Board of Trustees to meet Friday, consider 2004-05 spending plans

At its meeting on Friday, the AU Board of Trustees is scheduled to consider the university’s operating budget, including faculty and staff pay increases, for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

Friday’s committee sessions and board meeting will be at Dixon Conference Center.

The 2004-05 budget is scheduled for discussion at committee sessions that start with the board’s Finance Committee at 9 a.m. After that meeting, another committee is scheduled to review major campus construction projects.

Although scheduled for 12:45 p.m., the board meeting could start earlier or later, depending on the length of the committee sessions.

Two committee meetings are scheduled for Thursday in Samford 107. The Academic Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m., followed by the Investments Committee.

Budget guidelines set by the board last spring designate nearly $10 million of an anticipated $36 million in additional spending over the next 12 months to go to salary and wage increases. Under the guidelines, salary increases will be based upon merit ratings for faculty and a combination of 3 percent across-the-board and merit increases for staff and administrative-professional positions.

Other major budget priorities in the guidelines include $1.5 million for deferred maintenance and $1 million for scholarships.

The additional income is projected to come from a tuition increase expected to produce $11 million, a $4 million increase in state appropriations and nearly $21 million in a reserve fund carried over from the current budget year. With the state’s economy recovering from a nationwide economic recession, AU guidelines call for holding $9 million in an unallocated reserve for the coming budget year.

Agenda items also include establishment of an AU research park, site consideration for a parking structure and updates on other construction.
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Housel

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dedicated approximately $1 million for the center

first year for start-up and leveraging funds.

Wednesday, September 15

• Study Abroad Fair: Booths and activities related to Study Abroad opportunities for students and program development information for faculty, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Haller Center lobby.


• Authors’ Reading: Anthony Warren and B.D. Mayberry, authors of “Where Will We Be When We Get Where We’re Going?”, a true
tale of diversity and friendship, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Foy 217.

Friday, September 17

• Board of Trustees: Committee sessions start at 9 a.m.; AU Board meets at 12:45 p.m. but starting time may vary, depending upon duration of committee meetings; Dixon Conference Center.

Monday, September 20

• Next AU Report.

He later became an instructor in the Department of Journalism and then rejoined the Athletic Depart-

ment, where he served as sports information direc-
tor from 1981-94.

Retiring as athletic director

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce will honor retiring, AU Athletic Director David Housel with a plaque and a plaque recognizing his

tour sidewalk display of granite plaques honors individuals who

have achieved legendary status in athletics at AU.

Later that day, AU will host football rival LSU at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Housel, who graduated with a degree in journalism from AU in 1969, worked for a Huntsville

ewspaper for a year and returned in 1970 as a staff mem-

ber in the Athletic Ticket Office.

HR seminars examine legal issues for supervisors

The AU Office of Human Resources is conduct-
ing series of seminars for supervisors on “Legal Foundations of Supervising University Employ-

ees.”

The 10-session program, which began with an overview on Sept. 9, details the legal responsibili-
ties of supervisors for employment decisions in the university environment.

Future sessions — at the Human Resource Development Training Facility on North Gay

Street — will be presented by subject matter experts Angela Elandson, Chuck Gerards, Mike

Hill, Albert Snipes and Kelley Taylor.

All sessions are directed at the supervisory rela-
tionship. Cases involving laws, court cases and legal interpretations impact on that supervisor-

employee relationship.

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A survey by an AU College of Education researcher shows colleges and universities across the United States squeezed between rapidly rising health care costs and demands for cost constraints from the public.

Olin Adams, an assistant professor of educational leadership, is analyzing responses from chief finan-
cial officers in colleges and universities across the

U.S. to questions about economic challenges facing higher education. He is also comparing the respons-

es in this survey to those of a similar survey he con-
ducted five years ago.

Adams says he expects to receive a few more

responses before he concludes his study, which adds that he expects little variance from the 156

responses received so far.

The most frequently cited issues, in order, are size of tuition increases, declines in state financial support and escalating expenses, particularly for employee health insurance.

Adams noted that although AU administrators had not seen his findings, interim President Ed Richardson recently cited the chief financial officers nationwide in presenting plans for administrative reorganization at Auburn. “These are very serious issues facing higher education all over the country,” said Adams. “Chief financial offi-
cers across the United States are talking about the same issues.”

In 1998-99, the most cited concerns, in order, were technology, tuition and physical plant. Adams noted that technology faded as a major concern after 2000, when the “Millennium Bug” failed to materialize. While physical plant costs remain a sig-

ificant concern, chief financial officers are now more worried about escalating health care expenses, he added.

Almost half the chief financial officers cited tu-

tion as the leading issue on their campuses. Adams notes that tuition increased an average of 14 percent at public four-year colleges in 2003-04, compared to an average 6 percent increase at private colleges. He said the trend is one of several indicators that

public institutions are becoming more like private institutions, in part due to pressure to adjust to changing economic and social conditions.

State financial support is a perennial concern for public colleges and universities, but Adams noted that state governments across the U.S. are under intense political pressure to shift funds to other pri-
es because the pressure to cut costs is more likely to increase than decrease, he said.

Adams said the stratified, random survey of chief financial officers showed that the concerns cited by Auburn also exist with other public institutions nationally, especially Auburn’s peers across the South and Midwest.

The cost constraints forcing public and private institutions into a new round of cost-cutting, he said. “All universities probably revenue enhancement to cost control, but they are finding that the pressure to achieve revenue enhancement more limited than in the past,” he added. “A lot of universities have to address cost-control, whether they want to or not.”

Adviser at AU wins national award

Sigma Nu international fraternity recently named John Burgess, an admissions adviser at AU’s Office of Student Affairs, as its national adviser of the year for 2004.

Burgess, an AU staff member since 1975, has been an adviser to the campus chapter of Sigma Nu for the past 15 years. An AU graduate, he was a Sigma Nu member as a student. Sigma Nu has 225 chapters worldwide.
Representing France in Alabama

Spencer named honorary consul

The government of France has named Samia I. Spencer of Auburn University as that nation’s hon- orary consul in Alabama.

Spencer, who will serve a renewable four-year term, is Alumni and Catanodi Professor of French in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in AU’s College of Liberal Arts.

The French government rarely confers such titles on citizens of other nations, and this is the first time that a member of the academic community in Alabama has been selected.

“We depend on Dr. Spencer very much,” said Rene-Serge Marty, consul general at the French Consulate for the Southeast U.S. in Atlanta. “She is working very hard to increase awareness of French culture in Alabama and help us build strong economic relations between France and Alabama.”

Spencer last week introduced Marty to Gov. Bob Riley as the two began talks on increasing economic ties between Alabama and France.

A paraplegic for more than two decades, Zuk never let the disability hamper his performance as a teacher, researcher and colleague, Johnson said.

Zuk was a nationally recognized authority in international relations, national security policy and the federal judiciary who published extensively in these areas.

A member of St. Michael’s Catholic Church, he is survived by his wife Rose-Marie and son Nicholas.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each well-bound copy of this document is off-campus address.

Gift to Nursing School supports services

A banking foundation has provided a gift to the AU School of Nursing for nursing services at the Auburn Housing Authority.

Nursing Dean Barbara Witt said the $15,000 gift from BancorpSouth Foundation will support nursing care clinics for housing authority residents.

Witt said the AU School of Nursing and the Housing Authority have created a successful social investment program that features best practices of a community-based, service education partnership. The partnership between the AU School of Nursing and Auburn’s Housing Authority began in 1998 with a nursing care clinic provided by nursing students and faculty one day a week.

Due in part to that partnership, the AHA received the 2003 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Merit Award for Program Innovation in Resident and Client Services.

Political Science professor at AU dies following lengthy illness

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