

# ***President's Commission on Agriculture***

## ***Draft Recommendations***

**May 3, 2005**

# **What are AAES and ACES?**

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- AAES – Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station
- ACES – Alabama Cooperative Extension System

# **History of Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension System**

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- 1883 – State of Alabama established an agricultural experiment station – 9<sup>th</sup> in nation
- 1887 – Hatch Act – Provided federal funding to establish state agricultural experiment stations
- 1906 – Extension efforts began in Alabama to provide research and educational information to the people of Alabama
- 1914 – Smith-Lever Act – Provided funding to each state and created federal-state partnership for education-extension effort

## **Colleges Receiving Faculty Support from AAES and ACES FY 2005 FTEs**

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	<b><u>AAES</u></b>	<b><u>ACES</u></b>
College of Agriculture	60.24	29.05
School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences	20.16	6.28
College of Human Sciences	4.83	6.00
College of Sciences and Mathematics	7.65	--
College of Veterinary Medicine	1.58	--
	<b>94.46</b>	<b>41.33</b>

## 2005 AAES Appropriated Funding

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Federal Appropriations	\$4,528,420
State Appropriations	<u>26,651,658</u>
Total	\$31,180,078

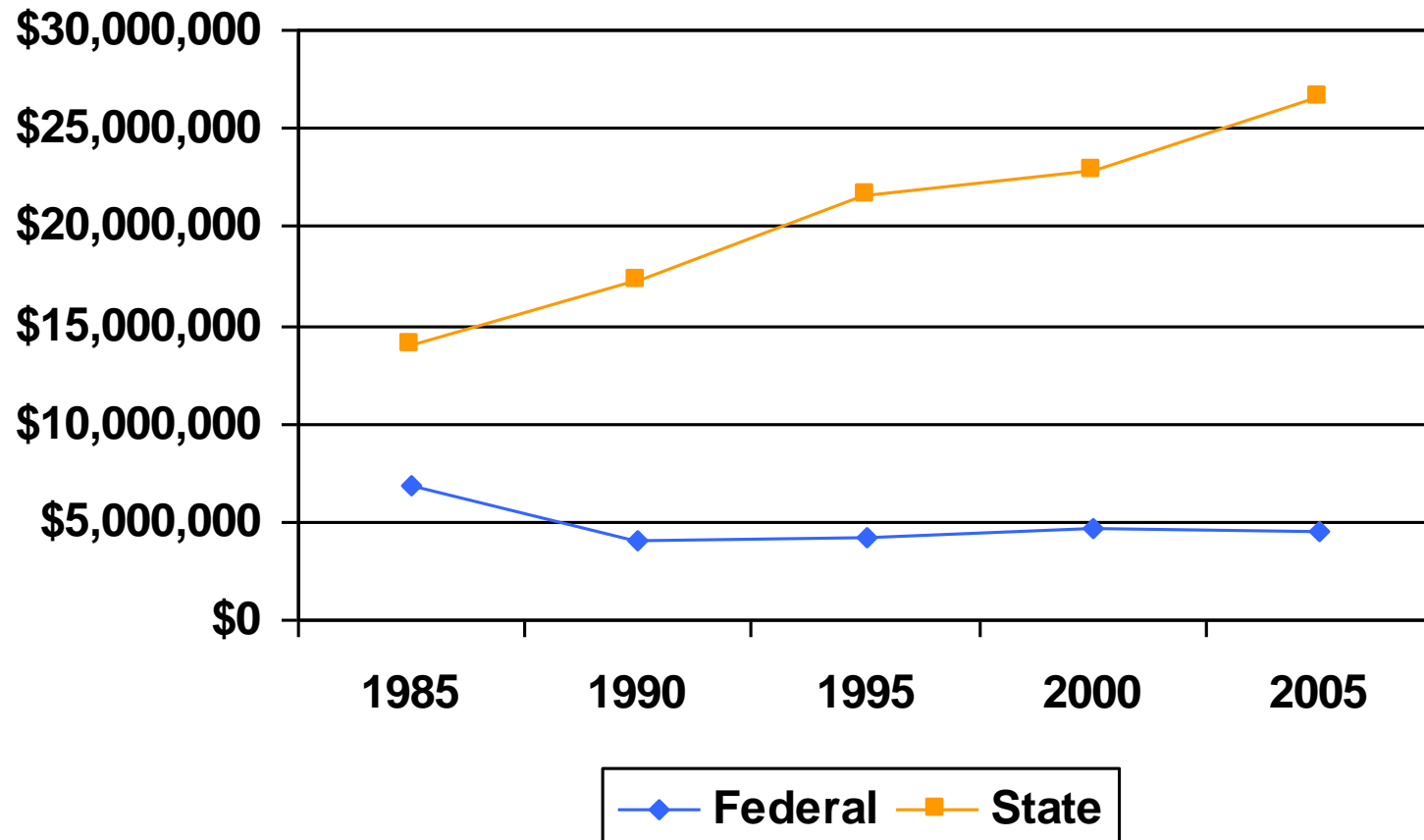
## 2005 ACES Appropriated Funding

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Federal Appropriations	\$8,500,267
State Appropriations	<u>28,804,637</u>
Total	\$37,304,904

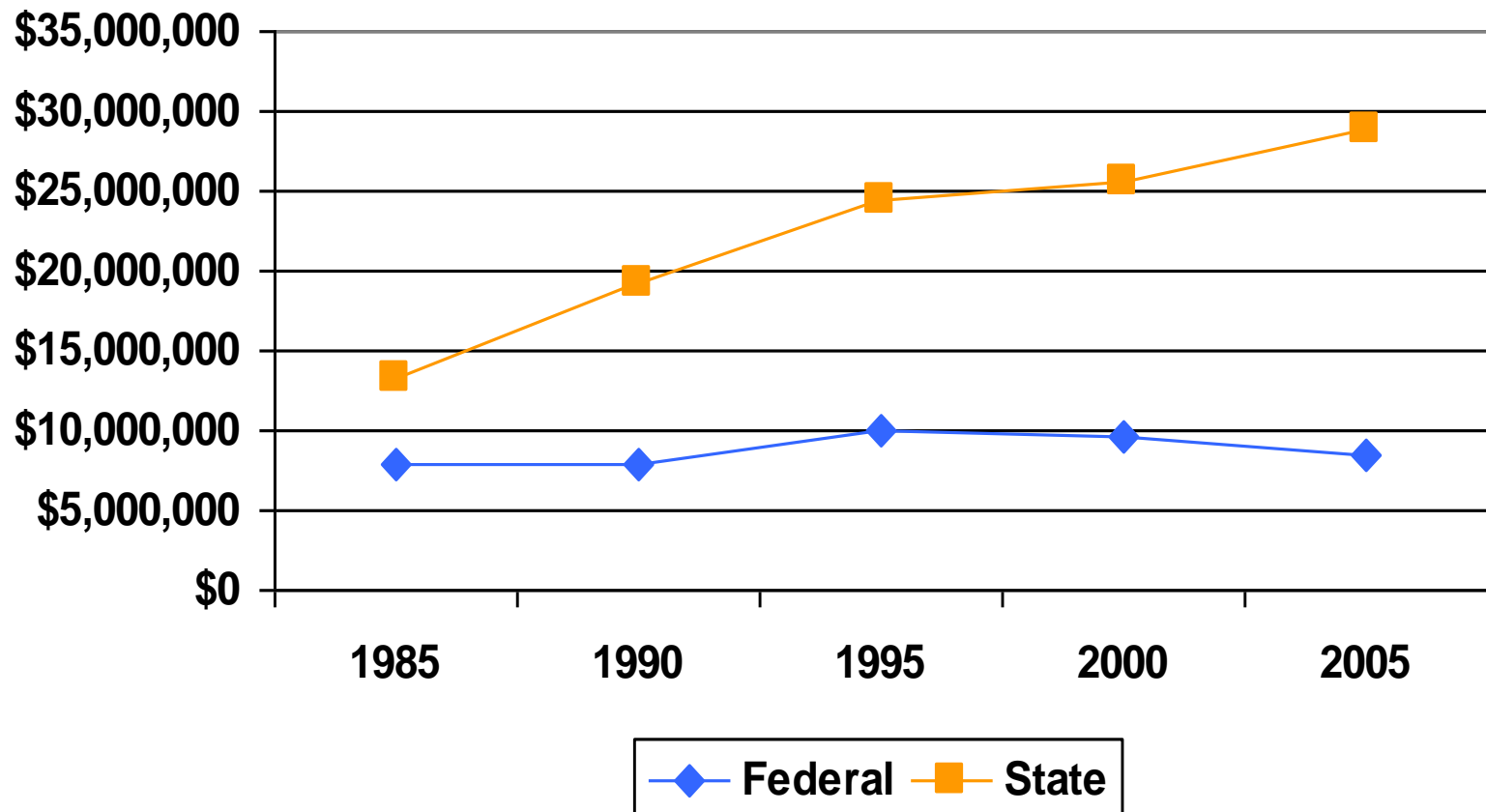
# Growth in AAES Federal and State Appropriations 1985 - 2005

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# Growth in ACES Federal and State Appropriations 1985 - 2005

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# Challenge for the Next 5-Year Plan

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- Continuing need to improve compensation
- AU salary increases exceed state appropriation increases
- AAES and ACES must reallocate existing resources to fund salary increases because they do not “benefit” from tuition revenue
- Reallocation means severe cutbacks in numbers of faculty, staff, and A/P and reduced research support
- Cuts in faculty numbers translates into less research and no safety net

# **Recommendation #1**

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- Establish an Institute for Food, Fiber, and Life Systems (IFFLS – temporary name) that would have as its founding principal partners, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES), the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the College of Agriculture (COAG), the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences (SFWS), and other units as may be designated by the President.
- The Institute will be:
  - Led by a Vice President reporting to the President of AU. The Deans of the COAG, SFWS, and other designated units will report to the IFFLS for research and extension programs and to the Provost for academic programs
  - Supported in part by state and federal appropriations that currently fund AAES and ACES

# **Rationale for Recommendation #1**

- IFFLS will:
  - Enhance status and visibility of our research and extension programs
  - Facilitate allocation of funds to emerging priorities
  - Become a well-funded integrated program that delivers information effectively and efficiently
  - Set policy and agenda for agriculture, natural resources, and closely related programs
  - Facilitate broad-based university and community involvement
  - Unify a broad political base

## **Recommendation #2**

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- Consolidate five comparable administrative functions of AAES, ACES, and COAG, and seek ways to unify available and emerging Auburn resources which include:
  - 1) Business and Finance
  - 2) Human Resources
  - 3) Information Technology
  - 4) Communications and Marketing
  - 5) Land and Facilities

## **Rationale for Recommendation #2**

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- Consolidation will:
  - Minimize redundancies
  - Facilitate the planning and prioritization process
  - Use resources more efficiently

## **Recommendation #4**

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- Employ internal and external assistance to appropriately name the Institute and its reporting units. The names must be reflective of their mission and function. Relevant names will enhance student recruitment and retention and will communicate the value of the organization to citizens.

## **Rationale for Recommendation #4**

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- Relevant names will:
  - Enhance student recruitment and retention
  - Will communicate the value of the organization to citizens

## **Recommendation #5**

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- Transform the six Research and Extension Centers (RECs) and E.V. Smith Research Center into highly relevant, multipurpose off-campus centers of discovery and education. Examples:
  - Distance education for AU credit courses
  - Non-credit courses
  - Certifications
  - Technical programs
- Allocate internal and external resources to the RECs to better meet the needs of Alabama citizens by:
  - Improving facilities and equipment
  - Increasing rate of use and visibility



## **Rationale for Recommendation #5**

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- Multi-purpose centers will:
  - Improve image
  - Reach more citizens
  - Garner external support
  - Enhance relevance
  - Serve as conduit for the campus
  - Protect field labs for research and extension faculty

## **Recommendation #6**

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- Continue to strengthen ACES' reorganization of Agriculture and Natural Resource extension education and tie the regional agents to the RECs.

## **Recommendation #7**

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- AAES and ACES develop and evaluate potential self-funding strategies in conjunction with a change in Board of Trustees policy that allows direct benefit to the Institute through targeted endowments and quasi-endowments.
- Potential self-funding strategies may include:
  - development efforts
  - fees for services
  - land development, leases and sales
  - intellectual property
  - other public/private business partnerships

## **Recommendation #8**

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- Provide financial incentives to 12-month faculty to convert current appointments to 9-month.

# **Rationale for Recommendation #8**

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- Conversion of Faculty appointments will:
  - Allow reallocation of savings to targeted initiatives
  - Increase contract and grant activity
  - Increase number of summer students and courses
  - Increase indirect cost recovery (F&A)
  - Potentially move faculty salaries closer to regional average without committing additional continuing operating funds