

**Administrative & Professional Assembly**

**Location: OIT Building, Room 103**

**September 15, 2015 at 3 pm**

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**Call to Order: 3:00 pm**

**I. Roll Call**

**Present: John Heck, Joy Vrbka, Josh Conradson, Meaghan Weir, Mark Bransby, Laurel Hendrix, Steve Glennon, Frank Oprandy, Bre Aunna McKenzie, Robert Kulick, Stephen Gulley, Laurie Newton, Paula Davis, Lawrence Hamberlin, Jeanie Harry, Tyler Adams, Katie Lee, Vic Walker, Timothy Jones, Ashley Hamberlin, Tim Blackmon**  
**Absent: Kirk Kreamer, Robert Holm**

**II. Approval of Minutes from May meeting**

**Motion passes**

**III. Speakers**

**a. Marcie Smith – Vice President, Business and Finance and CFO**

- i. Marcie informed the audience that the FY16 budget had not been presented to the AU BOT for approval yet, this would occur Friday 09/25/15 at their next scheduled meeting. The \$1.2 billion dollar FY16 budget was complete though and included a modest 3% allocation for salary increases and also included the annual salary supplement to be paid out in December through the same process as used the last several years. Salaries and fringe for FY16 totaled \$23 million; the fringe rate increased for FY16. The federal approved fringe rate for FY16 will be 32% for full-time employees. The average merit increase for FY16 salaries is 3.5%; schools had to fund any increase over the 3% increase budgeted. The fall 2015 student class is made up of 41% non-resident status students which pay out-of-state tuition and that greatly benefits AU with tuition revenues. Out-of-state resident status student's scholarships are capped. Because of the change in scholarships increasing net tuition, we were able to allocate approximately \$30M in the budget. Some of this funding will go into a deferred maintenance fund to cover building renovations. A scary piece of news is the small increase proposed for state appropriations for FY16. The Alabama legislators will be called into a 3<sup>rd</sup> session to address the state budget. One option likely to be used to balance the budget would be to raid the special education trust fund. Marcie asked for everyone to speak to their senators and legislators about the importance of the higher education trust fund and to not pull funding from education to balance the general fund. AU has used a historical budget model with very few changes for years and that this budget model is not the most beneficial for AU. A new budget model which AU is calling the Auburn Model will be rolled out soon and will provide more transparency than the current model. This new model is similar to the RCM model which some universities currently use.**

**ii. Questions:**

**Q: With the new budget model, will reserves be rolled over? A: Amounts rolled into state budgets might be less.**

**Q: When will new budget model be implemented? A: This new model will be shadowed for FY16 and with plans to go live for FY17. Training will take place towards the end of this calendar year. This is somewhat of a pilot model; AU is not purchasing a package model.**

**Q: Has Auburn Global had any impact on tuition? A: Not yet.**

**Q: Where do our representatives stand on the budget issues? A: They are lobbying to make sure AU's issues are supported and funding protected. They are of the opinion that no new taxes will be approved as a means of raising state revenues.**

**b. Tim Gore – Assistant Director, Campus Recreation**

- i. Tim called out a big War Eagle greeting! He encouraged everyone to continue to strive to live the AU Creed. The last time he presented to the A&P Assembly the Recreational & Wellness Center was brand new on campus and now has been up and running for 2 years. Tim showed a short video of the Recreational & Wellness Center which featured the things you will see inside the center; workout equipment, indoor running track, climbing tower, basketball and volleyball courts and small class training rooms to name a few. He introduced Allyson Shumate, the center's membership coordinator, and she spoke about several new programs offered. The Healthy Weight Challenge, personal trainers and small group training are a few of the new programs. Allison showed a promotional clip for Deskercise which is a series of desk exercises that break up the workday and combat the adverse effects desk jobs can have on weight, backs, wrists, eyes, necks and muscles. Tim went over the Fall '15 hours of operation which are Mon-Thurs 5:30 am - midnight, Fri 5:30 am - 9 pm, Sat 10 am – 9pm, and Sun 12 pm – midnight. The Recreation and Wellness Center is closed for home football games. An estimated 3-4 thousand members/guests come thru their doors every day. The Center was recognized in 2014 for Best Recreational Facility. Tim encouraged everyone to come by and tour the Center.**

**ii. Questions:**

**Q: Can member's families use the facility? A: Spouses may join but children under the age of 19 cannot come in facility.**

**Q: Does the commitment of 2 yr. membership still exist? A: No, you can send Tim or Allison an email asking to cancel your membership with no penalty.**

**Q: What is the cost of membership? A: Faculty and staff pay \$25 a month for membership with payment thru payroll deduction and the cost for spouses is an additional \$25 a month.**

**Q: Where can spouses park to use the facility? A: The 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the parking deck near the athletic complex is available. See Don Andrae for a parking pass.**

**Q: Are there any plans for fitness classes to be held during the lunch hour? A: They do currently have lunch classes with options for low impact or high intensity exercise. See their website for class listings.**

**c. Arthur Taylor – Staff Council Chair**

- i. Arthur introduced himself and stated his intentions, on behalf of the Staff Council, to work together with the A&P Assembly on the common issues facing both governance groups.**

**IV. Comments from the Chair**

- a. Vic Walker thanked Marcie Smith, Tim Gore and Arthur Taylor for their time to come and speak to us today. He also thanked Ashley Hamberlin and Tim Jones for their assistance with the meetings and A&P procedures. The A&P Assembly retreat was held August 11, 2015 at the AU Wellness Kitchen thanks to Jay Jacob's generous invitation. The retreat provided great brainstorming ideas for the assembly to work on this year. Karla McCormick and Benjamin Smith from Human Resources will be presenting at the Nov meeting on the changes coming for the performance management process and insurance costs/benefits changes.**

**V. Executive Committee Report**

- a. Tim Jones reported that the Executive Committee met on 09/02/15 and discussed the some of the ideas that were brought forth from the retreat: tweak tuition benefit to reflect semester hours (6-6-3) instead of quarter hour system, professional development support, AU provided child care, creation of sick leave bank, partnership with Staff Council, community service day, problems with WageWorks, ideas to increase attendance at meetings.**

**VI. New Business**

- a. Vic Walker announced there are several A&P committees needing new members and that information would be sent out soon concerning the opportunities to serve and how to nominate yourself or someone to serve on a committee. And that some of the new ideas discussed at the retreat should be given to the committees to work on. He also stressed the importance of the A&P Assembly working together with the Faculty Senate and Staff Council to unify our efforts to deal with these new initiatives.**

**VII. Open Forum**

- a. Vic asked the audience to bring forth any issues or questions they would like to discuss. With no discussion following the invitation he thanked the speakers for presenting and the audience for their attendance.**

**VIII. Adjourn  
3:59 pm**