

**State of Alabama  
 Articulation and General Studies Committee  
 Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education  
 President's Conference Room  
 February 28, 2014**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Mark Heinrich, Chair	Department of Postsecondary Education
Dr. Barbara Jones	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Juarine Stewart, Alternate	Alabama A&M University
Dr. Sharron Herron-Williams, Vice 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. Suzanne Ozment, Alternate	University of Montevallo
Dr. Keith Harrison	University of South Alabama
Dr. William Meehan	Jacksonville State University
Dr. John Schmidt	Troy University
Dr. Amelia Pearson	Southern Union Community College
Dr. James Mitchell	Wallace State Community College-Selma
Dr. Bruce Crawford, Alternate	Lawson State Community College

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Dr. Victoria Rivizzigno, Alternate	University of South Alabama
Dr. Richard Holland, Alternate	University of West Alabama
Dr. Gary Branch	Faulkner State Community College
Dr. Joe Morris	Jefferson State Community College

Others Present:

Dr. Hal Fulmer	Troy University
Ms. Barbara A. Spears	Department of Postsecondary Education

<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>	Schmidt moved for the adoption of the agenda. Mitchell seconded. The agenda was adopted.
<b>WELCOME</b>	Dr. Heinrich welcomed the AGSC to the Department of Postsecondary Education. Members and guests introduced themselves.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	Crawford moved for the approval of the October 17, 2013 minutes. Mitchell seconded. Minutes were approved.

## DECISION ITEMS

### Executive Director's Report

STARS Usage Reports. Sessions stated that STARS continues to track usage monthly and annually. He briefly reviewed the online usage reports by institution and by major in addition to the Administrative reports (copy of January reports is attached-#1). He reminded the AGSC that the tabs at the bottom of the screen give more detailed information for each report. The Transfer Choice reports continue to be provided to the four-year institutions monthly for recruiting purposes.

Although the CAPS report is still being maintained, Sessions will meet with Heinrich to decide if the report is still beneficial to the two-year system.

AGSC/STARS Budget. Sessions confirmed that the ACHE STARS line item title has been changed to Articulation and General Studies Committee/Statewide Transfer and Articulation Reporting System. The STARS budget last year was \$374,867. The Governor increased the budget by \$200,000 and the Senate FTE Committee has currently approved it at \$574,867. Schmidt thanked all the institutions that stepped up and voiced their support to the legislature.

He stated that this year STARS will focus on 1 million students who have received transfer guides. In terms of the savings for a student not having to retake a course, there are billions of dollars saved for the students and parents. In addition to serving students and making the process smoother, taxpayer dollars are being saved by using STARS.

Sessions thanked Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Heinrich for the article they wrote regarding the Articulation program (the article was passed around). He stated that he has communicated with three other national organizations who would like to publish articles on the success of STARS.

A brochure, "Serving Students, Saving Dollars, Making Sense," was created by Drs. Schmidt, Heinrich, and Sessions and hand-delivered to each legislator in addition to the Governor and Lt. Governor. A copy of the brochure is attached-#3. A lot of positive feedback was received from a number of legislators. The brochure will also be used as a new marketing tool for STARS presentations throughout the state.

Sessions stated that an article on the STARS system was written by Paul Fain, a writer from Inside Higher Education, which is a national higher education news website. This coming week, Sessions will be interviewed by Evolution, an adult learner group that focuses on adults going back to college. He stated that these recognitions have come about due to increased publicity of STARS.

Sessions thanked everyone who supported this effort.

STARS Technology Upgrades. Nichols reported that he has negotiated with Progress of Boston, Massachusetts to purchase new software for STARS in the amount of \$18,000. He stated that he is currently testing the software for compatibility and plans to have it up and running by July, 2014. The new server will be housed at Troy University's data center facility and will be accessed remotely by the STARS office.

Session thanked Shannon Nichols for his hard work and dedication to the STARS program since its inception.

AGSC/STARS Evaluation. Sessions reported that he has had several discussions with Dr. Don Crump regarding an external evaluation of AGSC/STARS. An estimated cost to conduct the evaluation would be \$30,000 to \$35,000. Sessions recommended that a study be done at least every ten years if the budget allows.

There was some discussion regarding the negotiation of the estimated consulting cost of \$30,000-\$35,000 to a lower amount and developing a RFP.

French commented that one of the valuable outcomes of the Crump Report was that the twelve recommendations from the report set the priorities for the work of the AGSC for at least two years.

Heinrich commented that now is a good time to produce a document that could be presented to the legislature during the next legislative session. Hankins requested that the work that has been done with the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges (AAICU) be included.

Israel suggested that the survey questions on the evaluation remain the same as the last report in order to have longitudinal data.

## **ACADEMIC COMMITTEES**

Academic Committee Course Recommendations. Sessions presented the following course proposals recommended for approval by Academic Committees (copies attached-#2):

PHL 120-Critical Thinking-USA

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Committee recommended approval for Area II. Harrison moved to accept. Meehan seconded. Motion passed.

REL 100-Introduction to the Study of Religion-USA

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Committee recommended approval for Area II. Schmidt moved to accept. Meehan seconded. Motion passed

REL 111-World Religions-UNA

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Committee recommended approval for Area II. Crawford moved to accept. Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

REL 200-Survey of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible-USA

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Committee recommended approval for Area II. Mitchell moved to accept. Meehan seconded. Motion passed.

REL 201-Survey of the New Testament-USA

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Committee recommended approval for Area II. Mitchell moved to accept. Meehan seconded. Motion passed.

ECON 200-Essentials of Economics-Non-Business Majors-AUM

The Economics Committee recommended approval for Area IV. Relihan moved to accept. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

**Ratification of Templates.** Sessions/Nash presented the following institution specific templates for ratification as recommended by the Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) (copies attached-#4):

Resource and Technology Management-TU

After some discussion and explanation from Dr. Hal Fulmer-TU regarding the CIP code designation and why the program is different from the general liberal arts template, Schmidt moved for ratification with the new CIP designation (24.0199). Meehan seconded. One opposed. Motion passed.

Emergency Medical Services-USA

Harrison moved for ratification. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Professional Health Sciences-USA

Relihan moved for ratification. Schmidt seconded. Motion passed.

Health Informatics-USA

Harrison moved for ratification. Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Cyber Assurance-USA

Meehan moved for ratification. Schmidt seconded. Motion passed.

## **OTHER**

General Hankins expressed his appreciation to the AGSC for allowing the independent colleges to work with STARS in making private schools available to the two-year colleges. He stated that AAICU has never considered themselves as competitors but as a part of the delivery system in the state and would like to continue that process.

He also commented that the success of the Articulation program should be highlighted and be a part of the ACHE strategic plan.

Sessions commended Ms. Barbara Ann Spears for her assistance in working with STARS and the two-year system in making the online experience for the two-year schools and students easy.

## **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE AGSC MEETINGS**

July, 2014	TBA
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## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. STARS Usage Reports (Sessions)
2. Academic Course Recommendations (Sessions)
3. "Serving Students, Saving Dollars, Making Sense" brochure (Sessions)
4. Ratification of Templates (Sessions/Nash)

The February 28, 2014 meeting of the AGSC adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Mark Heinrich, Chair

Deborah Nettles, Recording Secretary