

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ASSESSMENT OF BOARD PERFORMANCE BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

WHEREAS the presidential search is of utmost importance to all university stakeholders, the University Senate is committed to full participation in the search process; and

WHEREAS the present atmosphere of contention and distrust between the Auburn University Board of Trustees and other university stakeholding groups make it untenable to begin a presidential search in the near future due to faculty distrust of the search process itself, to the improbability of attracting applicants of the caliber Auburn deserves, and to concern about a new president's ability to administer the university under the style of governance practiced by the Board; and

WHEREAS this atmosphere is due largely to the perception that the Board of Trustees has regularly, and over many years, breached the clear separation between the policy-making function of the Board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to implement policy, a "must" criterion for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); and

WHEREAS the April 6 recommendations of the Joint Assessment Committee offer means to ascertain the responsibility of the Board for perceived violations of SACS criteria for accreditation, as well as the means to obtain objective recommendations for preventing future violations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the presidential search not proceed until an external assessment of Board performance as recommended by the Joint Assessment Committee has been accomplished and compliance with the recommendations of that assessment has been agreed to by the Board.