

Legislative UPDATE

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Current News About Legislative Issues Affecting The University of Alabama System

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

Please call your Senators immediately – today – and ask them to OPPOSE Senate Bill 581.

This bill has passed out of committee and could reach the floor of the full Senate next Tuesday. Time is of the essence. When you call your Senators, here are key talking points:

- The Legislature is looking for a way to help the financially troubled Prepaid Affordable College Tuition (PACT) plan. We are committed to helping find a solution that will meet the State's obligation to PACT participants. Senate Bill 581 is not the answer.
- SB 581 imposes Legislatively-mandated tuition freezes on our campuses that would cripple our ability to serve our students and our State. It is critical that our Board of Trustees retain the authority to set tuition levels to meet the educational demands of our students.
- UAS campuses have already been hit by a \$117 million cut in the past 11 months, forcing layoffs (which could exceed 1,000 jobs), program reductions and other dramatic cuts. Tuition dollars are the **ONLY** mechanism we have to continue meeting our obligations to our students while coping with drastic cuts in our state funding.
- **ANY** legislation that imposes tuition limitations would negatively impact our campus bond ratings. A weakened bond rating would significantly reduce or eliminate current and future construction projects.
- Tuition limitations would prevent our campuses from adequately supporting scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.
- We are struggling with the most significant budget cuts in modern history. To date, **we have lost \$1 of every \$5 in state support that we had just one year ago!** Limiting our ability to set tuition rates removes the only other mechanism we have for funding campus operations. The Legislature must not limit the ability of our Board of Trustees to manage our campuses operation by regulating tuition.

It is essential that you call today. Our voice will be heard in the halls of the Legislature only if you flood switchboards with your telephone calls. As you know from past experience, these calls matter – and offices keep logs of the numbers of calls received on important issues!

To reach your Senator in the Montgomery office, just call **334-242-7800** and ask the operator to transfer your call to the particular Senator's office. If the Senator is not available please leave a message expressing your opposition to Senate Bill 581. To find the name and other contact information for your Senator, go to <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/misc/zipsearch.html> and enter your nine-digit zip code.

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