THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

# *Legislative* UPDATE

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*Current News About Legislative Issues Affecting The University of Alabama System*

## Contact Your Legislators This Week As Education Budget Reaches Critical Stage and More Support Is Needed!

### EDUCATION BUDGET IMPROVED BUT NOT YET ACCEPTABLE

After several days of filibustering by Higher Education advocates, the Alabama House of Representatives passed a budget that unfairly cuts Higher Ed more severely than K-12 or the 2-year colleges. With tremendous help from legislators who stood tall for our campuses (see list below), the House-passed budget includes an increase of $25 million over the Governor's budget for Higher Ed, which is a good step in the right direction. But we still have a long way to go!

As the session enters its final days, we are working hard to obtain an additional $25 million in the Senate to meet critical funding needs and achieve parity with all of education. With only three legislative days left, the closing gavel will fall on Monday, May 19.

Much work remains to be done! On a vote of 55-32 last Thursday, the House tabled an amendment by **Rep. John Rogers** that would have added an additional $25 million to Higher Ed's allocation in the House budget. As our full attention moves to the Senate, that is the amount we continue to work for.

### WHERE WE ARE NOW

The House-passed budget bill allocates O&M funding for UA at $176.18 million, a cut of $22.18 million (11.2%). For UAB, O&M funding is $311.27 million, a cut of $41.73 million (11.8%). For UAH, O&M funding is $51.74 million, a cut of $6.36 million (10.94%).

In comparison, K-12 was cut only 2.9% and the 2-year colleges took only a 4.76% reduction.

### HOW AREA HOUSE MEMBERS VOTED

House members in our area delegations who stood tall for our campuses and **VOTED WITH HIGHER EDUCATION:**

**Tuscaloosa**: Gerald Allen, Dr. Robert Bentley, William Thigpen

**Birmingham**: Paul DeMarco, Mary Sue McClurkin, Mary Moore, Demetrius Newton, Arthur Payne, Oliver Robinson, John Rogers, Jack Williams

**Huntsville**: Mike Ball, Mickey Hammon

**VOTING AGAINST HIGHER ED:**

**Tuscaloosa**: Chris England, Ken Guin, Alan Harper, A. J. McCampbell

**Birmingham**: Owen Drake, Pat Moore, Cam Ward

**Huntsville**: Bill Dukes, Ronald Grantland, Laura Hall, Randy Hinshaw, Mac McCutcheon, John Robinson, Sue Schmitz, Butch Taylor.

**NOT VOTING:**

**Birmingham**: Priscilla Dunn, Mike Hill, Rod Scott, Elwyn Thomas, Patricia Todd, Alan Tredaway.

**Huntsville**: Howard Sanderford

**ABSTAINING:**

**Birmingham:** Greg Canfield, Merika Coleman, Earl Hilliard, Jr.

**Please take time to thank those House members who stood tall and voted "yes" for fairer and more equitable funding for Higher Education.**

## CALL TO ACTION

Momentum generated by the record-setting Higher Ed Day rally and the recent filibuster in the House must be sustained until the budget process is completed. It is essential that you contact both House and Senate members as well as the leadership in both chambers. Your personal letters, emails and telephone calls are the most effective strategy to deliver the message of fairness and equity.

**The message to supportive House members: Thank you for your strong support and your vote "yes" for fair and equitable funding!**

**Your message to Senators: Higher Ed needs an additional $25 million. Please do not allow an education budget to pass unless the measure gives us those needed dollars!**

Please take a few minutes **today** to make your contacts. To find your legislators, go to http://www.legislature.state.al.us/misc/zipsearch.html and enter your nine-digit zip code.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

No university equipment or property can be used in contacting legislators. This includes university letterhead, telephones, FAX machines or computers.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**If you have questions or need additional information, please contact members of the UA System Government Relations Team:**

Bill Jones: 334-242-2262, wjones@uasystem.ua.edu
Porter Banister: 205-934-5193, pbanister@uasystem.ua.edu
Gary D. Smith: 256-824-6084, gsmith@uasystem.ua.edu

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