December 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members and Alternates
    Articulation and General Studies Committee

FROM: Don Crump

RE: Approval of Areas I-IV and Engineering Alternative

At the December 6, 1995 meeting, the Articulation and General Studies Committee approved the requirements for Areas I-IV of the general studies curriculum and unanimously approved an engineering alternative for students planning to complete bachelor’s degree requirements in engineering. Enclosed is a copy of the approved general studies curriculum which includes the clarifications suggested by Dr. Robert Halli. A copy of the approved engineering alternative also is enclosed.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education’s agenda for the December 15, 1995 meeting includes a report from the Articulation and General Studies Committee. I plan to report the decisions made by the AGSC on December 6 and to indicate that we will be working with groups of deans and with academic disciplinary committees to refine the specifications within the general studies for particular degree programs and to develop Area V requirements. I will indicate that Dr. Joe Morris has been elected committee chair for 1996 and the primary goal for the year will be the refinement of the general studies curriculum and initiating procedures for review and approval of courses for general studies designation.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as committee chair and to get to know each of you over the past year and a half. I thank each of you for your cooperation and hard work during this time. Looking back, we indeed have made a great deal of progress. I recognize that each of us has had to make some compromises, but I believe we have come up with a workable solution that will serve students well. We continue to have much work to do, and I look forward to working with Dr. Joe Morris in the coming year.

Best wishes to each of you for a joyful holiday season and for a happy and productive new year!

D.C.

DC/cj/12/6/95

Enclosure
Areas of Study

I. Written Composition
   Effective written communication skills are essential in a literate society. Requirements include at least 10 quarter hours or 6 semester hours in written composition.

II. Humanities and Fine Arts*
   Study in the humanities addresses the ability to deal with questions of values, ethics, or aesthetics as they are represented in literature, philosophy, religion, and the arts, and is fundamental to general education. Requirements include at least 15 quarter hours or 9 semester hours in humanities with a minimum of 5 quarter hours or 3 semester hours in literature, 5 quarter hours or 3 semester hours in the arts, and the remaining quarter or semester hours from the humanities and/or fine arts. In addition to literature, disciplines in the humanities include, but are not limited to, philosophy, religious studies, speech, foreign languages, art, music, theatre, and dance.

Courses should be broad in scope and content rather than specific and should emphasize a global perspective. Courses in the arts should emphasize history and appreciation rather than performance. Examples in the humanities and fine arts include, but are not limited to, world literature, art history, music appreciation, comparative religions, and history or origins of dance.

*Students preparing to complete the B.S. degree in engineering must demonstrate in-depth study in a particular discipline of the humanities and fine arts or history, social, and behavioral sciences through completion of 10 quarter hours or 6 semester hours in a particular discipline.
III. Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Study in the natural sciences and mathematics emphasizes the scientific method and applies quantitative or inductive reasoning. Requirements include at least 18-20 quarter hours or 11-12 semester hours with at least 5 quarter hours or 3 semester hours in mathematics at the analytic geometry and calculus level or higher,* and at least 12-15 quarter hours or 8 semester hours in calculus-based physics which must include laboratory experiences.

Courses in the natural sciences must include laboratory experiences which emphasize the scientific method.

*Students planning to complete the B.S. degree in engineering can only transfer mathematics courses at the level of analytic geometry and calculus or higher.

IV. History, Social, and Behavioral Sciences*

Study in history and the social and behavioral sciences deals primarily with the study of human behavior, social and political structures, and economics. Requirements include at least 5 quarter hours or 3 semester hours in history and at least 10 quarter hours or 6 semester hours from history or other disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. In addition to history, these disciplines include, but are not limited to, anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology. Courses should be broad in scope and content, include global or international perspectives, and must emphasize the methods of inquiry in the social sciences.

*Students preparing to complete the B.S. degree in engineering must demonstrate in-depth study in a particular discipline of the humanities and fine arts or history, social, and behavioral sciences through completion of 10 quarter hours or 6 semester hours in a particular discipline.

I-IV. Totals

58-60 35-36
V. Pre-Professional and Major Courses

Courses appropriate to the degree requirements and major of the individual student:

Mathematics
- Calculus
- Advanced Calculus
- Probability and Statistics
- Differential Equations
- Linear Algebra
- Numerical Analysis

Natural Sciences

Computer Science

TOTAL

36-38

28-29

96

64