Auburn University is projected to experience little change in its total revenues and expenses from the current budget year in the 2014 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

The university Board of Trustees approved a new budget on Sept. 13 that projects $1.054 billion in total revenues and expenses for the upcoming year. Among funds allocated, $14.3 million will come internally through budget reallocation. A tuition increase is expected to yield $6 million and state appropriations will increase $3.6 million.

Among base budget funds allocated for new cost commitments, compensation and benefits expenses on base funds will require an additional allocation of $19.5 million, with spending on deferred maintenance scheduled to grow by $2.1 million, the budget for the provost’s office and academic affairs increasing by $2 million and other expenditures increasing by $300,000.

Allocations for compensation and benefits will go toward merit-based pay increases for faculty and staff requiring a 2 percent allocation and a merit-based one-time payment in December, also requiring a 2 percent allocation of base funds.

The main campus budget will be $851 million, 80.7 percent of the total Auburn University budget for 2014. Auburn University Montgomery is slated to receive $89 million, with the Alabama Agriculture Experiment Station receiving $63 million and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to receive $51 million. The budget was developed in a nearly year-long process by the Office of Business and Finance with input from the deans and a broad-based 26-member budget advisory committee.

Series of speakers marks anniversary of integration

Throughout the 2013-14 academic year, Auburn University will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its integration with a series of programs, lectures and performances designed to educate and inspire the Auburn Family.

Organized under the banner “Commemorating 50 Years of Integration at Auburn University: Honoring the Past, Charting the Future,“ the events will recognize Auburn’s first African-American student, Harold Franklin, as well as the impact of other pioneering faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Among upcoming events will be a colloquium on Oct. 4 at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center featuring actor and author Thom Gossom, a leader in the integration of Auburn athletics. Gossom, a 1975 graduate, was Auburn’s first African-American walk-on football player and the first African-American athlete to graduate from the university.

Gossom and his wife, educator and entrepreneur joyce gillie gossom, will participate in the public colloquium, “Sustaining Legacies, Advancing Philanthropy,” at 10 a.m. The colloquium will be led by Marybeth Gasman, a professor of higher education in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, where she directs that institution’s Center on Minority Serving Institutions.

The Auburn University Women’s Philanthropy Board organized the colloquium and will host a business and professions expo at 9 a.m. at the hotel and conference center. The Gossoms will be guest speakers at the board’s fall luncheon. Their presentation, “Once Upon a Time...,” will draw from their individual experiences with integration and their hopes for the future.

Additional events throughout the year will examine the role that Harold Franklin and other pioneers of integration at Auburn University played in the cultural evolution of the university. “Integration is an important milestone in the university’s history,” said Paulette Dilworth, assistant vice president for access and community initiatives in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. “It allowed a quality college education to be accessible to more people, and in doing so, made the Auburn Family experience richer for everyone.”

On Jan. 4, 1964, at 2:20 p.m., Franklin, an aspiring history professor from Charleston, S.C., arrived at the library at Auburn University to register for classes in the graduate school. Despite tension surrounding the event, Franklin’s enrollment did not create the controversy and discord on campus or in the community that occurred previously with earlier desegregation attempts at other Southern institutions. Franklin later transferred to the University of Denver. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Auburn University.

“Over the course of 12 months, faculty, staff, students and alumni will organize events aimed not only at celebrating 50 years of diversity and inclusiveness on campus, but also focused on the future,” Dilworth said. “The commemoration is an opportunity for us to reflect on the past and plan for the future. We want everyone to be involved to ensure that Auburn continues to be a place where people of diverse backgrounds can engage in a community of mutual respect to tackle the great challenges of an increasingly diverse world.”

For more information about Auburn University’s commemoration events, go to the website http://wp.auburn.edu/diversity.

– Carol Nelson
Auburn University held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 13 for its new Mike Hubbard Center for Advanced Science, Innovation and Commerce. Auburn University and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station provided the remaining support and will fund the operation of the center.

“We are grateful to Speaker Hubbard and Dr. Willie May of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their support and commitment to Auburn University’s research efforts and the land-grant mission,” Mason said. “Our faculty and students will benefit immensely through the research we will conduct.”

The center has the potential to bring in millions of dollars in research grants and contracts annually, which can result in several times that amount in amplified economic impact per year.

“I am deeply honored to have my name associated with this remarkable center and I know the potential research breakthroughs and economic benefits will exponentially benefit the great state of Alabama for years to come,” Hubbard said. “Auburn is known across the country, and across the world, for its research capabilities and this facility will only help expand that reputation.”

Officials say work done in the building could be a boon to the state’s economy, such as the renewable energy focus leading to new jobs. Food safety research will also position Alabama as a hub for the nation’s food safety testing, technology development and training.

“While we are grateful to Speaker Hubbard and Dr. Willie May of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their support and commitment to Auburn University’s research efforts and the land-grant mission, our faculty and students will benefit immensely through the research we will conduct.”

Courtney Baker, Auburn University
Kinesiology celebrates official opening of its new home

Auburn University and its College of Education dedicated the new home for the college’s School of Kinesiology with a ribbon cutting on Sept. 12.

Located at 301 Wire Road, the School of Kinesiology building houses faculty offices as well as laboratories where a broad range of research is conducted relating to human movement, health and performance.

The 58,000-square-foot building is the first free-standing home for the recently designated school, which, as a department, was previously housed in the former coliseum. Among distinctive features of the new facility is a motor behavior lab for conducting research on physical activity in children; a more efficient and up-to-date facility for the TigerFit program, which provides health screenings and fitness assessments for members of the community; and a training center for USA Team Handball.

“Everything in this building will help us to improve our mission,” said Mary Rudisill, director of the School of Kinesiology. “Our goal is to be the best program in the country. We have unbelievable faculty and in this new facility we are able to perform our research, outreach and instruction more effectively in a building designed for what we do.”

The first floor of the three-level facility houses the school’s pediatric movement and physical activity laboratory and four biomechanics labs, while the second floor houses epidemiology, physical-education-teacher education and exercise behavior labs, as well as the TigerFit program. The third floor features controlled-access space for muscle physiology, cardioprotection, neurovascular, muscle metabolism, neuromechanics and thermal labs.

“As we move forward, our new facility is going to continue to open many doors for the School of Kinesiology,” Rudisill said. “We have already experienced the benefits of recruiting and maintaining exceptional students and faculty. We will continue to make substantial contributions to health and medical fields through our research, while paving the way for future practice in disease prevention and human performance.”

The Kinesiology building is one of the first buildings completed under a new university initiative to group classrooms apart from the colleges and schools in planned central buildings, enabling the academic areas to devote more space to research, administrative support and other needs.

NSA recognizes Auburn for academic excellence in cyber operations

Auburn University is one of four universities selected by the National Security Agency to carry the designation of a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations. The program is designed to cultivate more United States cyber professionals in an ever-changing global environment.

Joining Auburn are Carnegie Mellon University, Mississippi State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology.

“Auburn has devoted significant resources and interdisciplinary rigor across campus to expand new cyber initiatives and extensive collaboration with external organizations,” said retired Lt. Gen. Ron Burgess, senior counsel for national security programs, cyber programs and military affairs at Auburn.

“We are extremely pleased that NSA has recognized our efforts by selecting Auburn University for the program,” he added. “It is important to the nation, and we want to be a part of the strategic way ahead and feel we can contribute to this national need.”

The program, which now has a total of eight schools, complements more than 100 existing centers of academic excellence in research and information assurance education – jointly overseen by NSA and the Department of Homeland Security.

An outgrowth of the President’s National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, the program identifies institutions that have a deeply technical, interdisciplinary curriculum centered on fields such as computer science and electrical engineering. The NSA has long worked with schools to improve education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In addition, the program offers some participants opportunities to apply their learning or enhance their teaching in summer seminars at NSA. Participating students and faculty members do not engage in actual U.S. government intelligence activities.

Steven LaFountain, an NSA technical leader, said legal and ethical issues in cybersecurity are a required and critical part of the effort. “In the application process and in all of its work with selected schools, NSA emphasizes the importance of integrity and compliance,” he said. “Cyber skills are increasingly important in national defense, but it’s even more important to operate as responsible citizens in the use of such skills.”

Topics covered are routinely taught in colleges and universities, but this initiative seamlessly integrates the material to help students better understand how they could someday help to defend the nation. Summer seminar participants must undergo background checks and obtain temporary, top-secret security clearances.

The schools chosen in 2012, the program’s first year, were Dakota State University, South Dakota; the Naval Postgraduate School, California; Northeastern University, Massachusetts; and the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Like the agency’s other centers of academic excellence, those in the cyber operations program are evaluated annually. Designations are for five years and schools across the country can compete to join each year.

– Carol Nelson

– Mike Clardy
Campus News Briefs

Provost’s Office accepting nominations for Outstanding Advising Awards

The Office of the Provost is accepting nominations for Auburn University’s annual Outstanding Advising Awards. The deadline for submission is Oct. 10.

The awards recognize faculty and professional academic advisors who demonstrate exemplary advising performance. Nominations will be evaluated on the evidence of qualities and practices that distinguish the nominee as an outstanding academic advisor.

Advisors may be nominated in four categories: New Advisor, Advisor, Faculty Advisor and Academic Advising Administrator.

For additional information or to nominate an individual for an award, see the website www.auburn.edu/academic/societies/advisors_counselors_caucus/Advising_Resources.html.

Professor appointed temporary program director at National Science Foundation

Mathematics Professor A.J. Meir has been appointed a temporary program director at the National Science Foundation’s Division of Mathematical Sciences. Meir is spending the 2013-14 academic year at NSF headquarters in Arlington, Va.

As a temporary program director, Meir will make recommendations about which proposals to fund; influence new directions in the fields of science, engineering and education; support cutting-edge interdisciplinary research; and mentor junior research members.

A faculty member in Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics since 2001, Meir holds a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and a doctorate in mathematics from Carnegie Mellon University. He has a strong research interest in numerical and computational mathematics. Specifically, he conducts research in numerical partial differential equations, or the numerical analysis of methods for approximating solutions of partial differential equations, and the modeling and simulation of complex coupled problems.

Harrison School of Pharmacy becomes member of US-Thai consortium

The Harrison School of Pharmacy has become a member of the United States-Thai Consortium for the Development of Pharmacy Education in Thailand.

The consortium consists of 16 U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical faculties of 18 Thai universities. Consortium membership facilitates opportunities for educational and research exchanges for U.S. and Thai faculty members, graduate students, practitioners and student pharmacists.

The Harrison School of Pharmacy’s work with the consortium has been led by Salisa Westrick, an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Care Systems, and by Paul Jungnickel, associate dean for academic and student affairs.

COSAM researchers’ paper published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B

Biological Sciences Professor Geoffrey Hill in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and James Johnson, a biochemist in Hill’s lab, co-authored a paper that was published in the Royal Society’s Journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

The paper is titled, “The mitonuclear compatibility hypothesis of sexual selection.” In the text, Hill and Johnson explore the question of why female birds assess ornaments when choosing mates.

Proceedings of the Royal Society B is the Royal Society’s flagship biological research journal, dedicated to the rapid publication and broad dissemination of high-quality research papers, reviews and comment and reply papers.

Final edition of the Auburn Report in print

For nearly two decades, the Auburn Report has been available online as well as in print. This is the final edition of Auburn’s faculty-staff newspaper in print as we make the shift to an online only edition in October.

Starting on Oct. 2 with the next, online edition, the publication date will move on a temporary basis from Friday to Wednesday afternoon, eliminating time previously needed for printing and distribution. A new, web-based format and permanent publication schedule will be unveiled in the near future.

Online, a button on the Auburn University home page (www.auburn.edu) will take readers to the latest edition at the Auburn Report website. The direct link is www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html.

The Auburn Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each university office mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. The Office of Communications and Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.