The process will be in place for coaching courses, but it has not been done yet.
- Dr. Sessions asked what is the timeline for when the junior/seniors must have the 12 hours and what happens to the students already in the pipeline? The students should be prepared under the new expectations, which go into effect Fall 2026. However, the timeline of the foundation of the mathematical assessments is unsure of implementation, but it could be as early as 2027-2028, and students could be impacted by the new assessments. They are working on the development of modules and/or mini courses for impacted students to take in addition to their current coursework.
- Dr. Sessions asked will Math 231 and Math 232 be accepted for transfer students or will they have to take the Area III math only? Math 231 and 232 can still be an option, if the community colleges revise the courses to include integrative math content pedagogy courses, and the 4-year institutions will have to agree to accept the courses to transfer. The Literacy Act has a 12-hour requirement for these courses. Dr. Sessions asked would the community college system create a math course that would be applicable for all community colleges system wide or will the 12 hours in math need to be taken at the 4-year institutions? Dr. Lancaster and Dr. Crawford agreed that the community colleges should have a common course syllabus system wide, and they will discuss it at their upcoming meeting.

UPDATE – 2025 ACHIEVE CONFERENCE.

Dr. Sessions, along with Brandi Stacey, provided updates for the upcoming conference on March 5-6, 2025. Details included:

- 200 attendees
- Keynote speakers confirmed as well as transfer student panel
- 3 concurrent breakout sessions and reception location confirmed
- 9 sponsors and exhibitors
- Goodie bags and door prizes

EDVISORLY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Dr. Sessions introduced the team from EdVisorly, including Manny Smith, Lizzie Allison, Jill Jeppe, and Brandy Stacey. He would like to propose a partnership with EdVisorly and AGSC with the State of Alabama through AI and other technologies.

Manny Smith provided an overview of EdVisorly's proposal to partner with AGSC through AI and other technologies. Mr. Smith discussed the course equivalency database that is structured for query access and powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI). He discussed the platform focuses on course equivalency, building out pathways, reverse transfers, and complementary transfer credit evaluation tools. Mr. Smith discussed implementation guidelines and pricing options. He also mentioned using Troy University as a pilot institution.

Lizzie Allison elaborated on EdVisorly database navigate system. She spoke about Alabama's need for a system that each institution can have access to data sharing between each institution, which can streamline workflow in a central system format.

Dr. Sessions mentioned a proposal to conduct a pilot project with a few institutions. AGSC will use discretionary funds for the project. He discussed Troy University and three community colleges: Enterprise State CC, Lurleen B Wallace CC, and Wallace CC - Dothan for the first-year pilot program. If the pilot program works well, AGSC will ask for additional funding to support this program going forward.

Dr. Lancaster called for a vote to proceed with the pilot program along with a MOU/contract to review the proposal as presented. Dr. Campbell moved to proceed with the pilot program based on the agreement of a reviewed MOU. Dr. Wehlburg seconded. Motion passed.

Discuss Time, Date(s), Location for Spring Meeting

April 2025

TBA

Dr. Sessions will send a Doodle poll to the committee members to determine the best possible date for the April 2025 virtual meeting.

Other Issues or Announcements: None.

Adjournment

Dr. Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Hammonds seconded. Motion passed. The meeting of the AGSC was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Chair, Dr. Mary Beth Lancaster

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary

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