**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**March 26, 2018**

**Budget**—legislative session ends this week—as of this writing, the senate version included the full $5.3 million for completion of the Academic core. We wait for the results of the conference committee, as there were differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. As noted before, the state budget for FY 2019 is the one bill that must be passed by the end of the legislative session, March 29. Other items associated with the university system are also subject to negotiation. Our own Planning and Budget Advisory Committee will meet a few times before the end of the term, and we will be scheduling at least one public forum on the conclusion of the FY 2018 budget and the anticipation of the FY 2019 budget.

**Free speech seminar**—the university system hosted a system wide seminar for campus leaders on the issue of free expression. Even as one who once taught a communication studies course on free speech, I found this PowerPoint presentation quite instructive. [https://www.usg.edu/assets/usgweb/webcast2\_files/USO\_Freedom\_of\_Expression\_Powerpoint\_-\_Campus\_Training,\_2018.pdf](https://www.usg.edu/assets/usgweb/webcast2_files/USO_Freedom_of_Expression_Powerpoint_-_Campus_Training%2C_2018.pdf)

**President’s meeting**—postponed with Loss of Governor Zell Miller—Essential 20th century political leader as governor of Georgia. Many faculty and staff of my generation and perhaps later were drawn to the university system of Georgia because of Miller’s insistence that the state invest in higher education—the HOPE scholarship program (and at the time Pre-K as well as instructional technology investments). Literally billions have been invested in scholarships that support students for nearly 25 years. It is difficult to believe that the HOPE lottery was opposed by a significant part of the Georgia voting public, and now is seen as a near right for Georgia citizens and as a model of the transformational opportunities that are possible through government. Governor Miller himself remarked that his greatest strength and weakness was to passionately advocate his positions: “I don’t have lukewarm on my thermometer.”

**One USG—**thanks to all for helping us get to a place where we will be able to go live with this new software implementation in a very timely way.

**Thanks and Questions**