Proposal would put student center near Haley, add new parking deck

The AU administration will present proposals to the Board of Trustees on Friday at Dixon Conference Center to settle long-standing questions about sites for a new student center complex and a nearby parking deck.

Also on the agenda for the 1 p.m. meeting is a recommendation to increase tuition 9 percent next fall to meet projected budget needs for fiscal 2004-05. The board is also slated to review economic trends and conditions that could affect decisions on university priorities.

Committee sessions are scheduled to start at 9 a.m. All meeting times are subject to change.

The latest recommendation for a new student center complex or student village would place the complex south of Haley Center. The area near the center of campus was favored by students in SGA polls and recommended by at least two university committees.

Three buildings would cover the "A" and part of the "B" parking zones to form a quadrangle with Haley Center, and another new building would be on the site of the current Human Sciences Annex. Those buildings would have 180,000 square feet of floor space, 50 percent more than Foy Student Union, which the complex would replace.

Remaining parking south of the complex would be removed to create a village green as part of continuing efforts to replace cars with pedestrian areas in the campus core. Streets south and west of Haley Center would also be reconfigured as part of the plan to eliminate their use as through-streets for private vehicles.

The recommendation includes a three-level, 670-vehicle parking deck between Petrie Hall and Jordan-Hare Stadium to replace spaces lost to the student center and add additional spaces.

Fourth faculty member named Fulbright Scholar

Alexander T. Vazsonyi of the College of Human Sciences at AU has been named a Fulbright Scholar in the Central European country of Slovenia by the U.S. State Department.

The Fulbright program, named for former U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright, is the most prestigious program of the U.S. government to promote international research, teaching and understanding. Vazsonyi is the fourth AU faculty member selected this year by the Fulbright Commission for the program.

An associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Vazsonyi will spend fall semester at the University of Maribor. At the university near Slovenia’s border with Austria, Vazsonyi will lecture and continue his research comparing the origins and causes of adolescent problem behaviors across cultures.

Slovenia gained its independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991 after nearly a half century under (See Fulbright, page 4)
By David Wilson, Vice President for Outreach

Fifty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional for America to operate separate public schools for blacks and whites. Known as the Brown v. Board of Topeka decision, the ruling struck down the “separate but equal” doctrine of law that had been in effect for nearly 60 years.

The landmark Brown decision in 1954 was celebrated by many as the legal endpoint to integration projects in Southern and Border States.

I was yet not born in May 1954, when this ruling came down from the court, but over the next 18 years, 1954-1972, my great-grandparents lived in Marengo County, the heart of the black Belt, nothing really changed.

In 1962, I was a first grader at Marengo County Training School, which had a white teacher, one black teacher, and four black students in the black Belt that working together to promote a stronger K-12 public system is best for all.

There is little incentive on the part of whites to push for tax reform to improve public education since their children attend private schools, and there is little desire on the part of blacks and whites in many of the counties followed the Demopolis example. Demopolis has perhaps the best public school system in the black Belt, and most of what has happened there is the result of a few enlightened leaders, including Mayor Austin Caldwell, who was white and who faced racial isolation by supporting efforts to increase revenues to build a good city school system. As a result of their efforts, black and white students go to school together in the same school system, and the students and teachers are learning that a black and white public school can work.

As we look to the future in Alabama, we have a long way to go in many areas if we are going to move beyond the Brown decision and embrace a future where separate-but-equal has no place.

We can ill afford to let another half-century pass without overcoming the inequities of this public educational system in many nooks and crannies throughout this state.

"We can ill afford to let another half-century pass without overcoming the inequities of this public educational system in many nooks and crannies throughout this state."

Editor’s Note: May 17 is the 50th anniversary of one of the most historic and far-reaching decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, Brown v. Board of Education. In the following column, David Wilson considers the ruling and its consequences and limitations. Through the Office of Outreach and its affiliated programs, Auburn helps foreign-born students master spoken English before they are permitted to teach at Auburn.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

• Weekdays, May 17: Final Examinations: Through Tuesday, May 17, excluding Sunday.

Wednesday, May 5

• Groundbreaking: Addition to W.W. Walker Building, Harrison School of Pharmacy, 10:30 a.m., Thach Avenue.

Thursday, May 6

• Final Examinations: Through Tuesday, May 17, excluding Sunday.

Friday, May 7

• Meeting: Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., Dixon Conference Center Committee sessions start at 9 a.m. Times are subject to change.

Monday, May 10

• Final AU Report of spring semester.

Saturday, May 15

• Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium.

Thursday, May 13

• Family Fun Day: Entertainment and refreshments for AU employees and their families, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m., lawn of President’s Home, Mill Street.

Friday, May 14

• Graduation: Ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Coliseum.

Thursday, May 20

• Classes begin for summer term.

Monday, May 24

• First AU Report of spring semester.

The AU Report will be published every two weeks during the summer semesters.

Monday, May 31

• Memorial Day Holiday: No classes; offices closed.

An AU program has gone high-tech with a course to ensure that foreign-born graduate teaching assistants master spoken English as well as their subject matter.

Auburn’s Graduate School and the English Department in the College of Liberal Arts have expanded its course, “Classroom Communication Skills for Graduate Teaching Assistants,” to include Internet-based computer instruction in addition to classroom and practice sessions.

Bill Flick, director of AU’s English as a Second Language Program, says the intensive course in spoken English for graduate instructors, English (1820), has eliminated most complaints about the ability of students and graduate instructors to understand one another.

The course, which has been taught at Auburn since 1994, is the second of two that most foreign-born graduate students complete before they enter the classroom as graduate instructors. The courses are taught by faculty in the English as a Second Language Program, which also offers other courses for students who need more exposure to written English to become proficient in the language.

Flick noted that most research institutions use foreign-born graduate students as instructors, particularly in scientific fields where they frequently excel. “Foreign-born instructors are usually very knowledgeable in their subject area and they are often excellent teachers,” he said. “At one time, there were wide variations in the ability of instructors to communicate orally, but for the past decade, that problem has been virtually eliminated.”

Flick said some instructors suggest they demonstrate proficiency with spoken English before AU permits them to teach their first classes.

“With the addition of computer-assisted instruction using AU’s Web-CT software, the advanced class has an added dimension,” Flick said. “Web-CT does not replace the classroom experience, but it definitely adds to that experience,” he added.

Also, the main advantage of the Web-based teaching materials, Flick said, is the extra practice time the graduate students have for hearing and using the correct pronunciation between class sessions.

One of the program’s instructors, Lauren Boone, has used Web-CT to create a set of instructional materials which present the graduate students with model presentations from a variety of instructors. The materials also enable the students to compare their recorded pronunciation of technical terms with model pronunciation on their computers.

CopyCat project wins top award in international design contest

CopyCat copy center has won first place in an international graphics competition.

Headquartered in Foy Union, CopyCat won the top award in the “non-offset calendars” category of the International Publishing Management Association’s In-Plant Graphics magazine.

CopyCat won the award for AU Dining’s Spring 2003 Terrell Marketplace Calendar of Events, which was designed by CopyCat copy graphic artist Heather Jackson and printed on the center’s Xerox 2060 color printer.
Aerospace team wins top prize in national design competition

The AU Flying Tigers, a student team of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has placed first out of 35 teams in the 2004 Society of Automotive Engineers Aero Design East Competition. The contest, staged earlier this month in Orlando, Fla., challenged teams to conceive, design, fabricate and test a radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that could take off and land at full cargo capacity.

Auburn’s “War Eagle Lifter” earned the award for overall excellence, the traveling trophy and an award bestowed by fellow competitors on the team exhibiting the highest degree of professionalism.

“With Slovenia undergoing rapid social transformation, it provides fertile ground to understand how societal changes affect human development and adolescent behavior,” Vazsonyi said.

By studying adolescent behaviors in different cultural settings, Vazsonyi said social scientists can separate universal characteristics of behavior from those that are unique to their environment. “The goal is to learn more about how adolescent behavioral problems develop across cultures, so that we can understand and address issues related to those problems,” he added.

Vazsonyi, whose father was a native of Hungary, has been at AU since 1996. He holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona.

Other Fulbright Scholars from Auburn this year include Virginia O’Leary of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts, Jack Williams of landscape architecture in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction and Henry Thompson of agricultural economics in the College of Agriculture.

Newland to review grant applications for NIH

A unit of the National Institutes of Health have invited M. Christopher Newland of AU’s Psychology Department to serve on a national committee to review grant applications.

Newland, an Alumni Professor in the AU College of Liberal Arts, will review grant applications submitted to the Center for Scientific Review of the NIH’s Neurotoxicology and Alcohol Study Section for the 2004-07 term.

An AU faculty member since 1988, Newland holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Auburn and master’s and doctoral degrees in experimental psychology from Georgia Tech.

Newland’s areas of research include behavioral toxicology, pharmacology and neurobehavioral consequences of exposure to heavy metals and other contaminants.

Fulbright

(continued from page 1)

the Yugoslav brand of communism and became a member of the European Union trading federation on May 1. “With Slovenia undergoing rapid social transformation, it provides fertile ground to understand how societal changes affect human development and adolescent behavior,” Vazsonyi said.

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Herren receives scholarship to clinic for academic advisers

Susan Noble Herren, an academic adviser in AU’s College of Business, has won a summer scholarship from the National Academic Advising Association.

Herren is one of only four people who won the scholarship in a national competition.

She will attend the association’s week-long intensive summer program in either Milwaukee, Wis., or Portsmouth, Maine, where she will explore ways for integrate advising more fully into the college’s retention planning.

The national association is based at Kansas State University.