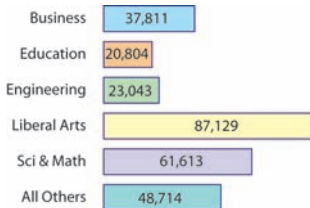


Inside

Auburn faculty will elect future leaders of the University Faculty and University Senate in March. See inside this edition of the AU Report for statements by the candidates for chair-elect. Additional information about the election and the candidates is on page 4.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Total credit hours by AU college, school, spring semester 2007



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Leaders say proposed budget cuts would cause major harm to AU, UA

Trustees and top administrators from Auburn University and the University of Alabama joined forces last week in Montgomery in a plea for fair treatment as the Alabama Legislature ponders sharply reduced projections for education revenue for the next budget year.

Facing projections of a decline in education revenues for 2008-09, the Education Appropriations Committee of the Alabama House is considering a bill that would cut funding to AU for operations and maintenance almost 14 percent from the current level for that fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

With the University of Alabama facing a similar cut, the trustee executive committees and chief executives of AU and UA said the spending proposals in the governor's proposed education budget for 2008-09 would hurt the state's two largest university systems far more than other parts of public education in Alabama. According to news reports, two-year colleges would take a 9 percent cut, and K-12's cut would be only 2.5 percent.

Meeting in a rare joint session on Wednesday in the RSA Tower, across the street from the Alabama State House, AU and UA trustees and administrators warned that the state's economy would be set back for years and thousands of students could find

themselves unable to afford college if AU and UA are forced to bear the brunt of the funding cuts.

Jimmy Rane of the AU Board of Trustees said the proposed disproportionate cuts would be "unfair and unconscionable."

Joe Espy, president pro tem of the UA Board of Trustees, and Sarah Newton, chair of the AU Board's Executive Committee, said the funding cuts would wipe out gains made in the budget for the current year and would harm the state, as well as the institutions. Other AU and UA officials pointed out that their institutions had made continuing commitments, such as scholarships and faculty salaries, that could not be undone.

The Auburn main campus would have to find a way to offset nearly \$30 million in lost funding for operations and maintenance. Cuts to Auburn Montgomery, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System would add another \$16 million in lost O&M funds to the total.

The actual shortfalls would be much higher, totaling \$40.3 million for the AU main campus and \$60.7 million overall because of rising costs for the state's teacher and employee retirement systems and health insurance

See [Impact of budget cuts](#), page 4

New officers

The Administrative and Professional Assembly elected April Staton of Pharmacy as chair-elect and Katie Mantooth of Student Affairs as secretary, effective April 1. The assembly's new leadership team is, from left, Immediate Past Chair Maria Tamblyn Folmar of Governmental Services, Assembly Chair Todd Storey of Aviation, Staton and Mantooth.



University Faculty and Senate

Chair-elect candidate statement

Ron Clark in his own words

One course I remember vividly from my graduate studies was on organizational structure. In that course, a university was described as a "professional bureaucracy." While the term "bureaucracy" is perhaps unpopular with most of us, the concepts of this structure have many real implications for the faculty and staff, students, administrators and those outside our campus.



Clark

Although my intention is not to provide a discourse on organizations, I believe that some of the organizational principles help define the role of our university leadership, including the senate chair. Many organizational theorists argue that the focus should be on the operating core, the faculty and staff who have direct and significant interaction with our primary client base, our students. At Auburn, we have some of the brightest minds and most dedicated faculty and staff of any university. Our leadership has a responsibility to create and maintain an environment that nurtures and encourages creative growth within that operating core.

Leaders of our university derive their position, power and influence from the professional core, the faculty and staff.

These leaders keep their influence only as long as the professionals perceive the leader is serving their interests effectively. This is certainly not to say that we the faculty are the highest priority. That honor goes to our students. Serving the faculty's interest is also not a one-way street. Faculty must recognize there is a "bigger picture" than individual classrooms or laboratories. Since we the faculty and staff appoint our leaders, we have an obligation to support and help them achieve our mutual goals.

What does all this have to do with our senate chair? The senate chair represents the faculty and staff. Of course, this places a responsibility on us to participate and communicate with our leadership. When we fail to communicate, our leadership must either assume what others are thinking or feel free to set their own agenda.

In my field of accounting, we often use the term "full disclosure." I think the term is applicable here, not in a financial sense but in understanding the issues we face over the next several decades.

I firmly believe that our leadership must first listen to all constituents and then fully disclose all

the issues and facts. Our leaders must have confidence that the professional core of this university will make the right decisions. Implied here is that we will have open ears and minds and are receptive to new ideas and changes.

At a recent academic meeting I had the good fortune to hear Lowell Catlett, dean of the College of Agriculture at New Mexico State, speak on the new frontiers of universities.

Dr. Catlett describes the last 50 years as an expansion of "dream space," that place where society can now dream of achieving anything people wish. If you accept his hypothesis, we have over 25,000 students, faculty, staff and administrators who have great expectations and opportunities to move Auburn to even greater achievements. We need to protect our "dream space."

Dr. Catlett's second point described universities evolving based on consumerism. Over the next two decades, how will we deliver educational content, what will our campus look like, what will be the relationship between professor and student?

While I embrace Dr. Catlett's "dream space," I must admit I'm having trouble with the consumerism part. I need to think about this. Are we moving in this direction? Should we be part of the consumerism movement? Let's start talking about this now and not let others dictate the nature and character of Auburn University.

I see the role of the University Senate chair as that of a bridge between the professional core and our administrators. While the senate chair may have personal opinions on certain issues, that person's primary task is to ensure full disclosure, open and effective communication between administrators and the faculty and staff. After all, if we are to move this university forward, all of us, from students to the Board of Trustees, must all be on the same page. To be sure, there are some things we need to talk about.

Ron Clark at AU

- ◆ Joined Auburn faculty, 1995
- ◆ Professor in Accountancy
- ◆ Director, School of Accountancy, 1995-2000
- ◆ Member, University Senate, 2005-present
- ◆ AU or Senate committee experience includes Faculty Salaries, Academic Computing, Academic Standards, Assessment, Non-Tenure Track Professors, Program Review

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 26

NEW PERSPECTIVES LECTURE "Road Trip: Touring Public Art of Alabama," Georgine Clarke, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

PUBLIC LECTURE "Election Administration's Role in Preserving and Promoting Democracy," Doug Lewis of The Election Center, 4 p.m., AU Hotel

ANNUAL MEETING AU Federal Credit Union members, 7 p.m., AUFCU Building

CONCERT AU Concert Band and AU Concert Choir, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre

Wednesday, February 27

MEETING Staff Council, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Foy 217; guest speaker John Mouton to discuss the campus master plan, traffic and parking

FACULTY SEMINAR "How to Get Small Groups to Work Effectively," from "Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education," led by James Groccia of the Biggio Center, 12:15 p.m., Foy 203; bring your lunch; call 844-8530

Thursday, February 28

FACULTY RECITAL Jeremy Samolesky, works by Bach, Beethoven and others on newly restored classic Steinway grand piano, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall

FINAL DAY Museum exhibition "Laser Wolf," recent works by mixed-media artist Adam Parker Smith, Jule Collins Smith Museum

Monday, March 3

NEXT AU Report

Tuesday, March 4

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

Tuesday, March 11

MEETING University Faculty, installation of officers, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall



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Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Deedie Dowdle.

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University Faculty and Senate

Chair-elect candidate statement

Kathryn Flynn in her own words

I spent some time reflecting on the past as I prepared to write this statement. Part of that reflection involved reviewing the statements of past chair-elect candidates.

This reflection provided a birds-eye view of the problems faced by this university over the last few years: Two presidents selected without searches at



Flynn

the national level, SACS probation, numerous high- and mid-level administrative positions filled on an interim or termed basis, controversy over post-tenure review and a well-intentioned but aborted attempt at developing a strategic plan, to name just a few. As I fast-forwarded through the past few years and reached the present, it appears that the university is currently undergoing a type of metamorphosis. After a number of years rife with controversy and uncertainty, we have entered a period that is marked with increasing stability, cooperation and progress. We have a president who was selected after a highly visible search process that involved representatives of most of the university's stakeholders. President Gogue is following through with his pledge to seek input from all parts of the university as he develops his administration and identifies priorities.

"One of our biggest challenges may be to put the past aside and trust each other."

National searches for many of the administrative positions previously filled on an interim or termed basis are under way, and completion of these searches should further enhance stability and opportunity. The people who stepped up and filled these positions during a period of uncertainty deserve our thanks for doing so. The new administrators, once hired, will need to be welcomed by all of us and every effort made to strengthen the relationships between the newcomers and those of us who have been here.

This is not to say that all of our problems or challenges are behind us. We still have to complete the strategic plan and we still grapple with issues like post-tenure review. One of our biggest challenges may be to put the past aside and trust each other. Another very real challenge is to fight the feeling that time spent on shared governance is time wasted.

The concept of shared governance, which is central to a strong, vigorous university, has not always fared well on our campus. For shared governance to work now, we have to decide to be involved, to be proactive, and sometimes, to take a chance and work together without revisiting the past.

This doesn't mean we forget our history; it means that we move forward despite the problems we've had in the past. This will ensure that we are part of a process that will build a stronger university that will attract high-quality students, faculty and administrators because it is an exciting place to work.

The next few years are bound to offer new challenges: Increasing demand for distance education, the need to do more with less as the economy changes, continuously updating and improving facilities to remain competitive in the research and teaching arenas, pressures on the tenure system, providing up-to-date Outreach and Extension to a changing state population, to name just a few. Successfully addressing these challenges will require effective communication and partnership between all members of the university community.

We have the tools and expertise to approach these and other challenges in innovative and exciting ways. Doing so will provide an example to our students who come here to gain both academic and life skills.

My experience as a senator, as an elected member of the Rules Committee, and as secretary-elect and secretary of the University Senate has prepared me to serve the faculty as chair-elect. I have seen first-hand how much work is involved in shared governance and I know that all of the effort involved is worthwhile.

Shared governance works when those involved treat each other with respect. This fosters an environment in which people are comfortable coming to the table to debate issues and work toward effective solutions. If elected, I pledge to do everything I can to ensure that such an environment is maintained.

Kathryn Flynn at AU

- ◆ Joined Auburn faculty, 1992
- ◆ Mosley Professor, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
- ◆ Member, University Senate, 2003-present
- ◆ Secretary, University Senate, 2006-07
- ◆ AU or Senate committee experience includes Executive, Steering, Rules, Campus Planning, Traffic Appeals, University Environmental Institute Planning Board

"This doesn't mean we forget our history; it means that we move forward despite the problems we've had in the past."

AU faculty to gain new leadership team, elect future officers in March

Auburn faculty are preparing for a transition of leadership, starting with an election in which faculty vote electronically from March 3-10 for chair-elect and secretary-elect of the University Faculty and its representative body, the University Senate.

The candidates for chair-elect are Ron Clark of Accountancy and Kathryn Flynn of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. Nominees for secretary-elect are Dennis DeVries of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and Lawrence Molt of Communication Disorders.

The winners will be announced at the March 11 meeting of the University Faculty and will take office in March 2009. During the coming year, the chair-elect and secretary-elect will assist 2008-09 Chair Bob Locy and Secretary Sue Barry, who will take office at the 3 p.m. meeting.

Locy, a professor in Biological Sciences, will succeed David Cicci of Aerospace Engineering as chair, and Barry, a professor in Curriculum and Teaching, will succeed Ann Beth Presley of Consumer Affairs as secretary. As immediate past chair, Cicci will serve for a year as faculty adviser to the AU Board of Trustees, succeeding Richard Penaskovic of Philosophy in that position.

Candidate statements by Clark and Flynn are on pages 2 and 3 of this AU Report. Candidate statements for the secretary-elect nominees will appear in the March 3 edition.

Chair-elect candidate Clark, a professor in the College of Business, has been an Auburn faculty member since 1995 and served five years as director of the School of Accountancy. He previously was in private practice in accounting and taught at the Uni-

versity of Georgia. Clark holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, an M.B.A. from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama.

Representing the School of Accountancy in the University Senate since 2005, Clark has served on senate or university committees on faculty salaries, academic computing, academic standards, assessment and university program review.

Chair-elect candidate Flynn is Mosley Environmental Associate Professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, where she has been a faculty member since 1992. She is also Extension forester and coordinator with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. She holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn and master's and doctoral degrees from LSU.

Flynn represented her school in the senate in 2003 and 2004, served as secretary-elect of the senate in 2004-05 and secretary of the senate in 2005-06. She has served on the senate executive, steering and rules committees, as chair of the faculty handbook committee and a member of the university's insurance and benefits committee.

Secretary-elect candidate DeVries, a professor in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, has been a faculty member at AU since 1990, and he holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He has served two terms in the University Senate.

Secretary-elect candidate Molt is chair of the Department of Communications Disorders and an associate professor in that department. A former member of the University Senate, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and has been a member of the AU faculty since 1995.

Impact of budget cuts

continued from page 1

for employees, as well as binding commitments for scholarships and contractual obligations, according to AU Executive Vice President Don Large.

Noting that AU has an annual impact of more than \$4 billion on the state's economy, AU President Jay Gogue said many people across Alabama, not just students, base their hopes and dreams on the work of Auburn, AUM, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension System. If the proposed budget cuts go through, he said, "a lot of hopes and dreams probably won't be met."

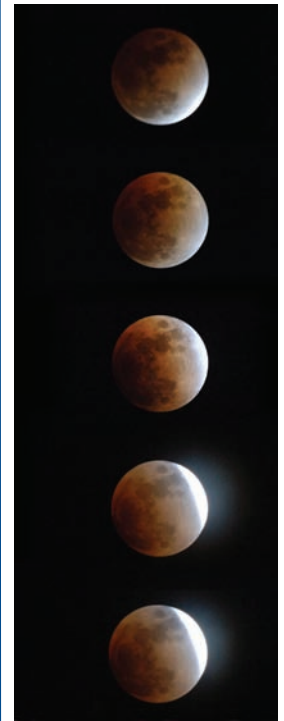
Malcolm Portera, chancellor of the UA System, said the proposed cuts would wipe out gains the university had achieved during a period of unprecedented growth. He noted that the pending education budget legislation, House Bill 319, contains the largest proposed budget cut for UA — and AU — in Alabama history.

Proponents of the legislative proposal have cited university endowments as justifying larger cuts on

four-year colleges than on two-year institutions or K-12. However, trustees and administrators from AU and UA noted that most donors stipulate how and over what period of time their gifts are to be used. The universities cannot by law divert donors' gifts to offset state funding cuts, they said.

The only remaining significant source of additional revenue, university officials said, would be tuition increases. However, Large said Auburn and AUM would have to raise tuition 24 percent this fall to offset the cut. AUM would have raise tuition 26.7 percent. UA officials said tuition increases at their three campuses would range from 26.5 percent to 28.5 percent.

Leaders of both university systems said they have no plans to impose a large burden on their students, but they said the cuts, if allowed to stand, would have wide impact and would not be confined to the campuses or students. AAES and ACES, for instance, receive no tuition for their statewide operations.



Lunar eclipse

Alert skywatchers in Auburn viewed a rare lunar eclipse Wednesday night, as captured in this series of photos by Jeff Etheridge of Photographic Services.

Hankes to aid planning for Olympics

Student Counseling Services Director Doug Hankes has been invited to participate in planning for the on-site provision of sport psychology services at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Hankes, who is also a sport psychology consultant for the AU Athletic Department, will journey to the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs on March 24-25 for Olympic planning activities.

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