**President’s Report**

**Faculty Senate**

**March 27, 2017**

* **Legislative actions** The General assembly approved the state FY 2018 budget and sent it to the Governor’s office for his signature. It includes funds for a 2% average salary increase for state employees, including faculty and staff. It also includes $6.9 m for the next phase of the academic core renovations—assuming no surprises, some additional excellent work will be possible for our campus. Legislation associated with changes in university disciplinary hearings have been tabled for this session. Legislation associated with sanctuary private schools and campus carry continue to be considered by the general assembly. There are two more legislative days this session ((March 28 and March 30).
* **Top Workplace recognition by AJC** For the 6th consecutive year, the university was recognized as one of the Top Workplaces in Metro Atlanta. The designation is based on the results of surveys completed by faculty and staff at our institution. It is important to note that even as we wrestle with some uncertainties associated with a changing environment of higher education, there continues to be support for the directions charted through our strategic planning process. I also believe that the generally positive tone of our institution is set by the faculty and staff, and our focus on ways to support our students and the community we serve.
* **Financial discussions with Board** I can only say that the presentation went as well as it could have been. We shared details that were shared immediately with campus and this body. The combination of advances in our enrollment management and student success plans, and reorganization of and modification for financial procedures should address issues raised in future review cycles.
* **Film Studio across the street** Pacifica Studios has announced plans to construct sound stages across 54 from the university. The time line is generally set for the next 16-24 months—more information on this as the project moves forward.
* **Budget Hearings** Each of the Vice presidents, as well as the Director of Spivey Hall and university Athletics, will participate in budget presentations to the budget director, comptroller, VP for business and operations, and myself. These serve as the foundation for cases made for resources, most effective where related to goals and objectives linked to university wide strategic planning. That work will be summarized for campus wide open budget meeting, and consideration by the campus planning and budget advisory committee. During mid to late April, that group will also review request for one time expenditures from the current FY budget. Those requests also will be linked to strategic planning initiatives.
* **Thanks and Questions**