Discussion of SACS probation

AU faculty to hold special meeting

The University Faculty will hold a specially called meeting at 3 p.m. Jan. 27 in Broun Hall auditorium to discuss Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' recent decision to place Auburn University on probation.

In placing AU on 12-month probation in December, SACS said Auburn failed to demonstrate compliance with the agency's criteria for institutional commitment and responsibilities in the accrediting process, had not established clear and effective protections against minority control of the governing board, lacked sufficient administrative oversight and financial control of intercollegiate athletics and had insufficient protections against Board of Trustees involvement in day-to-day administration.

Details of the SACS letter are online at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/sacsletter121703.pdf.

The probation resulted from a special investigation into AU governance that SACS launched in 2001. SACS said Auburn failed to demonstrate compliance with its criteria for institutional commitment and responsibilities in the accrediting process, had not established clear and effective protections against minority control of the governing board, lacked sufficient administrative oversight and financial control of intercollegiate athletics and had insufficient protections against Board of Trustees involvement in day-to-day administration.

Updates between issues @ www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

Source: Planning & Analysis

How AU Stacks Up

AU undergraduate degrees awarded, 1982-83 to 2002-03

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>87-88</td>
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<td>4,184</td>
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<td>5,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>98-99</td>
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On the rise

Construction crews continue work on AU's new 135,000-square-foot Science Laboratories Center on Roosevelt Drive. Two buildings are scheduled for completion in 2004 and a third in 2005.

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University
Funeral services were held on Jan. 2 at the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. Auburn University Trustee members W. James Samford, Burial was in Rosemere Cemetery.

Samford, a member of the board since 1987, died Dec. 29 at his home in Auburn following a lengthy illness.

An Opelika native, he was the great-grandson of Alabama Gov. William James Samford, for whom Auburn University's general counsel from 1976 to 1980. He was also the great-grandfather of the late Governor. He was a native of Baton Rouge, La., Smith earned a B.A. in political science from Alabama and a law degree from the University of Alabama in 1978.

From 1978-1980, he was an attorney for Auburn University's baseball park, Plainsman Park, the W. James Samford Stadium at Plainsman Park. Samford, who frequented Auburn baseball games, spearheaded the efforts for the construction of the new baseball facility in 1996 and additional renovations.

Six years after being appointed to the Board of Trustees by former Gov. Guy Hunt to represent the 3rd District, his fellow board members elected Samford president pro tem, a position he held until June 2003.

Samford was reappointed to the board for a 12-year term in 1999 by then-Gov. Don Siegelman. Samford earned a B.A. in political science from Auburn in 1961 and a law degree from the University of Alabama in 1964.

In April, the Board of Trustees voted to rename Auburn University's baseball park, Plainsman Park, the W. James Samford Stadium at Plainsman Park. Samford, who frequented Auburn baseball games, spearheaded the efforts for the construction of the new baseball facility in 1996 and additional renovations.

He also was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1902-1906 and 1914-1917.

Selection committee approves nominees

The Auburn Trustee Selection Committee has unanimously approved three new potential Auburn University trustees, and a fourth could be forward to the Alabama Legislature this spring.

The Selection Committee, meeting last Thursday at Gov. Bob Riley's call, quickly approved the trio of the vice president for University Outreach, Montgomery Dwight Carlisle of Alexander City, Gadsden city planner Charles Ball and Fayette school principal Sarah Newton.

The three trustees, who were not on the board in the past, did not become trustees because the state Senate never considered their names. Approval by a majority of the Board of Trustees is needed.

Riley said that after speaking with most of the members of the Senate Confirmation Committee, he expects no problems with their confirmation.

Senate President Pro Tem Lowell Barron, who would be replaced on the board by Ball, also says he sees no problems with the new trustees.

Other trustees who will be leaving the board are state Rep. Jack Venable, D- Tallassee, and Charles Smith, a former trustee.

The terms of Barron, Venable and Glover officially ended on Jan. 1, 2003, but the state constitution allowed them to carry over until the end of 2003 because the Senate had confirmed no replacements.

In addition to the three seats that have been pend- ing for more than a year, a fourth seat was opened with the death on Dec. 29 of trustee W. James Samford, Jr. of Auburn.

Said Riley, chairman of the Senate Confirmation Committee, said, however, the Samford seat would not become involved with the three others until after he was confirmed.

Riley said a meeting would be called fairly quickly to consider a replacement for Samford.

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### AIA 2004 Gold Medal goes to Mockbee

Samuel “Sambo” Mockbee, the late founder of Auburn’s Rural Studio, is the 2004 recipient of the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal.

The Gold Medal is the highest individual award the AIA presents to individuals whose significant bodies of work have lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture. The 59 past winners include such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, Frank Lloyd Wright, I.M. Pei, and an open-air pavilion.

Since its inception, architectural students at the Rural Studio have built several homes and community projects. Since then, students, in consultation with local residents, have produced architecture that challenges conventional methods, materials and forms. The students use such discarded objects as tires, scrap wood and bottles as structural materials.

In addition to serving as Alumni Professor of Architecture, Design and Construction to the Rural Studio’s base in Newbern, Ala., a town about 160 miles from campus in rural Hale County. The West Alabama county is one of the poorest in the United States, with more than 1,400 substandard dwellings. Since then, students, in consultation with local residents, have produced architecture that challenges conventional methods, materials and forms. The students use such discarded objects as tires, scrap wood and bottles as structural materials.

### “Freakspiel!” to premiere in Telfair Peet

AU Theatre’s world-premiere production of “Freakspiel! A Demented Rock Opera” will be Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Telfair Peet Theatre.

Performances of “Freakspiel!” are scheduled for Jan. 27-Feb. 1 and Feb. 3-7. All performances except the Feb. 1 matinee will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Feb. 1 performance is set for 2:30.

The AU Theatre box office is open from noon-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Admission is $18 per person for faculty and staff, $15 for students and $20 for others. For tickets, call 844-4154.

“Freakspiel!” was originally scheduled for November at the city’s Dempsey Art Center, but was cancelled. The show was set for the Dempsey Center because of renovations to Telfair Peet.

Worth Gardner, head of the Department of Theatre, said renovations to Telfair Peet are not complete, but are far enough along to allow the production of “Freakspiel.”

“We’re not ready for a gala opening, and it probably won’t be until next year,” said Gardner. “There’s still a lot of work going on, but we are at a point where we can present ‘Freakspiel!’ on stage with its in-the-round seating.”

Gardner describes “Freakspiel!” as “edgy, experimental theatre” that some viewers may consider shocking and others will see as a satire on the extremes of popular culture.

“Freakspiel!” is a new and different kind of theatre from what most of the audience is used to experiencing,” said Gardner, who is also the play’s director and musical composer. “We are warning people not to come if they are easily shocked or looking for soothing entertainment, and not to bring young children. This is anything but soothing, it is supposed to make people think.”

### Wilson shares knowledge with Koreans, Vietnamese

Dennis Wilson, professor and head of the College of Education’s Department of Health and Human Performance, was an invited keynote speaker for the recent World University in Daegu, Korea. In November, Wilson was part of a 10-member Sports Medicine Delegation that visited Vietnam. The group interacted with various school and hospital personnel in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

### Ellis again VP of Alabama Council

James Ellis, director of international education at AU, was recently re-elected to a third term as vice president of the Alabama Council for International Programs at the council’s annual conference in Montgomery. Anne Ledvina of Birmingham Southern College was re-elected to a second term as president. All universities and colleges in Alabama are members of the organization whose mission is to provide leadership for international education in the state.