

How will the "Alexander Plan" Affect the CoB?

According to Zoe Beckham's 11-Oct-07 *Student Printz* article entitled "Senator helps transfers keep grades," SGA Senator Kent Alexander drafted a bill that would allow Junior College (JUCO) and other transfers to USM to keep the overall GPAs they earned at other institutions before transferring to USM.¹ The *status quo* policy is for a transfer student's overall GPA at their previous institution to be cleared upon arrival at USM. As such, transfer students begin with a 0.00 GPA (with zero hours attempted, though appropriate completed coursework is transferred) upon arrival at USM.

According to Beckham, Alexander's bill to allow transfer students to retain their overall GPAs upon arrival at USM passed in the USM Student Senate during the spring of 2007. Now the proposed legislation sits on the desk of new USM President Martha Saunders, who seems philosophically supports the legislation. As Beckham writes, Saunders ". . . told Alexander to run it by the Faculty Senate before she signed [it]."

Beckham's news story relates how Alexander's bill came from his own situation after transferring to USM from Meridian Community College. According to Alexander, he compiled an overall GPA of 3.8 while at MCC, yet he earned a 2.4 GPA during his first semester at USM. According to USM's current policy, Alexander's overall GPA after his first semester at USM was a 2.40.² Using Alexander's own story, **Table 1** below shows how the "Alexander Plan" compares to the status quo.

Table 1
The Impact of the "Alexander Plan" on Alexander's USM GPA

JUCO GPA	Semester #1 at USM	<i>Status Quo</i> USM GPA	"Alexander Plan" USM GPA
3.80	2.40	2.40	3.52

The data above in **Table 1** assumes that Alexander completed 60 hours of coursework while in junior college, earning a 3.8 GPA along the way. It is also assumed that Alexander completed 15 hours of coursework during his first semester at USM, earning a 2.4 GPA that semester. Note that while Alexander's Overall GPA at USM would be a 2.40 after his first semester under the *status quo*, his Overall GPA would remain as high as a 3.52 should Saunders sign the "Alexander Plan" that passed the USM Student Senate back in the spring of 2007.

As the numbers in **Table 1** suggest, the "Alexander Plan" would not only make life easier for Alexander and other JUCO transfers, it would also pave the way to a nicer existence for the administrators and staff in the CoB's Undergraduate Services office. Under the "Alexander Plan," the CoB's 2.0 students will be replaced with (themselves as) 3.0 students. As a result, the level of animosity exhibited by students who visit JGH 110 will fall dramatically. The "Alexander Plan" will also represent a large step toward a 100% graduation rate for USM -- a goal Saunders expressed interest in at one of the Core Dialogues sessions during fall semester of 2007.

¹ For more, go to "[Senator helps transfers keep grades](#)".

² Beckham notes that Alexander is a "human resource management" major in the CoB.