STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES

Final Draft to the Faculty Senate

The University of Alabama Ad Hoc Committee

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Preface Strategic Planning Initiatives

A mission of the University of Alabama System Office is to encourage activities among the System universities that will result in improved educational programs and improved resources to support those programs among the universities. Further, it is a mission of the System Office to facilitate these activities whenever possible. The strategic initiatives described in this document represent an effort on the part of the System Office to fulfill its mission. Therefore, an overriding goal of these initiatives is to assist the universities in cooperative activities that the universities find mutually beneficial.

We recognize that cooperative activities are most likely to succeed when they originate within the faculty and programs of the universities. Rather than imposing such activities, it is our desire to facilitate those activities by increasing the flow of information among the universities and by identifying and reducing barriers to those activities.

A goal of these initiatives is to increase cooperation among the universities when this cooperation will result in better opportunities for students and reduced costs of providing educational opportunities. We recognize that the universities continue to face financial resource constraints. It is not our intent that the initiatives should increase the financial burdens imposed on the universities. Consequently, any implementation of the initiatives is contingent on the implementation resulting in cost savings or not imposing increased costs that will jeopardize current programs and activities of the universities or diminish the quality of those programs and activities.

We also recognize that each university has a distinct mission. It is not our objective to modify or interfere with the accomplishment of that mission. Accordingly, the initiatives must be interpreted in light of each university's mission and should be implemented in ways consistent with that mission.

Finally, we recognize that academic programs are developed and implemented by faculty in those programs who are in the best positions to assess program needs and quality. We respect the rights of faculty to make these decisions. It is the intent of some of these initiatives to encourage and facilitate interaction among faculty at the three universities. It is not the intent of these initiatives to mandate such interaction when the faculty determines that such interaction is not beneficial for their students or will have a negative effect on program quality. We specifically recognize the rights of faculty to make these decisions.

The University of Alabama System Strategic Planning Initiatives Task Force #1 "Strategic Collaboration in Acade mic Programs among UA System Institutions" (Revised December 5, 2001)

Recommended		Evaluate all proposed new academic degree programs for
Strategic Initiative		collaboration
Num	ber 1	
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Each new undergraduate and graduate program proposal will be provided to each University in the System to determine whether collaboration would be mutually beneficial and feasible. b-Collaboration is recommended in cases where joint, cooperative or shared academic programs are beneficial to each of the participating institutions and to the State of Alabama c-Nothing in this initiative is intended to suggest that collaboration is required for programs when the campus of origin believes collaboration will have a negative effect on the quality or success of the proposed program.
II.	Enabling Condition(s)	a-Disclose plans for new programs early in the program planning process by distributing campus planning documents to the provosts and relevant deans and department chairs b-The response time from other campuses should not exceed 30 working days from the date the proposal is submitted. c-The System Office should assist programs that wish to collaborate by reducing the amount of work and time to gain approval.
III.	To be Implemented by	Department heads and program faculty on the campus of origin will be responsible for developing the details of the collaboration
IV.	Measures of Success: Accountability	a-Successful start up of a new program. b-Incorporate results of evaluation into proposal submitted to the Board of Trustees
V.	Time Line	TBA

Recommended Strategic Initiative		Encourage intercampus faculty participation in dissertation committees and similar activities when it is in the best interest
Num	ber 2	of the students and departments can afford to spare the faculty
		time.
I.	Expected	a-Increased opportunities for faculty to participate in disciplinary
	Outcome(s)	activities system-wide
		b-Increased breadth of expertise of thesis and dissertation committees
II.	Enabling	a-Utilize existing procedures for campus based graduate faculty
	Condition(s)	appointments.
		b-Provide lists of interested faculty and their research focus
III.	To be	Graduate deans and program directors
	Implemented by	
IV.	Measures of	a-Posting of graduate faculty and their areas of interest on university
	success:	websites
	Accountability	b-Annual report of inter-campus interdisciplinary participation by
	•	graduate deans
V.	Timeline	TBA

Recommended		Determine which campus - unique degree programs could be
Strategic Initiative		offered to other UAS campuses.
Number 3		
I.	Expected	Reviews of existing programs initiated by program faculty to determine
	Outcome(s)	the feasibility of offering a quality degree program to another campus.
II.	Enabling	In the regular cycle of program reviews, each program will evaluate the
	Condition(s)	feasibility of offering that program to other campuses.
III.	To be	Program faculty with assistance of Provosts and Deans
	Implemented by	
IV.	Measures of	Completed reviews of existing programs
	success:	
	Accountability	
V.	Timeline	Distribution of lists: Upon completion of reviews of programs

Recor	mmended	
Strategic Initiative		Explore and define opportunities for collaboration in research
Numl	ber 4	
I.	Expected	a-Opportunities for collaboration in current research programs
	Outcome(s)	b-Collaboration is recommended when beneficial and feasible to each of the participating institutions
II.	Enabling	Hold topical seminars sponsored by UAS with nominations of topics by
	Condition(s)	faculty, department chairs, and deans
III.	To be	Initiated by the program faculty with support, cooperation, and collaboration
	Implemented by	of the Provosts and relevant deans and department chairs
IV.	Measures of	a-Development and distribution of a request for seminar proposals
	success:	b-Produce an annual report of activities
	Accountability	
V.	Timeline	a-Call for proposals
		b-Review and scheduling of seminars
		c-Completion of seminars and reports
		d-Assessment of program success

Recommended		Campuses should develop initiatives for distributed learning
Strategic Initiative		that are appropriate and consistent with their missions.
Num	ber 5	
I.	Expected	a-Increased availability of courses through distributed learning
	Outcome(s)	methodologies
		b-Development of catalog and benchmarks for technology delivered
		courses
II.	Enabling	a-Hold system-wide conferences for faculty and administrators to
	Condition(s)	discuss technical and policy issues and to share experience and
		knowledge
		b-Facilitate and streamline the process for submitting courses to
		Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB)
		c-Improve marketing of distance learning courses
III.	To be	Program committee of faculty, technical representatives, administrators,
	Implemented by	and SREB representatives from each campus, with System Office
	_	providing logistical support
IV.	Measures of	a-Establishment of a system-wide conference schedule and conference
	Success:	agendas
	Accountability	b-Development of a proposal for streamlining SREB course submission
	•	by SREB representatives
		c-Increased UAS listings on the SREB electronic campus
		d-Increased enrollment in distance education courses and programs
V.	Timeline	TBA

Recommended		Improve administrative processes (transfer, transfer of credit) to
Strategic Initiative		facilitate student success
Num	ber 6	
I.	Expected	a-Increased efficiency in processing of applications for admission of
	Outcome(s)	students and transfer of credit
		b-Encrypted electronic transfer of transcripts
II.	Enabling	a-Provide to the extent appropriate and feasible, compatible academic
	Condition(s)	calendars and web-based class schedules
		b-Ensure that encryption scheme is compatible with technology on
		campuses
III.	To be	Provosts and registrars
	Implemented by	
IV.	Measures of	a-Accessible class schedules system-wide
	success:	b-Reduction in request for paper transcripts
	Accountability	c-Increased efficiency in processing time for requests to transfer to or enroll
	·	at other campuses
V.	Timeline	Annual review of process

Recommended		Explore collaboration opportunities in continuing education
Strategic Initiative		offerings of executive education programs
Number 7		
I.	Expected	Encourage Executive Education programs that would be developed
	Outcome(s)	cooperatively by UA System institutions and directed towards
		individuals in various fields
II.	Enabling	Establish a working group of experienced faculty and/or Continuing
	Condition(s)	Education officers from each institution to conduct needs assessments
		and to design the programs to be offered
III.	To be	A committee of deans and relevant faculty representing participating
	Implemented by	institutions
IV.	Me asures of	a-Identification of suitable programs
	success:	b-Development and implementation of programs, marketing strategies,
	Accountability	and business plans
	•	c-Increased enrollment in executive education programs
V.	Timeline	Annual report of programs offered

The University of Alabama System

Strategic Planning Initiatives Task Forces #2 "Strategic Collaboration in Administrative Operations Among UA System Institutions"

(Revised December 5, 2001)

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 1:	Sustain, enhance, and expand high performance networking for The University of Alabama System, all higher education and eventually all education in the state of Alabama, for the purpose of developing a strategic resource to deliver instruction, conduct research, and provide public service throughout the state. The core broadband circuits interconnecting the three UA System institutions (Gulf Central Gigapop - GCG) and the existing Alabama Research and Education Network provide an excellent nucleus for a statewide network for all of education. This initiative envisions building on the excellent work and considerable success of the Gulf Central Gigapop working group and scaling the core network into a statewide network. The Gulf Central Gigapop is an exemplary cooperative effort of the three University of Alabama System campuses and the Alabama Research and Education Network.
I. Expected Outcome(s):	a-Sustained broadband connectivity among UAS campuses with the capacity and quality of service required to support the institutions' needs; b-Expansion of broadband connectivity to all Alabama research universities; c-Further expansion to all higher education; d-Eventual expansion to all other education in the state of Alabama; e-Development of campus Internet2 applications working groups to promote development of Internet2 applications, publicize the availability of resources and grant opportunities and facilitate technical and application assistance.
II. Enabling Condition(s):	a-Continued support by the UA System and other institutions for high performance networking; b-Additional funding from the State of Alabama to aggregate and expand existing network infrastructures into a robust state-wide broadband network providing high speed connectivity for all of education or a combined infrastructure for education and state government; and c-Continuation of the network operations center services provided by ASA/AREN for the UA System (GCG) backbone, and their baseline network services to education. Additional grant funding to expand the high performance backbone to other Alabama research universities;
III. To Be Implemented By:	a-UA System Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Outreach and the Gulf Central Gigapop working group as expanded to include broader representation of Alabama higher education working with the new State of Alabama Office of Information Technology and the Alabama Research and Education Network. b-Appropriate campus academic officers and faculty
IV. Measures of Success	a-Continuation of broadband connectivity for UA System b-Number of research institutions connected to the broadband backbone c-Securing Federal funding to support Internet2 applications d-Significant increase in UA System Internet2 applications/use
V. Timeline	Continuous with annual review of progress being made toward the development of a sustained statewide high performance network

Recommended	Initiate a comprehensive tri-campus Information Technology
Strategic Initiative	Collaboration effort to:
Number 2:	1-permit increased sharing of resources
	2-foster collaboration among faculty, students, and staff
	3-develop the technological infrastructure necessary to
	•
VI. Expected Outcome(s):	compete in the developing higher education marketplace This broadly defined collaboration will address on a continuing basis opportunities for coordination of Information Technology initiatives among the three University of Alabama System campuses, and where possible and practical with other institutions of higher education in the state and region as well as K-12. This initiative will build on the considerable success of the System purchasing task force and other ongoing information technology cooperative activities. Specific outcomes of the collaboration are expected to include: a-Development of a framework for Information Technology planning at the System and campus levels; b-Develop System-wide Information Technology policies that are compatible with and complementary to individual campus policies (e.g. appropriate use, e-mail, etc); c-Leverage the combined buying power of the campuses through System-wide and/or statewide purchasing contracts for PCs, networking hardware and services, software (e.g. Microsoft), and other major acquisitions where two or more campuses can realize savings or improved services; d-Centralize license and contract review for combined purchasing initiatives; e-Increase awareness of and access to specialized information resources through a shared resource model; f-Jointly test and evaluate new technologies with consideration of their potential for integration into Systemwide and statewide efforts; g-Improve availability of timely information on legislative and state government matters, and coordinate representation and influence on those matters;
	h-Identify best practices that can be adapted for educational environments; i-Develop a continuous information exchange among the campus IT organizations to monitor opportunities for cooperation on specific IT projects (e.g. security); j-Actively participate in the formation of a formal Alabama Videoconferencing Network to further utilize the considerable videoconferencing resources in the state; and, k-Coordinate data warehouses to maximize the availability of information needed by the Board of Trustees

VII.	Enabling	a-Continuation of the Information Technology Council comprising the principal	
	Condition(s):	campus IT officers and the Vice Chancellor for Information Technology as a standing	
		collaborative work group for the purpose of guiding this broad initiative and to serv	
		an ongoing information exchange;	
		b-Ad hoc or standing task force groups as appropriate for the purpose of implementing	
		specific components of this initiative; and	
		c-Utilization and involvement of existing System groups including the executive	
		officers, purchasing task force, etc.	
VIII.	To Be	a-Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Outreach	
	Implemented	b-Information Technology Council	
	By:	c-Purchasing Task Force	
		d-Appropriate campus officers	
		e-State IT leadership	
IX.	Measures of	a-Award a statewide contract to multiple vendors for PC purchase throughout the	
	Success	System and higher education to include K-12 if feasible, resulting in significant	
		additional savings;	
		b-Award a statewide contract for the purchase of networking hardware and services for	
		use by all higher education resulting in significant additional savings;	
		c-Negotiate a System-wide license with Microsoft;	
		d-Begin a tri-campus Public Key Infrastructure initiative to address the growing	
		concern about security of system IT resources;	

Rece	ommended	Develop a strategy to ensure that The University of Alabama System is
	tegic Initiative	competitive and current in its student, faculty, and staff access to
	0	, , , , ,
	aber 3:	information technology.
X.	Expected	Identify and evaluate the information resources needed and used by all members of
	Outcome(s):	the UA System community, and establish a core set of guidelines recognizing the
		unique role and nature of the campuses.
		A core set of four guidelines has been identified by the Information Technology
		Council for all three campuses. Additional of other guidelines will be an
		individual campus option.
		a-Percentage of courses using IT to enhance the learning experience. A survey will be
		conducted in the Spring, 2001 term to identify the base level use of key IT resources
		in instruction. Goals will then be established for selected indicators in subsequent
		years.
		b-Availability of computing resources to students:
		(1) Achieve a desired ratio of general access computers to FTE or headcount
		based on peer institutions, and maintain currency of these resources;
		(2) Provide high speed network access in all residence halls and student
		laboratories; and
		(3) Provide assistance for and support for students to develop and use computer
		competencies.
		c-Availability of computing resources for faculty and staff including:
		(1) A high speed network connection;
		(2) A current computer (capability to be defined on a college/department level)
		with an established replacement cycle;
		(4) Provide assistance and support for faculty use of Information Technology in
		instruction and research;
		d-Availability of Web based processes to faculty, staff, and students to include:
		(1) Application for admission;
		(2) Application for financial aid;
		(3) Registration;
		(4) Drop-add;
		(5) Checking grades;
		(6) Paying bills;
		(7) Degree audit;(8) Updating addresses and personal information;
		(9) Changing benefit plans; and
		(10) Purchasing and other business processes.
VI	Enabling	a-Develop reasonable definitions of life cycles for IT resources at the campus and
AI.	Condition(s):	departmental levels;
	Condition(s).	b-Support and funding for key technology capabilities;
		c-Active involvement of faculty, administrators, staff and students to develop a
		consensus on IT needs;
X	To Be	Appropriate administrators at the campus level
/ 1.	Implemented By:	1-pp-op-late definition and the continues to 101
XII.	Measures of	a-Completion of an evaluation and identification of appropriate technology resources
4311.	Success	and capabilities;
	Duccess	b-Achievement of critical capabilities identified in the evaluation
XIII.	Timeline	a-Initial evaluation and identification by July 1, 2001
ANTII	1 michiic	b-Annual review of progress toward development of critical capabilities
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The University of Alabama System Strategic Planning Initiatives Task Force # 3

"Improving the Overall State of Teaching and Learning in Alabama – P-16" (Revised December 5, 2001)

Recommended Strategic		Provide information on activities and service ventures
Initiative Number 1		involving P-16 education
I.	Expected Outcome	a-Provide information for public relations use
	_	b-Provide data on the contributions campuses make to Alabama
		and P-16 education
II.	Enabling Condition	Institutions provide information about collaboration and services
		to P-12 (Institutions already doing this)
III.	To Be	The System Academic Affairs Office
	Implemented By	
IV.	Measures of	a-Targeted and frequent press releases
	Success:	b-More information to support our political agenda
	Accountability	
V.	Timeline	Ongoing

Recommended Strategic	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary
Initiative Number 3	and Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and
	Urban School Initiatives
I. Expected Outcome	a-Increased awareness among university faculty about P-12 issues
_	b-More faculty from across the university involved in the
	elementary and secondary schools where mutually beneficial
II. Enabling Condition	a-Funding to support release time for faculty to work with public
	schools
	b-Include activities with schools as part of faculty workload, where
	appropriate
	c-Make clear statements about how administrators view university
	collaboration with P-12 as important
III. To Be	Chancellor and presidents
Implemented By	_
IV. Measures of	a-Faculty who are involved with P-12 schools receive public
Success:	recognition and are rewarded
Accountability	b-Increased levels of quality research and service conducted out in
	school settings
V. Timeline	Ongoing process

Recommended	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary and
Strategic Initiative	Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and Urban
Number 4	School Initiatives with Partners.
	Identify and implement models that have viability to
	increase university and P-12 partnerships with a focus on
	State Department of Education priorities (at the current
	time, reading, science, mathematics, and technology).
I. Expected	a-Formal partnerships established with P-12 schools
Outcome	b-More faculty involvement with Statewide initiatives
II. Enabling	a-Support for partnerships, both financial and moral
Conditions	b-Funding to support faculty participation with Statewide initiatives
	c-Release time for faculty participation
III. To Be	Provosts and other academic officers at campuses
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	a-Establishment of formal partnerships
Success:	b-State, regional, and national recognition of partnership activities
Accountability	
V. Timeline	One to three years to set agenda and establish partnerships and
	priorities

Recommended	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary and
Strategic Initiative	Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and Urban
Number 5	School Initiatives with Partners.
	 Continue professional development opportunities for
	university faculty to help them understand how their
	research and work within the university setting can
	benefit and assist P-12 education
I. Expected	a-More collaboration
Outcomes	b-Better understanding of each other's roles and how we impact P-12
	faculty, administrators, and programs
II. Enabling	a-Professional development activities need to be provided
Conditions	b-Faculty must be encouraged to participate
	c-External funding
III. To Be	Provosts, academic deans
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	How many faculty attend and then pursue research activities with P-12
Success:	schools
Accountability	
V. Timeline	Ongoing

Recommended Strategic Initiative	Enhance Working Relationships with Two-year Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges.
Strategic Initiative	,
Number 6	Provide direct feedback to community colleges
	concerning the performance of their students
	Share course and program expectations with community
	colleges
I. Expected	a-Better information on performance expectations for transfer students
Outcomes	b-Better prepared transfer students
II. Enabling	a-Better data collection on each campus to allow for the easy
Condition	identification of transfer students and their performance characteristics
	b-More information on web sites about program and course
	expectations on campuses
III. To Be	Registrars and program faculty
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	a-Accuracy of the information
Success:	b-Better cooperation across campuses
Accountability	c-Better success rates among transfer students
V. Timeline	Ongoing

Recommended	Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to P-
Strategic Initiative	12 Institutions:
Number 7	Identify and publicize all current, available distance
	education opportunities for students and educators
I. Expected	a-Show public and legislature the scope of our offerings and
Outcomes	opportunities we provide people in Alabama
	b-Better inform P-12 educators and students about what is available
	from UA System campuses
II. Enabling	a-Better collection of data on all offerings
Conditions	b-Ability to disseminate information accurately and quickly to P-12
	educators
III. To Be	Continuing education on the 3 campuses
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	a-Increased recognition for our outreach efforts
Success:	b-Increased enrollment in distance education courses and programs
Accountability	
V. Timeline	Ongoing

Recommended	Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to P-
Strategic Initiative	12 Institutions:
Number 8	Decide the role the University System campuses wish to
	play in the offering of distance education courses for dual
	enrollment and dual credit to AP high school students in
	the State
I. Expected	a-Provide opportunities to poor and rural schools
Outcomes	b-Enable each campus to dual enroll outstanding high school students
	who can be recruited to our campuses
II. Enabling	Each campus must determine:
Condition	a-if it is academically appropriate and part of our mission to offer dual
	enrollment in distance education courses
	b-what it can offer and who will provide the courses
III. To Be	Provosts and academic deans on each campus
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	Recruitment of more Alabama high school students who can do
Success:	college level work
Accountability	
V. Timeline	Once established, ongoing

Recommended	Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to P-
Strategic Initiative	12 faculty and administrators:
Number 9	Encourage more faculty to develop courses and programs
	that take advantage of technology enhanced instruction
I. Expected	a-More graduate students enrolled in our courses and programs
Outcomes	b-Closer links to Alabama communities where courses are offered
II. Enabling	a-Incentives to develop technologically based courses
Condition	b-Technical support for faculty who need assistance developing
	courses
III. To Be	Academic affairs office on each campus
Implemented By	
IV. Measures of	Increase in the number of technology based courses offered and
Success:	student enrollment
Accountability	
V. Timeline	Ongoing process

Reco	ommended	Ensure the Delivery of Effective Teacher and Administrator
Stra	tegic Initiative	Preparation Programs:
Num	nber 10	Maintain and continue to support high admission
		standards for all teacher and administrator preparation
		programs
I.	Expected	a-Better students enrolled in our programs
	Outcomes	b-Improved academic reputation of all our programs for educators
II.	Enabling	a-System and campus support for raising admission standards
	Condition:	b-Resisting political pressure to lower standards because of projected
		shortages of teachers and administrators
		c-Support for faculty to strengthen the curriculum
III.	To Be	Academic affairs offices on each campus with policies carried out in
	Implemented By	each education program
IV.	Measures of	a-State, regional, and national recognition of our programs
	Success:	b-Better, more qualified students in our teacher and administrator
	Accountability	preparation programs
		c-Higher levels of success among teachers and administrators who
		graduate from our programs.
V.	Timeline	Ongoing

Recommended	Ensure the Delivery of Effective Teacher and Administrator
Strategic Initiative	Preparation Programs:
Number 11	 Provide in-service opportunities for teachers and
	administrators
	Provide linkages to university faculty in the areas of
	education, business and law
I. Expected	a-Closer relationships with P-12 administrators and the State
Outcome	Department of Education
	b-Better communication and connections with public school
	administrators and faculty
	c-Requested technical assistance made available to P-12 educators and
	administrators
II. Enabling	a-Identify needs of school administrators
Conditions	b-Support business, law and education faculty in the development of
	workshops for P-12 teachers and administrators
	c-Provide a process to link faculty to the schools
	d-Funding and release time for participating faculty
III. To Be	a-Interested faculty and programs
Implemented By	b-Alabama Regional Inservice Centers
IV. Measures of	a-Positive feedback from teachers and administrators attending
Success:	sessions offered
Accountability	b-Assessments of teachers and administrators on knowledge learned
	with follow-up evaluations of their performance
V. Timeline	On-going 2