

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF THE AUBURN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees has compromised the reputation and integrity of Auburn University and brought disrepute to this institution by its actions relating to governance, academics, and athletics; and

WHEREAS the Auburn University Board of Trustees has consistently disregarded guidelines of conduct relating to shared governance recommended by the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and the Association of Governing Boards (AGB); and

WHEREAS, despite years of attempts to remind the Board of Trustees on the proper role of a university governing body and the critical role of faculty in the principle of shared governance, the Board of Trustees still fails to fully appreciate or embrace the concept of shared governance; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees continues to defend its long-standing position of holding secret meetings in direct violation of the spirit and intent of Alabama Sunshine Law; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees continues to consider itself exempt from the State Ethics Laws and has refused to develop or formally adopt policies regarding conflicts of interest among its members or ethical guidelines for its conduct; and

WHEREAS by the egregious manner in which it summarily removed William V. Muse as President of Auburn University, the Board of Trustees showed contempt not only for the faculty and students but also for Dr. Muse and the Office of President itself; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees, by its actions, has betrayed the confidence and trust of the faculty, students, staff, administrators, and alumni in meeting its responsibilities to the University; and

WHEREAS virtually every constituent group of the Auburn University community has voted no confidence in the AU Board of Trustees, representing the following nine bodies: University Senate, General Faculty, Engineering Faculty Council, Auburn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, Student Government Association, Graduate Student Council, Administrative and Professional Assembly, University Staff Council, and Auburn Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS 14 past chairs of the University Senate, collectively representing over 360 years of service and leadership as members of the AU faculty, and The Auburn Plainsman have called for the resignation of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS continuation of the present board and the distrust it engenders fosters a climate that seriously impedes a search for a new president and preparation for the upcoming SACS review; and

WHEREAS, without a major change in the membership of the Board of Trustees, there is little or no hope of resolving the persistent conflicts relating to the Board of Trustees that continue to disrupt Auburn University; and

WHEREAS, when a governing body loses the confidence and trust of the constituents it purports to represent, the honorable thing to do is to step aside in the best interest of the institution; and

WHEREAS the genuine reforms necessary to restore trust and confidence in the Board of Trustees will not take place as long as current members remain on the Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn University Senate, representing both the faculty and administration, recognizes that there are Board members who act with good will and in good faith but who have, through inexperience or some other inability, allowed a pernicious faction to direct policy to the detriment of Auburn University, calls for the resignation of all members from the Board of Trustees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if they do not voluntarily resign, the Auburn University Senate calls upon the Governor, the faculty, students, staff, administration, alumni, and other Auburn supporters to use their influence in effecting these resignations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the presidential search to select William V. Muse's successor be suspended until the members of the Auburn University Board of Trustees have tendered their resignations and those resignations have been accepted.