AU faculty to vote electronically in early March for new leaders

Auburn faculty will vote electronically March 8-12 to select new officers for 2008. The candidates for chair-elect of the University Faculty and its representative body, the University Senate, are Roy Hartfield, a professor of aerospace engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and Bob Locy, a professor of biological sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Both have been AU faculty members since 1991.

Sue Barry of Curriculum and Teaching in the College of Education is unopposed for secretary-elect. An associate professor, she is coordinator for the college’s foreign language education program and has been an Auburn faculty member since 1993.

Richard Penaskovic and Kathryn Flynn will end their terms as chair and secretary, respectively, at the March 13 session of the University Faculty. At that meeting, David Cici will assume office as chair and Ann Beth Presley will succeed Flynn. The person elected chair-elect for 2007 will move into the top spot in 2008, and the new secretary-elect will rise to the secretary position at the same time.

After he steps down as chair of the University Senate, Penaskovic will succeed Conner Bailey as the faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees.

Candidate statements by Locy and Hartfield are inside this AU Report. Barry will issue a statement next week.

Hartfield has served on the Campus Planning Committee and the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, and he is graduate program officer in the Department of Aerospace Engineering. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, teaches courses at all levels of the department’s curriculum, maintains an active research program and has authored approximately 60 journal articles and conference publications.

Locy has served as a member of the University Senate, the Steering Committee, Rules Committee and the Academic Standards Committee. He also served on the University Curriculum Committee during semester transition. He formerly served on the Graduate Studies and Graduate Recruiting committees of the Department of Biological Sciences. He has published extensively and taught at the graduate and undergraduate level. He holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University.
The heart of the university is a faculty free to develop and express ideas.

Mun acmym. This style of cooperative, results-oriented leadership is what I hope to bring as an advocate for the faculty to the office of Senate chair.

With regard to post-tenure review, it is my view that post-tenure review is an important public policy tool for evaluating the performance of faculty. I believe that post-tenure review helps to maintain high standards of scholarship and academic freedom.

My focus as a faculty leader, working with a new president, would be to improve the working relationship with the faculty and, consequently, the Board of Trustees. The guiding philosophy would be to increase academic freedom and allow the university to emerge as a more positive form of faculty review.

Bob Lacy in his own words

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 1
PUBLIC EVENT "Model Minorities and Silent Majorities: The Mean- ing of Race Today." Presented by checkout composer Jean Sibelius. 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre

Monday, March 5
NEXT AU REPORT

Friday, March 6
FACULTY SEMINAR "Preserving Academic Dishonesty and the AU Academic Honesty Code." Noon-1:30 p.m., Foy 202; open to all faculty, staff and graduate students; bring your lunch

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

New Perspectives Lecture "William Christenberry’s Klan Tab- wa," artist historian Allen Tullos, 4 p.m., Julie Collins Smith Museum

Thursday, March 12
Election University Faculty, electronic voting for chair-elect and secretary-elect. By Monday, March 12
Federal transportation official visits AU to examine program for safer highways

The nation’s top transportation technology official visited Auburn last week to view a research program that could lead to better, safer highways and to discuss federal initiatives to solve road and traffic problems around the nation.

John Bobo from the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., toured AU’s transportation research laboratories and 1.7-mile test track. Bobo, who oversees all federal transportation research and technology programs, traveled to Alabama to hear from AU researchers about testing that helps road builders across the nation enhance the quality of new and reconstructed highways.

“As the Bush administration works to improve our nation’s transportation system, we are looking to state and local partners like Auburn’s National Center for Asphalt Technology to provide innovative ideas and solutions,” said Bobo, who is acting administrator of the U.S. DOT’s Research and Innovative Technology Administration. “A better transportation system improves our personal lives, our economy and our environment and lessens our dependence on foreign oil.”

AU’s National Center for Asphalt Technology combines research from a full-scale laboratory with actual performance on its test track to identify the best mixes of asphalt. Researchers can compress the life span of a road surface into two years, allowing them to speed development of smoother, quieter and longer-lasting roads. Recent testing resulted in identification of new pavement surfaces that eliminate highway spray in wet conditions and reduce road noise by as much as 30 percent in metropolitan areas.

“Our test track breeds innovation in road design,” said Buzz Powell, NCAT test track manager. “Drivers benefit from better performing and less congested roads that save taxpayers millions of dollars in highway construction costs.”

AU hosts summit to fight global hunger

AU welcomed representatives from more than 15 colleges and universities from across the nation last week for the second annual War-on-Hunger Summit.

These schools are part of Universities Fighting World Hunger, a grassroots student campaign to aid the United Nations in a global campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

“The War on Hunger movement is rapidly building,” said College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton. “What began at Auburn as a partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme in 2004 has spread to more than 50 institutions of higher education who have joined together under the banner of Universities Fighting World Hunger.”

Participants discussed ways to build advocacies, develop a curriculum with a focus on hunger, start and market campaigns, develop strategic partnerships with the corporate sector and take other initiatives to bolster the world hunger movement.

Among AU initiatives to raise awareness and more than $19,000 in donations are the annual Empty Bowls Banquet hosted by Human Sciences and the Jule Collins Smith Museum and the “Eat Less, Feed More” initiative sponsored by the Harrison School of Pharmacy.