



A Legislative Summary Document Regarding Stephen F. Austin State University

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State Auditor's Observations

Based on the structure of Stephen F. Austin State University's (University) financial system and its financial processes, the Legislature and other oversight bodies can rely on the University's financial information.

The University's internal target for the amount of external or sponsored research funds was substantially lower than the target established by the Legislative Budget Board. This contributed to the University's falling short of this performance target by 29 percent.

Prepared for the 78th Legislature
by the State Auditor's Office

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This is not an audit report and, with the exception of any audit report summaries, the material in this document has not been subjected to all of the tests and confirmations performed in an audit.

Stephen F. Austin State University

SAO Contact: Susan Riley
(512) 936-9500

Key Findings from Previous Audits and Reviews

January 1, 2001–December 31, 2002

A Financial Review of Stephen F. Austin State University

(Report No. 02-048, June 2002)

The Legislature and other oversight bodies can rely on Stephen F. Austin State University's (University) financial information. The University's financial system and financial processes are designed to ensure that information is recorded accurately and consistently. In addition, the University is spending state appropriations and local funds in accordance with limitations set forth in the General Appropriations Act and other applicable state laws and regulations. The University reported \$52.5 million in state appropriations revenue for fiscal year 2001.

Status of Audit Recommendations as of November 30, 2002

No status is reported at this time to allow the University sufficient time to address recommendations in this recently released report.

We reviewed the University's information technology controls relating to financial information and made recommendations to strengthen controls over user access. We also noted that the University's internal target for the amount of external or sponsored research funds was substantially lower than the target established by the Legislative Budget Board. This contributed to the University's falling short of this performance target by 29 percent.

An Audit Report on State-Issued Bonds for Fiscal Year 2001

(Report No. 02-035, April 2002)

The bond-issuing state agencies and higher education institutions we audited complied with all significant bond covenants, laws, and regulations regarding bonded debt during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2001. In addition, these entities reported accurate information for the supplementary bond schedules included in the Texas 2001 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The total amount of outstanding bond issues of Stephen F. Austin University, as of August 31, 2001, was \$27,140,000.

Stephen F. Austin State University

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Most Recent Performance Measure Certification

Fiscal Year 1998–Fiscal Year 2003

The results of *An Audit Report on Performance Measures at 25 State Agencies and Educational Institutions–Phase 14* (Report No. 01-007, November 2000) for this entity are summarized below.

Period	Goal/Strategy	Measure	Certification Results
1999	A Instruction/Operations	State Pass Rate of Education ExCET Exam	Certified with Qualification
1999	A Instruction/Operations	Percent of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Freshmen Who Earn a Baccalaureate Degree Within Six Academic Years	Certified with Qualification
1999	A Instruction/Operations	Retention Rate of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Freshmen After One Academic Year	Certified with Qualification
1999	A Instruction/Operations	Percent of Lower Division Courses Taught by Tenured or Tenure-Track Faculty	Certified with Qualification
Total Measures Certified Without Qualification^a			0/4 (0%)
Data Reliability Percentage (Certified and Certified with Qualification)			4/4 (100%)
^a The percentage of unqualified certifications is presented because it is used in determining an entity's eligibility for performance rewards as established in the General Appropriations Act [77th Legislature, Article IX, Sec. 6.31(d)(2)].			

Category	Definition
Certified	Reported performance is accurate within +/-5 percent, and controls appear adequate to ensure accurate collection and reporting of performance data.
Certified with Qualification	Reported performance is within +/-5 percent, but the controls over data collection and reporting are not adequate to ensure the continued accuracy of performance data.
Factors Prevented Certification	Actual performance cannot be determined because of inadequate controls and insufficient documentation.
Inaccurate	Reported performance is not within +/-5 percent of actual performance, or there is an error rate of at least 5 percent in the supporting documentation.
Not Applicable	A justifiable reason exists for not reporting performance.