



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Bob Riley  
Governor  
**October 15, 2009**

**Dr. Ed Roach, Chair  
AGSC Research Sub-Committee  
Executive Vice Chancellor and  
Provost  
Troy University  
216 Adams Administration Building  
Troy, AL 36082**

Dear Dr. Roach:

Thank you for your memorandum and request of September 1 on behalf of the AGSC and AGSC Research Sub-Committee to continue the research in support of Recommendation #12 of the Crump Report (2002), "to conduct a carefully designed study to evaluate the success of community college students who transfer to state universities."

The data released in Stage One of the AGSC Project was based on one cohort of transfer students with regard to baccalaureate completions, time to degree, and GPA; however, it did not include an analysis to determine whether or not the findings were statistically significant. Therefore, the work to date should be considered preliminary. We have discussed internally the Sub-Committee request to extend the research over two more cohort groups and have determined that at the present time this would be difficult for us. In addition to the continuation of services by the Director of Research Services (Diane Sherman), implementation of this research component would require additional services of the Director of Technology Services.

We would like to propose that before moving on to Stage Two of the AGSC Project a statistical analysis of the preliminary findings be conducted by a member of the STARS staff or graduate student in collaboration with ACHE staff. ACHE has SPSS software to do statistical analysis, but not the staff resources. In this way the AGSC Project could move forward until such time as we can assign the collection of additional data to our technology services staff. One requirement is that the work would need to be done on site in Montgomery given FERPA guidelines (federal privacy laws). There is no agency mechanism in place for releasing data to an external agent or consultant. In addition to determining the statistical significance of the current data, we recommend as well that the assigned staff:

1. Determine the scope of the AGSC Project. The language of the Crump recommendation is inclusive of all community college transfer students, not just transfer students moving through the STARS process. There is no process for the differentiation of STARS transfer students in the ACHE data base.
2. Determine whether or not the research is duplicative of other state initiatives. ACHE is in continual collaboration with the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education on the transfer component of the CAPP

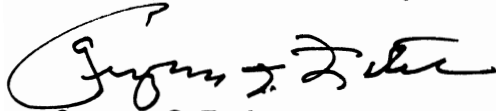
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report which is inclusive of community college transfer students. Could this work be utilized or expanded to satisfy the intent of the Crump recommendation?

3. Determine whether or not achieving the intent of Crump recommendation will require the expertise and objectivity of an external consultant.

It is our intention to continue to support the efforts of AGSC in any way we can. Let us know if the option proposed has merit or if you and your committee would like to consider/discuss other options.

Sincerely,



Gregory G. Fitch  
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Dan Osborne, AGSC Chair  
Dr. Joe Morris  
Ms. Diane Sherman  
Dr. Charles Nash  
Dr. Kandis Steele  
Dr. Elizabeth French