

# *Legislative* UPDATE

Vol. 4 No. 14

2001 Regular Session

April 12, 2001

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

## **Great Week for Higher Education in Montgomery!**

### **Please Contact Governor and Senate Committee On Key Issues**

#### **FAVORABLE BUDGET BILL PASSES THE HOUSE**

In a major victory for Higher Education, the Alabama House of Representatives passed the 2001-2002 education budget bill exactly as negotiated by Chancellor Tom Meredith and others. By maintaining a united front and staying on message with our request for equal treatment, the four-year schools were successful in passage of a budget that gives us 30% of the projected growth above proration in the Education Trust Fund. The House vote restores 3.4% of proration for Higher Ed.

Please thank your House members for recognizing the need to treat Higher Ed fairly in the budget process. This is an important and decisive step forward for us – and House members stood tall despite tremendous pressures to cut the universities disproportionately. Your calls, faxes and letters made a difference. Thank you for delivering the Higher Ed message effectively and persuasively.

#### **CONTACT SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOW**

Under the leadership of **Senator Hank Sanders**, the Senate F&T Committee will now consider the education budget. Please contact the following Committee members today and thank them for their past support, especially during the Special Session. Urge their continued support for Higher Education as they take up the budget.

Hank Sanders, Chair Home: 334-875-1395 Office: 334-875-9264 State House: 334-242-7860

Jack Biddle Home: 205-631-4591 Office: 205-945-6551 State House: 334-242-7846

Tom Butler Home: 256-837-8374 State House: 334-242-7854

Bobby Denton Home: 256-381-7449 Office: 256-331-5312 State House: 334-242-7888

Gerald Dial Home: 256-396-5626 Office: 256-396-5600 State House: 334-242-7882

Larry Dixon Home: 334-834-8105 Office: 334-242-4116 State House: 334-242-7895

Jeff Enfinger Home: 256-539-3480 Office: 256-533-1155 State House: 334-242-7885

Steve French Home: 205-871-3881 Office: 205-871-3882 State House: 334-242-7851

Jimmy Holley Home: 334-897-5181 Office: 334-670-3765 State House: 334-242-7845

Ted Little Home: 334-887-6552 Office: 334-887-3472 State House: 334-242-7865

Del Marsh Home: 256-237-1931 Office: 256-237-8647 State House: 334-242-7877

Hinton Mitchem Office: 256-878-1631 State House: 334-242-7876

Phil Poole Home: 205-333-8915 Office: 205-371-6337 State House: 334-242-7889

Tommy Ed Roberts Home: 256-773-2854 Office: 256-353-1213 State House: 334-242-7874

Rodger Smitherman Home: 205-322-3768 Office: 205-322-0012 State House: 334-242-7870

## **SUPREME COURT DECISION HELPS OUR CASE WITH THE GOVERNOR**

Wednesday's 8-0 decision by the Alabama Supreme Court is a major step forward in treating K-12 and Higher Ed equally in proration cuts. The Court-ordered stay of Judge Tracy McCooley's second decision regarding proration is an important development in the complex legal issues we are battling aggressively on behalf of our faculty, staff and students.

As you recall, Judge McCooley had sided with the Alabama Association of School Boards and others who want Higher Ed to take a disproportionate proration cut. After their preliminary decision yesterday, the Supreme Court will be considering the full merits of our case.

The administration has continued to refer to the Attorney General's opinion (which was based on the same rationale as that underpinning Judge McCooley's stayed order) as requiring the Governor to impose larger cuts on Higher Ed than on K-12. With this stay from the Supreme Court, the Governor must treat K-12 and Higher Ed equally in proration. He has stated on several occasions this is his desire and now he has the opportunity to do so.

**Please contact Governor Siegelman today. Encourage him to FOLLOW THROUGH on a proration plan that is fair and equitable for all of education.**

**Let him know you are keenly interested in his actions on this critically important issue!**

## **TO GET YOUR MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR DON SIEGELMAN**

Governor's Office: phone 334-242-7100; fax 334-242-0937; letters to Alabama State Capitol 600 Dexter Ave. Montgomery 36130

## **THANKS TO LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE HELPED IN COURT CASE**

Lt. Governor **Steve Windom**, House Speaker **Seth Hammett**, Senate President pro tem **Lowell Barron** and Senator **Tom Butler** provided affidavits in support of our appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. We appreciate their help and encourage you to thank them.

## **UAS CONTACT INFORMATION**

UA: Bill Jones/205-348-4771 or 334-242-2262

UAB: Wayne Echols/205-934-5193

UAH: Gary Smith/256-824-6084

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