City to provide police for campus

Auburn University has agreed to contract with the City of Auburn for police services and will transfer all sworn public safety officers in AU’s Department of Public Safety to the city’s Department of Public Safety, AU and city officials announced last week.

They said the move, effective July 1, will be mutually beneficial financially, result in no decrease in police services for either the university or the city and cost only minimal, if any, job loss among AU public safety personnel.

“Over the past several years, the city has approached the university several times about making this move,” said Ed Richardson, interim president of AU.

“After being satisfied the university would not compromise the safety of our students and will save money, I have decided that now is the time for us to take advantage of this offer — particularly since we are in the process of looking for prudent cuts that result in long-term savings,” Richardson said.

“Eighty-four percent of our students live off-campus and are policed by the city, anyway,” he added. “At any given time, our Department of Public Safety is policing only a small portion of our student body. Basically, this agreement will allow for better coordinated, more streamlined and more effective police protection of our students whether they are on or off campus.”

The agreement is similar to the university’s agreement with the city for fire and rescue coverage, Richardson said.

The move will transfer 33 sworn AU public safety officers to APS at the same or increased pay and with comparable benefits. AU will attempt to find other positions on campus for other AU public safety personnel, including clerical and other support staff.

Under the agreement, AU will pay the City of Auburn approximately $2 million, minus the value of vehicles and other equipment transferred to the city, for the first year of the services. As attrition occurs among the transferred officers, (See Police services, page 5)
Interim deans of colleges and schools will be limited to one-year terms under a policy announced last week by AU Provost Thomas R. Hanley.

Also, under the new policy, interim deans will be ineligible to apply for the permanent position of dean.

“This is a new policy that does not apply to inter- im deans who are currently candidates for the per- sonal position during an active search, but it will apply to all new appointments,” said Hanley, who is Auburn’s chief academic officer.

If a search is unsuccessful in finding a permanent dean, the interim dean will return to the faculty, a new interim dean will be appointed and the search will be reintiated. The outgoing interim dean will then be eligible to apply for the permanent position.

“This step should open up future dean’s searches to more people, both internally and externally,” Hanley said.

“Many people, even on the same campus, are reluctant to apply for a position if the interim appointment is also a candidate,” he added. “Even if they were previously at the same level or higher, they may not want to work under the interim dean has the inside track. Most search committees go to great lengths to be fair to everyone, but that perception can significantly narrow the field of qualified applicants.”

The new policy will enable interim deans to focus solely on operating their schools and colleges during the search, he added.

The provost said the one-year cap on interim deanships will help Auburn avoid future situations in which interim appointees serve for several years, creating the impression of permanent interim. That situation, which he said is unfair to the interim as well as to faculty and students, arose during a three- year period of transition in the administration that ended with Hanley’s appointment in 2003.

Hanley said the new policy is not a reflection on the performance of the current interim deans. “It is not a matter of what has happened in the past, but of what we need to do in the future,” he added.

“This policy should work best for the deans and the faculty and students in their schools and colleges.”

Hanley said that ended with Hanley’s appointment in 2003.

He also said that the situation, which he said is unfair to the interim dean, can lead to the impression of permanent interim deanships. That is, it creates the impression of permanent interim deans. “It is not a matter of what has happened in the past, but of what we need to do in the future,” he added.

“Auburn will be funding – both public and private. Bobrowski said. “I believe the funding issue with the Legislature at this point is a plus for our business faculty and students.”

Bobrowski was selected for the Auburn job from a list of six finalists that included John Jahera, who had been interim dean since 2001. Jahera is Colonial Bank Professor in the Department of Finance.

Bobrowski, 54, said two things that drew him to Auburn were its status as the state’s premier land-grant university and its national status. “Obviously, the College of Business is extremely well-known and is among the top schools in the United States. It is going to be a privilege to work in this kind of environment where there are a number of opportunities. The school has progressed successfully for many years and is on the verge of doing things that will move it higher in the rankings,” Bobrowski said.

“I graduated from state universities and have a great appreciation for state institutions and for the citizens of the state overall,” he added. “With Auburn being a land-grant school among the elite public institutions, it is very attractive for me.”

The National Academy of Sciences has named Greg Traxler to AU’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as dean of Auburn’s College of Business.

Bobrowski, who has been at Syracuse since 1990, was in charge of the Whitman School of Management’s M.B.A. and master of science programs. His previous academic experience was at the University of Oregon and Indiana University.

Dr. Bobrowski has a well-earned reputation for high academic quality and leadership in business education and the private sector,” said Hanley. “His dual experience in the academic world and the business world will be a plus for our business faculty and students.”

Bobrowski was born in Auburn and attended the Whitman School of Management and was later appointed associate dean. He joined the Auburn faculty in 1985.

As associate dean, he directed three M.B.A. programs and a master of science program that together had approximately 380 students. With a staff of six, the office was responsible for promotion, recruitment, faculty scheduling, curricula development, program certification and graduation.

The AU College of Business, with approximately 4,000 students, is the second largest college on campus. The college’s undergraduate program is ranked 53rd in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.
The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is reorganizing, with the most extensive changes coming in the state's urban programs. "The move allows Extension to focus its resources on 14 newly determined priority area programs," said Zone 4 Director of Extension Development Gaines Smith. "The new structure streamlines the organization and better positions us to be accountable to the public."

Smith noted that in October 2002, Extension committed itself to moving in a new direction, with a goal of providing more targeted, focused programs that meet local needs and have measurable outcomes in a shorter period of time than the old system. "Since then, ACES has undergone a major personnel reduction, its third in less than a decade. As a result, Smith said, the new, leaner structure is even more timely and more significant than when it was originally conceived.

The latest step involves moving 72 county Extension agents to regional assignments, with more to come. "These agents will change from teaching a lot of subjects in a single county to providing expertise in one of the 14 priority areas across a multi-county area," Smith explained. County Extension coordinators in all 67 counties, plus locally funded county agents, will also work in one or two of the 14 areas.

The priority areas are agronomic crops; animal science; forestry, wildlife and natural resources; human and home pests; human nutrition, diet and health; information technology; marketing; natural resource management; family and child development; community resource development; consumer science; communications and management; human agriculture and agricultural enterprise analysis; poultry; food safety; preparation and preservation; forestry; wildlife and natural resource management; commercial horticulture; home grounds and home pests; human nutrition, diet and health; and 4-H youth development.

Previously, ACES operated with six major program areas. The new structure focuses on goals that include better serving the needs of agriculture through regional centers, maximizing the effectiveness of the nine urban centers, making optimal use of new technologies, creating stronger links between research and Extension at the field level and enhancing accountability.

Smith said the new structure also streamlines several administrative positions to more efficiently handle the operations of the roughly 90 agents located at Alabama A&M University. The assistant director located at Alabama A&M University will continue to lead the urban programs taught in the nine Extension urban centers across the state, while the new high directors located at Auburn will lead the five program categories of agriculture, forestry and natural resources, family and individual well-being, community resource development and 4-H and youth development.

"The greatest deal of hard work and cooperation by our employees to reinvent the way this statewide system goes about the business of educating people is essential to the success of the new system and from one family to the next," said Smith. "Extension has served the people of Alabama for almost 100 years. Our new organization ensures a foundation for us to continue providing vital services for the next 100 years."

In 1993 those programs at Auburn and Alabama A&M combined into a unified statewide system, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Giffin named to lead Transportation Peak

R.A. Giffin, who recently retired after a long career with IBM and AT&T, has been named head of AU's Transportation Peak of Excellence. Giffin holds a bachelor's degree in textile engineering and an M.B.A. from Auburn. After 29 years at IBM in positions of increasing responsibility, he joined AT&T, retiring in 2004 as vice president for global sales support.

Giffin

Larry Benefield, dean of AU's Samford School of Engineering, said Giffin's academic credentials and experience in the business world made him the ideal person to lead the Transportation program. "He is a seasoned businessman with expertise in mergers and acquisitions that builds around evolving technologies. He should feel right at home in the university setting."

Giffin said one of his priorities will be to ensure that Auburn's Highway Research Center and National Center for Asphalt Technology labs are back on the road they need to be. Giffin added that he will emphasize the integration of these programs with rapidly growing efforts in state and federal highway development and with the way transportation system modeling, analysis and simulation.

"This program's transportation efforts involve facility from several engineering disciplines including civil, computer science and software, electrical/mechanical and financial and aviation." I love a challenge," said Giffin. "I relish the chance to bring my leadership, management and strong business skills to a new playing field, and I look forward to working with faculty and staff across the college."

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 1

- Chautauqua Evening with Bob Kerrey and Joseph Trumble, 6 p.m., Pebble Hill, DeBardeleben Street.

Monday, July 5

- Independence Day Holiday: No classes, offices closed.

Saturday, July 10

- Family Tours: Docent-led tours of the Julian Smith Museum of Fine Art, 2 p.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, July 12

- Next AU Report.

Police service

(continued from page 1)

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Black Issues in Higher Education

AU ranks high in African-American graduates with engineering degrees

Auburn is ranked 17th nationally among colleges and universities graduating African-Americans with baccalaureate degrees in engineering, according to Black Issues. The Ginn College of Engineering prepares to leave in August to become associate dean of the graduate school at Notre Dame.

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The agreement also states that Auburn Public Safety will work closely with AU to coordinate stadium security for AU home football games through the Alabama Department of Public Safety and numerous local and regional law enforcement agencies “in a general manner similar to AUDPS’ coordination with APS.”

AU will reimburse the city for extra security for home football games and other similar events, while APS will provide limited increased security for recurring events at no extra cost.

Also under terms of the contract, APS will continue to provide law enforcement services to AU, including public safety, on and off campus. The agreement will also eventually result in AUDPS staff moving out of the Dawson Building, where it is housed. The Dawson Building is slated for elimination with the planned construction of a parking deck in the vicinity.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Bob Lowry and David Granger, AU Communications: Cheryl Cobb, Engi- neering; Martha Barker, Sciences & Mathematics; Melissa Denney, Rural; Melissa Fowle, Communication Services.

Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachetl. Director of Communications: DeeDee Dowdle. The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Copies are free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 3 p.m. on Wednesday before a Monday deadline. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/444-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu

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She added, “Now that the Forestry Research Advisory Council has a full complement of highly qualified members, I look forward to its first meeting this August so we can continue to tackle important issues that lie ahead.”

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Boulton assists Japanese television course

William R. Boulton of the AU College of Business hosted personnel for Japan’s NHK Television for two days this month, providing an update of a course on the Japanese educational television network.

Boulton, AU’s Olan Mills Professor of Management, assisted NHK Professor Kosei Furukawa in updating Furukawa’s Management of Innovation class for the Japanese network’s University of Asia.

NHK — call letters for the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation — is similar to the Public Broadcasting System, which is part of a university degree program and was the college’s entry in the NSF Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholars competition.

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AU Photo Services staff wins national awards for campus, theatre pictures

AU Photo Services Director Jeff Etheridge and staff photographer Trice Megginson won a top national award this month from the University Photographers Association of America.

The Photo Services team won first-place in the poster category for the photography on posters promoting AU Theatre activities during the 2003-04 academic year.

The posters included a general promotional display for AU Theatre and advertisements for the play “The Member of the Wedding” and the musical production “AU Dance.” The winning posters are shown above.

The AU photographers also won third place in the nation for photography in AU’s 2004 calendar, “Twilight on the Plains,” at right. The calendar showcases historic AU buildings at dusk.

Etheridge and Megginson received the awards in Houston at the association’s 43rd annual technical symposium.

Photo Services is a unit of the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Chemistry professor wins prize for technology

Eric Bakker, a faculty member in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, has won the 2004 Roche Diagnostics Prize for Sensor Technology.

Bakker, Alumni Professor in the Department of Chemistry, recently received the award during the Seventh European Conference on Optical Chemical Sensors and Biosensors in Spain.

Roche Diagnostics presents the international award every two years to a scientist under the age of 42 for outstanding achievements in the fields of chemical sensing and biosensing.

Bakker’s research focuses on chemical sensors based on molecular recognition and extraction principles. His chemical sensor work has received nearly $2 million in support from the National Institutes of Health, the American Chemical Society and Beckman Coulter Inc. over the past six years.

“In a relatively short time, Eric Bakker has established himself as one of the leading scientists in his field,” said Howard Hargis, head of the Department of Chemistry.

“His contributions have potentially important applications in medicine and environmental studies and have led to a significant lowering of detection limits in biosensor technology,” Hargis added.