**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**February 27, 2017**

* **Legislative update**: Friday is the last day a bill must pass one chamber in order to be considered by the other. As a reminder, the last day of session, Day 40, is March 30th. The following material was developed from communication with the university system staff.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget – House Bill 44 the FY 18 budget is in the Senate higher education subcommittee of appropriations, and has not been modified after testimony by system. CSU capital request for academic core ($6.9) remains in budget bill

Campus Carry (House Bill 280) Chancellor Wrigley testified on Monday to the full House public safety and homeland security committee in opposition to the campus carry legislation, House Bill 280. Many of our presidents shared the chancellor’s testimony with their institutions earlier this week. The committee is scheduled to meet on Monday at 1pm to vote on this bill.

Senate Bill 186 was introduced by Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta) and clarifies language relating to the effect of dual credit courses on HOPE scholarship and grant applicability and provides that students who earned a high school diploma through certain dual credit coursework are eligible for a HOPE grant toward an associate degree. This legislation has been assigned to the Senate Education and Youth Committee.

Senate Bill 208 – introduced by Senator Josh McKoon (R-Columbus) provides that the award amount for HOPE scholarships will be based on the previous year's average cost of tuition for institutions within the University System.

Senate Bill 209 – introduced by Sen. McKoon establishes the Student Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Council to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board. Note: The USG has both of these groups.

Senate Bill 215 – introduced by Senator Michael Williams (R-Cumming) and would freeze tuition at the amount established for the freshman year up to a total of 127 semester hours. For informational purposes, the USG tried this initiative termed “fixed for four” in 2006 and it was not successful.

Senate Resolution 252 – introduced by Sen. McKoon, is a proposed constitutional amendment to reduce the number of Board of Regents members and to have the members elected by congressional district rather than appointed by the Governor.

Senate Resolution 253 – introduced by Sen. McKoon, is a proposed constitutional amendment requiring at least one at-large member of the Board of Regents to be a student member.

Senate Resolution 255 – introduced by Sen. Williams, and co-signed by Sen. John Albers (R-Alpharetta), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (R-Marietta), and Sen. William Ligon, Jr (R-Brunswick). This legislation is a proposed constitutional amendment that would authorize the Georgia General Assembly to regulate tuition and fees for the University System of Georgia.

House Bill 471 – introduced by Rep. Buzz Brockway (R-Gwinnett), relates to the establishment of institution and system-wide free speech policies, as well as an additional section about student activity fees and making those optional/voluntary.

House Bill 51 (reporting and investigating of felony crimes) – carried by Chairman Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs). This legislation was put back into the house higher education subcommittee of appropriations and received an additional hearing yesterday where it was voted out of the committee. It is now in the House appropriations committee and expected to be heard on Monday in committee.

House Bill 229 and House Resolution 159 (enabling legislation and constitutional amendment capping tuition) – carried by Rep. Matt Dollar (R-Marietta). This legislation has not yet moved and is currently in the House higher education committee.

House Bill 218 (allows a one-time change from ORP to TRS) – carried by Rep. Stacey Evans (D-Smyrna). This legislation remains in the House retirement committee.

* **Associate Professor leadership discussions** the last session focused on issues associated with assuming role of department chair—case study considered included the evaluation of potential candidate for replacement position in department—communication remained an essential feature of successful resolution of disagreements
* **Thanks and Questions**