**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**April 9, 2018**

* **Blue Cross Blue Shield and Piedmont system negotiations** as we shared with campus last week, the state of Georgia and the University system will absorb out of network claims for the month of April, as the state and the University system urge both Piedmont and BCBS to bring to conclusion negotiations for coverage of services. State and USG employees agreed to participate in BCBS health care packages during open enrollment based on agreements in place in November, and were assumed to be in place during the remainder of the enrollment period. Clearly, Board and political leaders will work to urge settlement as soon as possible. We will communicate with colleagues as new information is available. Information on status can be found at <https://www.bcbsga.com/blog/member-news/piedmont-provider-network-update/> <https://www.usg.edu/assets/hr/benefits_docs/Piedmont_HealthCare_30-Day_FINAL.PDF>
* **Budget** The university system will announce allocations for institutional budgets next week and will provide update to campus as that information becomes available. The Planning and Budget Advisory Committee will be meeting over the next several weeks to assess and to make recommendations about one time and continuing budget allocations for this and next fiscal year. The final allocation for the Academic Core Renovation ($5.3) is in the approved budget and awaits the governor’s signature
* **Campus construction** Thanks in advance for your patience and support of campus work in the coming months. We recognize the inconvenience even as we understand the long term benefit to improvements of our facilities.
* **Upcoming Events** the Spring Faculty meeting is scheduled for this time April 16 in the SAC; the student academic conference is scheduled for April 25-6 at the Discovery and Science Center; Spring Service Awards and end of the year reception for faculty and staff, May 1.
* **Personal Comment** This marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (And today, Atlanta walks from church to the capital to contemplate the meaning of those events 50 years ago. During that time, I was in D.C. experiencing evening curfews while attending during the day a debate tournament at George Washington University. Even then, together with many others, I was committed to learning (although not exactly certain what that learning would bring) All of us in our own ways continue to be so committed. To quote Dr. King “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”
* **Thanks and Questions**