

Strategic Planning Committee Minutes

May 16, 2022

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Monday, May 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Athens State Ballroom. Present were Dr. Rick Barth; Ms. Toni Carter; Ms. Pam Clark, Recorder; Dr. Joe Delap; Ms. Kim Dunnivant (Jenkins proxy); Dr. Mike Essary; Dr. Keith Ferguson; Ms. Jackie Gooch; Mr. Jeff Guenther; Ms. Belinda Krigel; Mr. Chris Latham; Ms. Sara McAbee; Mr. Mike McCoy; Mr. Jeff Powers; Mr. Derrek Smith; Dr. Timothy Thornton; Mr. Gary Valcana; Dr. Lee Vartanian; Dr. Philip Way; Dr. Catherine Wehlburg; Ms. Jennifer Wolfe; and Dr. Lionel Wright. Mr. Jamie Adams, Mr. Ronnie Chronister, Ms. Barbara Ferguson, Ms. Laura Beth Horn, Ms. Beth Jenkins, Dr. Kim LaFevor, Mr. Benjamin Shepard, Ms. Debra Vaughn, and Ms. Gabrielle Whitney McGraw were absent. Special guests were State Representatives Ms. Terri Collins and Mr. Danny Crawford.

Dr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He introduced State Representatives Ms. Terri Collins and Mr. Danny Crawford.

Dr. Ferguson stated the focus of the meeting was an overview of government relations with Athens State University. Mr. McCoy presented on the state budget, Ms. Collins presented on the Education Policy Committee and Mr. Crawford presented on legislation impacting campus operations. (Handout)

Dr. Ferguson thanked Ms. Collins and Mr. Crawford for coming to speak at the meeting. He asked for any questions from the committee members:

1. Dr. Essary asked if there are any statistics that show that colleges are safer with restrictions on guns on campus?

Ms. Collins – I have not seen any data. I believe people will buy pistol permits in order to cross state lines. I think there should be more (gun safety) training.

Mr. Crawford – I have not seen any data either. We are putting more funding, facilities and education into mental health to help make it safer.

2. There have been a lot of good educational bills passed within the last three years: The literacy act, the numeracy act, and raises in teacher pay. What do you see going on in the future with the upcoming legislation sessions?

Ms. Collins – my workforce bill will be back. We will continue to watch how the literacy and numeracy acts are doing. Funding continues to be an issue.

Mr. Crawford – we have issues that vary from area to area. We have to give incentives for teachers to teach in the Black Belt and other areas. We need to keep our “STEM” teachers in Alabama. We need more stable funding. We have to be prepared and adapt to needs and changing technology. We rely on industry to tell us what our educational needs are and communicate it to the legislature and get it implemented.

Dr. Ferguson thanked everyone for their time and participation. Dr. Way also thanked everyone and asked the members to think about what was heard today and what we can do to strategically respond. He stated we will have further discussions. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Pamela D. Clark

Handout: Informative Sheet – House and Senate Bills and Maps



ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY



Strategic Planning Committee | May 16, 2022



Overview of Government Relations

Purpose: Advocate for the University as it relates to funding and other legislation that impacts Higher Education

Office: 125 South Ripley Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Participants: **Athens State University:**
Keith Ferguson, Dr. Way, Mike McCoy

Christie Strategy Group:
Maeci Walker, Martin Christie

Higher Education Partnership

Dr. Lee Vartanian
President Elect, Alabama Association of
Colleges for Teacher Education (ALACTE)



State Legislature



35

State Senators

105

State Representatives

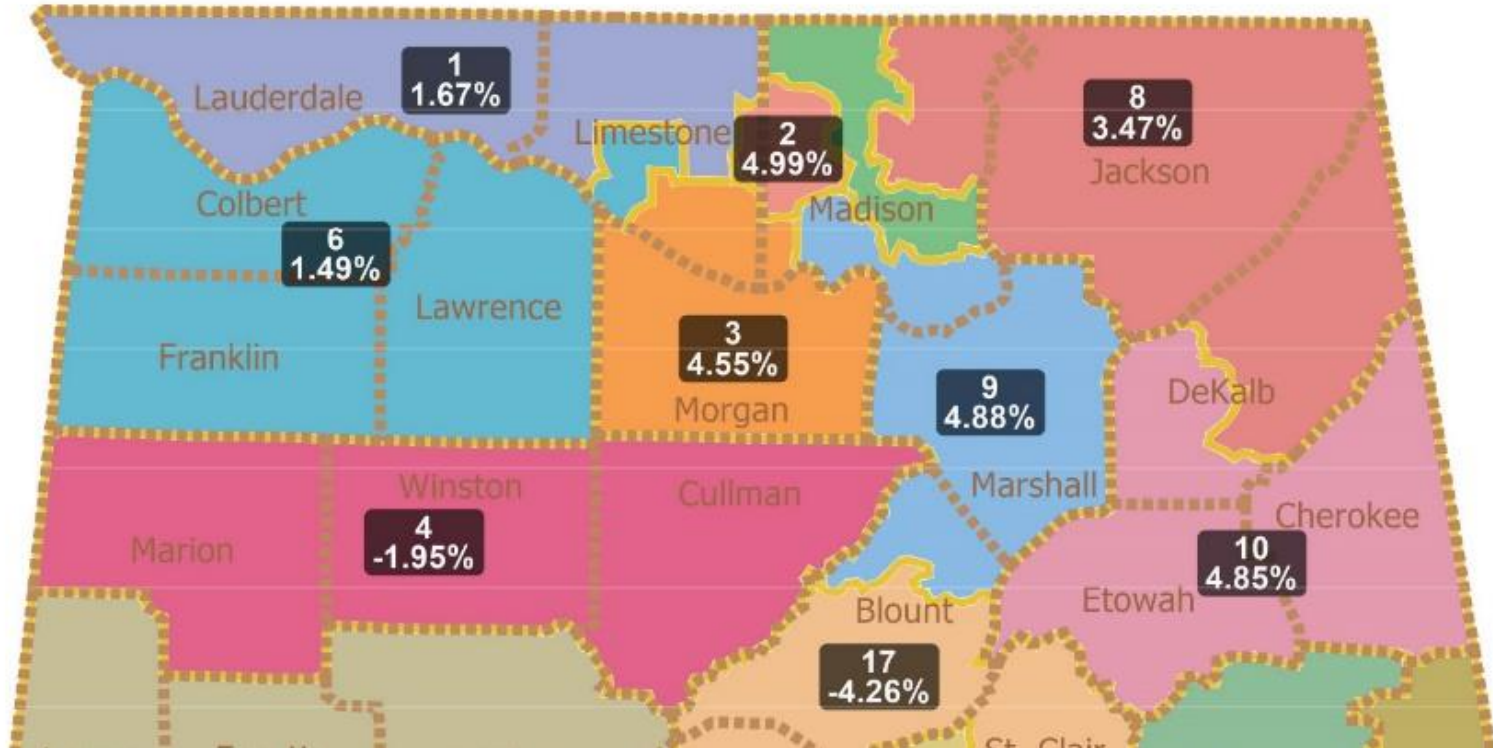
Serve **4-year Terms** (Quadrennium)

AUDEMUS JURA NOSTRA DEFENDERE

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE



Limestone County Legislative Delegation



Senate:

**Tom Butler (2), Tim Melson (1),
Arthur Orr (3), Larry Stutts (6)**



Limestone County Legislative Delegation



House:

**Danny Crawford (5), Lynn Greer (2),
Speaker Mac McCutcheon (25),
Parker Moore (4), Andy Whitt (6)**



Legislative Process

- **Introduction of Bills**
- **Committee Process**
- **Floor Votes**
- **Governor Signing**

An aerial photograph of a university campus, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter and a cracked paper texture. The campus features several large, multi-story brick buildings with classical architectural elements like columns and domes. There are numerous parking lots, green spaces, and trees scattered throughout the scene. The overall tone is professional and academic.

State Budget

Mike McCoy



Two State Budgets

General Fund:

\$2.7 Billion

Education Trust Fund (ETF):

\$8.3 Billion

(+\$627 Million)

Largest Ever



Operations & Maintenance and Line Item Funding

HB 135

House Bill 135 relates to state appropriations from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Total Appropriation:

\$19,444,951

Represents an increase in total funding and in operations and maintenance dollars.

- Includes an increase in our **collaboration program with the community college system**, additional funding for the **Alabama Center for the Arts**, and for a new **Center for Excellence in Education Diversity**.
- The University also receives **\$350,000** in funding from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) for the **Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers (Men of Kennis)** program.



Supplemental Funding

HB 138

House Bill 138 relates to supplemental appropriations from the legislature that are paid in the current fiscal year and are required to be spent by September 30, 2023.

Total Appropriation:

\$525,000

- **\$250,000** for one-time expenses for a Cyber Lab on campus
- **\$200,000** for one-time expenses for the Center for Excellence in Education Diversity
- **\$75,000** for one-time expenses for the Alabama Center for the Arts



Advancement & Technology Funding

HB 267

House Bill 267 is appropriations from the Advancement & Technology fund that are made based on transfers to the fund in years which revenues exceed certain thresholds.

The distribution is formula-based, and Athens State will receive **\$1,013,483 from this appropriation.**

These funds can be used for technology, capital improvements, repairs and maintenance, and school security.

An aerial photograph of a university campus, overlaid with a blue tint and a cracked paper effect. The central focus is a large, multi-story building with a prominent portico and columns. Other buildings of varying sizes are scattered throughout the campus, surrounded by trees and parking lots. The overall scene is a typical university setting.

Education Policy

State Representative Terri Collins



HB 307

House Bill 307 states that third-party providers will be able to offer alternative certification courses in the State of Alabama.

SB 171

Senate Bill 171 is better known as the “Alabama Numeracy Act.”

An aerial photograph of a university campus, overlaid with a blue tint and a cracked, paper-like texture. The central focus is a large, multi-story building with a prominent portico supported by columns. Other buildings, parking lots, and green spaces are visible around it.

Legislation Impacting Campus Operations

State Representative Danny Crawford



Legislation Impacting Campus Operations

HB 272

House Bill 272 relates to the ability of Alabama residents to carry a concealed pistol without a permit.

SB 147

Senate Bill 147 relates to permitting governmental bodies to hold meetings virtually.

SB 293

Senate Bill 293 proposed an Alabama Education Lottery and Gambling Commission.

A close-up photograph of a white classical column capital, showing the intricate details of the fluted top. The column is set against a blurred background of other similar columns. In the upper left corner, there is a vertical strip of bright, out-of-focus yellow lights. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in a bold, dark blue font across the center of the image.

Questions?



Education Policy

HB 307: **House Bill 307** modifies “policies relative to the certification of teachers to permit an expanded alternative certification program for prospective teachers.” We were able to work with Dr. Lee Vartanian, Dean of the College of Education and President Elect of the Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (ALACTE) to ensure that the legislation would not place Alabama Colleges of Education at a disadvantage. Third-party providers will be able to offer alternative certification courses in the State of Alabama. **The bill became law on April 5, 2022.**

SB 171: Better known as the Alabama Numeracy Act, **Senate Bill 171** is aimed at improving “mathematics proficiency of public school K-5 grade students and ensure that those students are proficient in mathematics at or above grade level by the end of the fifth grade by monitoring the progression of each student from one grade to another, in part, by his or her proficiency in mathematics.” The bill has some implications for both the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) as well as for state Colleges of Education. **The bill was signed by Governor Ivey on April 5, 2022.**



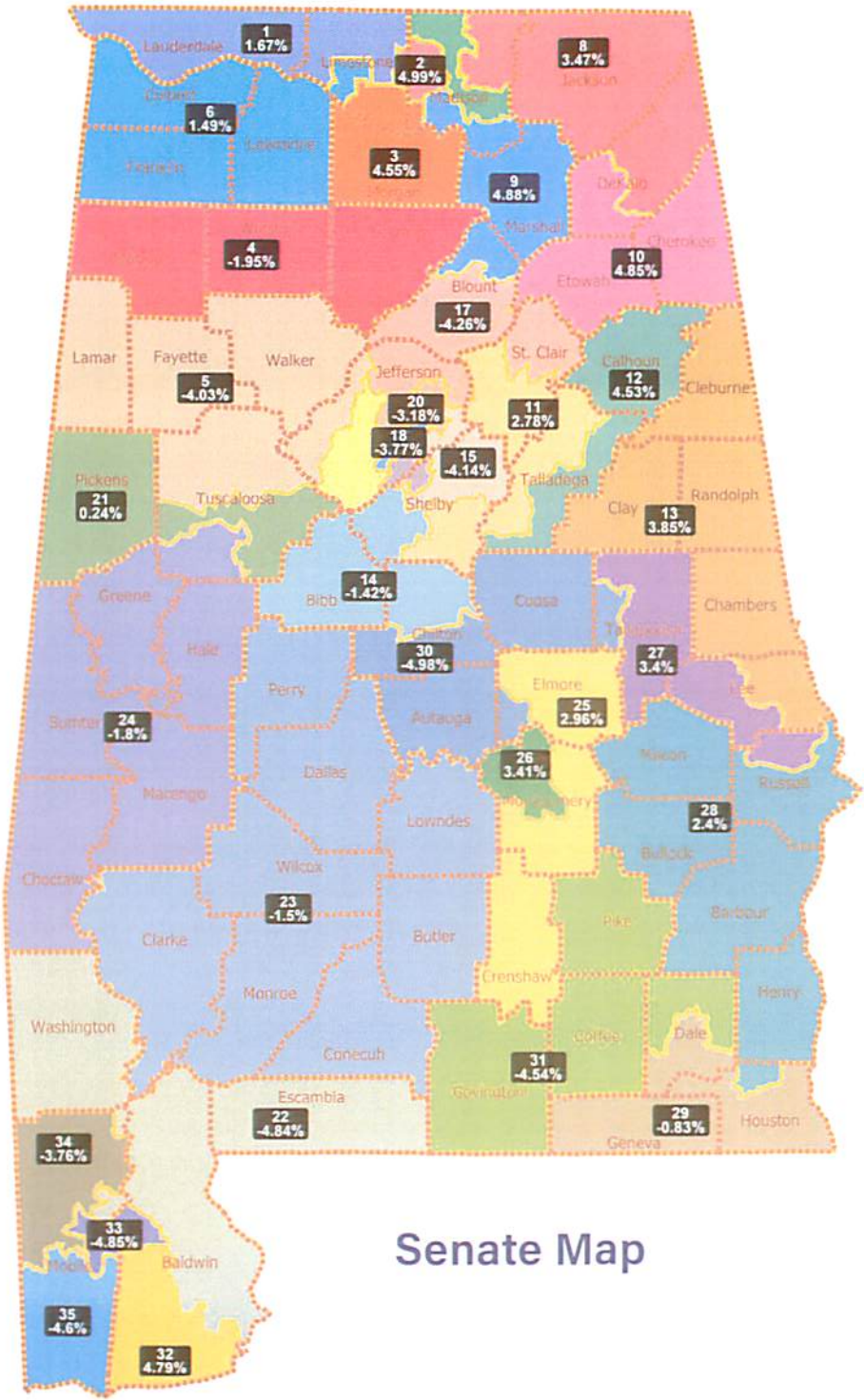
Legislation Impacting Campus Operations

HB 272: **House Bill 272** relating to the ability of Alabama residents to carry a concealed pistol without a permit passed both the House and the Senate and **was signed into law on March 10, 2022.** Nonetheless, the rights of higher education institutions to restrict the presence of weapons on campuses was not impacted by this legislation.

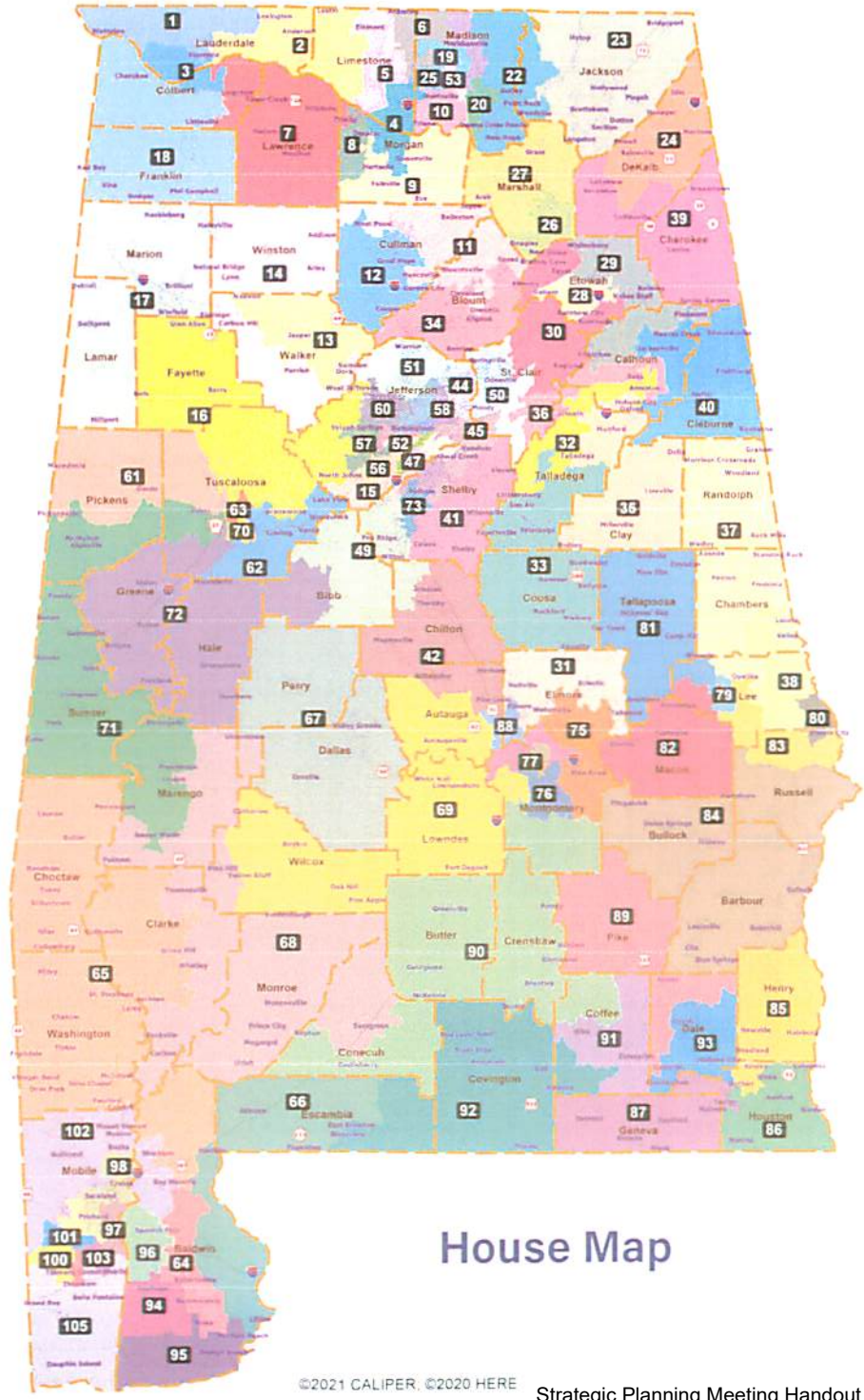
SB 147: **Senate Bill 147** relates to “meetings of governmental bodies by electronic means, to further provide for the participation by members of a governmental body at a meeting held by electronic means; to provide further for public participation at a meeting held by electronic means.” **Signed into law on April 14, 2022,** the act defines governmental bodies as follows:

GOVERNMENTAL BODY. All boards, bodies, and commissions of the executive and legislative departments of the state or its political subdivisions or municipalities which expend or appropriate public funds; all multimember governing bodies of departments, agencies, institutions, and instrumentalities of the executive and legislative departments of the state or its political subdivisions or municipalities, including, without limitation, all corporations and other instrumentalities whose governing boards are comprised of a majority of members who are appointed or elected by the state or its political subdivisions, counties, or municipalities; all quasi-judicial bodies of the executive and legislative departments of the state; and all standing, special, or advisory committees or subcommittees of, or appointed by, the body.

SB 293: Introduced late in the legislative session, **Senate Bill 293** was a proposed constitutional amendment that would establish an Alabama Education Lottery and Gambling Commission. **The bill did not progress.**



Senate Map



House Map