

Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

**Spring 2014
April 21-22, 2014**

Meeting Title: Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Deans' Luncheon, Executive Committee Meeting, and General Business Meeting

Time: Noon

Meeting Location:

Auburn University Montgomery
Library Tower 10th Floor
East Room
Montgomery, Alabama

Members or Representatives Present:

INSTITUTION	DEAN or CHAIR
Alabama A & M University	Curtis E. Martin
Alabama State University	Doris Screws
Athens State University	Patricia Sims
Auburn University	
Auburn University Montgomery	Shelia Austin
Birmingham-Southern College	
Concordia College	
Faulkner University	Tammy Brown
Huntingdon College	Celia Rudolph
Jacksonville State University	John Hammett
Judson College	Gwen McCorquodale
Miles College	
Oakwood University	James Mbyirukira
Samford University	
Spring Hill College	Lori Aultman
Stillman College	Linda H. Bradford
Talladega College	Susan Vickerstaff
Troy University	Linda Bradford
Tuskegee University	Carlton Morris
University of Alabama	Peter S. Hlebowitsh
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Deborah Voltz
University of Alabama in Huntsville	Beth Quick
University of Mobile	
University of Montevallo	Anna McEwan
University of North Alabama	Donna Lefort
University of South Alabama	Richard L. Hayes
University of West Alabama	

Meeting Called By: ALACTE Executive Committee

Type of Meeting: Open Forum

Facilitator: Dr. John Hammett

Discussion:

Following Dr. Hammett's welcome to members of the Executive Board and representatives from IHEs to the Deans' Luncheon, he asked the group to comment on issues or concerns, specifically "issues in relation to Alabama State Department of Education regulations." Discussion points expressed related to (1) how graduates of programs were performing in their teaching roles, (2) over regulation of Teacher Education Programs, especially on the five-course rule, (3) transfer of credit hours from IHEs, and (4) the implications of edTPA on IHE.

The major concerns regarding edTPA the group addressed are:

1. Cost factors
2. Grading time consuming
3. Will it become licensure requirement?
4. What does it offer that we can't do?

Action Item(s):

As an outcome of the discussion, Dr. Hammett commented that that each member send suggestions to Ann McEwan related to edTPA by mid-June.

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Hammett encouraged members to voice their opinions/concerns/reactions to the issues raised during the luncheon at the close of the general presentation lead by Mr. Nathan Estel, Educational Solutions Manager, representing edTPA.

Meeting Title: Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, General Session for Members of ALACTE

Meeting Date and Time: Monday, April 21, 2014, 2:00-4:30p.m.

Meeting Location:

Auburn University Montgomery
Library Tower 10th Floor
East Room
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: 27 of the 27 Institutions Participating

Meeting Called By: ALACTE Executive Committee

Type of Meeting: ALACTE Spring 2014 General Session

Facilitator: Dr. John Hammett

Agenda Topics:

Dr. John Hammett, President of ALACTE, welcomed members to the afternoon session. He thanked Dr. Kathy Chandler for providing a “good agenda” for the group, and to Dr. Lynne Mills for her help in organizing the meeting space on the campus of Auburn University Montgomery.

Dr. Hammett introduced three new deans to the group: Dr. Doris Screws, Alabama State University; Dr. Patricia Sims, Athens State University; and, Dr. Susan Vickerstaff, Talladega College.

Dr. Hammett provided an overview of the planned agenda for the day:

1. Presentation by Dr. Jim Cibulka, CAEP Standards and Accreditation Process
2. Clinical Educator Preparation and Partnerships in Alabama by Alabama Alliance
3. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Update
4. Certification Form Updates
5. edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment)

Dr. Hammett introduced the first presenter of the session, Dr. Jim Cibulka, President of Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Dr. Hammett stated that this agenda item continues the discussion of the development of a set of standards and recommendations around

accreditation processes for educator preparation providers. Dr. Cibulka's address to the group (PowerPoint Presentation) is attached to the website and also may be accessed from james.cibulka@caepnet.org

Following the presentation, several members asked questions regarding outcomes, measures, and data systems. A sampling of the questions regarding these issues is listed below.

Question: "Student data is limited in Alabama, how do we address this?"

Response: "CAEP will engage in conversation to work on this issue."

Question: "Will you survey non-members of the Alliance?"

Response: "This is an interesting suggestion that has merit and will ask other states about this possibility."

Question: "Institutions need more clarity on terms, expectations, data sources, etc. I've called the organization 10 times and the response is always 'you're going to get that soon.'"

Response: "We are working on responding in a timely manner."

Dr. Cibulka stated at the end of the question/answer session that CAEP is looking forward to the new vision of an accreditation system "that would elevate educator preparation to the new level of excellence that the public and its policymakers expect."

Dr. Hammett expressed his gratitude to Dr. Cibulka for his informative presentation, and stated that IHE in Alabama want to ensure that "P-12 students are prepared for the demands and challenges of today's global economy."

Dr. Lynne Mills of the CAEP Alabama Alliance recognized Jason Wyngate and Anna Kozlowski as fellow members who participated in a workshop of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation's State Alliance for Clinical Preparation and Partnerships in Louisville, Kentucky. The 11 states in the alliance (Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Oregon) have formed a network to improve the systemic infrastructure supporting high-quality clinical experiences for teacher candidates. The focus of the Alabama Alliance is on field experience/clinical practice. To develop a more formalized organization, the leadership team recommends that planned meetings of the CAEP Alabama Alliance should coincide with ALACTE meetings, and that each institution in the state should appoint at least one member who will be present at each meeting to ensure that information is shared, to identify problems, address goals, and develop solutions. "The goal of the Alabama CAEP State Alliance," stated Jason Wyngate, "is not to be formalized so that we have the same design, but we must develop strong partnerships."

Dr. Debra Williams, Coordinator of Teacher Recruitment and Placement for Alabama State Department of Education, provided an overview of the National Board Certification process.

She stated that to date, 2,242 Alabama teachers have earned National Board Certification. In the state of Alabama, National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) are paid a \$5,000 salary stipend. Scholarships for fee support may be available. For additional information, view an overview of all current scholarships in the [scholarship section](#) of the National Board website.

Ms. Sarah Justiss noted that new certification forms will be updated by May 2014. More information on the process will be provided at a later date.

Dr. Hammett introduced the next speaker for the session, Nathan Estel, Educational Solutions Manager with Pearson. Dr. Hammett noted that the address will inform the group about edTPA, a performance-based assessment process designed by educators to answer the essential question of whether new teachers are ready for the job. Furthermore, edTPA includes a review of a teacher candidate's authentic teaching materials. This serves as a culmination of a teaching and learning process that documents and demonstrates each candidate's ability to effectively teach his/her subject matter to all students. Estel's PowerPoint address was forwarded to the group and is posted on the website. You may also contact him at Nathan.estel@pearson.com.

Following the presentation, the group asked the following questions. The response is provided after the question.

Question: Are there plans to lower the cost so more can enroll?

Response: "No."

Question: What happens to those who repeatedly take the tests and do not pass?

Response: No cap on how many times one can take the test.

Question: Do you have information on decline of enrollment due to edTPA?

Response: No, not "tick for tack" information.

Question: Can you provide use with information on fees due to institutional policy?

Response: Tennessee counts it as a lab fee.

Question: What can edTPA accomplish that I'm not already doing?

Response: edTPA provides nationwide data.

Closing Remarks:

Following the question/answer format, Dr. Hammett thanked the membership, Alabama Alliance Advisory Committee, ALSDE representatives, and the presenters for their attendance and remarks.

Meeting Title: Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, General Session for Members of ALACTE

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 8:30 AM -12:15 PM

Meeting Location:

Auburn University Montgomery
Library Tower 10th Floor
East Room
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present: 27 of the 27 institutions had members present for the meeting

Meeting Called By: ALACTE Executive Committee

Type of Meeting: ALACTE Fall 2014 General Session

Facilitator: Dr. John Hammett

Agenda Topics:

- Superintendent's Update, Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent
- Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT), Mrs. Cathy R. Owens-Oliver, Client Relations Director, ETS
- Alabama/CAEP Partnership Renewal: Overview of the New/Draft Program Review Process, Dr. Anna Kozlowski
- Business Meeting

Dr. John Hammett, President of ALACTE welcomed members and guests to the morning session. He introduced Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education, and extended to him the group's appreciation for his leadership in the state and for his time with the group.

Dr. Bice's address to the group centered on the education budget, graduation rates, and reform measures. Regarding the budget, his message was largely positive, saying he believed the new education budget may be "the best we've seen in years." But he was critical of 159 billion dollars of taxpayers' money being used recklessly. Priorities in the education budget are for pathways for scholarships for teacher candidates and teacher, mentoring programs, and tiered pathways for teacher training.

Bice noted that the "number one thing that shifts poverty is a high school graduate or college graduate in a family." Dr. Bice also said the state has made good progress toward its goal of a 90 percent graduation rate among students by 2020. To reach that goal, Bice said, the graduation rate must increase by two percent each year. Last year, the rate increased three percent. "We think this year it will be significantly more than that, so we feel like we're way ahead," he said.

However, he noted that “clearly the challenges are in middle school.” The largest number of dropouts is at the 9th grade level, but a closer look at where the dropout rate really occurs is at 6th grade. Therefore, the number one priority is to decrease the divisor between middle school and the dropout rate.

He said current reforms in education have done away with the mandated standardized testing that dictated much of the instructional time in the classroom. Instead, schools are trying to foster intellectual curiosity among students and concentrate more on teaching them how to use information, solve problems and work collaboratively. He noted the new assessment system in Alabama will become the first in the nation to implement a suite of K-12 assessments from ACT Inc., the makers of the most commonly used college-entrance exam in the South. Bice said that the test should be used to “inform instruction.” Proposing that the assessments be just one piece of a "balanced" accountability system, Bice said the most effective assessments of students are those created by teachers on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis.

He encouraged teachers to be more innovative in instruction, saying school districts need to come up with programs that will adapt to students' individual needs. He said "Schools have lived in fear of the state department," Bice said. "I've got the keys to the whole building. We do not have this group waiting to come get you if you try something creative." Therefore, he is visiting schools once a month.

A question/answer format followed Dr. Bice's address.

Dr. Anna Kozlowski announced that at the July 11, 2014 meeting two national presenters will provide information regarding Alabama/CAEP Partnership Renewal. She encouraged every institution to send a representative to the meeting.

Dr. Cathy-Owens-Oliver, Client Relations Director, ETS, provided a PowerPoint presentation that is included on the ALACTE website. She announced that the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) cost is \$275.

Dr. Hammett called the Business Meeting to order. He noted that election of new officers for ALACTE will be conducted at the July meeting. He asked for members to contact him for nominations.

Dr. Hammett noted that the minutes of the past meeting had been posted on the website. He asked for motion for approval and the motion carried. The minutes were approved.

The next agenda item was the ALACTE Treasurer's Report. The report was presented by Debra McLafferty representing Dr. Louanne C. Jacobs, treasurer. The report was approved.

Action Item(s):

The summer meeting for ALACTE will be July 21-22, 2014 at Auburn University Montgomery.

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Hammett thanked the membership for their attendance at the meeting. Jason Wyngate made the motion to adjourn. Celia Rudolph seconded. The motion carried.