Preface

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 determine 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 Academic Programs among UA System Institutions"

(Revised January 3, 2001)

	mmended egic Initiative ber 1	Evaluate all proposed new academic degree programs for collaboration
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Each new undergraduate and graduate program proposal will be provided to reviewed by 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	a-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 Description of planned collaboration in NISPs or evidence that programs have been reviewed by campuses, but decided not to participate (Not a measure of success)
		a-Successful start up of a new program.
		b-Incorporate results of evaluation into proposal submitted to the Board of Trustees
V.	Time Line	a Process to begin in 2001 TBA

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 2		Encourage intra-campus and intercampus faculty participation in dissertation committees and similar activities when it is in the best interest of the students and departments can afford to spare the faculty time.
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Increased opportunities for faculty to participate in disciplinary activities system-wide
		b-Increased breadth of expertise of thesis and dissertation committees
II.	Enabling Condition(s)	a Appoint faculty from other campuses to graduate faculty or honor appointments at other campuses
		a-Utilize existing procedures for graduate faculty appointments.
		b-Identify and publicize opportunities for participation on dissertation committees
		e-b-Provide lists of interested faculty and their research focus
III.	To be Implemented by	a-Graduate deans and program directors
IV.	Measures of success: Accountability	a Notification of graduate program directors of the opportunity to participate in thesis and dissertation committees on other UAS campuses
		b a-Posting of graduate faculty and their areas of interest on university websites
		c-Increased numbers of faculty from different campuses appointed to thesis and dissertation committees.
		d b-Annual report of intra-and inter-campus interdisciplinary participation by graduate deans
V.	Timeline	a Notification of graduate program directors: January 2001
		b-Posting of graduate faculty interest and expertise: June 2001 e-Increased participation: evident by June 2002
		TBA

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 3	Determine which campus-unique degree programs could be delivered to other UAS campuses.
I. Expected Outcome(s)	a-Increased access to campus unique programs Reviews of existing programs initiated by program faculty to determine the feasibility of offering a quality degree program to another campus.
II. Enabling	a-Catalog deliverable unique programs
Condition(s)	b-Provide academically appropriate, convenient, and cost-effective mechanisms for program delivery
	e-Identify student interest on other campuses
	a- In the regular cycle of program reviews, each program will evaluate the feasibility of delivering that program to other campuses.
III. To be Implemented by	a-Initiated by the program faculty with the support, cooperation, and coordination of the Provosts and relevant deans and (department chairs)
	Provosts and Deans
IV. Measures of success:	a-Identification of appropriate programs at each campus <i>that the campus of origin wants to deliver</i> .
Accountability	b-Determination of appropriate methods of program delivery
	c-Circulation of lists of suitable programs to other campuses for review <u>Deleted</u> . Item a was determined to be sufficient.
	d-Assessed need for distance delivery of programs
	e-Updated inventory of distance learning courses and programs reported on UAS web site
	a-Completed reviews of existing programs
V. Timeline	a-Review of programs and assessment of suitable delivery methods on each campus: Beginning January 2001
	Jan. 2001 date not possible. b a-Distribution of lists: Upon completion of reviews of programs

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 4		Explore and define opportunities for collaboration in research as well as in cooperative and shared academic programs Explore and define opportunities for collaboration in research. This item was to be a strategy for sharing research opportunities through workshops that would provide grater awareness of ongoing activities at the there campuses; the substance of the committee discussion was research only. The addition of "cooperative and shared academic programs" was not a part of the committee discussion and the task force requested its deletion.
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Opportunities for collaboration in current research programs b-Collaboration is recommended when beneficial to each of the participating institutions
II.	Enabling Condition(s)	a-Hold topical workshops sponsored by UAS with nominations of topics by faculty, department chairs, and deans
III.	To be Implemented by	a-Initiated by the program faculty with support, cooperation, and collaboration of the Provosts and relevant deans and department chairs
IV.	Measures of success: Accountability	a-Development and distribution of a request for workshop proposals b-Produce an annual report of activities
V.	Timeline	a-Call for proposals b-Review and scheduling of workshops c-Completion of workshops and reports d-Assessment of program success

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 5		Each campus should develop initiatives for distributed learning that is consistent with that campus' mission.
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Increased availability of courses through distributed learning methodologies
		b-Development of catalog and benchmarks for technology delivered courses
II.	Enabling Condition(s)	a-Hold system-wide conferences for faculty and administrators to discuss technical and policy issues and to share experience and knowledge
		b-Facilitate and streamline the process for submitting courses to SREB
		c-Improve marketing of distance learning courses
III.	To be Implemented by	a-Program committee of faculty, technical representatives, administrators, and SREB representatives from each campus, with System Office providing logistical support
IV.	Measures of Success: Accountability	a-Establishment of a system-wide conference schedule and conference agendas
	recountability	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	a Development of conference schedule and agenda
		b-Development of proposal to streamline submissionc-Increased listing on the SREB electronic campus
		d-Increased enrollment in distance education
		e-Annual report of distributed learning programs and activities done collaboratively
		TBA

Recommended Strategic Initiative Number 6		Overcome any articulation (transfer and transfer of credit) problems that might interfere with student success Improve administrative processes (transfer, transfer of credit) to facilitate student success
I.	Expected Outcome(s)	a-Ability of students to take courses at other System institutions "within the policies of each campus." a-Increased efficiency in processing of applications for admission of students and transfer of credit
II.	Enabling Condition(s)	b-Encrypted electronic transfer of transcripts a-Provide to the extent appropriate and feasible, compatible academic calendars and web-based class schedules b-Ensure that encryption scheme is compatible with technology on campuses
III.	To be Implemented by	a-Provosts and registrars
IV.	Measures of success: Accountability	a-Accessible class schedules system-wide b-Improved satisfaction of students taking courses on another campus e-b-Reduction in request for paper transcripts c-Reduction Increased efficiency in processing time for requests to transfer to or enroll at other campuses
V.	Timeline	a-Annual review of experiences during previous year process

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

The University of Alabama System

Strategic Planning Initiatives Task Force #3

"Improving the Overall State of Teaching and Learning in Alabama – P-16" (Revised January 3, 2001)

Recommended Strategic	Develop a central system to coordinate and p Provide
Initiative Number 1	information about what is happening at the 3 campuses so
	we have an accurate up-to-date list of on activities and
	service ventures involving P-16 education
I. Expected	a-Provide information for public relations use
Outcome	b-Provide data on the contributions all 3 campuses make to
	Alabama and P-16 education
II. Enabling	a-Institutions collect and maintain current provide
Condition	information about collaboration and services to P-12
	(Institutions already doing this)
	b-Some office needs to collect and organize the information
III. To Be	a-Initiated by The System Academic Affairs Office
Implemented By	
Implemented By IV. Measures of	a-Targeted and frequent press releases
IV. Measures of	a-Targeted and frequent press releases b-More information to support our political agenda
IV. Measures of Success:	

() in each item III designates individual or group primarily responsible for the activity.

Recommended Strategic	Serve as a coordinating resource to help identify for
Initiative Number 2	Provide information when available to P-12 education
	about potential sources of funding from foundations and
	other business-related enterprises interested in supporting
	the public schools and higher education
I. Expected	a-More funding opportunities for P-12 schools. Closer c
Outcome	Collaboration across P-16 in seeking external funds for
	mutual benefits
II. Enabling	a-Institutions centralize Organize and disseminate
Condition	information on foundations and businesses interested in
	supporting P-12 education and collaboration across P-12 and
	higher education
	b-Identify contacts at Provide information or access to a
	web site to the State Department of Education and each
	school district interested in funding opportunities
III. To Be	a-Development and research offices on each campus
Implemented By	b-System Office
IV. Measures of	a-More joint projects across P-16 and increased funding to
Success:	support P-16 initiatives from more government sources
Accountability	
V. Timeline	a-Discuss process and try to identify contact people during
	2000-2001 school year Ongoing activity

Recommended Strategic	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary and
Initiative Number 3	
Initiative runner 3	Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and Urban
	School Initiatives with Partners. Participate in the
	Enhancement of K-12 Teacher Assessment Data:
	Continue reward structures that recognize and encourage
	greater faculty involvement with P-12 enhancement
	initiatives
I. Expected	a-Increased awareness among university faculty about P-12
Outcome	issues
	b-More faculty from across the university involved in the
	elementary and secondary schools
II. Enabling	a-Funding to support release time for faculty to work with
Condition	public schools
	b -Include and count activities with schools as part of faculty
	workload
	b-Reward involvement with merit pay, when appropriate
	c-Make clear statements about how administrators view
	university collaboration with P-12 as important
III. To Be	a-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
	b Policies rewritten to support this involvement
V. Timeline	a-Ongoing process

Recommended	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary and
Strategic Initiative	Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and Urban School
Number 4	Initiatives with Partners. Participate in the Enhancement of K-
	12 Teacher Assessment Data:
	Identify and implement models that have viability to increase
	university and P-12 partnerships with a focus on State
	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-Seek f Funding to support faculty participation during the
	summer months with Statewide initiatives
III. To Be	a-Provosts and other academic officers at campuses
Implemented	
Ву	
IV. Measures of	a-Establishment of formal partnerships
Success:	b-State, regional, and national recognition of partnership
Accountability	activities
V. Timeline	a-One to three years to set agenda and establish partnerships and
	priorities

Recommended	
Recommended	Expand and Enhance Partnerships with Elementary and
Strategic Initiative	Secondary Schools and Develop Rural School and Urban School
Number 5	Initiatives with Partners. Participate in the Enhancement of K-
	12 Teacher Assessment Data:
	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
	c-Use of high school feed-back reports and discussions between
	university and high school faculty and administrators to enhance
	student success in college
II. Enabling	a-Professional development activities need to be provided
Conditions	b-Faculty must be encouraged to participate
III. To Be	a-Provosts, academic deans
Implemented	
Ву	
IV. Measures of	a-How many faculty attend and then pursue research activities
Success:	with P-12 schools
Accountability	

V. Timeline	a-Ongoing with annual reports

Recommended	Expand and Enhance Partnerships and Clarify and Enhance				
Strategic Initiative	Working Relationships with Two-year Community, Junior, and				
Number 6	Technical Colleges. Develop Improved Ways of Measuring the				
	Effectiveness of Two- and Four-year Colleges:				
	Enhance Provide direct feedback to community colleges				
	concerning the performance of their students				
	• Share more information concerning syllabi and course and				
	program expectations at our 3 campuses with those				
	community colleges providing the greatest proportion of our				
	transfer students				
I. Expected	a-More realistic expectations of professional requirements at the				
Outcomes	3 campuses				
	ab-Better information on performance expectations what is				
	working effectively for transfer students and areas we need to				
	modify or improve				
	e-More consistent objectives and requirements for similar				
	courses taught at all campuses				
	b d-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 our campus			
III.	To Be	a-Registrars and (campus arts and sciences colleges) program			
	Implemented	faculty			
	Ву				
IV.	Measures of	a-Accuracy of the information feedback and its usefulness to			
	Success:	community colleges			
Accountability		b-Better cooperation and improved relationships across			
		campuses			
		c-Better success rates among transfer students			
V.	Timeline	a-As soon as protocols can be established to identify students			
		and data sets			
		b-Ongoing			

Recommended	Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to K-12	
Strategic Initiative	Institutions:	
Number 7	Identify and publicize all current, available distance education opportunities for students, both P-12 and higher education	
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	a-Continuing education heads on the 3 campuses	
Implemented	a continuing education nears on the 3 campases	
Ву		
IV. Measures of	a-Increased recognition for our outreach efforts	
Success:	b-Increased enrollment in distance education courses and	
Accountability	programs	
V. Timeline	a-Ongoing with annual feedback and evaluation	

Recommended	Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to K-12
Strategic Initiative	Institutions:
Number 8	Decide the how big a role the University System campuses wish to play in the offering of courses for dual enrollment and dual credit to 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 a-Each campus must determine:	
Condition	a-if it is academically appropriate to offer dual enrollment
	classes b-what it can offer for dual enrollment and who will
	provide the courses
III. To Be	a-Provosts and continuing education programs academic deans
Implemented	on each campus
By	
IV. Measures of	a-Enrollments in courses offered
Success: Accountability	b-Recruitment of more and better graduating Alabama high school students who can do college level work
V. Timeline	a-Once established, ongoing

Assist in Providing Distance Education Opportunities to K-12
Institutions:
Encourage more faculty to develop courses and programs
that take advantage of technology enhanced instruction via
HTS, web courses, particularly courses that may be of
interest to educators and community college faculty
throughout the State
a-More graduate students enrolled in our courses and programs
b-Closer links to Alabama communities where courses are
offered
a-Incentives to develop HTS technologically based courses
b-More sites to broadcast courses on each campus-Technical
support for faculty who need assistance developing courses
a-Academic affairs office on each campus
a-Increase in the number of technology based courses offered
and increased student enrollment
a-Ongoing process

Reco	Recommended Ensure the Delivery of Effective Teacher and Administrator	
Strategic Initiative		Preparation Programs:
Number 10		Maintain and continue to support high admission standards
		for all teacher and administrator preparation programs
I.	Expected	a-Recognition of our programs as the best in the State. Better
	Outcomes	students enrolled in our programs
		b-Improved academic reputation of all our campuses 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
		c-Support for faculty to strengthen the curriculum
III.	To Be	a-(System Office of Academic Affairs) and a Academic affairs
	Implemented	offices on each campus with policies carried out in each
	Ву	education program
IV.	Measures of	a-State, regional, and national recognition of our programs
	Success:	b-Better, more qualified students in our education teacher and
	Accountability	administrator preparation programs
V.	Timeline	a-Ongoing

Recommended	Ensure the Delivery of Effective Teacher and Administrator			
Strategic Initiative	Preparation Programs:			
Number 11	Provide in-service opportunities for administrators,			
	addressing performance accountability and financial			
	accountability standards			
	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 across with public			
	school administrators and faculty			
	c-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 administrators			
	c-Provide a process to link business and law faculty to the			
	schools			
III. To Be	a-Interested business, education, and law faculty and programs			
Implemented	b-Needs assessments coordinated by t The in-service centers			

	Ву	
IV.	Measures of	a-Feedback from administrators attending the sessions offered
	Success: Accountability	b-More connections to schools and a reduction in legal problems and financial problems in P-12 schools/districts
V.	Timeline	On-going needs assessment conducted beginning 2000-2001 academic year

RESPONSIBILITY AND TIMELINE MATRIX (SUMMARY)

UA System Strategic Initiative	Responsible	Time-line
Academic Collaboration:		
Evaluate all new academic degree program	Department Heads	Beginning
proposals for inter-institutional collaboration		2001
2. Encourage intra- and inter-campus faculty	Graduate program	Beginning
participation in dissertation committees and	directors	2001 and
similar activities		ongoing
3. Determine which campus-unique programs	Department Heads	Beginning
could and should be delivered to another UAS		January 2001
campus		
4. Explore and define opportunities for	Department Heads	Ongoing
collaboration in research, cooperative, and		
shared programs		
5. Develop initiatives for distributed learning	Provosts and	Annual report
offered via technology	Distance Education	of progress
	heads	
6. Overcome any articulation problems that	Provosts	Annual review
might interfere with student success		of experiences
7. Explore opportunities for inter-campus	Deans	2001 and

	annual reports
Vice Chancellor for	Continuous
Information	with annual
Technology and	reports in June
GCG Working Group	
Vice Chancellor for	Continuous
Information	with annual
Technology	reviews
Appropriate	July 2001 and
administrators at the	annual review
campus level	of progress
	Information Technology and GCG Working Group Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Appropriate administrators at the

Improving the Overall State of Teaching		
and Learning in Alabama – P-16:		
1. Develop and maintain an up-to-date	Vice Chancellor for	Ongoing with
record of Provide information on	Academic Affairs	semi-annual
activities and services involving our		reports
campuses, P-12, and/or two-year colleges		
2. Coordinate information on potential	Development officers on	Beginning
foundation and business sources for funding	campuses	2001
P-12 programs		
3. Expand and enhance partnerships with	Chancellor and	Ongoing
P-12 rural and urban schools by continuing	presidents	
to recognize and encourage greater		
university faculty and staff participation		
4. With P-12, focus on state priorities, such	Provosts	Within three
as reading, mathematics, science, and		years Ongoing
technology		
5. Continue professional development	Provosts	Ongoing with
opportunities for university faculty to		annual reports
enable better understand how their		of progress
research & service activities to can benefit		
P-12		

6a. Provide "feedback" information to	Registrars	Ongoing
community colleges on the performance of		annually
their transfer students		
6. Share syllabi and course and program	Colleges of Arts and	Ongoing with
expectations with CC faculty and	Sciences Registrars and	reports of
administrators	appropriate program	experiences
	faculty	
7. Identify and publicize existing distance	Continuing education	Ongoing with
education opportunities for P-12 and	heads	annual
university students		evaluation
8. Evaluate our role in providing dual	Provosts	Once
credit courses for high school students		established,
		Ongoing
9. Encourage faculty to develop more	Academic administrators	Ongoing
technology enhanced courses via the Web,		
IITS, etc.		
10. Maintain and continue to support high	Deans of Education with	Ongoing
admission standards for teacher and	support from provosts	
administrator programs	and VCAA presidents	
11. Provide in-service programs for P-12	Colleges of Education,	Ongoing
administrators to develop skills related to	Law, and Business	

academic performance and financial	Interested faculty and
accountability and provide linkages to	programs, in-service
university faculty in the areas of education,	centers
business administration and law	

NOTE: Standard reporting date of June 1st of each year... progress reports to Board of Trustees at its Annual Meeting in September of each year.