**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**April 8, 2019**

* **Legislative Activity** The budget is still at the governor’s desk, but all anticipate key items such as formula funding, MRR support, and salary increases for faculty and staff will be approved. Also passed in the Senate was SR 464. This establishes a study committee of the Georgia Senate to review outcomes for academic programs in the USG and TCSG. <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20192020/186018.pdf> the text of the resolution, in part identifies the research interests of the authors of the resolution. “…WHEREAS, the nature of work is changing and the economy demands unique higher education credentials, including degrees, certifications, and other forms of continuing education; and WHEREAS, higher education can be a life-changing decision for a student, but it is important for students, parents, educators, and policy makers to make informed decisions on how to respond to an evolving labor market….” The committee has representation from the USG and the TCSG, and if a report is provided, it is due by December 1. Our own strategic plan is consistent with this assessment.
* **Budget processes on campus** the board of regents will officially approve the system budget for next year April 16, 2019 at their meeting in Savannah. The Planning and Budget Advisory committee will meet several times in April to both review new budget requests as well as one time budget requests for FY19 and FY 20. Our campus open budget meeting will likely be held the week of April 29.
* **Commencement Speakers** In addition to student speakers at each of the undergraduate ceremonies, the following speakers are soon to be announced: Graduate Ceremony-- Dr. Leon Prieto, College of Business; Ms. Deborah Armstrong, CEO, Piedmont Henry Hospital; Ms. Lisa Rayan, Emmy Award winner and host, WABE Morning Edition. Our students and their families are most appreciative of faculty attendance at these ceremonies, and most assuredly we are appreciative.
* **Spring Faculty Meeting**  This is currently scheduled for April 24 at 10:30 in the Student Activity Center; Smith Awards, general service awards, and University Professor Awards are scheduled April 30, Spivey Hall, 1:30 PM—4PM all campus receptions for end of the semester in Spivey Lobby
* **Thanks and Questions**