

STATE OF ALABAMA

Articulation and General Studies Committee

Virtual Zoom Meeting

May 1, 2025

1:00 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Wubishet Tadesse, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Mary Grimes-McGreerde	Alabama State University
Dr. Seela Aladuwaka, Alternate*	Alabama State University
Dr. Charles Bringardner	Auburn University
Dr. Charles Israel, Alternate	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
Dr. Tina Jones, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Ms. Mary-Beth Lancaster, Chair	Coastal Alabama CC
Mrs. Jackie Screws	Chattahoochee Valley CC
Dr. Bruce Crawford	Lawson State CC
Dr. Chantae Calhoun	Alabama Community College System

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Rosetta Howard	Alabama A&M University
Ms. Leslie Reeder, Alternate	Wallace CC -Dothan
Dr. David Campbell	Northeast Alabama CC

Others Present:

Jacinta Whitehurst, Eva Lewis, and Heather Anderson.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Articulation and General Studies Committee was called to order by Dr. Lancaster at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was determined by roll call of members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Dr. Gilbert moved for the adoption of the agenda. Dr. Figliano seconded. The agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Crawford moved for the approval of February 18, 2025, minutes. Dr. Tadesse seconded. Minutes were approved.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Dr. Sessions introduced the new members from Alabama State University, Dr. Mary Grimes-McGreer, who has been appointed to replace Dr. Kathleen Amende, and Dr. Seela Aladuwaka, who has been appointed to replace Dr. Caterina Bristol as the alternate member. He thanked the members of Alabama State University for their successful hosting of the ACHIEVE conference. He also introduced two guests, Dr. Eva Lewis and Heather Anderson.

COURSE APPROVALS:

None.

TEMPLATES FOR RATIFICATION:

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

Marine Sciences (USA Only)

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

Marine Biology

Dr. Gaede moved for approval of the ratification of the template. Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passed.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE DISCUSSION-POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN AREA II:

Heather Anderson presented a proposal for ASL to be recognized in Area II as a foreign language. She shared personal events that highlighted the communication barriers faced by deaf individuals. She shared reasoning for the inclusion of ASL in educational programs, emphasizing its cultural significance and practical applications.

- Dr. Figliano noted that Troy University has ASL's acceptance in other areas.
- Dr. Sessions addressed the integration of Troy's interpreter training program into Area II, highlighting its popularity.
- Dr. Loomis expressed concerns about course access for certain majors at the University of South Alabama due to instructor shortages.
- Dr. Sessions stated that universities can prioritize access for students whose majors require the course, ensuring they have the necessary resources.
- Dr. Sessions outlined a proposal to include ASL 101 and 102 in the degree plans ensuring that students transferring between institutions in Alabama receive appropriate credit. He referenced documents supporting ASL's recognition as a language and noted that four states have fully accepted ASL for graduation requirements.

- Dr. Crawford moved for a vote to follow the procedure Dr. Session outlined to start the process to integrate as an option ASL as a foreign language in Area II. Dr. Figliano seconded. Motion passed.
- Dr. Lancaster requested that the ad hoc committee add to their discussion items the credentialing for instructors who teach those courses to give a little guidance.

UPDATE – 2025 ACHIEVE CONFERENCE:

Dr. Sessions recapped the conference held on March 5-6, 2025. Information included:

- Involvement of three keynote speakers, over 58 speakers in total and over 40 sessions.
- Raised roughly \$27,800 which included sponsorships and ticket sales.
- Distributed eight \$1000 scholarships to the transfer students panel with the fees Manny Smith generously gifted.

ALABAMA NUMERACY ACT UPDATE:

Dr. Sessions updated the committee on the Alabama Numeracy Act's impact on education. He noted the Act will shift math courses for teachers from the sophomore level to the junior and senior levels. The change affects students and raises questions about what the community college students should take in the interim. Dr. Sessions mentioned ongoing discussions among colleges to develop new numeracy courses and potential adjustments to course offerings.

2024-2025 AGSC PRIORITIES UPDATE/REVIEW:

Dr. Session reviewed the list of AGSC priorities and updated the committee on the status of the priorities. The following priorities were highlighted:

- Plans to further address the General Education priority in regard to potential concerns or challenges related to the current literature and history sequencing requirements in Area II and Area IV. Developing a survey to distribute to academic leaders. The General Committee is as follows: McGill/Calhoun (Co-Chairs), Sessions, Lewis, Howard, Johnson, Gaede, Israel, Lancaster, Wehlburg, Jones, and Gilbert.
- Defer this priority until the 2026-2027 academic year. In the meantime, continue assessing and developing a realistic, sustainable staffing plan for Alabama Transfers, including the establishment of a Succession Planning Subcommittee.
- Should the committee choose to continue reviewing the AP credit priority, the goal would be to encourage the Council of Chief Academic Officers to reconsider and formally respond to the committee's 2021 recommendation to accept an AP score of 3 across the board.

Dr. Lancaster noted that some school systems are now partnering to offer both dual enrollment and AP courses simultaneously, resulting in students relying less on AP credit. Dr. Crawford emphasized the need for increased dialogue among institutions to identify ways to reach common ground. Dr. Israel noted that a key challenge is the evidence suggesting students who receive a score of 3 in certain courses may struggle or fail in subsequent classes. Dr. Sessions recommended allowing individual institutions to make that decision.

Discuss Time, Date(s), Location for Summer Meeting:

July 2025 TBA

Dr. Sessions will send a Doodle poll to the committee members to determine the best possible date and location for July 2025.

Other Issues or Announcements:

Dr. Sessions mentioned an upcoming webinar on transfer-related issues, indicating he would email the link to the group for anyone who may be interested in attending.

Adjournment:

Dr. Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Figliano seconded. Motion passed. The meeting of the AGSC was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Chair, Dr. Mary Beth Lancaster

Jacinta Whitehurst, Recording Secretary