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How Auburn Stacks Up

Average faculty salaries, 2004-05



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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

IAI FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Senate candidates state their views for faculty voters

With Conner Bailey and Patricia Duffy moving into the two top elected positions of the University Faculty and the University Senate on March 15, who will succeed them in 2006?

This issue of the AU Report provides statements from and biographical information about the four nominees for chair-elect and secretary-elect offices in the University Faculty, which includes everyone classified as faculty at Auburn, and the University Senate, the faculty's representative body. A committee of the University Faculty nominated two professors for each position.

Nominees for chair-elect are Richard Penaskovic of Philosophy and Christa Slaton of Political Science. Nominees for secretary-elect are Kathryn Flynn of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and Virginia O'Leary of Psychology.

Faculty will vote electronically on March 10-14 for a chair-elect and secretary-elect to succeed Bailey and Duffy, respectively, in those positions and move into the top positions. The results will be announced at the University Faculty meeting on March 15, when Bailey succeeds Willie D. Larkin as University Faculty and University Senate chair and Duffy succeeds Debra Cobia as secretary of the faculty and its representative body.

The chair presides over meetings of both the University Faculty and the University Senate and is the primary faculty representative to the university president and administration. Besides maintaining records for the University Faculty and the senate, the secretary assists the chair in representing the faculty and serves on the senate's Rules and Steering committees.

As immediate past-chair, Larkin will represent the faculty for a year as adviser to the Board of Trustees, succeeding John Mouton in that role.

The senate will release information about voting procedures closer to the start of voting. The faculty used electronic voting for the first time last year.

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Late afternoon shadows add to the serenity around a student design project near Hargis and Biggin halls.

University Faculty Chair-Elect Candidate

Richard Penaskovic in his own words

As a child I drove my parents crazy with questions: Where did I come from? What will become of us?

Asking questions is how I learn. I attended a workshop on the use of the computer at Rensselaer



Penaskovic

Polytechnic Institute in New York about 25 years ago, when computers started to be the rage. The workshop was for faculty from every discipline who were all new to computers. I wound up asking practically all the questions because many of the other faculty allowed me to be a spokesperson for their views. I question things not to be annoying but because I am naturally inquisitive.

I see several key issues facing this university. First, why not begin a search for a permanent president immediately? In my opinion Dr. Richardson came as interim president for only one primary purpose: to get us off SACS probation. To his great credit Dr. Richardson has accomplished this.

However, if interim deans can only serve for a year, for an even stronger reason an interim president should not serve for more than a year. We have not had a president chosen by the people who work here every day since Dr. Muse left in 2000.

Six years without a permanent president is not healthy for the institution, nor consistent with a commitment to shared governance. In addition, without a permanent president or provost, searches for deans will be on hold indefinitely because candidates coming in will not know the persons to whom they will have to report.

Second, Dr. Richardson now says that he has six priorities to accomplish, one of which involves program review. Dr. Richardson tells us that he came up with these priorities himself. Would it not have been better if these priorities emerged from his talks with various groups, trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students? Such prioritizing and input from diverse groups serves a dual purpose: It gives stakeholders a meaningful role in university affairs, and it demonstrates support for the basic principles of shared governance.

When Dr. Amy Gutmann recently became the new president of the University of Pennsylvania she spent the first few months meeting with various constituencies before deciding on her priorities. Her management style is collegial, that is, with input from many knowledgeable individuals, rather than top-down. Dr. Richardson has recently stated that at AU we're not an "integrated system." Perhaps that has to do with the top-down management style used here, one suited to the business world but not to academia.

Third, in regard to program review, two things

should be kept in mind. First, we need to ask ourselves what kind of student do we want to turn out at AU? What kind of skills should our graduates possess? The answers to these questions will determine what set of courses best fit our students for life in a forever-changing world.

Second, program review should not be rushed into but should occur under the aegis of a perma-

nent president and provost chosen by the entire university rather than by an interim president and provost.

Also, ought not faculty determine which courses belong in the core curriculum? After all, they have the expertise in these areas. As Aristotle said: "The expert in a particular area is the person trained in that area."

Should not the interim president search immediately for a full-time director of Affirmative Action/EEO? Do not the recent firings in the Athletic Department show the present system to be unsatisfactory?

We also need to recruit a more diverse student body and faculty, including minority groups in addition to people of color. Why do hundreds of Jewish students attend the University of Alabama and Emory University, whereas only a handful attend AU? Why can't we use, with any necessary changes being made, the same recruiting techniques that the Athletic Department uses in recruiting minorities so that we can hire minorities from underrepresented groups?

Why not beef up our sabbatical program for faculty and institute one for administrators? I know faculty/administrators that have been here 15 years and have never been granted a sabbatical. A sabbatical gives individuals the opportunity to pursue their research agendas uninhibited by committee meetings and other obligations. The university benefits in having a strong sabbatical program that culminates in published research because the prestige of a university has largely to do with the scholarly output of its faculty.

As chair I would see my role as working with the University Senate to safeguard the academic integrity of this university. I remain deeply committed to diversity, tolerance and academic freedom. I will continue to ask the tough questions as I work cooperatively with the administration to nudge this university forward.

"Asking questions is how I learn... I will continue to ask the tough questions as I work cooperatively with the administration to nudge this university forward."

Richard Penaskovic

Biography notes about Richard Penaskovic

Richard Penaskovic is a professor of religious studies in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts.

He has been a full professor at AU for more than 20 years.

Penaskovic received a Ph.D., magna cum laude, in theology from the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany.

He also has studied ancient languages (biblical Hebrew, Greek and Latin) and modern languages (French, German, Spanish and Arabic).

Penaskovic has more than 100 publications. His latest book, "Critical Thinking and the Academic Study of Religion" is in its second run and is distributed by Duke University Press. His refereed articles have appeared in the top theological journals in the world.

He has served as chair of the Tenure and Promotion Committee for the College of Liberal Arts, chair of the Religious Affairs Committee and chair of the Search Committee for the Goodwin-Philpott Eminent Scholar in Religion.

He has also served on the Academic Standards Committee, the Steering Committee of the University Senate and the Independent Study and Telecommunications Committee.

University Faculty Chair-Elect Candidate

Christa Slaton in her own words

As a member of Auburn University's faculty, I am committed to the university's mission to serve the citizens of Alabama through instructional, research and outreach programs and to help prepare Alabamians to respond successfully to the challenges ahead.



Slaton

This mission is best accomplished by recognizing the trust placed in our hands by the citizens of the state, by striving for excellence in all our endeavors, and by collaborating with all stakeholders to promote the highest ideals of an institution of higher learning.

A vibrant intellectual environment that promotes academic freedom, encourages study and discourse to advance knowledge and prepares students for an enriched life of learning are the hallmarks of great universities. Auburn's faculty are devoted to keeping Auburn among the best academic institutions in the country.

The best means to achieve Auburn's mission is through shared governance. After more than two decades of research in my field, I have discovered that policies made openly with candid discussion among diverse perspectives are usually wiser and more easily implemented than those developed by a small group of like-minded thinkers behind closed doors. Developing policies democratically is not always the most efficient method of decision-making, but it is the most effective. When one factor in the difficulties of imposing policies on those who have had no say and see no value in them, one recognizes that efficiency in decision-making is lost in policy implementation.

One avenue for shared governance is the University Senate, a deliberative body composed of elected representatives and administrators. The chair should use this forum to bring all issues and policies that affect the academic life of Auburn University into an open debate. This body is the appropriate venue for broad-based discussion of policies that often are evaluated and/or proposed by university and senate committees.

In general, the senate speaks for the faculty. It is through the senate that the chair has the authority to speak for the faculty. As senate chair, I would consider it my responsibility to speak clearly and forcefully as I have been directed by the faculty either through their direct voices in faculty meetings and surveys or through their representatives in the senate.

In recent years I have represented my department in the senate, chaired the Faculty Salaries Committee, and served on the Rules Committee. These experiences have led me to focus on the following goals if elected chair:

Proactive Faculty. With reaccreditation behind us, faculty are now able to focus on the future and develop a proactive stance in policy-development. This has been demonstrated by Willie Larkin's laudable leadership in forming the committee to develop guidelines and criteria for a presidential search. I will encourage faculty initiative in matters that affect the academic

community and will be a strong advocate for their expertise to be utilized in decision-making.

Greater Utilization of Standing Committee Expertise. I propose that we clarify or broaden the charge of standing committees in the university. Too often ad-hoc committees have

been created to tackle a specific policy proposal, which is developed in response to a crisis or pending crisis. Faculty representatives of ad-hoc committees rarely have the luxury of time to deliberate extensively or the experience that is gained by serving a three-year term on a standing committee.

Access to Information and Decision-makers. Committee reports should be placed on the web for faculty to review, and avenues need to be developed to solicit greater faculty input before final decisions are made. I am convinced that we have a great reservoir of faculty expertise on this campus and that we could save the taxpayers of Alabama a significant amount of money if we tapped into it rather than hiring outside consultants at hefty fees to tell us what we already know.

Implementation of a Diversity Plan. We should follow through on the three-year effort of the Diversity Leadership Council and the Multicultural Diversity Commission and adopt specific strategies to demonstrate that diversity is a core value on this campus. While many faculty have invested an extraordinary amount of time in addressing this issue, it appears to be getting lost in the haste to complete a new program review. It needs to be central to all our efforts to improve the intellectual life at Auburn.

The Auburn faculty have invested their professional and personal lives in this university and community. Most of the current faculty will be at Auburn long after our interim president has left, students have graduated and the terms of the current members of the Board of Trustees have ended. There is no doubt that faculty can and

"There is no doubt that faculty can and must be active partners in defining and striving to achieve the university's mission."

Christa Slaton

Biography notes about Christa D. Slaton

Christa Slaton is a professor in the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts.

She was a visiting assistant professor at AU in 1992-93 and returned as a member of the faculty in 1994. She was promoted to associate professor in 1996 and professor in 2001. She served as director of the Master's of Public Administration program from 1997-99.

Slaton holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hawaii and taught there and at San Diego State and Georgia Southern before joining the Auburn faculty.

She is associate editor of the "Journal of Public Policy" and is author and co-author of three books and other publications in her field.

must be active partners in defining and striving to achieve the university's mission.

I believe we are most successful at fulfilling our mission when faculty spend time working with the administration in implementing policies derived from shared governance rather than reacting to decisions that have been made in executive offices without the careful consideration of diverse perspectives.

Pharmacy collaborative encourages community-involvement incentives

Auburn's Harrison School of Pharmacy has joined forces with nine other health-profession schools across the United States in a nationwide effort to get colleges and universities more involved in their communities.

Health profession scholars at the 10 institutions recently formed the

"Our goal is to make changes in the way community-engaged scholarship is defined and considered as it relates to awarding promotions and tenure."

Janelle Krueger

Community-Engaged Scholarship for Health Collaborative at the invitation of the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, a nonprofit membership organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions.

"Our goal is to make changes in the way community-engaged scholarship is defined and considered as it relates to awarding promotions and tenure," said Janelle Krueger, an assistant clinical professor and coordinator of Auburn's Pharmacy Practice Experience program.

Krueger said the prevailing tenure system in the United States emphasizes scientific research with much less attention devoted to community-based teaching, research and service. The collaborative is an attempt to recognize community-engaged scholarship as equal in importance to scientific research when decisions regarding promotion and tenure are made, she added.

The group will increase support for community engagement by developing new models for faculty review and promotion and tenure policies and

practices as incentives for faculty participating in community-engaged scholarship. "It is our hope that these models will then be adopted by schools across the nation," Krueger said.

The group will be funded by a three-year \$564,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Teams from each of the 10 schools will convene annually for the next three years, starting with a recent meeting in Nashville. AU's team includes Krueger and two other administrators from the pharmacy school, a representative from the Provost's Office and a representative from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Krueger said the Harrison School of Pharmacy's emphasis on community engagement and the school's Pharmacy Practice Experience program mesh closely with the goals of the national health collaborative.

The Pharmacy Practice Experience is a community-based program that matches pharmacy students with people in the Auburn area who need a moderate level of health-care assistance. In an effort to help those persons make informed health decisions, the students visit them each week to discuss medications, perform routine tests such as blood pressure checks and serve as a general health resource.

"Our program is unique because it extends from the first year of pharmacy school to the third year. It involves students in the patient care process early in their education," Krueger said.

"We are already doing this sort of outreach scholarship, so we're ahead of the game," she added. "Since Auburn recently revised the definitions of outreach and outreach scholarship for promotion and tenure, we can share our journey thus far in recognizing this type of scholarship."

Turkish dance troupe to perform Thursday at AHS

The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi, a native dance troupe from Turkey, will perform a traditional Mevlevi Sufi Order ritual at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Auburn High School Auditorium.

The dervishes perform 13th century Turkish dances featuring traditional costumes and instruments. The Whirling Dervishes have performed in Europe and throughout Turkey and in many U.S. cities.

The AU Diversity and Tolerance Organization helped organize the performance in Auburn. Sponsors for the event include the City of Auburn and AU's Center for Diversity and Race Relations,

Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Center for Art and Humanities and College of Liberal Arts.

A free trip to Turkey will be among door prizes awarded following the performance.

Tickets for the performance are \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$15 for others. Tickets may be purchased from the Telfair Peet Theatre Box Office (844-4154), Kroger, Bruno's, Hastings and at Foy Student Union (844-2976). For more information, see the web site www.auburn.edu/dto or www.ruminights.com.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 1

- Concert: AU Community Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. See <http://frontpage.auburn.edu/music/orchestra/>

Thursday, March 3

- Higher Education Day: Rally for Alabama higher education, 11 a.m., front steps of Alabama Statehouse, Montgomery.
- Public Lecture: "The Sexuality of History: Sapphic Subjects and the Making of Modernity," Susan S. Lanser, Brandeis University, 12:30 p.m., Foy 217.
- Human Resources Seminar: "Learning the Library," introduction to electronic resources of Draughton Library, 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.
- Performance: Whirling Dervishes of Rumi, 7:30 p.m., Auburn High School Auditorium. For ticket information, see www.auburn.edu/dto or call 844-4154.

Friday, March 4

- Reception: Auburn Alumni Association honors Alumni Professors and award-winners, 4 p.m., Alumni Center.

Monday, March 7

- Next AU Report.
- Public Lecture: "Occidentalism: Arab Perspectives of the West," Sabry Hafez, London University, 7:30 p.m., Draughton Library.

Tuesday, March 8

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

Tuesday, March 15

- Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall. Includes installation of new officers.

Wednesday, March 16

- Jay Sanders Film Festival: Top entries from the Movie Gallery Student Video Competition, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.



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Four faculty members to receive awards from Alumni Association

The Auburn Alumni Association will present awards to four Auburn professors for teaching and minority achievement at a 4 p.m. reception Friday at the Auburn Alumni Center.

Juan E. Gilbert, a professor of computer science and software engineering, is the 2004-05 winner of the Association's Minority Achievement Award, which recognizes his efforts in recruiting, mentoring, retaining and graduating minorities and women at Auburn.

Gilbert, who joined the College of Engineering at Auburn in 2000, has attracted national attention for his development of software to aid admissions professionals in achieving a more diverse student population. Among other honors, Gilbert has been cited by Black Issues in Higher Education as one of the nation's top African-American scholars.

Winners of the Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award for 2004-05 are Jack B. Brown, a

professor of mathematics and statistics in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, which he joined in 1967; William J. Moar, a professor of entomology and plant pathology in the College of Agriculture, where he has been on the faculty for 14 years; and Christine A. Sundermann, who is a professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics' Department of Biological Sciences and has been an AU faculty member since 1984.

The annual Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards recognize Auburn faculty members for their quality of teaching, knowledge of their subject, interest in and availability to students and influence within the university.

In addition, the Alumni Association will award Alumni professorships to five other faculty members, bringing the total to 25. Information about the Alumni Professors will be in next week's AU Report.

AU to assist state with training program for homeland defense

Auburn will participate in a \$1.1 million contract from Alabama state government to provide homeland defense training to emergency responders and other agencies.

The university will participate through its license to use the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation software. Developed by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the software is a simulation program used in the U.S. government's homeland security training.

AU is the first university licensed to use the simulation software, said Patrick Aguiard, vice president of operations for Alabama-based Emergency Response Training Inc.

Through the contract with the state, AU and the Emergency Response Training firm will help the Alabama Emergency Management Agency develop and implement a series of functional, full-scale simulation and discussion-based training exercises. The focus will be on response to and recovery from events involving weapons of mass destruction, Aguiard said.

The training will be conducted through several regional exercises. Auburn is a subcontractor in this effort, which is led by IEM Inc. a Louisiana-based homeland security and emergency consulting firm with operations nationwide.

Spirit of Excellence

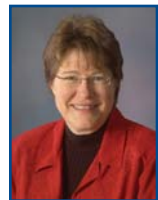
Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence Awards to four employees to recognize exceptional performance. Recipients for January were, clockwise from top, Sonora Alvies of Facilities, Michael Palmer of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mary Ledford of Army ROTC and Christina McClendon of the Human Resources office of the Cooperative Extension System.



University Faculty Secretary-Elect Candidate

Kathryn Flynn in her own words

I joined the AU faculty in the spring of 1992 and, like many on campus, have experienced frustration over the continued ups and downs suffered by the university. I eventually decided to fight those feelings by becoming proactively involved in university governance issues.



Flynn

To that end, I have served on a number of committees, most recently as senate representative for the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the Senate Rules Committee and the ad hoc Committee on Process, Criteria and Timing of a Presidential Search.

I see three main areas of concern: facilitating a continuing dialog, respectful to the views and needs of everyone associated with the university; ensuring that administrative positions are filled via national searches that seek strong faculty and staff input; and ensuring faculty and staff input into the proposed reorganization and strategic planning processes being undertaken by interim President Richardson.

I have learned that the University Senate serves as a vital conduit of information from the faculty to the administration and vice versa. The collection of intelligent, capable and highly opinionated people making up the university has a responsibility to be aware of how each component (administration, faculty, Board of Trustees, staff and students) interacts with external agents and with each other. We must (and do) speak up when situations develop that appear to be inappropriate. We must also be willing always to question processes, procedures and motives. The Auburn faculty history is one of tending to these responsibilities, and we can be proud of that fact.

Past senate leadership has established a legacy of responding in a proactive way to university governance issues. This is a legacy that must be lived up to by future faculty representatives. The successful accomplishment of these duties requires critical thinking, respect for divergent viewpoints, a willingness to ask questions and persistence. If elected to the office of secretary-elect, I will work diligently to further the goal of shared governance through service on the senate's Steering and Rules committees.

Most of us breathed at least a tempered sigh of relief when the SACS probation was lifted. Even so, current realities elevate the importance of shared governance to new heights. Many administrative positions at AU continue to be filled by interim or acting personnel. Dr. Richardson is our second interim president and we are now in our fifth year since Auburn has had a president selected following a national search. An internally

selected candidate will soon be named to fill, for a fixed term, the position of provost. Other upper administrative positions operating under interim status include: assistant provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, VP for auxiliary services, and VP for alumni affairs. The College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education are both operating with interim deans. Each college has been without a permanent dean since 2001. The associate dean for academic affairs and the associate dean for research and budget within the College of Liberal

Arts are both filled by interims as well. In addition, there are at least seven or eight department heads and chairs filled by people serving in an interim or acting capacity. This is not meant to be a criticism of any of the people occupying these positions. In fact, given the likely difficulty of serving in an interim capacity supervised by an interim president, I have a great deal of respect for the people willing to take on the responsibilities inherent in these positions.

I also believe that the very fact that so many administrative positions on campus are filled in a temporary way means that qualified faculty have stepped up to fill these positions and those faculty not filling administrative positions have continued to excel despite a culture of uncertainty. This has allowed Auburn to continue to be ranked very high from an academic standpoint. A strong argument can be made that the institutional memory at Auburn resides within the faculty rather than with an administration that continues to be in a state of flux. This situation makes shared governance even more important than ever.

To make matters even more interesting, we are entering a period of potentially significant reorganization for many units on campus, the development of a strategic plan prior to the hiring of our next president and continued uncertainty for many people on campus. The university has processes and procedures that, when carried out by appropriate committees, ensure that shared governance is a reality. It is up to all of us, and most especially to the senate leadership, to make sure that these processes and procedures are used appropriately during these times of change. For that reason, I would be honored if elected to serve in the senate leadership.

"It is up to all of us, and most especially to the senate leadership, to make sure that these processes and procedures are used appropriately during these times of change."

Kathryn Flynn

Biography notes about Kathryn Flynn

Kathryn Flynn is Mosley Associate Professor of forest ecology and Extension specialist in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

A 1980 AU graduate in botany, she has been a member of the Auburn faculty since earning a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1992.

In the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Flynn teaches upper-level and graduate courses in environmental ethics. She also conducts outreach activities and produces publications on environmental practices for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

She has also represented the school on the University Senate and has served on the Senate Rules Committee and other panels.

Her primary areas of research involve wetlands management and policy and related environmental studies.

Biography notes about Virginia O'Leary

Virginia O'Leary is a professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. She has been an AU faculty member since 1994.

This semester, she is a Fulbright Scholar in Nepal, where she has conducted extensive research in the field of cross-cultural psychology. In Nepal until June, she is teaching research methods at Tribhuvan University and conducting research on changing gender roles and stereotypes.

At AU, O'Leary served as chair of the Department of Psychology from 1994-2000.

Before joining the AU faculty, she served as chair of the Department of Psychology at Indiana State University. Earlier in her career, she taught at Oakland University in Michigan, served as deputy executive officer for public affairs at the American Psychological Association and was director of the Radcliff Conferences on Women in the 21st Century at Harvard.

She holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from Wayne State University and has written extensively for journals, encyclopedia and books in her field.

University Faculty Secretary-Elect Candidate

Virginia O'Leary in her own words

I write this statement from Nepal, where I am currently teaching and doing research as a Fulbright senior scholar.

As you may know from reading or watching the international news, on Feb. 1, HMK King Beryendra fired his cabinet and took total control of the government of Nepal. In doing so, he cited the former prime minister's failure to hold elections and bring the Maoists to the table for peace talks as grounds for declaring a crisis government and removing all the freedoms that the populace had enjoyed since 1991, when the king's brother



O'Leary

established a constitutional monarchy. These freedoms include freedom of assembly, freedom to express dissenting views and freedom of the press.

A longtime advocate of shared governance, my current experience makes me acutely aware of the value of democracy within a country and of shared governance within an institution of higher education.

Once again, Auburn is facing profound challenges. SACS removed us from probation in December but continues to monitor our compliance with its criteria and will return in the fall for one more targeted site visit. It has been well over 10 years since we have had a president selected with appropriate consultation of all those who are stakeholders in the university.

Our interim president recently accepted the resignation of the provost, who was hired by the previous interim president — whose own interim title was removed by the Board of Trustees without consultation with faculty, staff, alumnae and students.

Three and a half years have passed since the campus was assured that Auburn holds the pursuit of diversity as a core value, yet little concrete action has occurred to change the climate of the institution and a number of people of color and women no longer grace the highest ranks of the central administration. If the promulgation of diversity is ever to be realized as a core value at Auburn University, diverse groups must be represented at the highest levels of the administration, where policies are set and institutional values implemented.

I believe that for Auburn to move forward to truly achieve its oft-noted potential, faculty and staff as well as student leaders must find a way to work collegially with the central administration. In my role as chair of the Psychology Department from 1994-2000, I worked effectively with a number of high-level administrators to further the professional and educational goals of faculty and

students. I recently completed my term as chair of the Multicultural Diversity Commission and have served two consecutive terms as the Department of Psychology's senator. I am familiar with the role of the University Senate, both on paper and in actuality, and I am committed to ensuring that all voices are respectfully heard and that everyone is encouraged to be part of the governance process in an atmosphere where honest disagreement is not condemned as disloyal, where diverse opinions are afforded genuine respect and where business is conducted with professionalism and civility.

The position of senate secretary is an important one, as accurate record keeping is critical to any organization, especially a large one dependent upon minutes for its all-too-often-ignored-or-overlooked institutional memory.

Having served in a variety of administrative capacities from department chair at two different universities to president of two large professional organizations with memberships in the thousands, I am acutely aware of the critical importance of clear and unbiased record-keeping. I am willing to commit the large amount of time necessary to serving as secretary of the senate

and its concomitant commitment to serving on the Steering Committee of the senate. I have a strong work ethic and, personally and professionally, am deeply concerned about issues of fairness and equity.

Additionally, I am cognizant of the importance of adhering to role requirements. The role of an individual senator representing a department is not the same role as that of an elected officer of that governing body. The responsibilities associated with the two roles differ considerably. I would consider it a privilege to serve as secretary to the senate and would devote my efforts to ensuring that the governing body of the institution is truly representative of all its constituents, even those who rarely speak publicly but who have opinions worthy of the serious consideration of us all.

"...I am committed to ensuring that all voices are respectfully heard and that everyone is encouraged to be part of the governance process in an atmosphere where honest disagreement is not condemned as disloyal, where diverse opinions are afforded genuine respect and where business is conducted with professionalism and civility."

Virginia O'Leary



Dedication

University and city officials joined the staff of the AU Medical Center and their families last Thursday in dedicating the clinic's new building on Lem Morrison Drive. The building, which opened in January, is the first new facility for medical care for the university since the 1930s. The AU Medical Center serves faculty and staff as well as Auburn students.

English Department launches public lecture series about world literature

The Department of English in AU's College of Liberal Arts is starting a World Literature distinguished lecturer series to highlight the expanded scope of the literature program in Auburn's core curriculum.

Each semester an internationally prominent scholar will come to Auburn to discuss topics that will be of special interest to the general public as well as students and faculty, said Alexander Dunlop, coordinator of the World Literature Program.

The first speaker in the World Literature Lecture Series will be Sabry Hafez, a professor of modern Arabic at the University of London. Hafez, who is also a visiting professor at Harvard, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, in the auditorium of Draughon Library.

Hafez, an internationally prominent literary scholar and critic, will discuss the perceptions and misperceptions that the Arab World and the West have of each other. He will also meet with Auburn faculty to discuss successful approaches to teaching literature from other cultures.

The visiting lecturer is co-editor of three volumes of "The Longman Anthology of World Literature," a survey of significant literature from major cultures of the Ancient World, the Medieval Era and the Early Modern Period. Hafez, who earned a Ph.D. in modern Arabic literature from the University of London in 1979, is a member of a nine-member panel that is responsible for financing research in modern languages in all British universities.

The public lecture series is sponsored by the

English Department, the AU Office of Diversity and Race Relations and the Longman Company.

The public lectures will help focus attention on a major part of Auburn's core curriculum, said Dunlop, an associate professor in the Department of English. He noted that the World Literature Program is an expanded version of the sequence that was called Great Books until last fall semester.

"In the study of literature, as well as in other academic studies, we need to promote awareness of and respect for other cultures because graduates will be in contact with other cultures in their careers and daily lives," he said. "The study of literature helps people learn more about themselves as well as other cultures."

He added, "We have not abandoned the traditional canon, but we are refocusing the courses to show how Western literature fits in with literature from other cultures."

'Hunger' film series moves from Human Sciences to Business

The "Pay It Forward" film series, which originated in the College of Human Sciences as part of AU's involvement in the worldwide "War on Hunger," has a new sponsor.

The "War on Hunger" Subcommittee of 19 in the College of Business began sponsoring the film series in February. Films are shown on Sundays at 5 p.m. in Room 129 of the Lowder Business Building. Upcoming films and dates are: "Life and Death," March 6; "Lost Boys of Sudan," March 13; and "Hidden in America," March 20.

IMG opens registration for Summer Academy

AU's Instructional Multimedia Group, which provides training in academic technologies for faculty and others, is accepting applications for its 2005 Summer Academy.

The Summer Academy is a five-week in-depth training course that includes instruction in the use of WebCT, PowerPoint, web-design software, photo editing software and other educational technologies.

The academy will offer basic and advanced levels of instruction to faculty, staff and graduate students.

For more information on instructional programs at either level or to access the online application, go to www.auburn.edu/img/ and click on "IMG Academy."

The priority application deadline is March 15. Applications received after that date will be considered on a space available basis.

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