Richardson pledges to institutionalize changes in governance, relationships

Interim AU President Ed Richardson told the University Faculty on Tuesday he expects questions about governance of the university to be resolved quickly to the satisfaction of AU's accrediting body. But, he added, the greater challenge, and one Richardson said he intends to meet, is to institutionalize relationships among the president, Board of Trustees, faculty and others so that longstanding issues are resolved before a new president takes office in two years.

Besides removing Auburn's probationary status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Richardson said, "I am prepared to do whatever it takes so that my successor will have a good chance of success."

In his first formal meeting with the faculty since taking office in late January, Richardson said faculty will be involved in setting a new course for the university. The interim president said he will seek and value faculty input on all major issues. He asked for faculty support in the effort to redefine relationships and establish clear guidelines for governance of the university.

“We need enough time to establish that the president can run this institution,” he said, adding that governing boards, in general, dislike ambiguity and are tempted to involve themselves in administrative decisions during periods of transition. "I want to take enough time to make sure that does not happen."

He predicted that the Board of Trustees will take on a different look with the addition of three new trustees approved Tuesday by the Alabama Senate and two more trustees who will fill remaining vacancies.

(See President, Faculty, page 2)
New trustees to take seats in March

Three new AU trustees, confirmed last week by the Alabama Senate, will take their places at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 19.

The three are Gadsden City Planner Charles E. Ball, Fayette School Principal Sarah B. Newton and Dwight L. Carlisle, the retired Russell Corp. presi-
dent who resigned this week as state revenue com-
misisoner immediately following Senate confirma-
tion of his appointment to the AU Board.

Ball’s appointment increases African-American represen-
tation on the board to two members, and Newton and
Carlisle becomes the second woman currently on the
board.

The Trustee Selection Committee recommended the three in January after the State Senate ended a spe-
cial session last fall without action on the nomina-
tions. The Senate acted early in the current session to approve the three new trustees.

The selection committee will reconvene on Feb.-to interview candidates for two remaining
vacancies on the Auburn Board. Persons chosen for
those seats and confirmed by the Senate will fill the
positions formerly held by W. James “Jimmy” Sam-
ford Jr. of Auburn, who died Dec. 29, and Ed Richardson, who gave up his board seat when he
resigned as state superintendent of education to
become interim president of AU in January.

Under the Alabama Constitution, Samford’s seat
must be filled from within Lee County. Under a con-
stitutional amendment in 2000, the seat formerly
held by that state superintendent of education as an
ex-officio position, by virtue of the office, changes to
an at-large position that is open to candidates from
throughout the continental United States.

Gov. Bob Riley, who is ex-officio president of the
AU governing board and chairman of the selection
committee, has set a goal of filling the remaining seats
during the current legislative session.

TigerCard Manager Steve Emsminger dies of apparent heart attack

Stephen S. Emsminger, operations manager of the AU Identification Card/TigerCard office, died of an apparent heart attack at his home on Feb. 6.

Emsminger, a former professional photographer, led AU’s transition to computer-based technology for ID cards when he joined the university staff in 1987 and played a key role in implementing and refining the TigerCard credit card over the past decade.

His supervisor, Ed People, interim director of Auxiliary Enterprises, said Emsminger’s co-workers
were shocked and devastated by the sudden, unex-
pected death of a friend who seemed in good health.

“We have lost a friend and Auburn has lost a very
competent and dedicated employee,” People said.

“Steve was very well-liked personally and profes-
sionally,” People said. “He leaves a void in this
office and in the life of everyone who knew him.”

Meanwhile, the university is hosting a visiting
team from SACS on Feb. 22-25 as AU undergoes its
regular 10-year accreditation review. Members of
the visiting team will hold an open forum at 3 p.m.
Feb. 23 in Foy 203.

SACS Open Forum: Discussion with members of accrediting agency’s visiting committee, 3 p.m., Foy 203.

TigerCard Manager Steve Emsminger dies of apparent heart attack

Stephen S. Emsminger, operations manager of the AU Identification Card/TigerCard office, died of an apparent heart attack at his home on Feb. 6.

Emsminger, a former professional photographer, led AU’s transition to computer-based technology for ID cards when he joined the university staff in 1987 and played a key role in implementing and refining the TigerCard credit card over the past decade.

His supervisor, Ed People, interim director of Auxiliary Enterprises, said Emsminger’s co-workers
were shocked and devastated by the sudden, unex-
pected death of a friend who seemed in good health.

“We have lost a friend and Auburn has lost a very
competent and dedicated employee,” People said.

“Steve was very well-liked personally and profes-
sionally,” People said. “He leaves a void in this
office and in the life of everyone who knew him.”

Meanwhile, the university is hosting a visiting

Three new AU trustees, confirmed last week by the Alabama Senate, will take their places at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 19.

The three are Gadsden City Planner Charles E. Ball, Fayette School Principal Sarah B. Newton and Dwight L. Carlisle, the retired Russell Corp. presi-
dent who resigned this week as state revenue com-
misisoner immediately following Senate confirma-
tion of his appointment to the AU Board.

Ball’s appointment increases African-American represen-
tation on the board to two members, and Newton and
Carlisle becomes the second woman currently on the
board.

The Trustee Selection Committee recommended the three in January after the State Senate ended a spe-
cial session last fall without action on the nomina-
tions. The Senate acted early in the current session to approve the three new trustees.

The selection committee will reconvene on Feb.-to interview candidates for two remaining
vacancies on the Auburn Board. Persons chosen for
those seats and confirmed by the Senate will fill the
positions formerly held by W. James “Jimmy” Sam-
ford Jr. of Auburn, who died Dec. 29, and Ed Richardson, who gave up his board seat when he
resigned as state superintendent of education to
become interim president of AU in January.

Under the Alabama Constitution, Samford’s seat
must be filled from within Lee County. Under a con-
stitutional amendment in 2000, the seat formerly
held by that state superintendent of education as an
ex-officio position, by virtue of the office, changes to
an at-large position that is open to candidates from
throughout the continental United States.

Gov. Bob Riley, who is ex-officio president of the
AU governing board and chairman of the selection
committee, has set a goal of filling the remaining seats
during the current legislative session.

TigerCard Manager Steve Emsminger dies of apparent heart attack

Stephen S. Emsminger, operations manager of the AU Identification Card/TigerCard office, died of an apparent heart attack at his home on Feb. 6.

Emsminger, a former professional photographer, led AU’s transition to computer-based technology for ID cards when he joined the university staff in 1987 and played a key role in implementing and refining the TigerCard credit card over the past decade.

His supervisor, Ed People, interim director of Auxiliary Enterprises, said Emsminger’s co-workers
were shocked and devastated by the sudden, unex-
pected death of a friend who seemed in good health.

“We have lost a friend and Auburn has lost a very
competent and dedicated employee,” People said.

“Steve was very well-liked personally and profes-
sionally,” People said. “He leaves a void in this
office and in the life of everyone who knew him.”

Meanwhile, the university is hosting a visiting

Four decades ago, Richardson was director of the AU Office of Institutional Assurance, a forerunner of AU’s compliance office. In that position, he helped the university begin the process of implementing the Standards for Higher Education established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and he has been a vocal proponent of openness that will boost the level of trust between students and the faculty and the administration.

Richardson was a key architect of the reorganization that led to the formation of AU’s current Office of Institutional Assurance in 1993. He is also known for his work on SACS, the agency that monitors universities in the South. He served on the board of that agency, and he has been a vocal critic of some of its practices.

Richardson, who has been a leader on the AU Board for more than a decade, said future meetings may see additional changes in the composition of his appointment to the AU Board.

His supervisor, Ed People, interim director of Auxiliary Enterprises, said Emsminger’s co-workers
were shocked and devastated by the sudden, unex-
pected death of a friend who seemed in good health.

“We have lost a friend and Auburn has lost a very
competent and dedicated employee,” People said.

“Steve was very well-liked personally and profes-
sionally,” People said. “He leaves a void in this
office and in the life of everyone who knew him.”

Meanwhile, the university is hosting a visiting
team from SACS on Feb. 22-25 as AU undergoes its
regular 10-year accreditation review. Members of
the visiting team will hold an open forum at 3 p.m.
Feb. 23 in Foy 203.

SACS Open Forum: Discussion with members of accrediting agency’s visiting committee, 3 p.m., Foy 203.

TigerCard Manager Steve Emsminger dies of apparent heart attack

Stephen S. Emsminger, operations manager of the AU Identification Card/TigerCard office, died of an apparent heart attack at his home on Feb. 6.

Emsminger, a former professional photographer, led AU’s transition to computer-based technology for ID cards when he joined the university staff in 1987 and played a key role in implementing and refining the TigerCard credit card over the past decade.

His supervisor, Ed People, interim director of Auxiliary Enterprises, said Emsminger’s co-workers
were shocked and devastated by the sudden, unex-
pected death of a friend who seemed in good health.

“We have lost a friend and Auburn has lost a very
competent and dedicated employee,” People said.

“Steve was very well-liked personally and profes-
sionally,” People said. “He leaves a void in this
office and in the life of everyone who knew him.”

Meanwhile, the university is hosting a visiting

Four decades ago, Richardson was director of the AU Office of Institutional Assurance, a forerunner of AU’s compliance office. In that position, he helped the university begin the process of implementing the Standards for Higher Education established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and he has been a vocal proponent of openness that will boost the level of trust between students and the faculty and the administration.

Richardson was a key architect of the reorganization that led to the formation of AU’s current Office of Institutional Assurance in 1993. He is also known for his work on SACS, the agency that monitors universities in the South. He served on the board of that agency, and he has been a vocal critic of some of its practices.

Richardson, who has been a leader on the AU Board for more than a decade, said future meetings may see additional changes in the composition of...
Faculty outreach projects across state receive $200,000 in grants

The Office of the Associate Provost and Vice President for Outreach has awarded more than $200,000 to 11 outreach scholarship projects involving 16 faculty members from six AU colleges or schools and one institute.

The grants range in value up to $20,000, with the possibility of renewal. The projects were among nearly 60 proposals reviewed by a committee of five faculty members.

“The committee felt that the outreach initiatives identified in these proposals show enormous potential for increasing the quality of lives and services for individuals, organizations, counties and towns throughout the state of Alabama,” said David Wilson, vice president for University Outreach.

“I am urging the recipients to put in place an assessment mechanism to ensure that, as their initiatives unfold, they are compiling the appropriate data to demonstrate just how effective their program has been,” said Wilson.

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach will monitor the impact of each proposal, and recipients will submit reports after six months and when the project is finished.

Outreach scholarship projects, team leaders or faculty members who submitted the proposals, their departments and the grant value include:

• “Building the Persistent Issues of History Learning Community,” John Saye, Curriculum and Teaching, $19,000.
• “Black Freemen’s Farm Environmental Art and Sciences Outreach Project for Black Belt Alabama Youth,” Upton Hatch, director of AU’s Environmental Institute, $22,000.
• “Tailoring the Encyclopedia of Alabama for the K-12 Community,” Jeff Jakeman, History, $19,720.
• An untitled project in which Jim McKey of the Department of English will make a documentary film on the everyday conditions of an elementary school in the Loxleys County Public School System, $20,000.
• “Center for Memory and Healthy Aging,” Kathy Jo Ellison, Nursing at AU, and Arlene Morris, Nursing at AU-Montgomery, $20,000.
• “Youth Experiences in Science,” Marilyn Semen, Physics, and Robert Lishak, Biological Sciences, $20,000.
• “Pilot Testing an Early Childhood World Citizenship Curriculum: A Community Collaboration,” Mary Rudisill and Alice Buchanan of Health and Human Performance, $19,000.

HR jobs center moves off campus

The AU Office of Human Resources will establish a university employment center in downtown Auburn at 146 North Gay Street on March 1.

Located across from City Hall in the building that once housed the city’s Hollifield Memorial Library and more recently Kinnucan’s, the center will provide access to AU employment for regular and temporary positions.

“This is very exciting for us for many reasons,” said Lynne Hammond, assistant vice president for human resources.

“Applicants not familiar with the campus often have difficulty finding our offices in the basement of Langdon Hall, so this will give us a more visible location that will be much easier to find,” she added.

Primary occupants of the center will be the Temporary Employment Services staff headed by Mary Prather.

Other units of Human Resources will remain in Langdon Hall.

The center’s staff will hold an open house in the building from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on March 4.