Committee starts new search for nominees to Board of Trustees

Gov. Robert Bentley has restarted the process of filling nine new or emerging vacancies on the Auburn University Board of Trustees.

The governor, who is also president of the Board of Trustees, withdrew the list of nominations earlier this month after the confirmation process stalled in the Alabama Legislature, where key senators objected to the haste and lack of time for public input into the selection process.

Bentley said Wednesday that the initial process had been rushed, and he promised a more deliberative process this time.

The initial selection process began on March 31 and concluded eight days later as the Trustee Selection Committee sought to get the nominations to the Senate during the current legislative term, which ends June 9. The Trustee Selection Committee nominated six current trustees for new terms along with nominations for three new members for the other vacancies. Several of the nominations came in 3-2 votes, with a split between representatives of the Board of Trustees and those from the Alumni Association. Bentley cast the deciding votes in several nominations.

In the Senate, several senators questioned the process and President Pro Tem Del Marsh, an Auburn alumnus, said he would not allow the trustee nominations to move forward under the circumstances that then existed. In addition, former Alumni Association President Andy Hornsby filed a court challenge, claiming that the initial process violated the state Open Meetings Act; Hornsby dropped the challenge after Bentley withdrew the nominations.

In restarting the process, Bentley said Wednesday the search committee would accept applications through June 24 and this time would interview every applicant.

Nominations could go before the Senate at the start of its 2012 session, before all nine positions become vacant; under legislation that created the current board structure, a trustee may serve up to an additional year if a seat is unfilled when his or her seven-year term expires. Two current members whose terms are expiring may serve until Feb. 9, 2012, if no appointment is made before then. Terms for four others expire next April and one expires in May 2012.

Currently, only two seats on the Board of Trustees are vacant. Those seats were held by Jack Miller of Mobile, who died in 2009, and Paul Spina of Hoover, who rotated off the board in 2010.

Boosinger named interim provost

Timothy Boosinger, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named interim provost and vice president for academic affairs of Auburn University by President Jay Gogue.

Provost Mary Ellen Mazey will continue in her role until June 17, when she leaves Auburn to become president of Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Boosinger was recommended for the position after an internal search.

“I want to thank the interim search committee, headed by Libraries Dean Bonnie MacEwan, for its hard work,” said Gogue. “Dr. Boosinger is an excellent choice to keep the momentum we have built under Dr. Mazey’s leadership moving forward.”

Gogue added, “As a long-term dean, he is familiar with advancing academic objectives and working with faculty, and has established strong relationships on and off campus.”

As interim provost, Boosinger will not be a candidate for the permanent provost position, for which a search committee has already been established.

Calvin Johnson will serve as acting dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine until the permanent provost position is filled. Boosinger will return to the dean position at that time.

Boosinger, who earned his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Purdue University in 1976, came to Auburn in 1983 as an assistant professor of pathobiology. He has been the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine since 1996.
Library displaying collection of historic Bibles

To mark the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the King James translation of the Bible, Auburn University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives Department is hosting a special exhibit of some of the rare and historic Bibles that it holds in its collection. The exhibit is open to the public through Nov. 30.

On view in the Special Collections and Archives Department, the exhibit covers the approximately 100 years of English Bible translations that preceded the first King James Bible in 1611. Bibles in the exhibit include a facsimile of the 1525 Tyndale translation along with original printings of King Henry VIII’s Great Bible, the Geneva Bible, the Bishop’s Bible, the Rheims New Testament and a 1613 printing of the King James Bible.

The story of how each Bible came to be made and the historical events surrounding them are told in the exhibit prepared by Greg Schmidt, special collections librarian, and reference librarian Todd Shipman.

Proposed legislation would raise payments to retirement fund

Auburn University employees will be impacted if pending legislation is enacted in this session of the Alabama Legislature.

Several bills have been introduced. The proposed legislation would increase employee contributions for Teacher’s Retirement, may increase health insurance premiums for future retirees and proposes a replacement plan for the now defunct Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

Should the legislation regarding the increased employee contributions for Teacher’s Retirement pass, legislative observers say, the individual employee contribution will increase from 5 percent to 6 percent almost immediately upon passage. On Oct. 1, the contribution is proposed to increase to 7 percent and then to 7.5 percent at Oct. 1, 2012.

University officials are monitoring the proposed legislation and say they will communicate any definitive changes as soon as the changes are known. Officials encourage Auburn employees to review the proposed legislation at the following Retirement Systems of Alabama and Alabama Legislature links: http://www.rsa-al.gov/Legislation/current.html, http://www.rsa-al.gov/Legislation/legislative-news.html and http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/acas/ACASLoginIE.asp.

Student receives Fulbright assistantship to teach in France

Kristen Snow, a senior in Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts, has been awarded a Fulbright-French Ministry of Education Teaching Assistantship to teach in France for the academic year 2011-12. Snow will be placed in the Académie de Rennes, where she will be assigned to one or more schools in the region.

“Kristen is a well-rounded woman in every sense,” said Paul Harris, associate director of the Honors College. “She has an impeccable academic record in two challenging majors, French and English; a strong sense of who she is as a person and what responsibilities that entails; and a zest for life and making global connections. In addition, she is an accomplished musician.”

A member of the Honors College with a 4.0 grade point average, Snow is Auburn’s third consecutive Fulbright Student Scholar, following Rebecca Ludvigsen, Germany, 2009, and Helen Hunter Robertson, France, 2010.

In addition to Snow, five other College of Liberal Arts seniors have received assistantships to teach in France. Abigail Hess, Nadia Mazaheri, Rachel Nafte1, Sigourney Smith and Allison Thompson have been awarded the competitive Teaching Assistant Program in France sponsored by the French Ministry of Education.

“These students are well-rounded young women who will be good ambassadors from Auburn,” said Samia Spencer, professor of French in the Department of Foreign Languages. “The year they will spend in France will prepare them well for their respective career choices.”

Each year the Fulbright Scholarship program and the French Ministry of Education allot 50 applications for the Fulbright-French Ministry of Education Teaching Assistantship. To be eligible for the award, the student must complete a Fulbright Scholarship application which requires a detailed project proposal and personal statement. The applicant must also submit three letters of recommendation, a letter certifying fluency in French and an interview with the selection committee.

– Carol Nelson

Campus Calendar

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day No classes, offices closed for holiday

Monday, June 6
Free Screening for speech and hearing problems in adults and children, 1-4 p.m., Speech and Hearing Clinic, Haley 1199

Friday, June 10
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Friday, June 17
Meeting Board of Trustees, time TBA, The Hotel at Auburn University
In College of Veterinary Medicine

Alumni couple pledge $10 million to construct new small animal hospital named for former president and his wife

The Board of Trustees has approved the naming of the future small animal teaching hospital for former Auburn University President Wilford Bailey and his wife. The Wilford and Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital will be built adjacent to the existing hospital on the college’s campus.

Wilford Bailey was a graduate and one of the longest serving faculty members of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as serving as a vice president and president of the university, and Kate Bailey was a prominent member of the university community for much of her life.

Auburn alumni John and Rosemary Brown have made a $10 million pledge in memory of the Baileys. The Browns say they are contributing the funds in admiration and appreciation of their friendship with the Baileys which began when they were students at Auburn during the 1950s.

“Through their gift, John and Rosemary Brown are challenging friends and graduates of our college to match their pledge,” said Dean Timothy Boosinger.

“Theyir support creates awareness of the new small animal teaching hospital and encourages others to contribute,” said Boosinger. “The Browns wish to remember their friendship with the Baileys and the college is the very fortunate recipient”

Boosinger added, “Veterinary medicine at Auburn has a 119-year history of outstanding service to the advancement of animal and human health. The Browns’ generous gift in remembrance of the Baileys will enable us to continue as leaders in veterinary education for many years to come.”

Wilford Bailey, a veterinary parasitologist, held a 50-year continuous faculty appointment at Auburn University after receiving his veterinary degree in 1942. He served in positions ranging from instructor to university president.

Bailey was the first recipient of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine’s Distinguished Alumni Award. After his death in October 2000, the award was renamed the Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumnus Award to acknowledge his contributions to veterinary medicine, higher education and humanity.

Bailey met his wife Cratus “Kate” Hester when she enrolled at Auburn after earning degrees in home economics from Nashville’s David Lipscomb and Peabody colleges. The couple married in 1942. At the time of Bailey’s death, they had been married 58 years and had four children: Ed Bailey of Rye, N.Y.; Joe Bailey of Auburn; Margaret Bailey Newcomb of Palmyra, Va.; and Sarah Bailey of Acworth, Ga. Kate Bailey died Aug. 5, 2010.

John Brown, a 1957 graduate in chemical engineering, retired as CEO of Stryker Corporation in 2004. His wife Rosemary Kopel Brown graduated in 1957 in chemistry and spent 30 years as a secondary mathematics teacher. The Browns are longtime supporters of their respective colleges and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The Dr. Wilford S. Bailey Scholarship, funded by the Browns and given annually, provides resources for veterinary students.

Auburn University was recently named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with distinction, which recognizes leading colleges and universities for their dedication to civic engagement, service-learning and volunteering.

“There’s perhaps no better honor for our campus than to be recognized for helping others,” said University President Jay Gogue. “We applaud students, faculty and staff for their dedication to public service.”

The Honor Roll was established in 2006 and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service in collaboration with the Department of Education, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education.

Of this year’s 851 applicants for the award, 641 colleges and universities were admitted to the Honor Roll. Auburn was among 114 recognized with the status of Honor Roll with distinction. Auburn University was one of two universities from the state of Alabama and one of three from the Southeastern Conference to be named to the latter, more restrictive category.

“This is among the most significant recognitions a university can receive because it is national in scope and focuses on the institution’s outreach mission as a whole,” said Ralph Foster, director of the Office of Public Service. “Many Auburn outreach programs have been honored with individual awards. This is an institutional award that recognizes the whole of Auburn’s engagement activity.”

Foster credits the recognition to Auburn’s extensive support for service throughout the mission, culture and structure of the university.

“We’re a land-grant university, so outreach is in our charter,” Foster said. “Public service is also stressed in our creed, which has been so thoroughly embraced by the Auburn family as the core values of the university.” Foster added that Auburn also has an organizational structure to support outreach, as well as civic engagement heavily integrated throughout the curriculum.

Another requirement was placement of at least 7 percent of work study students throughout the community, a requirement which Auburn filled four-fold with 30 percent placed in off-campus outreach positions.

The Honor Roll recognition comes on the heels of the university receiving the Carnegie Foundation’s “Community Engagement Classification,” the highest recognition in higher education for a university’s outreach in the community.

“What makes this award important is this is yet one more recognition of Auburn’s special status as an engaged institution,” said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. “It’s nice to see Auburn recognized in the same year by both the nation’s premier educational foundation and by this significant federal program.”

– Tara Lanier

– Katie Horn
Agriculture professor for academic advising

College of Agriculture hosting farmers market at Ag Heritage Park each Thursday

The Market at Ag Heritage Park, a growers-only farmers market on the Auburn campus, opened its 2011 season this week and will be a regular Thursday afternoon event through Aug. 25.

The Market, established in 2004 and hosted by the College of Agriculture, is at Ag Heritage Park on the corner of Donahue and Lem Morrison drives from 3-6 p.m. each Thursday. The open-air market features locally grown produce and locally made products for a fresh-from-the-farm shopping opportunity.

National association recognizes College of Agriculture professor for academic advising

Dale Coleman, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Animal Sciences, has been selected by the National Academic Advising Association to receive an Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit at the association’s annual conference this fall.

The association recognizes individuals and institutions making significant contributions to academic advising. The association’s membership has grown to more than 10,000 faculty, professional advisors, counselors and others in academic and student affairs.

Penaskovic, Harris participate in Fulbright Educational Experts Seminar in Atlanta

Richard Penaskovic, professor of religious studies, and Paul Harris, associate director of the Honors College and an associate professor of political science, were invited participants at the 2011 Fulbright Educational Experts Seminar sponsored by the German-American Fulbright Commission in May at Georgia Tech.

The seminar brought together six presidents and rectors of Germany’s leading polytechnic institutes. Both Penaskovic and Harris have extensive experience living and studying in Germany; Penaskovic received his doctorate at the University of Munich, and Harris was a Fulbright Scholar and post-doctoral fellow at the University of Muenster.

Education professor elected to board of American College of Sports Medicine

Bruce Gladden, Humana-Germany-Sherman Distinguished Professor of Exercise Physiology in the College of Education’s Department of Kinesiology, has been elected as a trustee for the American College of Sports Medicine.

Gladden will serve as one of two trustees in the field of basic and applied science.

With a membership of more than 20,000 health professionals, medical specialists and researchers, ACSM represents the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world. Founded in 1954, ACSM promotes research, education and applications of sports medicine and exercise science.

A member of Auburn’s College of Education faculty since 1989, Gladden has served as president of the Southeast ACSM chapter and has earned its awards for scholarship and service. He also has served as associate-editor-in-chief for basic sciences for the journal Medicine & Science in Sports and Exercise.

Thomas named new director of faculty engagement for University Outreach

Chippewa Thomas, an associate professor in the College of Education, has been appointed director of faculty engagement in the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach.

In that post, Thomas will seek to ensure that faculty members have detailed and accurate information regarding outreach requirements as part of the tenure and promotion process. She will also work to develop incentives designed to increase Auburn’s outreach initiatives. She will report to the assistant vice president for university outreach.

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