**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**March 14, 2016**

* **Apologies** away from the campus today, I look forward to conversations with the senate upon my return.
* **Campus Carry** by this point you have likely heard that the Georgia Senate has passed SB 859, that will allow licensed concealed weapons holders (over 21, completing a state background check) to carry concealed weapons on campus (excluding athletic facilities and residence halls, sorority and fraternity residence) The Board response is as follows: "We appreciate the opportunity to have been heard. We expressed our opposition on behalf of our Board, 29 presidents, campus police chiefs, faculty and many students and their parents. We are disappointed because we feel current law strikes the right balance between creating a safe environment on our campuses while affording those individuals who are carry users a safeguard location. We are committed to providing our students, faculty and staff a safe environment, which is a responsibility that the University System takes very seriously." The extended cabinet will be meeting later this week for preliminary discussions on campus strategies for addressing these new legal conditions, and guided by University System and public safety advice on the matter. As was the case for colleagues in Universities in Colorado, Texas, Utah, and a few other states, we will continue to be committed to the safety of our campuses under these new legal conditions. <http://www.myajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/georgia-passes-campus-carry-bill-legalizing-guns-a/nqjH4/##>
* **State budget** both the senate and the house versions of the budget included a 3% salary increase for USG faculty and staff. Based on that, the university HR office distributed guidelines for implementing recommendations for increases on campus. Because there were differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY 17 budget, a conference committee representing both house and senate members/leadership will develop a single version upon negotiation. The senate version included/added $1.55m for a portion of the academic core renovations (roofs). Our hope is that the house may be able to find another $2.1m to allow for further renovation requests (but without major chiller/mechanical requests) which we will make part of later discussions). At this point there are no guarantees, but we will be waiting to see what if any part of our request will emerge in the final budget. Dr. Jim Flowers (passed his dissertation defense at Georgia State) has been diligent in helping us make a case for our projects.
* **Leadership development** Our hope is to provide an outline soon of next steps, together with a tentative schedule for a 6-8 month once a month program that will include discussions of leadership styles, budget, planning, academic, student affairs, and several other elements to help colleagues engage in framing discussions of the university from multiple perspectives. Several of our colleagues asked that such programs include some observation elements (trying to observe, for example, what the president really does on a given day).
* **Thanks**  with hope that your break was productive, restful, entertaining and/or all of the above