

A Letter from Auburn Men in Support of Auburn Women

Auburn is currently in the process of selecting two new members to the Board of Trustees (BoT), one for District 8 and one for an At-Large position. On January 8 the Auburn University BoT Selection Committee announced that 17 nominees would progress to the interview stage of the selection process. Out of the 17 finalists, only one is a woman. Though women represent roughly 49.5% of the student body, there are only two women currently serving as Trustees. As the representative and decision-making body of Auburn University, the BoT should reflect the demographics of our beloved institution. While we recognize this discrepancy cannot be remedied overnight, we believe gender equality on the BoT is an issue that must be addressed.

It has been said that true leaders create leaders. As Auburn men, we have long experienced the benefits of having university administrators who understand what it takes for men to succeed as leaders after graduation. However, these benefits have disproportionately benefited the male segment of our student body. Even in today's world, women are faced with numerous gender-specific obstacles, which are more readily understood by female leaders who could hold Trustee positions. In order to ensure an equal opportunity of success for Auburn women, university leadership must be comprised of a balanced ratio of women to men.

The BoT serves as the face of Auburn University, and in a modern world with a modern student body the Auburn Family deserves a governing board that properly represents it. To be clear, we are neither passing judgment on current BoT members, nor calling for radical changes. However, we advocate that gender equity be a high priority in Trustee selection processes. We urge the board to strive for a membership that properly reflects the distribution of our student body and affords Auburn women, for years to come, the same benefits Auburn men have historically valued and will continue to value. War Eagle and Godspeed to those involved in current and future selection processes.

Sincerely,

— Concerned Auburn Men

Co-signers

List of names