Auburn, the visiting team also sought updates from representatives of units across campus. Casteen received input from staff, faculty and students in public hearings on Monday. Staff members requested measures to ensure fairness in hiring and promotion and incentives for employees to advance their education. Faculty members called for speedier administrative action when hiring new faculty and administrators and for more consistency in administrative processes.

Panel visits AU for 10-year review

An inspection team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools spent three days at AU last week as part of the accreditation process all SACS members go through every decade. Meeting with groups of staff, faculty and students on Monday, visiting team leader University of Virginia President John Casteen sought information about the university’s instructional and research programs, student support and business operations. As it compiled additional information for SACS to consider along with the self-study submitted by Auburn, the visiting team also sought updates from representatives of units across campus.

Casteen received input from staff, faculty and students. Staff members requested measures to ensure fairness in hiring and promotion and incentives for employees to advance their education.

Faculty members called for speedier administrative action when hiring new faculty and administrators and for more consistency in administrative processes.

Look inside for statements from Senate candidates

This issue of the AU Report contains statements from candidates for upcoming elections to the University Faculty and its representative organization, the University Senate. Auburn faculty will vote electronically for the chair-elect and secretary-elect officers on March 13. The winners will be announced at the University Faculty meeting at 3 p.m. March 16 in Broun Hall auditorium.

At that meeting, Willie D. Larkin will succeed John Mouton as chair, and Debra Cobia will succeed Paula Sullenger as secretary. Larkin and Cobia have served as chair-elect and secretary-elect, respectively, since March 2003.

Statements from chair-elect candidates Conner Bailey and Mark Nehms are on pages 4 and 5, respectively in this issue. Statements from secretary-elect candidates Patricia Duffy and Jim Gravois are on page 6. Pages 6 and 7 contain biographical information about all four candidates.

Additional information about the election and the candidates and brief statements from the candidates will appear in the March 8 AU Report.
Two executives join Development

Robert Martin and Barbara Miller recently joined AU as assistant vice presidents under Vice President for Development Bob McGinnis. Besides providing administrative oversight, Miller and Martin will support constituency development officers, help secure commitments from individual donors and assist in setting policies and strategies as capital campaign priorities are established.

“Both Bob and Barbara will play an integral role in the office of development. Their respective strengths, experiences and ideas will help us continue to advance our capital campaign goals,” McGinnis said.

Martin comes to Auburn from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he was assistant vice chancellor for development. As director of major gifts for UTC, he led the institution’s 21st Century Campaign, which had a goal of $20 million.

AU researcher invents device to measure air in soil

An Auburn researcher has invented a measurement device that could help scientists in agriculture, geology and the environmental sciences more precisely measure the permeability of soil and other porous materials.

“In agriculture, air in the soil is as necessary as water for plant growth,” said Jacob Dane, a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils.

Dane, along with former graduate student Marc Ball, invented a new technology to measure the amount of air flow through soil.

Library, OIT to sponsor Teaching Technology Day at AU

The Education Technology Services Department of the Office of Information Technology and AU Libraries will sponsor “Teaching with Technology Day” on March 16 in Draughon Library.

Participants in the event will share their special methods through displays and presentations in the library. Their presentations may be in the form of a computer lab presentation or poster board presentation with or without the use of a computer.

Faculty who need a wireless laptop for a presentation may check out a laptop computer from the AU Library.

AU poster board presentations will be outside the computer lab in the first floor hallway of the library.

To participate in the “Teaching with Technology Day,” submit a brief description of your presentation to Terry Daughtrey by e-mail at draughon@auburn.edu. Include the name and number of the course and summary information about use of technology in the course.

SACS committee (continued from page 1)

The committee was highly complimentary of the extensive work of the steering committee. “I was pleased to hear many positive comments during the visit, especially in recognition of the steering committee and its co-directors, Dr. Gene Clothiaux and Dr. Robert Martin,” said Larry Cornes. “It’s great to see how much the committee has done and how we can build on that for the future.”

Casteen provided a general briefing to members of the SACS committee and its co-directors, Dr. Gene Clothiaux and Dr. Robert Martin, who participated in the College’s $500 million capital campaign, working primarily with planning giving donors and prospects. She raised more than $6 million for the campaign.

SACS committee

Martin helped UTC surpass that goal and raised $33.8 million. Martin also was a training consultant for the UT System.

Miller moved from William & Mary, Va., where she was associate director for gift planning at the College of William & Mary. Prior to that, Miller participated in the College’s $500 million capital campaign, working primarily with planning giving donors and prospects. She raised more than $6 million for the campaign.

Miller holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and sociology from Southeast Baptist University in Missouri, a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and a Juris Doctor from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C.

Martin holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Lipscomb University and a master’s degree in philosophy and development from St. Mary’s University in Minnesota.

AU leads consortium bid for homeland security role

An Auburn-led consortium of 11 universities has been awarded a $4 million contract by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Post-Harvest Food Protection and Defense.

If accepted by the U.S. agency, the proposal would provide Auburn and its consortium partners with $15 million in research funding over a three-year period.

The project would be led by Donald Conner, professor and chair of the Department of Poultry Science, and Bryan Cheever, professor and chair of the Materials Engineering Program.

The consortium’s members represent an extension of research activity in the AU Detection and Food Safety Center, a university Peak of Excellence.

The federal funds would support DHS in protecting the United States’ food supply and imported post-harvest foodstuff. It would develop innovative approaches to evaluating and reducing critical and emerging post-harvest risks.

Consortium members are: Auburn University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Mississippi State University, Texas A&M University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Texas at El Paso, Public Health University, University of Hawaii and Washington State University.

Lowder family gift supports new student study center for Auburn athletes

Interim AU President Ed Richardson announced on Tuesday that Bobby and Charlotte Lowder have made it possible to move forward with the construction of the new Student Athlete Development Center. Their gift of $4.2 million is the largest single donation ever made to the Auburn Athletic Department.

Continuing into the third generation of gifts from the Lowder family, the donation comes from Bobby and Charlotte Lowder and from the Lowder Family Foundation, which is managed by the Lowders’ daughter, Catherine Lowder Struble, and son, Bryan Lowder.

“Bobby and Charlotte Lowder have consistently been among Auburn’s most generous donors. Bobby’s long-standing commitment to Auburn is a standard for all AU supporters,” Richardson said.

Auburn Athletic Director David Housel said the Lowders’ gift will help student athletes succeed at Auburn and later in life. “Hundreds and, in the years to come, thousands of Auburn student athletes will live richer, fuller lives as a result of the Lowder family’s generosity,” he said.

“The Lowder family has long been supportive of both athletics and academics here at Auburn,” Housel added. “This gift will allow Auburn to meet the needs of its student athletes as never before and it is the perfect illustration of Mr. Lowder’s love and commitment to both academics and athletics at Auburn.”

Housel said a significant portion of the gift has been received and the balance will be donated by 2007.

Bobby Lowder is chairman of the board and CEO of Lowder Corporation, a 1964 honors graduate of AU. Lowder has served Auburn as a member of its Board of Trustees, president and member of the Board of Directors of the Auburn Alumni Association and as a member of the advisory council for the AU College of Business.

His parents, Catherine Lowder and the late Ed Lowder, were also major benefactors of Auburn. The AU College of Business is housed in a building named in their honor.

“Almost everyone associated with Auburn recognizes that student athletes and their fans make up an important part of the Auburn experience,” said Housel. “In today’s competitive world, however, athletic ability alone is not enough. It is important that each student athlete have access to the best educational experience Auburn can provide, and Charlotte and I thought that this facility would go a long way toward ensuring that result. We very much appreciate Catherine and Bryan joining with us in the cause.”

Construction of the two-story, 30,000-square-foot Student Athlete Development Center began in January. The facility, which is being built above the James E. Torrey Student Center and adjacent to the Auburn Athletic Complex, will use wireless technology in classrooms that integrate computer and video capabilities.

The facility will include administrative offices, counselor offices, a 50-seat multi-function classroom, a 50-seat tiered classroom, an academic excellence recognition area, 40 four-person study rooms, four eight-person study rooms, a 25-station computer lab, a study lounge, a library and a resources lounge.

Unlike many athletic centers at Southeastern Conference schools, the AU center will be specifically dedicated for Student Athlete Support Services programming.
The primary responsibility of elected officers of the University Faculty is to promote the academic and professional welfare of the university. This responsibility involves working through a process of shared governance where decision-making authority is derived from the faculty. The faculty has primary authority over academic programs, administration, financial management, and the Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for setting the overall direction for the university and in attracting support from private and public sources.

Much of the work of the university takes place on either university or Senate committees. Much of the work of the Senate is based on the premise that involvement on Senate committees is the ticket to shared governance. For shared governance to become reality, the faculty must believe that they have the ability to interact with the administration on an equal basis and that they are being heard. This can occur only when the Senate and the Board work together to establish an atmosphere where faculty can express their concerns and when the Board is willing to take the input of these concerns into account.

Leaving this to be settled between the central administration and the Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for setting the overall direction of the university. This goal is best achieved through open and effective communication and mutual respect. It is imperative that the Board of Trustees and the administration work together to remove the probationary status. Interim President Ed Richardson has already taken a positive step in this direction by removing the probationary status. He has outlined a plan for addressing other issues and has requested faculty support and input. If elected, I will be committed to working with Dr. Richardson to provide faculty input and help to boost the level of trust between the faculty and administration.

The upcoming presidential search is crucial for the future of Auburn. We can look only to do so after the SACS probationary status has been removed. We must work with Dr. Richardson to establish clear guidelines for university governance and ensure success for our next president.

As I reviewed the SACS Self-Study Report and its addendum, I was surprised to learn that the Academic Program Review Committee of the Senate has been inactive since the last assessment and has no minutes of proceedings for the future, questions about resource reallocation and program viability will certainly arise. This is a very important committee on which to place a charge. We must work on these issues to address the future needs of the university.

The program review guidelines developed in 1999 were written by the Senate and have not been revised. A new committee is needed to address the changes that have occurred in the last few years. It is important that we are able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect, and we were able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. We were able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect, and we were able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect.

More than 1,000 faculty members, the seating capacity in Brown Hall would easily be exceeded for an emotionally charged issue.

Perhaps the only two campus facilities large enough to hold a large meeting of faculty would be Jordan-Hare Stadium or Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. In my department of 30 faculty, it is almost impossible to schedule a time for a faculty meeting that everyone can attend. Scheduling a meeting time for 200 faculty members would be impossible.

I recently watched a high school robotics contest on television. As素 a web broadcast from the PC in my office. Discussions at Faculty Senate meetings could be broadcast over the Web for faculty unable to attend the meetings. They would be able to hear all discussions and be prepared to make informed decisions. Web broadcasts could be stored and then faculty could review the discussions at their convenience. Voting could take place over a period of days after the meeting.

The electronic voting process could even be extended to poll the faculty on key issues. A few years ago, the Engineering Faculty Council took a vote on a number of issues. The departmental representatives conducted a vote by secret ballot of their respective departments. As a result, all engineering faculty members had an opportunity to participate.

Since 1997, I have been a member of the Engineering Faculty Council — an advisory group to the administration. As such, I have been able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. As such, I have been able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. As such, I have been able to understand and mediate our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect.

I was president of a 10,000-plus member technical association and as such the society’s president-elect allowed me the time to identify opportunities to advance that organization. As such, it was important to get our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. As such, it was important to get our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect. As such, it was important to get our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect.

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The faculty chair-elect...
University Senate Secretary-Elect

Patricia A. Duffy
Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

During my years at Auburn, I have served on many committees, including the Senate Rules Committee, the Student Academic Grievance Committee and the Faculty Grievance Committee. This service has made me cognizant that Auburn has an excellent framework to foster shared governance, addressing broad faculty concerns as well as providing mediation for individual faculty and students who believe themselves treated inequitably. Although some issues, however, are not sufficient to ensure that shared governance is a reality or that individuals are treated fairly. To achieve these goals, the university needs strong faculty leadership at all levels and an open and respectful relationship between the faculty, administration, and trustees.

The secretary and secretary-elect of the Senate play several important roles in ensuring that faculty-driven policy is put into action. As Senate secretary, I have served as the secretariat to an executive board of an 800-member professional organization, with one of those years as president, I have experience keeping accurate records. Accurate records are essential for open and effective governance. Having served on the executive board of an 800-member professional organization, with one of those years as president, I have experience keeping accurate records. Serving on the Rules Committee, the secretary and the secretary-elect play key roles in ensuring that the system works but important responsibilities. Having previously served on the Rules Committee, I am aware of the time commitment and responsibility involved but believe I will be able to meet these responsibilities.

My service on the Rules Committee resulted in a revision of the student forms used to handle faculty grievances. I have seen the benefits of cross-departmental collaboration both in these library instruction classes and in the various committees on which I have served.

By serving on, and then chairing, the Faculty Grievance Committee, I had an opportunity to witness some of the struggles of fellow faculty face in defending their rights and the uneven solutions offered by university administrations. As a faculty member, I have witnessed the difficulty of getting tenure and promotion, and the challenges of teaching and research. Through my years on the Rules Committee, I have also had the opportunity to witness some of the struggles of fellow faculty face in defending their rights and the uneven solutions offered by university administrations.

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AU students renovating historic home of area’s first African-American doctor

A group of students from the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction’s Historic Preservation Guild is experiencing history first-hand as they renovate the century-old Darden House in Opelika.

The approximately 15 students helping to renovate the home of the city’s first African-American physician are part of an ongoing project that students in the college began in April 2001. Built in 1904, the John Wesley Darden House is a piece of living history that fell on hard times near the end of the 20th century. Local citizens established the J.W. Darden Foundation to preserve this piece of history and developed plans to restore the building for use as a cultural and social center. Faculty and students in AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction soon became an active part of the renovation.

“It is a commitment to the house, to history and to the greater community,” said building science senior Jimmy Goree, president of the college’s Historic Preservation Guild. Goree describes the project as more than a regular college service project. He is so heavily involved in the project that observers say he lives it. He and the other students have taken special care in restoring and preserving the finely detailed craftsmanship of the original builders.

By working on the project, the students are developing their skills as builders to maintain what others built in the past. “We are hoping this preservation project inspires others to do the same with some of these incredible homes in Opelika,” Goree added.

“The physical work of the project gives us something we need — the hands-on learning,” said John Lyle, a sophomore in building science. “Learning the process of building gives you the skills you need to do the estimating.”

In addition to learning how to plan historic renovations, the students say they are learning the day-to-day work of renovation as they scrape walls, cut molding, hang sheetrock and perform other routine but necessary tasks.

With the project entering the final, critical stage, the students say they need some help. Goree says the preservation effort needs additional funds for such projects as the ramp for the front of the house, cabinets, handrails and painting. If funding for supplies is found, Guild members say they may finish all major work by the end of the summer so the building can be furnished this fall.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the project, contact the J.W. Darden Foundation at 745-5870 or P.O. Box 1581 Opelika, AL 36801.

Taylor testifies in landmark case against food giant

An AU agricultural economist was a major witness for the plaintiffs in a $1.28 billion price-fixing verdict that a federal court jury in Montgomery handed down last week against beef-processing giant Tyson Foods.

Testifying as an expert witness in the class-action suit, Robert Taylor provided evidence that Tyson Fresh Meats, formerly IBP Inc., used contracts with a select few ranchers to create a captive supply of cattle and thereby drive down the prices paid on the cash market to independent cattle producers an average of 5.1 percent a year from 1994 through 2002.

Taylor, the Allfa emminent scholar in agricultural and public policy in AU’s College of Agriculture, based his statements on exhaustive statistical analyses he conducted on previously undisclosed internal financial records detailing the per-head prices IBP/Tyson paid to independent producers over the course of almost nine years.

The lawsuit, known as Pickett v. Tyson/IBP Inc., was filed in 1996 by six cattle owners in Alabama, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana and South Dakota.