**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**November 28, 2016**

* **Making things better awards** Several years ago, we initiated making things better awards—provided recognition for colleagues—faculty, staff and university groups—whose work is perceived by other colleagues as making things better in some tangible way for others in the university. We will be charging a new committee (many former award winners) to send a call to campus identify others who so contribute to the improvement of our campus. When you see a call for nominations, please engage in the process, nominating colleagues, or asking colleagues to make such nominations themselves. Together with the Smith Awards, they serve as a wonderful way to recognize the daily contributions of our colleagues to campus life.
* **NSSE** we will be sharing with campus results of the most recently released National Survey of student engagement. It surveys nationally (and statewide) first year and senior perceptions of their institutions. These perceptions provide an incredibly useful body of data about which to begin discussions of university learning practices. For first year students here, reactions are most positive relative to other Georgia institutions when describing positive interactions—with administrators, with faculty, and with faculty providing feedback on drafts or work in progress. Seniors also remarked about the positive interactions with administrators (relative to other Georgia Institutions), as well as encouragement for students to interact with people different from themselves, and to engage in events that address critical social issues. Our freshmen reported far fewer chances to work with other students relative to those reported elsewhere. Our seniors reported fewer chances to participate in an internship or other external placement relative to other Georgia students, and reported fewer chances to work with a faculty member on a project outside of class. Again, this is rich data that can frame discussions that will be a critical part of advancing university wide strategic goals and objectives.
* **Budget Discussions** we continue to prepare for a session with board staff next week, and anticipate further comments then. We look forward to a chance to make our case for prudent budget management presently, as well as future improvements through enrollment management and other student recruitment and success efforts.
* **Thanks for all you do—questions?**