

March 6, 2006 Montgomery Advertiser

## Trustee against ASU policy

**By Erica Pippins**  
**Montgomery Advertiser**

Alabama State University is one of the few colleges that require education majors to ace the Praxis II exam in order to graduate, and trustee Joe Reed is asking the board to approve his request to repeal it.

He argues that some students might graduate with a major in education but never teach, while others might choose to apply for certification in another state.

"Numerous professions, including law and medicine, allow students to graduate prior to taking the state examination for their respective profession," Reed wrote in his proposed resolution to eliminate the passage of the Praxis II as a degree requirement.

Trustees serving on the academic affairs committee discussed the issue recently and soon will make a recommendation to the full board. For now, students who have not passed the test must register to take the test again Wednesday.

"I know this policy is going to weed out a lot of future teachers," said Valencia Smith, a senior elementary education major. She plans to take the test in the fall.

"Alabama is one of the lowest-paying states for starting teaching salaries, so who's to say that education majors will even stay here and teach after they complete their programs," she said.

While some Alabama State University officials are working to repeal their current policy, those at AUM have done just the opposite. The college began requiring all education majors in July to pass their respective subject-matter assessment before they receive a final grade or complete an internship.

Exceptions are made for students who are not able to take advanced courses before starting their internship because the content might be on their subject-matter test.

"Schools of education think teacher testing is important, and we are trying to meet the needs of our students," said Janet Warren, dean of the school of education at Auburn University Montgomery.

Warren said the faculty advises and helps students where they can.

"We don't want people to graduate from the school of education and not be able to get a license to teach," Warren said. "We do not want to recommend students for certification unless they can graduate. That has been the school of education's philosophy since it began."