

January 7, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal, a nonprofit organization devoted to excellence and accountability in higher education, thank you for your recent decision to restore the consideration of standardized test scores in undergraduate admissions across the University of Alabama System.

For many years, the Martin Center has been a strong proponent of merit-based admissions policies that reward academic preparation and provide students, families, and institutions with clear, objective signals of college readiness. Your action reflects thoughtful leadership and a commendable commitment to academic standards and student success.

By requiring test scores—in combination with high school performance, extracurricular contributions, and other key criteria—you are equipping admissions teams with a more complete and evidence-based toolkit to assess prospective students' preparedness for collegiate work.

Thank you for your stewardship and for prioritizing policies that advance both access and excellence across the University of Alabama System. I am hopeful other state university systems will follow your lead on this issue.

With appreciation,



Jenna A. Robinson  
President