Board seeks review of crisis plan, approves funding for pay raises

Citing recent tragedies at Virginia Tech and Enterprise High School, the AU Board of Trustees agreed Friday to seek an outside review of AU’s emergency preparedness and response plans.

The board also approved budget guidelines for the coming fiscal year, including an increase of 5 percent in funding for faculty and staff salaries, with all pay raises to be merit-based. Funding for the increases will come from an increase in state allocations.

Also regarding budget planning, the board agreed to increase tuition by 5 percent, starting fall semester, with the funds to go toward maintenance of campus facilities and a tuition-reserve fund in case of an economic recession within the next three years.

Discussing emergency preparedness, Executive Vice President Don Large outlined plans that the university has developed with the city. Under the plan, the Auburn Police Department would direct initial containment efforts and public safety aspects of crisis management, coordinating with local emergency agencies and the university.

Also, AU’s Office of Communications and Marketing electronically alerts faculty, staff, students and the media in crisis situations. Large noted that the notification process resulted in the campus shutting down within 30 minutes recently upon the approach of a storm with the potential for a tornado.

Large said AU personnel across campus have had four practice exercises with local public safety and emergency agencies in the past 18 months, and have reviewed plans with emergency planning consultants twice this year.

Board members said the recent shooting at Virginia Tech and tornado-related deaths at Enterprise High School have raised awareness of the importance of emergency preparedness across the country. The board accepted President Ed Richardson’s recommendation to seek a review of the campus crisis preparedness plan from an outside authority on crisis prevention and response.

In budget matters, the board approved guidelines for allocation of more than $41 million in new funds for the 2007-08 budget year, which starts Oct. 1. The administration will use the guidelines to develop a budget for review by the board in September. A key feature of the budget plan includes salary increases...
New student housing to form link with Auburn’s past, future

ew student housing with 21st century amenities and early 20th century aesthetics moved several steps closer to reality at Friday’s meeting of the AU Board of Trustees.

The Village is a new student housing development planned for the west edge of campus between Wire Road on the west and Donahue Drive to the east. On a fast track for construction, the new housing, for 1,680 students is scheduled for completion by fall 2009.

The AU Board gave the go-ahead Friday for the architect to complete the plans and for AU to solicit bids and award a contract for construction.

Campus planners estimate the housing project to cost approximately $120 million and related costs such as dining facilities and parking, will add approx. $37 million. The funds will come from bond issued by the president and would be partially or completely offset by rental fees.

The new housing will provide additional on-campus housing for freshmen and accommodate learning communities of students with similar majors or shared academic interests and provide new space for sororities.

John Mooten, senior adviser to the president, said The Village will form a new western gateway to cam-

pus. The pedestrian connector that now ends at the west side of Haley Center will be extended farther to form the central axis for the new student housing vil-

lage. The central area will be designed to encourage outdoor gatherings, will be bordered by residence halls, a pedestrian concourse, the hybrid baseball/softball arena and a food service facility with indoor and outdoor dining.

Budget guidelines

continued from page 1

for faculty and staff. The budget would provide an increase of 5 percent in total payroll, with indi-

vidual increases to be based on merit decisions for all employees. Faculty salaries would receive less than the 3 percent average, and others would receive more. Any increases of more than 10 percent would have to be approved by the AU Board of Trustees.

Faculty salaries have been fully merit-based in recent years, but staff salaries have been a mix of across-the-board and merit increases until now.

The salary increases on the main campus would cost $9.4 million and related expenses for benefits would cost $4.6 million. AU Human Resources and Richardson and Large said state funding is expected to increase $3 million for the AU System, with $2 million of that amount slated for the main campus.

The 2007-08 state education budget, which in-

cludes AU, is pending before the Alabama Legis-
lature. The funding increase for AU is projected to be more than 1 percent for all units: the main campus, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The AU Board said the 5 percent tuition increase is not tied to the faculty and staff salary increases. Instead, 3 percent would help pay for campus improve-

ments through the deferred maintenance account. The other 2 percent would go into a reserve fund to offset state funding cuts or leveling-fund in future budgets and could help overcome such deficits due to an anticipated economic recession.

Board members said that the tuition reserve could be used for scholarships if the economy defies projec-
tions and continues to grow over the next three years.

Upcoming Events

ART EXHIBITIONS

The AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel

Meeting AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel

Rising artists dusk the stage with juried exhibition

ART EXHIBITIONS

AU Report Editor Ray Summerville. Contributing editors and writers: Kate Wilde and Charles Martin; AU Communications. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Tumble; AU Photography Services.

Executive Director of Communications & Marketing: Dondie Dorsey.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of the last week of the semester for area farmers to sell their goods directly to the consumer. The Cooperative Extension System.

The AU Report is published every two weeks in the fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term. The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. There are no subscriptions to this publication. AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu.

AU Report published every two weeks during summer, fall and spring semesters.

Classified ads are published every two weeks in the fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term. AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel.

Meeting AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel.

Gupta named AU’s Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer for ’07

Gupta, who is Alumni Professor of Chemical En-

gineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineer-
ing, will present the annual Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecture.

Gupta holds chemical engineering degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the AU faculty in 1995, after postdoctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley.

Farming

The market at Ag Heritage Park has returned to the Auburn Campus. The Springsteen Avenue site, across from the Athletic Center, provides a venue for area farmers to sell their goods directly to the Auburn community. Fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers, stone-ground meal and other locally produced goods, the market is open from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday and again on May 17 and May 31. It will open weekly starting June 7. Sponsor include the College of Agriculture, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

AU Report going to summer schedule

With spring semester finals ending Wednesday, this is the final issue of the AU Report for the regu-

lar academic year. Summer classes start on May 17, and the first issue of the AU Report of summer term will be on May 21. During the summer, the faculty-staff newsletter is published every two weeks. The AU Report will return to weekly publication on Aug. 20, following the start of fall semester.

Engineering Professor Ram B. Gupta, an international authority on the developing science of nanotechnology, is AU’s 2007 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer.

Gupta’s studies involve the production of nanoparticle technology. His research group has developed a patented process to produce “smart” drug formulations. For example, sustained-release medicine, where one dose is enough for the whole treatment; magnetically re-

sponsive drug nanoparticles for targeted delivery to the disease site, avoiding side effects; and nanopar-
ticle delivery to the brain for treatment of cancer.

Gupta has published numerous research papers and holds several patents on nanomedicine and super small technologies. His recent books are “Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery,” and “Solubility in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide.”

Gupta has been recognized by the National Academy of Sciences, the American Chemical Society and the World Congress on Nanotechnology.

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AU to award more than 2,600 degrees at May 10 ceremonies

Auburn will award approximately 2,613 academic degrees during two spring commencement ceremonies May 10 in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

A 10 a.m. ceremony will include the colleges and schools of Engineering; Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Liberal Arts; and Sciences and Mathematics. A 2 p.m. ceremony will include the colleges and schools of Agriculture; Architecture, Design and Construction; Business; Education; Human Sciences; and Nursing.

Of the degrees AU will award, 2,208 are bachelor’s degrees, 347 are master’s degrees and 58 are doctorates.

Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts will award the most degrees with 499, followed by the College of Business with 409 and the College of Engineering with 238. The College of Education will award 223 degrees, the College of Sciences and Mathematics 213, the College of Architecture, Design and Construction 137, the College of Human Sciences 95, the College of Agriculture 86, the School of Nursing 76, and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences 29.

AU’s professional schools, the School of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine, hold separate ceremonies for their graduates. The School of Pharmacy will award 114 doctor of pharmacy degrees and the College of Veterinary Medicine will present 89 doctor of veterinary medicine degrees.

A live video stream of the ceremonies will be available on the Web at www.auburn.edu/graduationlive.

Dowdle, Etheridge named to boards

Deedie Dowdle, the executive director of the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn, has been appointed to the governing board of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III, and Jeff Etheridge, head of OCM’s Photographic Services unit, has been named to the board of directors of the University Photographers Association of America.

Dowdle, who also serves on the board of directors for the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, recently began a two-year appointment to the board serving CASE’s 12-state district, which represents professionals in advancement, marketing, communications and related fields in most colleges, universities and other educational institutions in the southeastern United States.

She also served on the district board in 2006-07 and coordinated the CASE sessions for the communications track at the district’s 2006 conference.

Dowdle and Camille Barkley, director of marketing and creative services, will discuss the AU experience in establishing an institution’s visual identity at a session in September at the CASE national conference in San Francisco.

Etheridge will join the board of directors of the University Photographers Association of America in June. The association represents photographers from most of the nation’s major public and private universities. Etheridge won the UPAA Best of Show Award last year for a photo of students in silhouette against a vista of campus from an upper floor window of the new Sciences Laboratory Center at AU.

Etheridge is also coordinating plans for the UPAA 2008 annual conference, which Auburn will host.

Ritenbaugh, Lee named to posts in association, foundation

Bob Ritenbaugh, assistant vice president of auxiliary services at Auburn, was recently installed as a trustee on the board of the National Association of College Stores, and Katie Lee, director of the AU Bookstore, was appointed to the board of the NACS Foundation.

The NACS is the professional trade association representing the higher education retailing industry, which annually accounts for more than $11 billion in sales in 3,100 stores at campuses across the United States. As a trustee, Ritenbaugh will help provide governance for the association’s more than 4,000 members and will assist the organization in its mission of enhancing college stores through education, advocacy and the use of new technologies.

The charitable arm of NACS, the NACS Foundation concentrates on building partnerships to strengthen the future vitality of the collegiate retailing industry through research and education. Primary activities for the foundation include conducting and funding industry research, planning educational opportunities and the presentation of issues critical to college stores.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each unit mailing addresses must include its return address. The Office of Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.

Job shadowing

Curtis Bishop, right, of the Facilities Division, explains the operations of heating and cooling plants at AU to area high school students. Bishop was one of several Facilities personnel to meet with students from Beaufargard and Smiths Station high schools who visited campus on April 19 to learn about career opportunities in AU Facilities.