AU reorganizing its administration

Interim AU President Ed Richardson announced changes to the university’s central and athletic administrative structures last week.

Richardson said the changes were designed to streamline operations and improve staff and fiscal efficiency and are expected to help the administration direct additional funding to the university’s established priorities.

“We must be accountable to taxpayers, students and the parents of students who increasingly bear the cost of higher education,” Richardson said. “It is our responsibility to ensure that the university uses its resources as efficiently as possible.”

He added that Auburn, like other public institutions of higher education across the country, faces major fiscal challenges related to tuition rates, reduction in state funding and increases in the costs of employee health care and retirement.

Chief among the changes are significant adjustments and reorganization in the offices of the President, the Provost, University Outreach and Athletic Administration.

As the first step in a university-wide review of administrative, operational and academic efforts, Richardson has asked Auburn’s senior administrative staff to consolidate, cut and streamline operations. The goal, he said, is to ensure that the university makes efficient use of available resources.

Richardson announced the following changes in the central administration:

- The internal audit function will be moved from the Office of the Executive Vice President to report to the Office of the Senior Presidential Assistant. This reporting structure appropriately removes the internal auditor’s office from supervision by the institution’s chief financial officer, eliminating any appearance of potential conflict of interest.
- The Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity will become part of the operations of the Office of Human Resources.
- A new space management program will be developed in an effort to ensure optimal use of space on campus. In addition to other consulting (See Reorganization, page 4)
AU Provost Thomas Hanley has announced the appointment of Michael J. Weiss as dean of Auburn's College of Agriculture and director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

Weiss comes to Auburn from the University of Idaho, where he is an entomology professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences. He had also been dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Idaho.

“Among the things that resonated with me,” said Hanley, “were the volume and quality of his scholarly works and his ability to attract external funding.”

Weiss holds three degrees in entomology: a Bachelor's degree from Purdue University; a Master's degree from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

Research universities showcase their technologies

AU and three other Alabama research universities joined forces this month in Huntsville to showcase research technologies for prospective investors.

Auburn, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of South Alabama and the University of Alabama in Huntsville hosted the forum to highlight investment opportunities, “University Technology Showcase of Alabama.”

An independent review committee of venture capitalists selected nine opportunities for review by potential investors.

AU presentations included “An Insect-Derived Protein to Improve Wound Healing,” “Patient-Specific, Targeted Anti-Cancer System,” “Medication Error Detection Systems – MedAccuracy, LLC” and “FoodSource Lure Corporation.”

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 27
• Theatre Skits: Comedy skits by AU Theatre troupe, 1 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art Cafe.

Wednesday, July 28
• SummerStage 2004: Dinner at 6 p.m. followed at 7:30 p.m. by AU Theatre’s production of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.”

Thursday, July 29
• Curator’s Choice Lecture Series: “What Moves You?” Catherine Walshe, curator of collections and education, discusses concepts of quality in art, 5:30 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Friday, July 30
• Classes end for summer term.

Saturday, July 31
• Final Examinations: Through Tuesday, Aug. 3, excluding Sunday.

Tuesday, August 3
• Meeting: Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2 p.m., Foy Student Union 217.

Thursday, August 5
• Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Ingram 212.

Friday, August 6
• First AU Report of fall semester 2004. Return to weekly publication.

Wednesday, August 18
• Fall Semesters: First day of classes for 2004-05 academic year.

New buildings

Jerry Newby, president of the Alabama Farmers Federation, helped Auburn officials break ground last week for a pavilion for the Agricultural Heritage Park and dedicate the Alfa Agricultural Services Building. From left to right are interim Agriculture Dean John Jensen, interim AU President Ed Richardson, Golda McDaniel of the AU Board of Trustees and Newby.

Loyds establish $1 million scholarship fund in Ginn College of Engineering

Auburn alumni Raymond E. and Eleanor Loyd have established a $1 million scholarship fund in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Recipients will be recognized as Loyd Scholars, and students from Elmore County will receive priority for the four-year tuition scholarships. “With the establishment of this endowment, the Loyds create a tremendous opportunity for the next generation of engineers,” said Dean of Engineering Larry Benefield.

“The scholarships serve as a powerful student recruiting tool, and support of alumni and friends makes those scholarships possible,” he added.

Raymond Loyd, a 1961 mechanical engineering graduate, and Eleanor Loyd, a 1959 physical education graduate, met as Auburn students and were later married. “I’ve had a very successful career because of my Auburn engineering education,” Raymond Loyd said. “Eleanor and I both have a deep love for Auburn and want to give something back.”

Eleanor Loyd added, “I had to follow my heart and my heart wouldn’t let me choose to establish this scholarship anywhere other than Auburn. I hope that one day the recipients will give back, as well, and help others who want to attend Auburn.”

The Loyds’ gift is a term endowment that will provide scholarships for 20 years. Eleven students will be selected for the first scholarship class.

Ansell named interim dean of Liberal Arts

Provost Thomas Hanley has announced the appointment of Joseph F. Ansell, head of the Department of Art, as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Ansell succeeds Rebekah Pindzola, who has returned to the faculty of the Department of Communication Disorders. Pindzola had served as interim dean since John Heilman, the college’s former dean, was appointed senior assistant to the president at AU in 2001.

A search for a permanent dean recently ended without a selection, and Hanley said the search will restart this fall.

Ansell has been a professor and head of the Department of Art since coming to Auburn in 2001. An authority on art history, he holds a master of fine arts degree from George Washington University.

Ansell also has served as interim director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

The museum’s new director, Michael Panhorst, is scheduled to assume those duties on Aug. 15.
Reorganization

(continued from page 1)

duties, John Mouton, special assistant to the presi-
dent, will lead the space management effort.
• The Office of Planning and Analysis will merge
with the Office of Assessment and Program Im-
provement to create the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.
• The Office of Communications and Marketing
will assume greater responsibility for the marketing
and communications efforts of several administra-
tive units, including the offices of Alumni Affairs, Student Affairs, Outreach and Development.
• Senior Presidential Assistant John Heilman will
supervise the offices and operations listed above.
This reorganization will consolidate the Office of the President responsibilities for many of the univer-
sity’s analysis and reporting functions in the policy,
planning and communication areas.

Other changes include:
• In the Office of the Provost, the associate provost
for academic affairs will assume additional respons-
bilities. When that position is filled, several func-
tions within the Provost’s Office will report there.

Also, the associate provost will be charged with con-
solidating and strengthening the university’s diver-
sity initiatives.
• Athletic administration will reorganize its more
than 30 operational units under six section leaders
to encourage better communication among the units
and facilitate decision-making.
• The Office of University Outreach will stream-
line operations in the Economic Development Insti-
tute and the Center for Governmental Services and
will move toward funding those units through serv-
vice fees.

Managers of the affected units will be responsible
for providing Richardson with recommendations
for all changes regarding role, responsibility and
staffing levels by Aug. 1.

These steps and related measures are projected to
produce annual savings of approximately $1.4 mil-
lion in central administration costs and approxi-
mately $500,000 in athletic administration costs.

Mouton to analyze campus construction projects

Interim AU President Ed Richardson has an-
nounced the appointment of John Mouton of Build-

ing Science to review all major construction projects on campus.

Mouton, the Wilborn Professor of Building Sci-
ence, will maintain some faculty duties in the Col-
lege of Architecture, Design and Construction while
serving for approximately a year as a consultant to
the administration.

He is former head of the Department of Building

Sci-