

July 13, 2010

USG Chancellor visits ASU

University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. came to Albany State University on July 7 as one of his regular visits to each of the 35 units in the USG.

During his visit, Davis met with ASU President Everette J. Freeman, the Executive Cabinet, the Students in Free Enterprise Team, Student Government Association leaders, members of the Faculty Senate and members of the Staff Council.

Davis attended a luncheon that included state legislators, local government officials as well as ASU students, faculty and staff. After a presentation about recent ASU accomplishments from Freeman, Davis responded to questions from luncheon attendees.

In discussing budget reductions, Davis described the current economic climate as “interesting times.”

“Public higher education is at a crisis,” he said. “It’s at a crossroads. We’re doing all we can to keep higher education in Georgia affordable and accessible while keeping the quality high. We cannot afford to let the quality fall.”

Davis compared the situation in Georgia to other states who receive less support from their state legislators.

“We, in Georgia, are indeed blessed with the level of support we have from our State Legislature,” he said.

While Davis said he is confident that fiscal year 2011, which began July 1, 2010, will be a “tolerable year” for the USG, he expressed concerns about fiscal year 2012 because federal stimulus funding will no longer be available.

Davis went on to talk about the importance of online education, which provides instruction for students while decreasing the need for new construction. He also stressed that while online education is important, social growth and critical thinking skills obtained through traditional classroom interaction are also important.

During a press conference held in the afternoon, Davis fielded questions from the media about the possibility of mergers of ASU with Albany Technical College or Darton College. Davis emphatically said there was no talk of such mergers because of the different missions of each institution.

Photo captions

Joining University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. (center) during his July 7 visit to Albany State University are ASU President Dr. Everette J. Freeman (left) and Darton College President Dr. Peter Sireno (right).

