

## **Remarks by Pat Bauch, Faculty Senate President,**

### **to the UA Board of Trustees**

**September 14, 2000**

Thank you, President Sorensen. President Pro Tem of the Board, Sid MacDonald, Members of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Meredith, Presidents Sorensen, Reynolds, and Franz, Friends, and Guests

It is a pleasure to greet you this morning and to make a few remarks concerning our faculty.

First, however, I would like to take a few moments to thank you on behalf of the faculty for the work you do for the UA System. Your dedication and commitment to ensuring that we have three outstanding universities is noticed and appreciated by the faculty. You have provided outstanding leadership to our great universities in the State of Alabama. We are grateful for the strong working relationships among administrators, faculty, and students nurtured by you and our administrations. For all this and more, we are grateful. We are also grateful that our football team redeemed themselves after their loss to my alma mater, UCLA.

While I have this opportunity, I would also like to recognize and thank you on behalf of our faculty, for the outstanding leadership we enjoy here on our UA campus. President Sorensen and Provost Barrett are highly esteemed by our faculty and are viewed as leaders who are intelligent, hard-working, caring, and innovative. President Sorensen's leadership, not just at the level of the university, but also in this community and Statewide is viewed favorably by our faculty in representing well our university accomplishments. This goes a long way in keeping faculty morale high and making us very proud, despite the fact that, as you have heard repeatedly, our salaries are shamefully low. What keeps outstanding faculty here is the kind of working relationships we enjoy among faculty, administration, and students. Our administrators care about the faculty, are readily available to us, and easily approachable. This campus, and I'm sorry I cannot speak for the other campuses, is an intellectually stimulating and nurturing environment where advanced knowledge, research, excellent teaching, and outreach are fostered and recognized, not necessarily in a monetary way. Much of what we do has its own rewards. Similarly, our Tide Pride goes a long way in helping build the kind of university community we enjoy here.

I have been at this university for ten years. In that short time, I have seen a complete turn around in what, in my view, it takes to make a university great. Besides our forward-looking administrators, there are two aspects about the faculty I would like to emphasize. First, The two faculty byouts, which occurred between 1993-1995, enabled us to hire a substantial number of new, energetic, and hard working young faculty, many of whom are recent Ph.D. graduates from universities of distinction. We value them as colleagues and have much to learn from them. The challenge, of course, is keeping them here.

Second, the faculty have rallied to President Sorensen's call for an infusion of research grant monies into our institution. This is not easily done. Chasing this kind of external funding is very intense, as we must compete with top university researchers in our fields who are employed at the country's best universities. This speaks loudly to the kind of faculty we have. Sadly, when I came here ten years ago not a great deal of emphasis was placed on conducting high quality research. In fact, in some corners, research was actually discouraged because it was viewed as a distraction from teaching. (In my view, however, good teaching and good research go hand in hand.) Our new faculty come here, certainly not for the money, but because they know they will be supported in their research endeavors. This is very important in attracting and retaining outstanding faculty.

Lastly, I bring a resolution from the Faculty Senate that I would like to have recorded in your minutes regarding a recently deceased member of the Board of Trustees and colleague of your, Trustee George Shirley. This resolution easily speaks to your illustrious careers and accomplishments, as well as his, and to the same appreciation the faculty have for you--- except for the part about being deceased!

Please allow me to read the following resolution passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate at our August 22, 2000 meeting to honor Trustee George S. Shirley.

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