Richardson seeks united front for goals in legislative session

Interim President Ed Richardson and attorney-lobbyist Sid McAnnally of Decatur last week outlined AU’s four key objectives for the session of the Alabama Legislature that starts Feb. 1. In remarks to the University Senate on Tuesday, Richardson said AU’s success in the session could depend on the university community’s ability to present a united front.

He urged the faculty leaders and other members of the AU community to help the university build its case by focusing on the four priorities. Any effort by individuals or groups to promote additional goals could dilute and weaken the overall effort, he said. “We must be focused,” Richardson stressed. “We must leave no doubt that we are all together.”

McAnnally, who is presenting AU’s legislative goals to members of the Alabama Legislature, said AU and the University of Alabama are united with other institutions of higher education in support of four priorities:

- **Legislative goals**
  - Fully fund PEEHBP
  - Fully fund retirement
  - Fund pay raises
  - Approve bond issue

‘Inaugural parade’

The AU Marching Band braved a light snow and cold temperatures in Washington, D.C., on Thursday to march in the parade following the inauguration of President George W. Bush. AU’s 320-member marching band was the only one from Alabama invited by event organizers to participate in the parade. Auburn’s band also marched in the inaugural parade in 1989 for President George H.W. Bush.

McAnnally is presenting AU’s legislative goals to members of the Alabama Legislature, said AU and the University of Alabama are united with other institutions of higher education in support of four priorities:

- Full funding from the state for the PEEHBP health insurance program, which serves AU retirees.
- Full funding from the state for the Teachers Retirement System. As with PEEHBP, the Legislature last year passed along to the institutions a major part of the state’s responsibility for financial support of the retirement system.
- Funding from the state for salary increases for faculty and staff in the next budget cycle, which starts Oct. 1. AU has funded the past two pay raises for faculty and staff from non-state revenues.
- Gain legislative approval for a bond issue for construction and renovations.
Replaces 1930s building

AU’s new medical clinic opens

The start of spring semester brought the opening of AU’s first new medical clinic since the 1930s. The new clinic moved at the end of December from its previous home in Drake Hall on the northern edge of campus to its new home at the corner of Duncan and Lem Morrison drives.

Physician Fred Kam, the medical center’s director, said the new clinic is more spacious and efficient and described the building as “customer-centered.”

Not all the advantages are inside the new building. “One of the biggest improvements is parking,” he said. “We’ve never had open parking spaces until now.”

The new clinic includes 40 examination rooms and six IV beds as opposed to the old clinic’s 18 exam rooms and three IV beds.

The building also incorporates larger nurses’ stations and new radiology equipment, which will be connected electronically to the East Alabama Medical Center. “If a patient gets an X-ray here and then needs to go to EAMC for further treatment, the hospital will immediately have access to those records,” said Lori Taylor, the clinic’s associate director.

A new room in the clinic provides space for minor procedures. Patients might go there, for example, if they need stitches. Also, a larger immunization room provides more privacy for the patients needing vaccinations.

The spaciousness of the new clinic allows the doctors and nurses to work from two different substations. A third substation or pod will be opened when the number of patients increases. Taylor noted that the old clinic only contained one hub.

Kam said the new clinic also implements small changes that make big differences in patient care. For example, instead of nurses calling out patients’ names in the waiting room, patients will receive a more pleasant and less intimidating “beeper” to notify them when it is their turn to see a doctor.

Kam said he also wanted to do away with the sliding glass window that separates receptionists from waiting areas in many offices. “With those windows, it is like they cut you off and then cut you off by opening and shutting them in your face,” he said. Architects designed the new reception area to avoid that obstacle, Kam noted.

“These are subtle changes but they are important from a patient’s perspective,” said Kam.

Staff accommodations include a small conference room and a large break room. The break room and a smaller conference area shared space in the old building.

The new clinic also features a large conference area and a large break room. The break room and a smaller conference area shared space in the old building.

Friendlier welcome

A more appealing waiting room is part of the medical staff’s efforts to make visits to the doctor more pleasant and less intimidating.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 25

• HR Development Program: “Preventing Identity Theft,” Cyndy W. Walls of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Alabama, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Human Resources Training Facility, 146 N. Gay St. Register online at Human Resources A-Train web site or call Kelli Henderson at 844-7939.

Wednesday, January 26

• Public Lecture: “Research Enters the Culture Wars: The Effects of Country Music and Abortion on Suicide,” Sociology Professor James Gundlach, room, Foy 213.

Thursday, January 27

• English Symposium: Poet and author Michael Hofmann, 3 p.m., auditorium, Julie Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. His books of poetry include “Nights in the Inn Hotel,” “Acrimony,” “Corona,” “Corona” and “Approximately Nowhere.”

Friday, January 28


Monday, January 31

• Next AU Report.

• Library Book Club: Discussing Simon Winchester’s “Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded,” 11:45 a.m., conference room, Draughon Library. For information, contact Richelle Mask at 844-3889.

• Speech & Hearing Screening: Free service of AU Speech & Hearing Clinic, Foy 1199, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, February 3

• Public Lecture: “Continuing to Dream,” Tuskegee attorney and Civil Rights pioneer Fred Gray, 7 p.m., Foy Union ballroom.

Buses carry million more riders in 2004 than two years earlier

AU’s transit system, Tiger Transit, carried 600,000 more riders in 2004 than a year earlier and 1 million more than in 2002.

“More people are riding Tiger Transit than ever, and the numbers keep growing,” said David Geogu, AU’s director of Parking and Transit Services. “Students, especially, have found that the buses are the best alternative for transportation to, from and around campus.”

Ridership on the campus bus system was up 58 percent to 1.7 million in 2004, compared to 2003, and it was up 126 percent more than in 2002. The largest increases in ridership have been at the beginning and end of each semester. Ridership in August was up 137 percent, compared to the same month in 2003, and ridership in December increased 200 percent over the previous year as people took advantage of more routes, more buses and longer periods of service.

George said continuing improvements to service by Go关a Transportation and close coordination with AU officials have made the transit system the first transportation choice for many students. He said AU and GoMee have worked together to add buses and routes to off-campus apartments, adjust campus routes and operating procedures and improve communications.

The result of the changes, George said, has been more consistent, reliable and faster service that has attracted and kept riders. “Demand has been tremendous,” George said. “Tiger Transit is operating at close to capacity much of the time, and we are still getting requests for more routes and more buses on existing routes.”

Ridership on Tiger Transit has risen as the campus has closed several streets for construction of new buildings and new pedestrian walkways. In response, more students are using the expanded parking areas on the eastern and southern sides of campus, and George noted that many students are leaving their cars parked at their apartments and taking a bus to and from campus.
Larkin wins service award at breakfast commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.

Willie D. Larkin, chair of the University Faculty and Senate at AU, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award at Lee County’s 2005 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast last week.

Larkin, the first African American to hold the top faculty leadership post at Auburn, is a leadership and organizational specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an assistant professor in AU’s College of Education.

Away from campus, the AU faculty leader is Commerce official to meet with Corridor Alliance, discuss East Alabama economic development

Robert Bogart, senior policy adviser to the assistant secretary for economic development in the U.S. Department of Commerce, will deliver the keynote address to the I-85 Corridor Alliance on Tuesday.

The alliance will meet at Dixon Conference Center from 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The Interstate-85 Corridor Alliance, an outgrowth of an AU planning committee, is a partnership among local government, private sector organizations and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama.

Larry Fillmer, executive director of the I-85 Alliance, said Bogart will discuss his outlook from the Economic Development Administration and its support for regional collaboration and strengthening the business environment.

A goal of the project is to significantly increase the number of high-quality, high-paying jobs along the corridor within 10 years.

Drawing on the example of North Carolina’s Research Triangle and other government-university collaborations, the I-85 alliance has developed clusters grouping interrelated industries across city, county and political lines. Planners organized the first four clusters into educational services, infrastructure services, transportation technology and tourism and community development.

Bogart is responsible for policy recommendations on all areas affecting the Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration, and he provides investment guidance to regional offices that allocate annual grants and investment funding. He also represents the agency on the National Innovation Initiative, a program of the Council on Competitiveness.

Singers to perform at U.S. choral directors convention

The American Choral Directors Association has selected the AU Singers to perform at the association’s national convention Feb. 2-5 in Los Angeles.

The association selected approximately 100 groups out of 380 entries for coveted spots on its program. The AU Singers and a choir from Belmont University in Tennessee were the only groups invited to perform at Show Choir Night.

The ACDA, the largest organization of its kind, has more than 18,000 members who conduct choirs virtually every type. Founded in 1959, the now-international organization promotes excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research and teaching. The organization holds its national convention, attracting 10,000 participants, every two years, alternating annually with divisional conventions.

Founded in 1972 and directed by Thomas R. Smith, chair of the Music Department, the AU Singers is an auditioned group of 36 singers and nine instrumentalists.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each well-made copy of this document is off-campus address. Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed to other units.