



Alabama Association for Institutional Research

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NEWSLETTER

December 9, 1991

PLANNING & ANALYSIS

Alabama Association for Institutional Research
Sixth Annual Meeting
April 24, 1992
University of South Alabama

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1. ALAIR Conference in Mobile:

The **Sixth Annual ALAIR Conference** will be held April 24, 1991 at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. In addition to the program planning efforts of **Al Searway (JSU)**, **Al Yeager (USA)** is planning some fun filled events such as golfing, yachting, and dancing. It's scheduled for a Friday so if you want to get an early look at the beach and enjoy some great seafood, this is your chance. If you are interested in additional information please contact **Al Searway** at 782-5557.

2. SCUP Outcomes Assessment Conference in Tuscaloosa:

The **SCUP** outcomes assessment conference held annually in Tuscaloosa is planned for January 30 and 31. **ALAIR** is participating in a planning role this year. The topics include Total Quality Management Statistical concepts for quality improvement, assessing classroom teaching, and utilizing program viability information in making selective program reductions. **ALAIR** members scheduled to make presentations include **Ms. Julia Rodgers (Montevallo)** and **Dr. Harriot Calhoun (Jeff State)**. For additional information contact **Dr. Don Crump (UA)** at 348-8335.

3. AIR Forum in Atlanta:

The annual forum of the **Association for Institutional Research** is going to be held this year in Atlanta, May 10-13, 1992. **Dr. Larry Jones**, University of Georgia, is serving as local arrangements chair. Remember Larry spoke at the 1991 **ALAIR** conference and was so pleased with our group that he joined **ALAIR** as a regular member (i.e., sent his \$10 fee). The Atlanta forum will need support from all of us located in the South. Will the Braves be in town? For additional information please contact **Larry Jones** (404) 542-3464.

Displayed below is a chart listing upcoming conferences relevant to institutional research and planning:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
ALAIR	Mobile	April 24, 1992
SCUP Assessment	Tuscaloosa	January 30-31, 1992
AIR	Atlanta	May 10-13, 1992
SCUP(National Conf.)	Minneapolis	August 2-5, 1992
SAIR	Myrtle Beach	October 1992 (Specific Date Unknown)

SAIR IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The **Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR)** held its annual conference in Oklahoma City this past October. The program theme was managing diversity and delivering quality in a challenging environment. **Dr. Lawrence Sherr** of the University of Kansas was the opening keynote speaker. In addition to attending the various workshops, panels, and papers offered at the conference, several members enjoyed a special visit the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Alabamians involved in activities included **Al Searway**, who chaired the committee planning panel sessions and conducted the **ALAIR** meeting at **SAIR**, and **Debbie Dailey** (UAB) who presented two papers. **Debbie** has been elected Treasurer of **SAIR**, and **Hannelore Delbridge** to the Nominating Committee. Congratulations!

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Harriott Calhoun (Jeff State) presented a session on publications and presentations a tools for professional development at the annual fall conference of the **Alabama Association for Women in Education** (formerly the **Alabama Association for Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors**). **Dr. Judy Miller** (ESJC) is Vice President for Programs for this organization.

Sam Lowther (Auburn) made a presentation at the Alabama College Association's Fall Conference held November 25 and 26 at the Wynfrey in Birmingham. He reported on the preliminary results of the two-year to four-year college transfer information request that is being piloted by UAB, UA, Auburn, and Jacksonville State with Jeff State and Enterprise State.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: DON DAILEY

When the **1991-92 Executive Committee** met in July, we agreed to promote five goals, which are listed below. If you have ideas about these goals or other directions for **ALAIR**, please share your thoughts with us.

Goals for 1991-92

1. Stimulate greater awareness, communication, and involvement in **ALAIR** activities.
2. Provide information on state issues to members through the newsletter.
3. Increase visibility and status of institutional research in the state.
4. Provide professional development opportunities for members.
5. Conduct organizational affairs on a sound financial basis.

The **Executive Committee** is pursuing various activities to support achievement of these goals. Some of these include involvement in planning the **SCUP Assessment Conference** in Tuscaloosa, efforts to sponsor members at other conferences, compilation and distribution of an institutional research personnel directory, establishment of a committee to review the **ALAIR** Constitution, and investment of funds in a CD to gain higher interest rates than previously received from other accounts. Plans are also being made to expose additional groups (i.e., higher education graduate programs) to **ALAIR** through brochures and other mailouts.

FROM THE STATE LEVEL

1. Proration

With the declaration of 6 percent proration by **Governor Hunt** on October 1, the focus on attention at the state level is on how institutions and agencies are coping with funding problems. According to **Ed Rutledge**, **Director of Financial Affairs** at the **Alabama Commission on Higher Education**, the combined effect of the two year's of proration on the institutions of higher education is approaching \$100 million. Rutledge notes that approximately 38 states are in similar situations for higher education budgets and that the current economic outlook does not suggest any relief in sight.

2. Special Session

At its meeting on October 15, 1991, the **Alabama Commission on Higher Education** adopted a resolution urging the Governor to call an immediate Special Session of the Legislature. The resolution also urged the Governor and the Legislature "to work to provide financial relief to this crisis and long-term reform in the tax system for funding education and other services."

3. Student Record Database - State Project

Representatives of the **Higher Education Information Advisory Committee (HEIAG)** and the Commission staff have met several times to discuss the **Student Record Database Project** being developed by the Commission. Much of the discussion has focused on the purpose of the project and on the legalities of collecting this information at the state level given the Buckley Amendment. The Commission's staff attorney is researching how other states with Student Record Databases comply with the Buckley Amendment. The Commission staff is also in the process of identifying and defining fields to be included in the Student Record Database. If you have any questions about this project, please contact **Diane Sherman** or **Jack Doane** at 269-2700.

4. Off-Campus Credit Hours

Alabama is the only **SREB** state that makes a distinction between the funding of on-campus and off-campus credit hours. Therefore, **ACHE** has established a three-year phase-in period to reinstate off-campus credit hours into the funding formula.

5. Moratorium on New Units of Instruction

ACHE has established a year-long moratorium on new units of instruction and merging of institutions. The application of this policy to mergers taking place in the two-year schools is being questioned by various two-year school leaders.

ABOUT DR. SUTTON

Dr. Joseph Sutton, former Executive Director of **ACHE**, has suffered an attack of Guillian-Barre. He is in intensive care and paralyzed. However, the prognosis is good, and recovery expected to take a minimum of six months to a year. Letters and cards should be sent to the following address:

Joseph T. Sutton
c/o Rick and Nancy Turpen
1431 Cherokee Trail
Unit 104
Knoxville, Tennessee 37920

Special thanks to **Dr. John Porter (UA)** for the Bitnet message which shared the news concerning **Dr. Sutton**.

NOTICE ABOUT NEWSLETTER

The next **ALAIR** newsletter will be published in February or March 1992. If you have items for the newsletter, please send them to the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Judy Miller, Director of Institutional Research, Enterprise State Junior College, P.O. Box 1300, Enterprise, AL 36231 (347-2623, ext. 310) or FAX to 306.

AN URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT ELECTION OF OFFICERS!!!

It is extremely important that we utilize the expertise, experience, and spirit of service which exists within our organization. We are urging each and every member to consider running for office and/or to nominate colleagues they believe would be qualified and who would be willing to serve as officers. It is vitally important that each of us takes this responsibility seriously and personally. The future success of **ALAIR** depends on the full participation of the membership.

***** **Call for Nominations** *****

Please indicate in the spaces below the names of individuals you feel would be willing to serve as officers of **ALAIR**. You may nominate yourself or a colleague. This is very important! Please return the completed form by February 1 to:

Dr. Kitty Collier
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
Suite 221, One Court Square
Montgomery, Alabama 36197-0001
Telephone: 269-2700

Nominations for:

Vice President/President-elect:

Secretary-Treasurer:

Nominating Committee:

Other (No specific office in mind)

**DON'T FORGET! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT
AND
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL!**