

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MONTEVALLO

©

Institutional Plan
2003-2008



November 1, 2002

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University of Montevallo Institutional Plan

2003-2004 to 2007-2008

The Institutional Mission

The University's legislatively mandated mission, unique in higher education in Alabama, is "to provide to students from throughout the state an affordable, geographically accessible, 'small college' public higher educational experience of high quality, with a strong emphasis on undergraduate liberal studies and with professional programs supported by a broad base of arts and sciences, designed for their intellectual and personal growth in the pursuit of meaningful employment and responsible, informed citizenship."

Introduction

The University of Montevallo is one of a select group of public colleges and universities dedicated to a small-college, undergraduate education within the tradition of the liberal arts. Montevallo's membership in the prestigious Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) reflects this dedication. Like its COPLAC peers, the University of Montevallo is committed to providing a high quality education to its students, to fostering an active and cohesive community of learners and teachers, and to promoting excellence in all that it does. Because of its highly committed faculty dedicated to academic excellence, its attractive and historically distinguished campus, and its distinctive, legislatively mandated mission, the University of Montevallo is uniquely positioned to provide students a broad liberal arts education with an emphasis on critical thinking and high academic standards in a student-centered environment.

This Institutional Plan reflects the work of all elements of the University community as well as the leadership of the University Planning Committee members, who are identified in Appendix A. The University's distinctive statewide mission and the institutional goals identified in this plan will guide it in effectively meeting and addressing the challenges that lie ahead.

The Planning Process

The University Planning Committee initiated the 2003-2008 five-year planning cycle with the development of the *Environmental Scan* during the spring of 2002. The *Scan* (contained in Appendix B) was developed from items submitted by faculty and staff from throughout the University and covers a five-year period. It is designed to enhance knowledge of the external environment of the institution. In addition to the external scan that was distributed to the campus community, a number of institutional reports including a variety of assessment information provided the campus with pertinent information on the internal state of the University.

On September 6, 2002, approximately 160 individuals representing faculty, staff, and students, gathered at the Stewart Student Retreat Center for the President's Planning Retreat. After receiving information and overviews of each University division presented by the members of the President's Staff in addition to the information already available about the University's environment and internal state, participants formed thirteen independent groups. Each group then developed three to five goals for the next five-year planning period. Those goals were reviewed by all of the retreat participants and then refined by the members of the University Planning Committee.

On September 11, 2002, the University Planning Committee presented a draft of institutional goals to the University community for review and comment. Additional comments from the campus community were received in an Open Forum held on September 24, 2002. On the basis of the comments received, the University Planning Committee further refined the goals and presented a second version to the University community for review on September 26, 2002. Comments from this review were used to make additional revisions to the goals.

On October 14, 2002, suggestions for the final revision were reviewed by the University Planning Committee, which endorsed the University Plan. The Committee then recommended the 2003-2008 Institutional Plan to the President on October 15, 2002. After its endorsement by the President and the Board of Trustees, the Institutional Plan will serve as a guide to individual planning units as they develop their respective plans and budget requests.

The Institutional Goals

To pursue and fulfill its unique mission as Alabama's only public liberal arts institution, the University of Montevallo has adopted a five-year plan consisting of seven broad, institutional goals that serve as guides for the development of more specific unit plans by the University's various divisions, departments, and planning units. Over the next five years (2003-2008) the University will:

- 1. Enhance learning through teaching and curricula consistent with the University's mission by such representative activities as:**
 - Promoting ongoing dialogue that continuously improves academic programs
 - Creating opportunities for learning in and beyond the classroom including international study, service, and exchange programs
 - Institutionalizing undergraduate research and scholarly activity
 - Fostering opportunities to enhance pedagogical effectiveness
- 2. Promote a strong sense of community among students, faculty, and staff by such representative activities as:**
 - Fostering a student-focused culture that develops students as scholars, responsible citizens, community participants, and supporters of the University
 - Cultivating an environment of collegiality, mutual respect, and citizenship
 - Promoting co-curricular programming to advance scholarly, cultural, and personal development
 - Encouraging responsiveness to the needs of all constituents
- 3. Cultivate a highly qualified faculty and staff committed to the University's mission by such representative activities as:**
 - Recruiting and retaining an ethnically, culturally, and geographically diverse faculty and staff
 - Attracting and retaining faculty committed to excellent teaching, scholarship and creative endeavor, and service
 - Increasing support for faculty development, scholarship, and creative endeavors
- 4. Cultivate a highly qualified student body by such representative activities as:**
 - Recruiting and retaining an ethnically, culturally, and geographically diverse student body
 - Enhancing the academic profile of entering students
- 5. Provide public and private funding to advance the University's mission by such representative activities as:**
 - Supporting the efforts of Alabama's four-year universities to secure additional State funding
 - Increasing funding from all sources of income
 - Prioritizing the internal allocation of funds on the basis of the mission and goals
 - Fostering the development of appropriate external partnerships
- 6. Provide the technology, facilities, and physical infrastructure necessary to promote and support the University's mission by such representative activities as:**
 - Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for technology to enhance teaching, learning, and service
 - Enhancing teaching and learning by providing an attractive, safe, accessible environment in academic, residential, and recreational facilities and open spaces in accordance with the Campus Master Plan
- 7. Increase and promote awareness of the University and its unique statewide mission with effective public communications by such representative activities as:**
 - Communicating a clear, consistent statewide image of the University, its faculty and programs
 - Fostering the University's involvement and integration into the larger community

Appendix A

Membership of the University Planning Committee

Membership of the University Planning Committee 2002-2003

Mr. David R. Aiken, Vice President for University Advancement

Mr. John C. Crawford, Special Assistant to the President & Legislative Liaison

Dr. Wilson Fallin, Jr., Associate Professor of History and Advisor to the President for Minority Affairs

Dr. John M. Hoerner, Jr., Assistant Professor of Communication Arts

Ms. Sylvea Hollis, President-Student Government Association

Dr. Glenda E. Isenhour, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ms. Cynthia S. Jarrett, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer

Mr. H. Eddy Lawley, Director-Physical Plant

Dr. Scott K. Meyer, Professor of Art & President-Faculty Senate

Dr. Michael F. Patton, Associate Professor of Philosophy

Dr. Paul Preston, Associate Professor of Business

Mr. Kenneth J. Procter, Dean-College of Fine Arts & Professor of Art

Dr. Stephanie G. Puleo, Associate Professor Counseling, Leadership, and Foundations

Ms. Libby Queen, President-UM National Alumni Association

Dr. Richard G. Rovelstad, Associate Professor of Business

Dr. Wayne C. Seelbach (Chair), Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs & Professor of Sociology

Dr. Denise Watts (*ex officio*), Director of Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment

Dr. Glenda Weathers, Associate Professor of English

Appendix B

The Environmental Scan