

## SECTION 2.10 INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

The mission statement and guiding principles for the consolidated ASU, which were [approved by the Board of Regents](#) of the University System of Georgia at its March 9, 2015 meeting, are The new ASU Mission Statement and Guiding Principles that emerged from consolidation planning are as follows:

### Albany State University Mission Statement

*Albany State University, a proud member institution of the University System of Georgia, elevates its community and region by offering a broad array of graduate, baccalaureate, associate, and certificate programs at its main campuses in Albany as well as at strategically-placed branch sites and online. Committed to excellence in teaching and learning, the University prepares students to be effective contributors to a globally diverse society, where knowledge and technology create opportunities for personal and professional success. ASU respects and builds on the historical roots of its institutional predecessors with its commitment to access and a strong liberal arts heritage that respects diversity in all its forms and gives all students the foundation they need to succeed. Through creative scholarship, research, and public service, the University's faculty, staff, students, and administrators form strategic alliances internally and externally to promote community and economic development, resulting in an improved quality of life for the citizens of southwest Georgia and beyond.*

The new mission statement is guiding the decisions of all 79 Operational Working Groups and the coordinating Consolidation Implementation Committee as they complete assigned consolidation tasks in preparation for SACSCOC approval to consolidate, effective January 2017, and full implementation of consolidated institution operations at the beginning of fall semester 2017, and the required Substantive Change Committee visit at that time. It is important to note that no substantive reduction is expected in the types and delivery locations of existing

degree programs or the quality of support services as a result of this consolidation. Any reductions noted in the combined authorized list of degree programs for the new Albany State University result from the deletion of inactive programs or the efficiencies of consolidating two similar or duplicative programs into one. There is an expectation that the institutional consolidation will facilitate the offering of expanded educational opportunities through the new ASU.

#### Albany State University Guiding Principles

**Aspire to Excellence.** Albany State University will aspire toward excellence in teaching and learning, thus becoming the first-choice institution for students from southwest Georgia and garnering recognition as a premier southern regional university.

**Embrace Diversity.** As a historically black institution and led by a highly-diverse faculty and staff, Albany State University will embrace diversity in all its forms – including age, gender identity, race and ethnicity, country of origin, religion, ability level, sexual orientation, and veteran status – and seek to foster a similar acceptance and celebration of that diversity.

**Expand Access to Higher Education.** As an access institution, Albany State University will promote student success for all by welcoming students from varying levels of academic preparation, keeping costs low, offering flexible class times and instructional modalities, and pairing high student expectations with exceptional mentoring, advising, and tutoring.

**Elevate Historically Underserved Populations.** Albany State University will recognize and address the many challenges that face African Americans and other students of color, adult learners, first generation students, students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and others from underserved populations, and form strong partnerships with K-12, government agencies, and community outreach organizations to increase access and success rates.

**Promote Economic Development.** As part of its commitment to teaching and learning, Albany State University will promote economic development in Albany and throughout southwest Georgia by engaging in applied research, aligning its resources in support of identified needs, developing and enhancing academic programs to meet evolving needs, forming broad strategic partnerships, supplying a trained workforce, and fostering a sense of entrepreneurship.

#### COMMITMENT TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Albany State University recruits, admits, and provides services, financial aid, and instruction to all students without regard to race, religion, sex, handicap or national origin. The University is also an equal opportunity and equal rights employer in that all applicants for faculty, staff and student employment positions are considered without regard to race, religion, sex, handicap or national origin.

### SECTION 2.10.2 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

The University is organized into four major administrative units: Organizational Effectiveness, Institutional Advancement, Administration, and Academic Affairs. A Vice President who reports directly to the President heads each of these units. Additionally three additional positions report to the President. These positions are: Chief Legal Affairs Officer & Title IX Coordinator, Internal Audits Executive Director, and the Director of Athletics.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council functions as an advisory council to the President in all administrative and general educational policies of the University. The following are the members of the Council: The President, who is also the chairperson of the council; the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; the Vice President for Organizational Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives; Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Senior Vice President for Administration; Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; Chief Legal Affairs Officer; Internal Audits Executive Director; and the Director of Athletics. Additional members include: the Chairperson of the



Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, the Communications Director; the Vice President for Enrollment Management; the Vice President for Student Affairs; the Library Services Director; and the President of the Student Government. The President may designate other administrative personnel as associate members.

#### COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Standing committees and other committees of the University form the structure through which the members of the faculty and staff execute the business, which drives the internal operations of the University's. These committees make recommendations to the President pertaining to the management of the University. The President appoints the members of all committees, except the Faculty Senate and its standing committees. Appendix D includes a list of Standing Committees and other campus-wide committees.

### **SECTION 3.0    ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

The Academic Affairs Unit of the University consists of all Academic Colleges and their Departments as well as Graduate Studies and Research and Sponsored Programs. The Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for these additional areas: Enrollment Management; Student Affairs and Success; and Transitional Studies, Advising, & Academic Success.

The five Colleges are: College of Arts and Humanities; College of Business; College of Education; College of Sciences and Technology; and the Darton College of Health Professions. The Graduate Studies program has its own Dean who is also the Executive Director of the Research and Sponsored Programs. The Dean of each College serves as the executive of his or her respective College.

#### VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall be a member of the faculty, a member of the Executive Council, and an ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate and all committees pertaining to academic matters. He/she serves as the President's chief advisor on matters relating to faculty appointments, promotions, tenure, curriculum