

ALAIR

Alabama Association for Institutional Research

NEWSLETTER

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ALAIR TODAY

The inaugural meeting of ALAIR last September 23 was an overwhelming success. Eighty-seven of you good Alabama IR folks came out and paid your money to see the show and enjoy the luncheon. Accolades are due Kay Staub, Gerry Leischuck and the ad hoc Steering Committee for arranging the program and Debbie Brewton for the great job on local arrangements. With such an auspicious beginning we are sure to prosper and grow with due rewards in professional and collegial development.

Many of you responded to Al Yeager's survey of interests last summer. While he presented a summary of his responses to-date at the meeting he did not yet have the complete returns. There are no real changes, however, with the full returns.

Approximately seventy percent of the respondents wanted an annual, one-day "drive-in" meeting. There was a slight preference for meeting in a central location. The topics receiving most interest were student outcomes measures, student retention/attrition, and microcomputer applications. Next most popular were program review and enrollment management. The most important function perceived by the respondents for ALAIR was for information exchange. This was followed closely by interest in professional development and the annual meeting. There was no strong sentiment for organizing separate topical interest groups. Copies of the full results will be available at the next ALAIR meeting.

SECOND ANNUAL ALAIR MEETING

The next ALAIR meeting, the second annual meeting, is, in fact, scheduled for 21 April 1988 in Montgomery on the Alabama State University campus. The theme for the meeting is "Building and Expanding Institutional Research." Tom McAlpine and the program committee have arranged for an excellent offering.

Cam Fincher, Regents Professor and Director of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia, will be the keynote speaker and address the new SACS criteria in remarks entitled "The Role of Institutional Research in Assessment." This session, beginning at 10:00, will be held in the Tullibody Music Building. There will be two pre-conference workshops beginning at 8:30. Ray Lewiski, Community College of the Air Force, will provide practical advice and experience in the use of PCs for processing survey data. Concurrently, Ed Rutledge, ACHE, will provide useful and valuable advice on the reporting of ACHE and IPEDS data and the subsequent use thereof. Following the luncheon session, replete with prime rib, Ray Lewiski will repeat his workshop for the benefit of those who couldn't make the early session. Concurrently, Freddie Woods, Harriett Calhoun, Bob Lewis and John Porter will share some thoughts and perhaps stimulate some discussion on the topic "Perceptions of the Pragmatics of Institutional Research."

You should receive detailed program and registration material shortly, if you have not already. If you do not receive the registration material give Tom McAlpine (859-7272)

ALAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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a call so he can give the folks at ASU a fairly good headcount for the prime rib. Of course, you can just show up and expect to be welcomed. Let's take advantage of this opportunity for professional development while visiting with colleagues in a pleasant setting.

28th ANNUAL AIR FORUM

The AIR Forum is in Phoenix, AZ this year, May 15-18 with a meeting theme of "Promoting Quality through Leadership." Melodie Crystal and Rich Howard as Forum Chair and Associate Forum Chair respectively, with a lot of good help, have produced an excellent program. There are to be seven concurrent program tracks, all filled with "the right stuff": Enrollment Management; Student Learning and Outcomes; Academic Affairs; Human, Financial and Physical Resources; Planning, Policy Management and Governance; Theory and Practice of Institutional Research; and Technology and Tools for Institutional Research.

There will be a meeting of the ALAIR SIG during lunch on Tuesday, 17 May.

This promises to be a rewarding and enjoyable event...completely in keeping with the heritage of the Forum...hope to see you there.

Registration prior to 15 April is encouraged...to the extent of a \$20.00 discount on registration fees. If you are interested but did not receive registration materials, contact AIR Executive Office, (904) 644-4470.

SAIR/SCUP REGIONAL CONFERENCE, HOUSTON

The call for participation in the annual SAIR/SCUP joint meeting is just out. The meeting is to be in Houston, 12-14 October 1988. Dennis Hengstler and colleagues at the University of Houston are doing a great job on local arrangements. The meeting hotel will be the Hotel Inter-Continental.

In addition to the traditional contributed papers, panel discussions and workshops (pre- and post-conference) a new format, the Breakfast Roundtable will be inaugurated in Houston. The roundtables, at breakfast of course, will provide for a brief presentation followed by small group discussion of a research study or a useful tool or technique for institutional research or planning.

The deadline for responses is 15 June 1988. If you are interested but did not receive the invitation to participate, call Tim Sanford, UNC, (919) 962-3071.

AIR AFFILIATION

President Yeager has recently received word from the Associated Groups Committee of AIR that we have been officially recognized as a state affiliate of AIR. As such, ALAIR joins twenty one other state and regional affiliates of AIR.

FROM THE EDITOR

This Newsletter will be an occasional affair...at least as long as we are doing it on a volunteer, no cost basis. Occasion for publication will be determined by: (1) the pent up demand for news; (2) the availability of materials from the members and officers; (3) editorial time available from the press of other duties. We would appreciate your suggestions on how to make this Newsletter more useful and informative...keep the correspondence coming... address it to:

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